

Speculative Realms

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011

Mini-Saucers: Reports of Miniature UFOs

A review of some unusual UFO case files provides insight into Flying Saucers and other paranormal events based on human accounts.

By Matt Graeber

While investigating reports and interviewing UFO eyewitnesses in the late 70's and early 80's, I stumbled on a variety of experiences which could best be described as miniature unidentified flying objects or mini-saucers. In some cases, tiny globs of light appear to flit about the victim's premises - while other accounts indicate that they merely hover before the astonished witnesses' eyes. The idea of tiny UFOs sometimes operating within the confines of a home surely exceeds the strangeness of the more traditional UFO sighting and close encounter reports. But such reports do exist.

Our first mini-saucer case is a "close encounter inside the office." This is the report of a young man (age 23), who was a working college student at the University of Pennsylvania at the time of his mini-saucer experience. He was aware of my interest in the UFO enigma but knew absolutely nothing about the direction of my research. Jack (not his real name) is bright, reliable, and a friend of the family.

At the time Jack worked nights at the university and because travel, work, and study overlapped, he frequently catnapped during his late-night lunch breaks. While Jack was awakening from one such snooze he became aware of a dark fluttering object near the ceiling at one corner of the room.

He didn't move at first, just eyeballed the thing, thinking it was a bat. But, that seemed improbable to Jack, since he was lying across folding chairs in a windowless cubicle in a secluded section of the building. Jack thought that perhaps someone may have placed the bat there as a practical joke...or, that it might have entered the room through an unsecured ventilation shaft.

Jack's continued scrutiny of the object revealed that the thing wasn't a bat at all - rather it was a black cylindrical object about six to eight inches in length and about an inch and a half in diameter. It was sort of floating in the air - silently wobbling in a gentle rocking motion. He noticed the object had a hexagonal shape reminding him of an antique rifle's barrel.

Jack abruptly sat up and, with the same body motion, he hurled a jacket - with which he had covered himself - at the thing near the ceiling. His hurried inspection of the crumpled jacket on the floor revealed that the object hadn't been trapped within it, even though he felt certain he had caught the thing.

Comments: Jack's report is a classic UFO sighting in miniature. The object's unusual configuration, its oscillatory motion, and noiseless aerial performance are consistent with its being an enigmatic Flying Saucer. Were it not for the drastic reduction in its apparent size and its pronounced confinement within an office cubicle, there would be no telling how large, fantastically aerobatic, or distant Jack might have thought the object to have been.

We have little by which we might separate this mini-saucer report from the larger-scaled variety of UFO observations. One wonders, could it possibly be that mini-saucer experiences like Jack's might be mistaken for large-scale object sightings if the mini-saucer encounter had occurred outdoors or if it had been spotted through

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[Recommended Reads: A History of Area 51](#), Patch.com

Then along came Annie Jacobsen who managed to gain interviews with men who worked at the base. These men, now in their senior years, provided information on the site and allowed her access to military and intelligence personnel, scientists, pilots, ...

[Dubious Book: Area 51 by Annie Jacobsen](#), Left Eye On Books

Dwayne A. Day, writing at The Space Review, notes that he does not have additional sources confirming this, but: many of the elements that Annie Jacobsen's source used in her Roswell story are there in [science fiction writer James] Blish's short story ...

['Area 51' expose by investigative reporter](#), Plain Dealer

The real Area 51, as depicted in investigative journalist Annie Jacobsen's often fascinating, ultimately exasperating expose, is, on the whole, less spooky than its Hollywood persona. Ultra-secret, yes, but more "Dr. Strangelove" than "The X-Files" ...

[The United States of conspiracy: Why more](#), New York Daily News

BY Annie Jacobsen The truth, many Americans insist, is not what it seems. On the verge of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, about 15% of your fellow citizens still believe that the attacks were the result of a clandestine "controlled demolition" ...

a window, an open door, or from within an automobile?

