

*This is a truly puzzling UFO report—potentially, a source of startling new knowledge. First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, and then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.*

### 3—the UFO Finalist

#### DAYLIGHT CE I SEEN BY 14 WITNESSES IN CONNECTICUT

What are the necessary qualifications for a truly provocative UFO sighting—a CE I?

- It would have to be seen by many people to be reliable.
- It would have to be very close to rule out simple mis-identification of distant objects.
- It should occur during daylight hours to be seen clearly.
- It should appear and act in an exotic manner.
- It should be consistent with the general patterns reported for the Close Encounters—a disc form, perhaps a dome . . . a trajectory involving hovering *and* rapid acceleration, as so many others have been alleged to exhibit.

Here is such a case, one that happened this summer; perhaps one of the best of the year. It was reported by Ira Leifer, a 23-year old camp counselor with a B.S. in political science, and 13 campers, all 14-15 years old. We are grateful to Paula Holmes of APRO who provided much useful assistance on this case.



*Artist's Reconstruction; Approved  
With Modifications*

#### ENVIRONMENT

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 1976. Time: 3:45 PM, EDT.

Place: Camp Delaware, a boys' summer camp 3 miles SW of Winsted, Connecticut; viewed through an open clearing in the trees at the summit of Blueberry Mountain (1460'), 1 mile NW of camp and 400' above local Crystal Lake.

#### APPEARANCE

The object looked like a flat-bottomed saucer, or half-dome, 15-25 feet in diameter. The surface was opaque, metallic silver in color, with a shiny, smooth texture. No seams or features were detected. A purple "aura" or haze surrounded the entire form, and on top of the saucer was a red "dome" (or volume of glowing gas). No heat or odor was reported.

#### MOTION

A high-pitched "whine" (like feedback from a loudspeaker) caused the witnesses to look up. The object appeared in an unwitnessed fashion at a steep angle to the observers. There it hovered in place for 15-25 seconds. A second "whine" heralded the swift departure of the object; the counselor attributed this to rapid vertical ascent in 1-2 seconds, while some of the campers couldn't tell *how* it vanished even though they stared at it continuously.

#### WEATHER

Witnesses described the weather as clear and calm, and at least 73 degrees as they were sweating. The U.S. Weather Bureau agreed: clear skies with thin cirrus at 20,000 feet, westerly winds at 3-5 m.p.h. 70-75 degrees F. with low humidity, 30-40%.

#### WITNESS REACTION

Object sighted by 14 witnesses who were resting during a hike. Ira Leifer said the hovering object was "like you see in the movies—it was really weird". He termed the incident "a very shocking experience", describing the group as "dumbfounded". Kerry Ezrol, one of the hikers, was skeptical about UFOs. "I don't know, now." When the object disappeared, the hikers broke into a run downhill back to camp.

CASE

STATUS

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Witness unreached; call \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE CONNECTICUT

Further investigation required: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS LEIFER

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE 7-28-76

\_\_\_ CLOSED

CLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ IFO? \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE:  HOT-LINE

\_\_\_ DIRECT CALL

\_\_\_ DD \_\_\_ NL \_\_\_ RV  CE I \_\_\_ CE II

\_\_\_ INDIRECT

\_\_\_ CE III \_\_\_ EM? \_\_\_ PHYS. EF. \_\_\_ PHYSIO.

\*\*\*\*\* WITNESS \*\*\*\*\*

REPORTING WITNESS NAME Ira Leifer ("LI-fer")

RESIDENCE Camp Delaware 41°55'N, 73°5'W

CITY Winsted STATE Conn. 06098

PHONE (203) 379-8578 SEX  MALE \_\_\_ FEMALE

AGE 23 OCCUPATION camp counselor

RELEVANT TRAINING B.S., political science - Windham College, Ct.

NO. OF OTHER WITNESSES 13

NAMES (13) 14 and 15 yrs. old

Gregg Bond, 15 } personally

Kerry Ezrol, 14 } contacted

\*\*\*\*\* ENVIRONMENT \*\*\*\*\*

DATE July 28, 1976 TIME 3:45  AM \_\_\_ PM  E \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ P

STREETS (Blueberry Mtn. - 1450')

CITY Winsted (west of city)

COUNTY/PROVINCE Litchfield

STATE Connecticut U.S.?

VIEW OF SKY:  UNOBSCURED  TREES  BUILDINGS  CAR WIND.  HOUSE WIND.

TYPE OF AREA:  URBAN  SUBURBAN  RURAL//  RES.  INDUST.  
 COMM.  AGRICUL.

