

According to Burnham's Celestial Handbook (29), Betelgeuse, also known as Betelgeux, is a magnitude 0.70 variable red giant in the constellation of Orion, which is the brightest of the constellations and is visible from every inhabited part of the earth.

More specifically, Betelgeuse is an irregularly-pulsating red supergiant. Studies using a spectroscope reveal that the diameter of the star may vary by about 60% during the cycle, a difference considerably larger than the radius of Earth's orbit. It is one of the largest known stars, possibly the size of the orbit of Mars, and at maximum diameter possibly equal to the orbit of Jupiter. These roughly equate to a diameter ranging between 480 and 800 million miles, or from 550 to 920 times the size of the Sun. It is estimated to be about 520 light years from the Earth.

It is generally accepted that red giant stars are very old and are now entering the final stages of their evolution. Betelgeuse "may be expected to have a very spectacular future history." Mass loss from the star is great; the star is surrounded by a corona extending to several hundred radii from the surface. The present mass loss, if constant, would imply a loss of approximately one solar mass in only a few hundred thousand years.

We'll leave the final conclusions to the astronomers, but if Betelgeuse had any planets during its main sequence life, they have probably long since been destroyed or made devoid of any possible life.

Deep Underground Bases

According to Cooper, a multimillion dollar secret fund kept by the White House was used to build over 75 deep underground facilities for the President in case of war. The fund was originally set up in 1957 by President Eisenhower. However, only a few of these facilities were for the President, the rest were built by contractors using funds funnelled through MJ-12 to be used as top secret alien bases. Cooper states that another 22 sites were built by the Atomic Energy Commission, the precursor of today's Department of Energy. The purpose of these AEC facilities is unstated.

There is some documented truth to this story. According to the August 7, 1989 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, the