If we voice an argument against this possibility, based on the fact Jack was sleeping just before he observed the mini-saucer, we are also obliged to remember that several legendary UFO incidents may have been staged under similar, if not precisely the same, circumstances. The late psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, felt that Betty and Barney Hill's UFO experience (one of the most famous of all encounters) may have involved a "dream absorption" episode of some kind. Additionally, there is the problem of the witnesses' estimates of the UFO's size and altitude; and UFO investigators frequently attempt to assist the witnesses by asking them to compare their recollection of the object they had observed to that of some hand-held item viewed at arms length. A technique widely believed to be ineffective. Unless the UFO passes in front of something that can be measured (in both size and distance from a definite observation point) it is very difficult to estimate the size, speed, and altitude of a UFO with the unaided human eye.

The second mini-Saucer case is another interactive encounter. Mr. Greene (not his real name) is a thirty-five-year-old businessman who, after sleeping for slightly over seven hours, gradually awakens to a brilliantly-sunlit bedroom. He suddenly realizes that "a big black spot" is clinging to the ceiling almost directly over his head (distance about six feet). At first, the witness reacts as if "the thing" is a large spider, and he continues to lie in bed, perfectly motionless, while anxiously eyeballing the creature more intently (at this point in the experience, Greene is wide awake, but extremely apprehensive). However, since Greene detects no appendages on the object, and because it hasn't moved at all, it slowly becomes apparent to him that "the thing" isn't a spider but, rather, a convexly contoured oddity closely resembling a cherry-filled chocolate cordial with the exception being that this object's surface seems to be of a lack-luster matte black finish.

Greene's fears quickly diminished about the object being an arachnid; and for reasons which he could not explain, he found himself pondering the thought that "the thing" might move and, as fantastic as it may sound, at the instant Greene thought that the spot might move, it actually did move!

Then, as he thought it should stop moving, it glided to a halt. Now, it's important to note Greene stresses that these movements occurred in precise unison with his thoughts and they did not appear to occur so much as a split second afterwards.

Completely astonished, and somewhat amused by this turn of events, the witness thought "vanish" and, accordingly, the mini-saucer seemed to collapse into a minute central point and disappear. Then, Greene desperately tried to think the mini-saucer back - but, his efforts were in vain and the mysterious object was gone forever.

Notes: When questioned if the object may have cast a shadow on the bedroom ceiling, Greene couldn't recall seeing one. When the speed of the object's movements between its stationary positions were estimated, they were thought to be in the range of one to three miles per hour (although estimated distances of only six to eighteen inches were thought to have been traversed during the event). Additionally, the mini-saucer's movements appeared to be deliberate, intelligently-guided, and very smoothly executed. Greene also reports that the mini-saucer looked solid, although it may have been hollow, and that it was sharply contrasted against the white (textured) ceiling of his bedroom. The observation lasted for an estimated 40 to 60 seconds and the witness said that four distinct movements occurred during the incident (the first being a movement to the left, a right, another to the left, and then the disappearance phase).

Comments: As already noted, if this UFO sighting event had taken place outdoors and was reported to investigating UFOlogists, I believe the preliminary findings would say that this was a good sighting report, and that "a process of selection and telepathic communion" had taken place between the observer and the UFO. Both the assumed telepathic communion and the mini-saucer's curious disappearance characteristics have been reported by equally astonished UFO observers from around the world. Moreover, numerous pilots who were pursuing, or attempting to elude UFOs report that the object(s) seemed to know what maneuver they were about to execute, and that the UFO simply mimicked their actions or countered

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them accordingly.