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL FEATURES:

AIRPORTS Bradley International

MILITARY \_\_\_\_\_

POWER LINES \_\_\_\_\_

GEOGRAPHY 1450' Blueberry Mtn. (limestone composition)  
Rugg Brook Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Highland Lake

\*\*\*\*\* APPEARANCE \*\*\*\*\*

APPARENT SIZE:  STAR  A/C  FULL MOON  20' (car at treetops)

COLOR:  TOO DARK  silvery metallic

SHAPE flat-bottomed hemisphere

OUTLINE:  DISTINCT  VAGUE  TOO DARK

SOUND:  NONE  high-pitched whine at appearance and

LUMINOSITY:  REFLECTION  SELF-LUMINOUS//  BRIGHT AS A STAR <sup>disappearance</sup>

INTENSE  BLINDING

TRAIL:  YES  NO SUR. HAZE:  YES  NO <sup>purple aura like gas</sup>

COLOR purple LENGTH surrounding PERSISTENCE constant

OPACITY:  OPAQUE  TRANSLUCENT  TRANSPARENT

TEXTURE shiny, smooth, flat

HEAT:  NO  YES ODOR:  NO  YES

FEATURES glowing "dome" or gas

LIGHT BEAMS none

\*\*\*\*\* MOTION \*\*\*\*\*

POINT OF APPEARANCE overhead, tree-top level

DIR. (overhead) ELEV. ~ 30 feet MANNER sudden appearance

POINT OF DISAPPEARANCE \_\_\_\_\_

DIR. (overhead) ELEV. zenith MANNER "rapid ascent"

TRAJECTORY: DURATIONS OF ABRUPT CHANGES ---

① heard high-pitched "whine", like feedback

② hovered amidst haze, tree-top level = 15-25 sec.

③ "ascended", almost straight up (slight WSW bearing) = 1-2 seconds

TOTAL DURATION IN VIEW: \_\_\_\_\_ HRS. \_\_\_\_\_ MIN. 15-25 SEC.

SPEED:  STATIONARY  SLOW A/C  FAST A/C  EXT. FAST

ROTATION  CHANGED SHAPE  AFFECTED CLOUDS

\*\*\*\*\* WEATHER \*\*\*\*\*

WITNESS

WEATHER BUREAU

VISIBILITY excellent

very good

CLOUD COVER & TYPE clear

clear

RING ARND MOON OR SUN? —

—

WIND DIR. & SPD —

WNW 3-5 m.p.h.

TEMP. ~ 73° (sweating)

70-75° F

PRECIP. —

—

HUMIDITY low

30-40%

BAR. PRESSURE —

~ 29.5 inches

\*\*\*\*\* WITNESS INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\*

ACTIVITY PRIOR TO SIGHTING hiking westbound

ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY sound overhead

OTHER OBJECTS SEEN CONCURRENTLY:  MOON  STARS  BIRDS  
 CLOUDS  A/C  FIREWORKS

VISUAL AIDS:  BINOCULARS  TELESCOPE  CAMERA  GLASSES  
 SUNGLASSES  POLAROID

TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLVE BETTER:  NO  YES

LOCATION:  INDOORS  OUTDOORS  CAR  PLANE  TRAIN  
 BOAT  SQUAD CAR

POSITION:  STANDING  LYING  SITTING

IN CAR:  NO /  YES SPEED \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECTION \_\_\_\_\_

TRAFFIC? \_\_\_\_\_ MOTION KEYED TO CAR?  NO  YES

EMOTIONAL REACTIONS \_\_\_\_\_  
curiosity, fear

WHOM DID YOU CALL?  POLICE  PRESS  AIRPORT  MILITARY

EVER SEE A UFO BEFORE?  NO  YES

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE? \_\_\_\_\_

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY ARE BEING SEEN? \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTED IN UFO SUBJECT?  YES  INDIFFERENT  NO cynical

READ AVAILABLE LITERATURE?  YES  NEWSPAPERS  TV  NO

IF NO RESPONSE FROM CAMP BY SEPT. 1 - 203-259-5650  
CALL KIDS HOMES

CASE DATE July 28, 1976 PLACE CONN. DATE July 29, 1976

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

CATEGORY CE I (?) NO. OF OBJECTS 1 **UFOCAT**  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

APPARENT SIZE (NL, DD, RV= 1) star 2) distant plane 3) full moon 4) quarter at arm's length 5) finger at arm's length 6) CE " size in feet)

something like a car at the tree-top level

COLOR (S) silvery metallic OPACITY solid physical

SHAPE (S) (what common household object shaped like) DISC, FLAT BOTTOM, Item;

TEXTURE (S) shiny, smooth, flat SOUND (S) high-pitch whine "feedback, whistle"

HEAT none ODOR (S) none

OUTLINE (sharp, vague) sharp LUMINOUSITY (refl., self) ~~refl.~~ refl.

SURROUNDING HAZE? purple aura emitted like haze APPENDAGES (domes, fins, aerials, landing gear) red light

LIGHT BEAMS (color, extent, #) none

FEATURES (seams, windows, insignias, steady or pulsating lights, doorways)  
none

OCCUPANTS SEEN (if "yes", go to CE III form) —

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE (building power, car electrical systems, compass, radio, TV; if "yes", go to CE II form) —

PHYSICAL EFFECTS? (rings, imprints in ground, vegetation scorched or broken, stains, residues, "angel's hair", broken tree branches) —

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS (illness, discomfort) —

TRAIL (color, nature, vapor?, width, length, persistence) none

NOTICES:

MANNER OF APPEARANCE (in distance?, materialize?, like plane?) unwitnessed

POINT OF APPEARANCE ("seen", "horizon") overhead, tree-top level

BREAK INTO PARTS? no ROTATE? yes, rapidly.

