

CAUS hopes to build a special "defense" fund which would give us the latitude to file Freedom of Information lawsuits whenever we found it necessary--and that happens almost daily--and to defend or otherwise assist anyone who encounters difficulties as the result of disclosing information related to UFOs. Mr. Gersten has donated many, many hours of his valuable time to UFOlogy and it would be totally unreasonable to expect him to take part in forthcoming legal actions without compensation. Furthermore, his obligations to his employer would prevent him from devoting needed time to the litigation unless a retainer fee was paid.

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"Old UFO incidents never die--it's impossible to kill them." No, this isn't a statement made by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, or even UFO explainer Philip Klass, but it does seem to be true. Once an incident becomes widely reported--and widely accepted, usually without thorough investigation--it seems nearly impossible to ever explain or identify the sighting (or incident) as anything other than another "bona fide" case. Typically, whenever someone does come forward with negative information about a famous case, he's either ignored or scorned. And this applies to UFO advocates as well as UFO debunkers.

One such famous case is the July 6, 1959, so-called "Psychic Incident" which took place at a CIA building in downtown Washington, D.C. In most reports, the building is identified as "CIA Headquarters." In reality, there was nothing glamorous about the place, nor was it a "Headquarters." Located at 5th and K Sts., N.W., it was known as the "Stewart Building," with an automobile dealership on the ground floor and the CIA occupying the ~~four~~ floors above. It was a shabby and dreary building right in the middle of a high-crime area--personnel from the place often got mugged during their late-night excursions for takeout food. All in all, an unlikely site for a UFO

CAUS Staff: W. Todd Zechel, Director - Former intelligence employee; held TOP SECRET+ security clearance with the National Security Agency/Army Security Agency
Brad C. Sparks, Director of Research - Physics major with UC-Berkely; long-time student of the U.S. intelligence community; considered an expert on intelligence involvement with UFOs - Jason W. Brown, Administrator - One of the founding partners

sighting, and an even unlikelier spot for an attempt to contact extraterrestrials through psychic means.

But that's what reportedly occurred on July 6, 1959. And according to a report filed by Major Robert Friend, USAF, Commanding Officer of Project Blue Book, contact was made, a UFO appeared upon request and was viewed through the window by CIA personnel, and the sighting was later confirmed by radar.

Friend's version of the incident appears in "UFOs: Past, Present, and Future," a movie produced by Allan Sandler and also the title of a book written by Robert Emenegger, who wrote the script for the movie. Both the book's and movie's versions of the incident were based on a document provided by Dr. David Jacobs, author of "The UFO Controversy in America," who happened across Friend's hand-written memo on the incident in the files of Dr. Hynek. Subsequently, Jacobs interviewed Friend about the memo and was sworn to secrecy as to the names of the individuals listed as participants in the report--CIA and Navy personnel.

Because neither Jacobs nor Emenegger/Sandler attempted to talk with any of the participants and publicized the incident without ever verifying the details, CAUS Director Todd Zechel made it a priority mission to conduct an investigation. It took nearly two years to determine the names, and, so far, Zechel has interviewed only one of the participants, Arthur Lundahl. This is Zechel's reconstruction of what occurred, based on his investigation:

In 1954, Mrs. Guy Swan of Elliot, Maine, began claiming she was in contact with extraterrestrial beings who were orbiting Earth in an artificial satellite. Mrs. Swan claimed she communicated with these beings through a "sound-on-sound" device; when they wished to speak with her she would hear an audible whistling noise, at which time "they" would begin speaking to her and she would speak back, each hearing the other by means of the invisible device. No telepathic or psychic method was involved.

Soon, Mrs. Swan spread the good news to her neighbors, retired Navy Admiral Knowles and his wife. Both were impressed and requested Mrs. Swan to ask questions of her alien friends. Of course, the "aliens" would never contact Mrs. Swan when anyone else was present, but she would write down their answers to the Knowles' questions. Admiral Knowles then decided to write to the Office of Naval Intelligence and ask them to check out some of her information, some of which seemed to entail technology beyond her knowledge and comprehension. (According to the Navy Intelligence Command's Inspector General Office, the Navy received Knowles' letter and asked the FBI to investigate. Sometime in 1954, apparently, the FBI

interviewed Mrs. Swan. CAUS has requested the records from the FBI.)