Our final mini-saucer case involves a "close encounter" in a park. I came across this sighting when I was invited to participate in an UFO sighting report interview at the home of MUFON researcher George Morgan (a pseudonym) in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The case didn't involve a commonly reported UFO observation purse, but did involve a man's encounter with a "white disk of light," said to be about the size of a 25-cent piece when viewed at arms length. Curiously, the disk of light wasn't observed in the sky but rather upon the ground under a thin coating of snow which is commonly referred to as an "Onion Skin" layering. When I arrived at Mr. Morgan's home I was greeted by him, his wife (Linda), and a young psychologist who had a practice in N/E Philadelphia, Stan Brewster (a pseudonym), and Stan had an avid interest in UFO reports. We awaited the arrival of the Minisaucer witness. After 15-20 minutes had elapsed, the door bell rang and a young man came into the room escorted by George's wife. The young man, whom we'll call Erik, age 23, sat down and rather nervously started to tell us this unusual story:

He had been jogging in a park near his home several nights before, and noticed a small disk of white light shining upon the ground about 6-8 feet in front of him. The light moved along directly in front of Erik and seemed to move at a speed which matched his own pace. When Erik stopped to take a good look at the disk of light, the light also stopped. For some unexplained reason, Erik suddenly suspected the light was caused by a rifle's telescopic laser beam, and he feared someone was about to shoot at him.

His quick search for a trace source to the light failed to indicate the disk was laser-beam related. (The disk hadn't a beam extending to or from it, and Erik felt that such a beam would have been clearly visible as it passed through the snow that was falling.) But, as moments passed and the light remained stationary, Erik started to run again and as he did the light disk moved along just ahead of him. As he slowed the pace so did the spot of light; then, as he increased his speed the disk did so accordingly.

What makes this unusual affair even stranger is that the disk was quite luminous, and appeared to be coming not from above the ground but from beneath the newly-fallen (onion skin) layer of snow. Erik jogged on a nightly basis when weather permitted and he was well acquainted with the park's network of asphalt walkways and the park's lighting which served to illuminate them. He was certain the disk of light was not a reflection off his belt buckle or his jacket's metallic snaps or zipper. Nor did he think it was a reflection off his wrist watch crystal. Moreover, because he was moving in and out of street-lamp illuminated areas, there were several points during the occurrence where Erik was running in complete darkness, yet the disk remained bright and moved along directly in front of him.

No longer fearing the light, Erik walked and stopped moving as he became amused by the light and even more puzzled by its antics. The episode lasted about ten minutes and terminated just as Erik came to the end of his usual jogging routine.

Erik excitedly told his wife about his experience and she suggested that he should report the incident. They had recently read a feature story in a local newspaper on MUFON's investigative efforts in the area, so they decided to call George Morgan about Erik's encounter with the strange disk of light.

The interview lasted about one hour and many questions were asked of Erik, most pertained to the sighting particulars (time, distances covered, location). When that portion of the interview was exhausted, we decided to ask Erik his opinion and impressions. The result of this second part of the inquiry put an entirely different spin on the event.

Erik seemed bright, articulate, and appeared to be aware of both the UFO phenomenon and the abduction lore. He didn't push the idea he'd encountered a UFO or something which was emitted and directed his way by a UFO (although I got the impression that he assumed the disk of light was UFO-related) - or at least, the result of a paranormal experience.

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Erik was well-groomed, wore military fatigue trousers, a brightly colored shirt and fatigue jacket of the camouflaged variety. He also wore military issue boots which were polished. Though no one asked, I did not think Erik came to the interview directly from a reserve meeting and the garb seemed to be of his own choosing. I make this assumption because Erik's hair was not cut short and he hadn't carried or worn a fatigue cap into the Morgan's home.

Moreover, since I was invited to attend the interview as a guest, I did not feel I could question Erik on things related to his or his wife's occupation or educational background. But I did feel free to explore Erik's impressions and feelings about the incident and a little about his family situation and any other unusual experiences he may have had.

I learned during the course of the interview that Erik had been married for a couple of years and had a small child which both he and his wife adored. He expressed the thought that his mother also loved the baby very much and that she was a wonderful grandmother who watched the child while both Erik and his wife pursued their careers.