CHANGE SHAPE? no AFFECT CLOUDS? no

ESTIMATED OVERLAND SPEED (from "tree" to "roof" in X sec. = MPH): hovered, then vertical <sup>rapid asc.</sup>

POINT OF DISAPPEARANCE ("west", "horizon"): zenith

MANNER OF DISAPPEARANCE ("in distance", "like plane"): rapid ascent, 2 seconds, gone

TOTAL DURATION OF SIGHTING: 15-25 seconds

TRAJECTORY (list directions, motions, durations, for each abrupt change in behavior):  
 horizon, tree-top, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, overhead)

- 1) overhead, hovered heard whine  
 DURATION start
- 2) overhead, hovering tree-top level  
 DURATION 15-20 seconds
- 3) ascended almost straight up  
 DURATION 1-2 seconds
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 DURATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
 DURATION \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESSES:

REPORTING WITNESS' NAME Ira Lifer 203-379-8578

RESIDENCE (Camp Delaware) - Blueberry Mtn., Windsted, Conn. <sup>06098</sup>

SEX Male AGE 23 OCCUPATION camp counselor ~~(student)~~

EDUCATION recent college graduate - (summer job)  
poli-sci, major - B.S. Windham College, Putney, Ct.

ANNUAL INCOME BRACKET (in multiples of \$5000.) —

NUMBER OF WITNESSES BESIDES YOURSELF (get names, addresses, phone numbers)

13 (14-15 yrs.) ① Gregg Bond - 15  
 ② Kerry Ezro - 14

INITIAL REACTION \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY PRIOR TO SIGHTING hiking westbound

ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY sound

OTHER OBJECTS SEEN CONCURRENTLY (moon, what phase, birds, stars, clouds, aircraft, fireworks) clear

BINOCULARS OR TELESCOPE? no WEARING GLASSES no

WEATHER: \_\_\_\_\_ CLOUDS (amount, type): \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE OBSERVED FROM (indoors, outdoors, car, plane, boat, doorway) outdoors

POSITION (standing, lying, sitting) sitting

IF DRIVING, HOW FAST? \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT DIRECTION BY \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MUCH TRAFFIC? \_\_\_\_\_

WAS MOTION OF PERSON NEEDED TO MOTION OF CAR? \_\_\_\_\_

SIGHTING REPORTED TO PRESS? yes PHOTO TAKEN? no

WHAT WERE YOUR REACTIONS? curiosity - fear

WITNESS RELIABILITY:

1) DO YOU READ ABOUT UFO'S IN THE AVAILABLE LITERATURE OR BELONG TO ANY UFO CLUBS?

(if "yes", exposure) somewhat - cynical

2) WHAT DO YOU THINK UFO'S COULD BE? (admit an open answer - preconceived beliefs; many possibilities = objectivity)

could not say

3) WHY DO YOU THINK THAT UFO'S ARE BEING SEEN NOW? (refusal to speculate or care-

fully qualified speculation = objectivity; mystical theory = preconceived attitudes)

(no opinion stated)

4) HAVE YOU EVER REPORTED YOUR SIGHTING TO THE PRESS? (if "yes", because of "sense

of duty" or "personal conviction"? head counselor "papers will be interested in this"

5) HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A UFO REPORT? HOW MANY? ("yes" = your observation, publicity

seeker, or unblinded) no



WEATHER:

WITNESS

WEATHER BUREAU

VISIBILITY

very good

CLOUD COVER & TYPE

clear

clear

HALO AROUND MOON OR SUN?

WIND DIRECTION AND SPEED

WNW 3-5 mph.

TEMPERATURE

warm (sweating) 73

70-75° F

PRECIPITATION

none

None

HUMIDITY

30-40%

BAR. PRESSURE

~29.5"

ENVIRONMENT:

DATE

July 28

LOCAL TIME

3:45 E.D.T

STREET

Camp Delaware

CITY

Winsted,

COUNTY/PROVINCE

Litchfield

STATE

Conn.

COUNTRY

U.S.

LONG., LAT.

41°55'N  
73°5'W

VIEW OF SKY ("measured to horizon", trees, buildings, % of sky perceptible):

clearing among trees.

TYPE OF AREA (urban, suburban, rural, residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural)

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL FEATURES (airport, military bases, power station, transformers or lines)

Rugg Brook Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Highland Lake  
Blueberry Mtn. (source) - elevation 1450'; limestone

Kerry Ezral at home on phone - Sunday

"last one up the hill - oval-shaped, "half-moon" dome  
or light on top - violet haze around it"

"hand" would barely cover it - whine stopped; 17-19 sec.  
hovered - disappeared or rushed off ext. fast -- then  
we ran downhill -- no idea what it might have  
been - 40 Acre Dr, Massapequa, L.I.

