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SIGHTING NEAR WARSAW, MISSOURI MAY CORRELATE WITH EARLIER INCIDENT

Everything seemed perfectly normal as Steve and Curtis drove away from their rural Benton County, Missouri home on the evening of November 3rd, 1993. It was shortly after 6:30 PM when they left and their only planned destination was a neighbor's house just a short distance away. Neither father nor son had the slightest premonition that this routine trip was destined to include a brief detour into the land of the unknown.

Their first hint of something out of the ordinary came when they noticed what they described as a pair of distinct white "dots" in the southern sky which seemed to be circling in the direction of Wheatland and Cross Timbers, two small towns several miles away to the south. Initially the appearance of such lights did not seem particularly unusual; Whiteman Air Force Base, after all, is only about thirty-five miles away and flights of military aircraft are a relatively common sight in the area. It was not until these two "dots" changed course toward the north and started moving in the general direction of the witnesses that they began to suspect that this was no conventional aircraft approaching them.

As the object slowly drew closer, Steve and Curtis noticed a second pair of lights were now visible behind the first. These new additions were somewhat different in that they flashed in a rapid, strobe-like fashion; the original lights remained steady and unblinking. (It is not clear whether these second two lights were just turned on at that point or had been concealed previously by some part of the craft's structure.) The four lights formed a square configuration with one at each corner.

The witnesses found this lighting arrangement to be rather unusual, but received an even greater shock at about the same time as they were pulling into the neighbor's driveway. The lights had now gotten close enough for them to make out the shape of the craft they were attached to. Instead of the familiar form of an aircraft they found themselves staring up at an immense circular object which they estimated to be approximately one hundred yards in diameter. Both of the witnesses

reported seeing what appeared to be a raised "X" on the underside of the UFO, and Steve said he could also make out a number of "very dark rings".

Steve sent Curtis to the house and he returned momentarily accompanied by two additional witnesses, Robert and Cyril. The four of them gathered in the driveway and watched as the immense circular object passed directly overhead, moving so slowly that it almost seemed to be crawling across the sky at an estimated altitude of 2500 feet. When it reached a point approximately straight above them the two "strobing" lights in the rear went out, leaving only the two original ones shining from the underside. The witnesses apparently experienced a familiar difficulty in describing the specific color of these two lights; they appeared to be of a yellow or amber hue to two of them, while a third felt it was actually more of a green shade. Steve, who is colorblind, could not comment upon this particular aspect of the description. The UFO's passage over their heads was also accompanied by what they referred to as a "big, steady humming sound" which was moderately pitched and did not pulsate.

The object continued on its northerly course for only a short distance farther before making a very sharp right angle turn and moving off toward the west. It remained in a flat position throughout this turn, exhibiting none of the banking maneuver required of an aircraft doing the same thing. It was not stated whether or not the object rotated so the same edge was still in front after it changed direction. When it had reached a point approximately one-half mile from the witness' location a group of six to eight lights were seen to emerge from somewhere on the underside of the larger craft and begin "buzzing around it like bees". These lights were a very brilliant white and did not have any visible structure to them, being described as star-like in appearance. (While all four of the witnesses reported observing these lights, only three of them mentioned actually watching their release take place.)

The final conclusion to this incident came about in a rather unspectacular manner; the large UFO simply continued making progress toward the west at the same slow pace until it became too distant for the witnesses to see it any longer. (The report summary that we received did not contain any information concerning what happened to the small "stars" it generated.) The total duration of the sighting was at least several minutes, with approximately three minutes of that time coming after Robert and Cyril joined Steve and Curtis in the driveway.

When the UFO finally disappeared from sight these four witnesses were not aware that anyone else had observed it. Steve was therefore quite surprised when he arrived back home and discovered that his stepson Travis had also watched the entire performance from right there in the yard, although he had been too far away to confirm such fine details as the markings on the object's underside. Wondering if perhaps others had seen the UFO, Steve made a telephone call to the Benton County Sheriff's Department. He was told that the office had received no UFO reports prior to his and advised to contact Whiteman Air Force Base. The person he spoke to there stated that none of that facility's aircraft had been operating in the area where the sighting took place and that their radar system had not detected anything out of the ordinary during the evening in question. Once more he was given another telephone number to call, this one being Bob Gribble's UFO

Hotline, operated out of the state of Washington.

Many people would have grown tired of getting the run around by this point and given up in disgust, but Steve persevered. He felt very strongly that the incident should be reported to someone. His call to the Hotline led to the information being relayed to Duane Bedell, a veteran investigator with the Mutual UFO Network group in Springfield, Missouri. Duane then contacted the witnesses, conducted interviews over the telephone, and prepared a detailed narrative report on the incident. He graciously provide AUN with a copy of this document, and the information it contains was used in writing this article. Further follow-up, including questionnaires he mailed to the witnesses for them to fill out, is still pending at this time.

Whenever UFO investigators get together to discuss and analyze recent sighting activity an account of this nature can always be counted upon to stimulate a lot of interest, and AUN's informal monthly staff meetings are certainly no exception. The multiple witnesses viewing the object independently from two different locations gave this sighting a higher than average credibility rating, and the fact that one of them (Steve) had once served in the military as an air cavalryman indicated that the estimates of size and altitude could be depended upon as being more than just mere guesswork. The sighting itself was equally impressive; a report of a circular craft measuring some three hundred feet in diameter which passed directly over the witnesses at less than one-half mile altitude is almost certain to provide UFO researchers with far more usable information than dozens of simple nocturnal light cases combined. The presence of visible structural details and the release of the small star-like lights are factors which add even more value to this sighting.

It was how the witness described those lights' behavior that generated the most discussion among our staff, however. After they emerged from the underside of the large object they were said to be observed "buzzing around it like bees". It had only been a few months since we had listened to another witness, who was also referring to a group of star-like lights, use the words "they were all milling around just like bees or gnats in a swarm". There were some obvious differences noted between the two reports; in the earlier case, which occurred on April 29th, there were considerably more of the lights seen, they were at much higher altitude, and there was no large UFO observed as a part of the incident. The swarming maneuver was performed repeatedly during brief periods in between the formation of such patterns as a "V" or two parallel lines. Despite these variations the overall similarities of the lights' appearance and actions in the two cases are almost impossible to ignore. Of course, the comparison is only strengthened further by the fact that the two incidents took place only a few miles apart.

(The April 29th sighting was described in detail in the article "Lights Perform Intricate Maneuvers over Central Missouri", printed in AUN #14.)

Correlations of this nature not only provide strong evidence of UFO reality, they are also gradually yielding valuable clues which aid researchers trying to solve the myriad of mysteries surrounding the phenomenon. The history behind how these two cases came to be

compared directly to each other also provides a graphic illustration of just how valuable close cooperation between individuals and groups in the field of ufology has become.

AMATEUR UFOLOGY NEWS is strictly an independent publication, and aside from personal memberships held by individuals on our staff we are not affiliated with any other organization. The Mutual UFO Network has an active chapter in Springfield, only about fifty miles from our home office here in Lockwood. Despite the lack of any "official" connection, an excellent working relationship and exchange of information has existed between this group and the AUN staff for quite some time. They knew the details of our earlier "swarming lights" case and contacted us concerning this latest incident immediately. A copy of Duane's summary report was in our hands within days.

If we all worked together in this manner on a regular basis, it is a safe bet that the answers we seek so diligently would be quicker in coming.

(There is certainly no intention to indicate that the Springfield MUFON investigators are the only ones who cooperate with AUN. Dozens of other individuals and groups have also displayed the same willingness to freely exchange information to mutual benefit.)