Erik expressed the thought that his Mother was as devoted to her grandchild as Erik's grandmother had been to him. He said his beloved grandmother had passed away about six months earlier. Erik felt her passing was a great loss. His eyes filled with tears as he spoke of his grandmother whom he affectionately called "Bubby" (a Jewish term of endearment as well as a nickname). For Erik, her loss was deeply felt and profoundly personal. Erik grew up with his Bubby as a guiding force of love and direction in his life. Bubby was both a grandmother and a friend who played a central role in his life - indeed a loving role that he had hoped his child would be nurtured by, too. I asked Erik to tell us a bit more about Bubby, and he complied with the story about her putting a halt to his childhood fear of sleeping in the dark by placing a small nightlight in his bedroom. The single-bulb light was accentuated by small metallic disks that rotated and reflected off the bedroom's walls and ceiling. Bubby would then tell Erik bedtime stories and sing silly songs until her grandson drifted off to sleep. Erik said that his Bubby was always playing tricks on him, and that he would play tricks on her, too. He missed the "tricks and surprises" he and Bubby shared. I asked Erik, could the light in the snow have been another of Bubby's tricks? A long silence filled the room and Erik never responded.

I then asked Erik "if this might be the sort of trick that Bubby would play on him?"

In a soft whisper he replied. "Yes."

Both Stan the psychologist and George the UFO researcher felt we had probably resolved the issue, and may even have helped Erik, despite the fact he hadn't seen a UFO. I later learned Erik had called George back requesting another interview, albeit, this time without my being present.

Comments: Erik's mini-saucer experience and his rejection of a psychological basis for the event are consistent with many UFO witnesses' and researchers' bias against a psychological probe, analysis, and finding on a UFO incident. I think the fear is that to attribute an encounter to anything other than a purely physical occurrence is felt to imply that something is wrong with the observer. The opposite maybe correct I speculate Erik's tricky and playful disk of light may actually have had a beneficial effect, perhaps part of his psyche's own healing process regarding his great loss and sorrow. Was he symbolically shown the way through life would still be illuminated by Bubby's enduring love and guidance?

Had Erik's small disc of light been observed and reported coursing through the air, instead of moving beneath the snow layering, it would have been entirely reasonable to suspect this was a reliable observation of a UFO reported by a young man who was being toyed with by alien intelligences. In fact, some UFOlogists would suspect Erik had unwittingly been in psychical communion with UFO operators during his experience.

A possible clue regarding the true nature of the mini-saucer events may be in the admission by Jack in case #1 that he was dreaming of something (like the cylindrical object) that appeared to be fluttering in the corner of the room. If this

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assumption is correct, I'll cautiously extend that speculation to include Jack's and Mr. Greene's mini-saucer sightings were a mixture of both unconsciously-generated dream imagery and the conscious perception of real-world elements (i.e., the room as a background) upon which the vivid and active dream imagery was played out. Moreover, it may be that both observers were in the process of awakening as this "Dual Process of Perception" was unfolding before their eyes and consequently both observers felt confident their perception was of an entirely physical, real-world event.

In both of the indoor cases, the observer first reacted to his perception of the mini-saucer from a purely instinctual (self-protective) point of view. Jack remained perfectly motionless while lying on the folding chairs and carefully scrutinized "the bat" as it hovered ominously above him. So, too, Mr. Greene froze at the sight of the "large spider" on the ceiling and it was only after a process of rational evaluation concerning each object's identity had been reached that their primary fears subsided and the tone of the experience changed entirely. Curiously, it may be that both of our witnesses were momentarily "paralyzed" during the onset of their mini-saucer experience and were totally unaware of it.

Dr. David Hufford, sleep researcher at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa., has written a marvelous book on the tradition of a peculiar kind of nightmare known as "Old Hag Assaults" in which paralysis, difficulty in breathing, and a frightful sense of presence all play a part. In his book, [The Terror that Comes in the Night](#), Dr. Hufford informs us that some of the subjects he's worked with during his study didn't realize that they were paralyzed during the nightmare because they assumed they were too scared to move.