Gregg Bond - Merrick, N.Y.

"picking blueberries - sat down - heard hi-freq. sound  
hovering in air, red, revolving illum, "dome", mist (purple)  
15 sec., then "disappeared" - couldn't tell manner of dis-  
appearance although staring at it

"Alan ~~Part~~ Partperay, Wyandanch, L.I." - no listing

Camp Delaware  
Case notes

① Lou Adler - camp director - call back

③ nearby camp made a belated report Fri., Aug 30 about a sighting on Wed. July 23, 20 mi. away by camp counselor Mrs. Lori Greenberg, Camp Birchwood Beach St., Goshen, Conn, 203-491-2030 = reported by Off. Reichenberg, Conn Pol Rt, 7, N. Kanaan, Conn, 203-824-5457 - ascribable to A/C

⑬ Bruce Kauffman - Hartford ADVOCATE (daily & weekly) "no one going to the camp has been allowed to speak to the kids!" (8-5) -

⑬ Winsted Evening Cit (8-5) Letter to Editor initiated by 4 camp kids claiming "hoax" - they called Leifer - Leifer says initials don't correspond to kids involved - still stood by story - still valid as far as paper is concerned

⑬ Jim Cameron - APPRO's Paula Holmes = 672-6427 ran around w/ geiger counter on Friday (7-30) at camp ages (13-15) Donna and Lou Adler & press exploited Ira Bothered out of his wits - No wx balloons; panic reaction among children, ran away -

8:45 PM Sat. previous Hyde Park, July 24<sup>th</sup>; took place on flight paths

Rt. 7 and 45

Cornwall Bridge, 06754

Conn

⑬ (via Winsted Evening Citizen)

#3 Billy Weisman - Jamaica, N.Y.

(contacted Fred Kolbee + wrote to Paula Holmes = 8-9) At

① called Kerry Ezro 8-31 - taped disposition

William M. Lesser  
241 Main St  
Torrington, Ct  
Chief Psychologist  
Waterbury Hosp.

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Dr. Robert D Oaken  
Charlotte-Hungerford Hosp.  
Staff Psychologist  
Clinical Child Psychology

(14) Ron Gates - interviewed kids  
\* 30' over ground particles

11:00 7-29 something over lake 2 girls

(1) Getz, Susan - unimportant, sighting next night  
13, 14 undetailed

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Gregg Bond, ~~15~~ 15 } 2 of 13 kids  
Kerry Ezrol, 14 }  
Massapequa, L.I.  
scared, stomachs rolled

(2) 7-30 - Dispatcher at Winsted - no additional  
calls

(13) Dave Bergman, Hartford, CONN "COURANT"  
parent of 1 of the witnesses indicated HOAX, with  
counselor coaching kids on what to say - reporter SNUCK  
INTO CAMP on Sat, 7-31, and spoke to the elusive Leifer  
who denied the charge.

② Dispatcher Fairbrother 338 Main St,  
Winsted, Conn. 06098 - 203/379-2721

Torrington Register

John Barstow } 489/3121 379-3143  
William Haskell }

George Earley - 203/242-9942 <sup>233-9605:0</sup>

⑬ Winsted Evening Citizen - clear, partial cirrus 80,000  
379-3333 11:27 Blueberry Mt. 14,000' SW Winsted  
no crazy weather

⑦ Bradley International A.I.C. <sup>WSR winds - William Jacqueman - Nat'l. Sec. Albany N.Y.C.</sup>  
203-623-~~4282~~ Deputy Chief 11:27 no unusual activity,  
~~4282~~ need some lateral movement  
4282 <sup>Alpine Airways - no traffic</sup>

⑩ Talcott Mt. Sci. Center - Avon, Conn.  
12:02 - No sightings

⑬ <sup>12:08</sup> Hartford News, Jim Cameron - can't get past  
head counselor {7-30} "city kids who can't  
tell star from sun" 203-247-1429

⑭ Ron Gates - ch. 3 - call 3PM 203-728-3431

⑬ Floyd Foltz - 30-40 mi. away  
515 Hall Hill Rd  
Somers, Conn., Rt. 86

~~203-749-0524~~  
203-NAB-1621 ext. 2949

6 hrs. after Winsted

Sgt. Herb Foy says he's reliable  
745-1671 Enfield - A.P. wires

Jim Barrett  
Wallingford 269-820  
↑

pen = 7-30 (WSB-Atlanta) Fred Kolbee  
125 Christie Hill Rd Darien Conn

The following are transcripts of letters obtained from the fourteen witnesses of an unidentified aerial object on Wednesday, July 28, 1976 at 3:45 P.M.(D.S.T.) on Blueberry Mountain, elevation 1460 feet in Winsted, Connecticut:

1) "We all of a sudden herd a high pitched noise or sound and we saw a metallic disc shap with a red half ballon top and it was revolving and like a purple nest on top. It was there for about 20 seconds and then the noise came again and it disappered and I was still staring at the open spac so I couldn't tell how it left it just left "

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2) "As we were sitting down on the mountain, a very high pitched sound which buzzed in my ears brought my attention to the sky. Directly above the trees was a saucer shaped object, about twenty feet in diameter. It was silver in color, had a red revolving dome on top, and was surrounded by a purple mist. It stayed above us for about twenty seconds, and then took off."