In any case, Knowles' letter apparently remained in ONI files until July of 1959, when USN Commander Julius M. Larsen happened across it. Larsen was an ONI liaison officer to the CIA's Photographic Interpretation Center at 5th and K Sts. He was also a pilot and needed some flying time to keep his pilot's status, so he and a Lt. Commander flew to Elliot, Maine. They spent the evening talking with Mrs. Swan about her extraterrestrial contacts, slept in the Knowles' home and returned the following day.

Larsen, like Knowles, was impressed with Mrs. Swan. But he was confused. Mrs. Swan had experimented with automatic writing prior to 1954, but nothing much had come of it. However, she demonstrated automatic writing--a procedure that called for placing oneself in a psychic trance--to Cmdr. Larsen. He assumed this was the means by which she communicated with her "alien" friends: a false assumption that was furthered by the reams of messages she had written down and were strewn throughout her home.

Thus, on July 6, 1959, after he had signed in at the guarded entrance of the Photo Interpretation Center, Larsen headed straight for the office of the Center's Director, Arthur Lundahl, knowing that Lundahl was deeply interested in UFOs and psychic phenomena. Larsen walked in, sat down and subsequently went into a trance. Present were Lundahl and his assistant, Lt. Cmdr. Robert Neasham, who formerly worked at the Naval Photographic Interpretation Center (NavPIC) when Lundahl directed that center. In fact, Neasham, along with civilian employee Harry Woo, spent countless hours analyzing the Newhouse/Tremonton UFO film and testified about his conclusions before the Robertson/CIA Panel in January 1953. Neasham and Woo had concluded the objects on the film were extraterrestrial spacecraft and both became very upset when the Panel rejected their conclusions and opted for the infamous "seagull" explanation.

Larsen, in the meantime, was writing the answers to questions he was asking: performing a curious sort of rite in which he would voice the questions and receive the answers telepathically through automatic writing. Lundahl glanced at the paper Larsen was writing on and could not discern anything intelligible: what in Larsen's mind were declarations made by superior alien beings appeared to Lundahl to be nothing more than childish scrawls. Neasham, on the other hand, was more impressed. As Cmdr. Larsen continued with his question-and-answer session, Neasham asked, "Can we see proof?" Larsen, switching from writing to speaking, suddenly, said, "Go to the window, we'll fly by for you." At this point, both Lundahl and Neasham quickly covered the short distance

to the room's only window and searched the sky for the promised appearance. Neasham, more eager to see something than Lundahl, noticed there were strange cloud formations, isolated, turbulent fluffs that formed and dissolved before their eyes. Perhaps Neasham thought the promised spaceship lurked behind one the many clouds swirling around in the sky, but Lundahl says, "At no time did I see a spaceship or a UFO. And, to the best of my knowledge, neither did Bob (Neasham)."

In spite of the fact nothing of any consequence occurred, other than Neasham suspecting a UFO lurking behind the clouds, both Lundahl and his assistant decided to report the trance session to Project Blue Book. It's possible Neasham influenced Lundahl in this regard by telling him he had phoned the Washington National Airport radar section and they had informed him that radar returns from that sector of the city were "blocked out" during the time of the sighting. Whether Neasham ever made such a call or was told such a thing is open to question; Neasham, it seems, is prone to embellishment, if not fabrication.

Lundahl had suggested to Neasham that he phone Blue Book and invite the commanding officer, Major Friend, to drop in on them the next time he was Washington and they'd tell him about their experience. Neasham, however, got carried away as usual and more or less ordered Friend to come immediately to Washington for an important briefing.

Friend arrived on July 9th, prepared to be given a "TOP SECRET" briefing by CIA personnel on UFOs. Instead, he was taken to Lundahl's office by Neasham and the two chatted about the Tremonton and Great Falls UFO films, which Lundahl had supervised the analysis of. Subsequently, Neasham briefed Friend about the July 6th incident, telling him a UFO was seen out the window and confirmed by radar. Friend, needless to say, was impressed and amazed. Being basically in awe of the CIA, it never dawned on him he might be receiving erroneous information. Later, Larsen came to the building and in Friend's presence attempted to re-contact Mrs. Swan's alien friends. Nothing much happened except that Cmdr. Larsen scrawled the same incomprehensible doodles on paper. A request for another fly-by went unanswered in the cloudless sky.

Friend returned to Wright-Patterson and filed a report with his superiors, whereupon he was told to drop interest in the matter--his superior would take care of it. It might have died a deserved death right there had it not been for Jacobs finding Friend's hand-written memo in Hynek's files and any number of opportunistic writers who've latched onto it since.

JUST CAUSE will be publishing at least two issues in December, including reports on the CIA documents, KGB interests in UFOs worldwide, DIA reports of UFO sightings,