Of course, over the years, since the onset of the modern-day era of UFO encounters, witnesses have reported being paralyzed (or, partially paralyzed) during the sighting event. In some instances, the paralysis seems to be limited to an arm, a leg, or both legs; and some UFOlogists believe the reported paralytic symptoms are not indicative of a true paralysis because the witnesses do not tend to lose their balance and fall down during the UFO experience.

If mini-saucers are the products of dream imagery or other psychologically generated projections and have autonomously appeared in our witnesses' "real" waking world's environment, it seems reasonable to suspect some of the larger saucers incidents may also hail from man's inner-space (his unconscious mind), too. I think it probable there is a connection with the internal workings of the minds of the people in the three cases described and a host of other paranormal phenomena that are based, in whole or in part, on reports of individual experiences.

END

Matt Graeber is a retired commercial artist. In 1953 he saw a "flying saucer" and as a consequence of this experience has pursued an understanding of UFOs.

Posted by Gary Haden at 6:27 AM 

6 comments:

 **Gary Haden said...**

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May 21, 2011 8:41 AM

 **Gary Haden said...**

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Brownie said...

Matt Graeber wrote: "The late psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, felt that Betty and Barney Hill's UFO experience (one of the most famous of all encounters) may have involved a "dream absorbsion" episode of some kind. " - - -

I'd appreciate an explanation or definition of what a "dream absorbsion" is?

~ Susan

May 21, 2011 9:14 AM

Gary Haden said...

Matt Graeber responded to Brownie via E-Mail:

"In reply to Brownie's question....I have no idea exactly what Dr. Simon was referring to regarding the type of 'dream absorbsion' that was involved in the Hill case as I believe there are a few types of absorbsion.

"Additionally--and this is very important point--I had never actually spoken to Dr. Simon before he died and, seriously doubt he would have divulged any kind of 'confidential' patient information to me. So, we are left to assume that he 'may' have been referring to Barney sleeping in an easy chair in the living room while the ever-loquacious Betty was on the telephone with a friend or friends about the abduction experience and Barney simply absorbed her story while sleeping/dreaming. That is one possible D.A. scenario Dr. Simon. may have been referring to."

--Matt Graeber, 5-25-2011

May 26, 2011 7:48 AM

Anonymous said...

Thankyou for answering, Matt!

Personally I find the idea of "dream absorbsion" cooked up by Simon to explain away the Hills case, a desperate stretch. It's psycho-babble.

There was no way, considering the era, this successful Boston psychiatrist was going to publically accept as reality, what he extracted during his separate and highly detailed hypnosis sessions of the Hills.

~ Susan

[aka Brownie]

May 28, 2011 8:41 PM

Gary Haden said...

The following reply from Matt Graeber was received June 8th, 2011, via e-mail:

"Dear Susan:

"I had attempted to offer you the explanation you requested of me. I was very careful to advise you it was merely my 'assumption' concerning Dr. Simon's analytical work with the Hills. Since I did not know him or of his expertise and ethical character on the art and science involved, I shall not comment on his character... I wonder: did you ever interview him?

"I had interviewed Betty Hill twice. Perhaps, I shall write about those semi-revealing experiences in a future edition of S.R."