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3) "I heard a high frequency noise & looked up & saw almost an oval object which was about 20 ft. in diameter with a violet haze around it & a half red dome on top. Then I heard the noise again & it was gone. It was there for about 17 seconds."

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4) "We were all on a hike on top of blueberry mountain & we stopped to rest. I was sitting down and heard a high screech sound. I looked up and saw a metal disc about 13 feet long. The disc had a red revolving dome on top of it. It was there for about 30 seconds and it went wit' another high-pitched sound."

(Letters cont'd)

5) "All of a sudden we heard a high pitched whining sound. I looked up and saw a disc shaped object. On the top was a red dome that kept going around and around. The rest of it was a shiny metallic color. It was about 15 feet long & surrounded by a mist. In a few seconds it left."

-+++++

6) "I was on the top of the mountain and then I heard a high pitched noise. I looked up into the sky and I saw a flying object. This object was about 50 feet off the ground. When it stopped, the noise stopped and then it was hovering in one place. It was silver, and had a red dome on top going round and round. It was about 15 feet long. There was a purple mist all around it. It stayed there for about 25 seconds and then the noise started up and it shot up and left."

-----+++++

7) "First we heard a high pitched noise like feedback from an amplifier. I looked up at about 45 degree angle. It was disc shape and was about 25 feet in diameter. On top I saw a sort of redish pink color dome or mist. It was there for about 30 seconds. Then we heard the noise again and it left at a speed that was fast than I have ever seen."

-----+++++

8) "We were up on Bluberry hill just hanging out and all the sudden a huge metallic object with a whirring noise was hovering above the trees above us it had a small red dome on top - it was there for about 25 seconds and then left. and so did we"

-----+++++

9) "We were all sitting there, when all of a sudden we heard a very high-pitched whistle. Then the object appeared, as everything

(Letters cont'd.)

9) cont'd - "else in the area seemed to become quiet. It was very large. It had a shiny-metallic-silvery base with a reddish dome on top, that revolved. The entire object was surrounded by a purplish-colored mist. It just hovered above us for anywhere between 15 and 25 seconds, and then left as suddenly as it appeared."

(The above possibly written by Counselor, Ira Leiffer, but wishes to remain anonymous)

10)

--////////////////////

"I first heard a loud, high-pitched sound. As I looked up I saw a large disc-shaped object hovering above. The object seemed to have a reddish dome, either a light or a red mist. The ~~disc~~ disc was metallic. I stood stunned for a while and then it was gone, just as quickly as it came."

////////////////-

11) "We were sitting on Blueberry Mt. We all heard a noise and looked up and saw a disc shaped object. It was silver and had a red revolving light on the top. It lasted about 15 seconds."

-////////////////

12) "We were hiking on blueberry hill when all of a sudden we heard a loud high pitched noise like a feedback of a P. A. system. When I looked up I saw a big disc shaped object. It had a violet mist around it. The object circled above us for around 15 to 20 seconds."

-////////////////-

13) "When we took a hike to Blueberry hill we sat down to rest. We heard this feed back like sound and looked up. It was disc-shaped craft with a red half revolving dome on top which either glowed or w light. It had a purplish to a magenta color mist around it.



Letters (cont'd.)

130 "Sitting atop Blueberry Hill, we first heard a very high pitched sound. As we looked up we saw a  $\frac{1}{2}$  dome shaped object with another  $\frac{1}{2}$  dome on top emitting a reddish color. Within about 20 - 25 seconds the sound returned and the object left."

Conclusion by Field Investigator:

The object as seen by 14 witnesses was first seen following the sound which is best described as the high frequency feedback from an amplifier. It was disc-shaped, 15 - 25 feet in diameter, silvery, metallic with a reflecting surface. The consensus of opinion was that there was a reddish dome or light on top that radiated a violet haze or light and that the dome revolved.

(When the Counselor was questioned as to how he could tell the object was revolving he said he could see the changing reflections on the metallic surface of the object that showed it to be rotating. The discrepancy is that the young adults all say that only the red dome was revolving.)

The object hovered at an angle above the heads of the witnesses for approximately 15 - 25 seconds and was silent as it hovered. The high-pitched noise returned just as it began a swift ascent "faster than anything they had ever seen" As described by one---"I was still staring at the open space so I couldn't tell how it left."



Billy Weisman of Jamaica, N.Y., drew this sketch of UFO which he and 13 other hikers from Camp Delaware say they saw Wednesday afternoon. Object is shown surrounded by aura.

# UFO Sighted By Campers

By Mark Fisher

WINSTED — A Camp Delaware counselor and 13 young campers say they encountered a whining, saucer-shaped flying object during an afternoon hike Wednesday, viewing it for about 20 seconds before they said it departed rapidly in opposite directions.

The incident allegedly occurred at about 3:45 p.m. atop Blueberry Mountain, a 1,460-foot hill behind the camp. The counselor, Ira Leifer of New York City, called the meeting "a very shocking experience."

Leifer said the encounter began when he and the campers heard a noise and looked up. One of the youths said the noise was similar to that created by electronic feedback in a public-address system.

The noise stopped, Leifer said, and the hikers saw a disc-shaped hovering object "like you see in the movies — it was really weird."

He said the object had a silver-colored body, with red gas or a red light on top. It was revolving, he said.

He said he and the youths were "dumbfounded."

Leifer said the incident lasted 15 to 25 seconds. The noise started again and the object departed at a high rate of speed, he said.

"It left and we ran," he said.

According to Leifer and the campers, the object receded rapidly in an almost vertical direction. They said they fled down the hillside to a nearby road.

William Jacquemin, operator of the Winchester Weather Station, said today the description of the object's movement does not sound like the behavior of a weather balloon.

Jacquemin said weather balloons are no longer launched from Bradley International Airport, but are launched from New York City and Albany. He said winds yesterday were from the west-southwest, a direction which would not force the balloons over this area.

He said high cirrus clouds, which were over Winsted Wednesday, sometimes reflect sunlight to create a glowing disc-like shape. He said the shapes are not large, however, and a dime usually covers them.

Jacquemin said he does not think there was a weather-related explanation for the reported sighting. The hazy weather that carries refracted sunlight from water surfaces did not exist Wednesday, he said.

A spokesman for Johnycake Airport in Harwinton said he knew of no flights from the airport that passed over Winsted Wednesday afternoon. At Bradley International, a spokeswoman said it would be "pretty hard" to determine if any Bradley-related traffic were responsible for the incident.

State Police at Troop B, Canaan, said they knew of no weather balloon or anything else that could have been what the hikers said they saw.

A spokesman for the Talcott Mountain Science Center in Avon said the center has not been tracking objects on radar. He said he has heard nothing about unidentified flying objects (UFOs), or conventional but unfamiliar aerial devices, in this area.

## Other Sightings

Mrs. Kitty Nanni of Lovely Street, vice president of the Northwest Connecticut Chapter of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, said 18 UFO sightings have been reported in the Winsted area since Friday.

Seven of the sighting reports came from different places in Winsted "at the same time," she said.

Local police have given an account of the Camp Delaware incident to the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. The center is a private organization composed of professional people who will study the report, according to its answering service.

## "I Don't Know"

Kerry Ezrol of Massapequa, L.I., one of the hikers, said he did not believe in UFOs before Wednesday's encounter.

"I don't know, now," he said.

"I was wondering if I got any gray hairs," said another youth who was in the hiking party.

Leifer said he is now uncertain about the existence of UFOs. He said he cannot tell what the object really was, but would like to find out.

# Evening Citizen

Western Connecticut Since the Blizzard of '88

## Weather

Increasing cloudiness  
Tuesday; 20 per cent  
chance of rain.

ED, CONN. 06098

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1976

14 PAGES

SINGLE COPY 15c

8/2/76

# Letter Terms UFO Sighting As 'Hoax'

POOR!  
APRO!  
what a  
misquote!  
- Hendry

By Ed Beckley

WINSTED — The Winsted Evening Citizen received a letter stating, "We would like to confirm last week's sighting of a UFO (at Camp Delaware) as a hoax."

But 13 campers and their adult counselor, who claim they saw a disc-shaped hovering object atop Blueberry Mountain here last Wednesday, remain adamant that what they saw existed.

"They did see what they saw. They swore by it . . . these boys swore that they saw it and they ran like hell. I questioned them myself."

Wainstock said the campers' stories "all seemed to say the same thing."

He said the letter "could

don't know myself," she said. "I know they came down running and that's all I know," she said.

The object was reportedly spotted 30 feet above the treetops and was described as being as large as a car with a glowing domed red light or red gas as a top.

groundwork for an investigation by the Center for UFO studies based in Evanston, Ill.

She said camp officials would not admit her, though, because "they are so concerned with not letting these kids be exploited by the news media."

**" . . . I Know What I Saw," Counselor Asserts**

By Ed Beckley

WINSTED — The Winsted Evening Citizen received a letter stating, "We would like to confirm last week's sighting of a UFO (at Camp Delaware) as a hoax."

But 13 campers and their adult counselor, who claim they saw a disc-shaped hovering object atop Blueberry Mountain here last Wednesday, remain adamant that what they saw existed.

The letter continued, "Our group along with the leader wanted to see just how far a story would go. We fooled everyone. It now seems to be getting out of hand. So cool it. Now." It was signed with the initials of four persons: T.R., J.T., -M.J. AND T.M.

A check with camp owners Joseph and Ruth Wainstock, however, proved that no one in the sighting group has those initials.

Ira Leifer, a counselor in his mid-twenties, who led the campers on Wednesday, told The Citizen, "I can tell you truthfully none of those initials match at all."

Leifer, who said he is "a little fed up with the whole thing" asserted, "I don't mind if people tell me I'm a liar because I know what I saw."