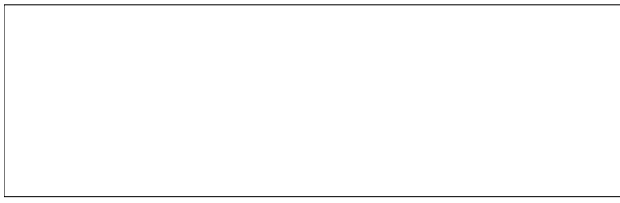
Matt"

June 9, 2011 8:03 AM

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- ▶ April (5)
- ▶ March (5)
- ▶ February (7)
- ▶ January (8)
- ▶ 2010 (59)

- [Chronicles of the Dark Side](#) (1)
- [Couter-transference](#) (1)
- [Cyberbullying](#) (1)
- [Dan Burisch](#) (1)
- [David Icke](#) (1)
- [David Jacobs](#) (21)
- [Doctor Madblood](#) (1)
- [Doctor Who](#) (1)
- [Emma Woods](#) (31)
- [ETH](#) (3)
- [Eugenics](#) (2)
- [Extradition Act of 2003](#) (2)
- [Faith-based communities](#) (2)
- [False Memory](#) (3)
- [falsifiability](#) (1)
- [fermi paradox](#) (1)
- [Fluffcasts](#) (1)
- [Flying+Saucer+Nukes Psyops](#) (1)
- [Friday Fakes](#) (4)
- [Gameplaying](#) (1)
- [Gary McKinnon](#) (2)
- [Gender Issues](#) (1)
- [Girl Who Saved Her Own Life](#) (2)
- [Grays](#) (2)
- [Ham and Egger Review](#) (6)
- [Human Subjects Research](#) (2)
- [Humanity Plus](#) (1)
- [Hybridization-Dehumanization](#) (1)
- [Hyperbolic Chamber](#) (2)
- [Hypnosis](#) (7)
- [hypnotic regression fraud](#) (4)
- [Immigration Laws](#) (1)
- [Jeff Ritzman](#) (1)
- [Jeremy Vaeni](#) (1)
- [Jungian Compensation Theory](#) (2)
- [Karl Marx](#) (1)
- [Madonna Complex](#) (1)
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- [monkey trial \(1\)](#)
- [moon anomalies \(1\)](#)
- [MPD \(3\)](#)
- [Multiple Personality Disorder \(4\)](#)
- [Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy \(1\)](#)
- [Music \(1\)](#)
- [Nazi Super Race Fantasy \(1\)](#)
- [New Normal \(1\)](#)
- [Night Terror \(2\)](#)
- [Nora D'Amico \(1\)](#)
- [Paracast \(3\)](#)
- [Paranoid Porno \(1\)](#)
- [Paratopia \(2\)](#)
- [Perspectivalism \(1\)](#)
- [Psychosocial Hypothesis \(1\)](#)
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- [Regan Lee \(1\)](#)
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- [Repto-Religionists \(1\)](#)
- [Satan Shrinks of Texas \(2\)](#)
- [Satanic Ritual Abuse \(2\)](#)
- [Saucers of Mass Destruction \(1\)](#)
- [Science Fiction \(1\)](#)
- [scientific egomania \(2\)](#)
- [Scopes Trial \(1\)](#)
- [Second Skin \(1\)](#)
- [Self-Injury \(1\)](#)
- [Sideways Worlds \(2\)](#)
- [Singularity \(1\)](#)
- [skepticism \(1\)](#)
- [skeptics \(3\)](#)
- [Sleep Disorders \(1\)](#)
- [Source A \(1\)](#)
- [Special Compartment in Hell \(4\)](#)
- [Spooky Chronister \(1\)](#)
- [Spring Shadows Glen \(1\)](#)
- [SRA \(1\)](#)
- [Starlost \(1\)](#)
- [Super Bowl Predictions \(1\)](#)
- [Survival of the Fittest \(1\)](#)
- [T-Rex Reptilians \(1\)](#)
- [The Final Solution \(1\)](#)
- [The Pickering's \(1\)](#)
- [Thugs of the Universe \(1\)](#)
- [Toxic Slop \(1\)](#)
- [Transhumans](#)

(2)

- [TV Horror Hosts](#) (1)
- [UFO Papacy](#) (1)
- [UFO Religion](#) (1)
- [Ufology](#) (1)
- [UFOOLogy](#) (2)
- [Virginia Creepers](#) (1)
- [World War III](#) (1)

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