He and the campers reported they were shocked at about 3:45 p.m. Wednesday when the group heard a whining noise then looked up and saw an egg-shaped, silvery, revolving, aerial object.

The letter was written in pencil on a half-torn piece of lined loose-leaf paper and postmarked Winsted.

Joseph Wainstock said,

"They did see what they saw. They swore by it . . . these boys swore that they saw it and they ran like hell. I questioned them myself."

Wainstock said the campers' stories "all seemed to say the same thing."

He said the letter "could

don't know myself," she said. "I know they came down running and that's all I know," she said.

The object was reportedly spotted 30 feet above the treetops and was described as being as large as a car with a glowing domed red light or red gas as a top.

groundwork for an investigation by the Center for UFO studies based in Evanston, Ill.

She said camp officials would not admit her, though, because "they are so concerned with not letting these kids be exploited by the news media."

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## *" . . . I Know What I Saw," Counselor Asserts*

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be a gag" and recommended it be destroyed.

Mrs. Ruth Wainstock said Leifer, a college graduate, is "a very responsible group leader."

"I'm inclined to think he would not make up anything like that. I don't think it's possible." She and her husband suggested the letter was from jealous persons or someone kidding.

"What they saw, look, I

Mrs. Paula Holmes, president of the Northwest Connecticut Chapter of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) said today, "I don't think it's a hoax. There's nothing that can disprove what they said."

She went to the camp last Thursday with a Geiger counter and other scientific equipment to inspect the sighting scene and lay the

She called it a "perfectly normal reaction" and maintained she would attempt to study the area at a later date with "a little less fanfare."

The camp, The Citizen and the local police department have been barraged with phone calls from various media personnel from throughout the nation as far away as California.

# UFO Sighting Stirs National Interest

By MARK FISHER

WINSTED — The director of the Connecticut Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) has begun an investigation of Wednesday's reported sighting of a flying saucer near Camp Delaware on Rt. 263.

Mrs. Paula Holmes of Cornwall Bridge, said today she plans to interview camp counselor Ira Leifer of New York City, who reported seeing the hovering saucer during a hike with 13 campers.

Mrs. Holmes said the campers, who also said they saw the object, have been asked to prepare written statements over the weekend.

Leifer and the campers said they were on a hike on Blueberry Mountain behind the camp Wednesday afternoon when they heard a whining noise similar to electronic feedback.

Leifer said he and the youths looked up and saw a rotating, saucer-shaped object hovering in the air. The object was silver-

colored with either a red light or red gas on top, he said.

"It left and we ran," he said.

Mrs. Holmes said the saucer, as described, sounds much like another unidentified flying object (UFO) seen and photographed in Oregon.

She said she came to Winsted with a Geiger counter, plaster-casting kit, camera and other equipment so she could search for physical evidence at the site of the reported encounter.

Meanwhile, the story of the alleged sighting has received massive publicity. A source at the camp said it had received telephone calls from a local and a Boston-based reporter, as well as a UFO group near Chicago.

The sighting story, first seen in The Citizen Thursday, has appeared in area newspapers and has been broadcast over state and New York City radio. It also has been covered on at least one state

television station and has been carried by at least one wire service.

The Citizen itself received telephone calls today from a New York City radio station and from a Washington, D.C. UFO investigator who heard the report of the sighting in New York.

Leifer said today the campers are "getting a little nervous" because of the publicity.

"I don't think it's right, because it does happen all the time," he said.

Mrs. Holmes' husband, Gunnar, and APRO member, said the group serves as the "devil's advocate".

He said its investigations of UFO reports are "as thorough as we can get."

Sometimes, he said, "we debunk completely" a report of a UFO sighting.

Winsted Evening Citizen  
Winsted, Conn. July 30, 1976

# Silver UFO Frightens Counselor, 13 Campers

WINSTED, Conn. (UPI) — A counselor and 13 campers at Camp Delaware claim they were scared away from their campground by a small flying saucer hovering over Blueberry Mountain, police said Thursday.

The alleged sighting was reported by Ira Leifer of New York, a counselor at the private summer camp in Winchester, and 13 campers ranging in age from 14 to 15, most of them from the New York City area, police said.

The incident occurred at about 3:45 p.m. EDT, as the group hiked to the top of Blueberry Mountain, a 1,460-foot hill behind the camp, Leifer told reporters.

"It left and we ran," he said, estimating the object was about 30 feet away from the group for about 20 seconds before it gained altitude and disappeared.

Leifer and four of the campers said the silver-colored object was shaped like an upside down saucer, was the size of a car and made a noise similar to feedback on loudspeakers.

Police said they did not investigate the sighting — the only one they have received in years — but relayed the report to UFO Central in Evanston, Ill., an agency that gathers information on UFO sightings.

Atlanta, Georgia  
Atlanta Constitution  
Friday, July 30, 1976

Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
Seattle, Wash. July 30, 1976

CR: Matt Williams

## UFO Leaves 'Em at a Loss

Officials at Winstead, Conn., were at a loss today to explain the reported sighting of a small flying saucer by 14 persons hiking on Blueberry Mountain in Connecticut.

Police said they did not investigate the sighting — the only one they have received in years — but relayed the report to UFO Central in Evanston, Ill., an agency that gathers information on UFO sightings.

The sighting Wednesday was reported by a counselor and 13 campers at Camp Delaware, a private summer camp in the Winchester section of Winstead, in the northwest corner of the state.

WINSTED, CT

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July 28, 1976

# Hikers Report Flying Saucer

WINSTED, Conn. (UPI) — Local officials today were at a loss to explain the reported sighting of a small flying saucer by 14 persons hiking on Blueberry Mountain in Connecticut.

Police said they did not investigate the sighting — the only one they have received in years — but relayed the report to UFO Central in Evanston, Ill., an agency that gathers information on UFO sightings.

The sighting Wednesday was reported by a counselor and 13 campers at Camp Delaware, a private summer camp in the Winchester section of Winsted, in the northwest corner of the state.

William Jacquemin, who runs the weather station in Winchester, said it was unlikely the object could have been a weather balloon of the type launched daily from New York City and Albany.

Camp counselor Ira Leifer of New York told reporters the sighting occurred at about 3:45 p.m. as he and 13 campers, between 14 and 15 years old, hiked to the top of Blueberry Mountain, a 1,460-foot hill behind the camp.

"It left and we ran," he said, estimating the object was about 30 feet away from the group for about 20 seconds before it gained altitude and disappeared.

Leifer and four of the campers said the silver-colored object was shaped like an upside down saucer, was the size of a car and made a noise similar to feedback on loudspeakers.

10 Fri., July 30, 1976 *The Phoenix Gazette*

Phoenix, Arizona CR: Jim Auburn

WINSTED, CT

CEI

July 28, 1976

San Francisco, Calif.  
Examiner  
July 30, 1976

## ● 14 see a flying saucer

WINSTED, Conn. — Local officials today were at a loss to explain the reported sighting of a small flying saucer yesterday by 14 persons hiking on Blueberry Mountain in Connecticut. Police said they did not investigate the sighting — the only one they have received in years — but relayed the report to UFO Central in Evanston, Ill., an agency that gathers information on UFO sightings. The sighting was reported by a counselor and 13 campers at Camp Delaware, a private summer camp in the Winchester section of Winsted, in the northwest corner of the state.

# UFO Sighting Ruled Bonafide

WINSTED — A field investigator for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) has determined a July 28 UFO sighting by 14 persons here is bonafide — and may have been a robot-controlled disc.

Mrs. Paula Holmes, president of the Northwest Connecticut Chapter of APRO, studied the sighting scene on Blueberry Hill and recorded statements of the eyewitnesses.

Fourteen young hikers of Camp Delaware, including a 24-year-old counselor, said they encountered a whining, saucer-shaped object during an afternoon hike on the 1,460-foot hill about 3:45 p.m.

Mrs. Holmes' investigation indicated there were no imprints in the ground, scorched vegetation or residues, no electromagnetic interference evident, broken branches or other traces to signify the unusual presence. She said the hikers did not suffer from radiation or any other physiological effects.

All 14 statements match, however, with one discrepancy. Counselor Ira Leifer said the "silvery, metallic" object was rotating as evidenced by

changing reflections on its surface. The other campers, aged 14 and 15, said only a red, dome-shaped top was moving.

The investigator, who resides in Cornwall, said reports are consistent that the object was noticed following a high pitched screech, then hovered silently at tree-top level on an angle above the witnesses' heads. The noise returned after about 15 to 25 seconds then the object ascended vertically and disappeared within two seconds: "faster than anything they had ever seen."

Copies of the report are being sent to APRO headquarters in Tucson, Ariz.; The Center for UFO studies in Evanston, Ill., and the Midwest UFO Network, for scrutiny.

Scientific chemical analysis and radiation detection devices were not used in the area of the sighting because the object was not spotted close enough to the earth's surface, Mrs. Holmes said.

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Mrs. Holmes said she can only speculate about what was seen. She deemed Leifer a "credible witness." (He graduated during the spring as a Political Science Major of Windham College, Vermont.)

"If they said they saw something I would be fairly apt to say that what they saw was what they saw. I have a feeling, an actual hunch it was a close-up sighting of a disc, accidentally seen," she said.

She said her conclusion "from just the visual sighting is it might have been a robot-controlled disc."

A geological study of the area done several years ago by her son (now a Junior at the Colorado School of Mines) indicates the composition of the hill includes the metal, magnesium.

Magnesium is a lightweight element used in space technology. Some believers of alien, interplanetary travel are con-

vinced magnesium is used to construct the discs. Mrs. Holmes said a UFO found crashed in South America some years ago was composed of the material.

There is no factual data to back her supposition, but Mrs. Holmes said the object might have been a "prospecting instrument looking for magnesium."

She speculated a mother-ship might have been controlling the disc from an earth-orbital position and that it was summoned back to the ship when contact with the humans was determined potentially dangerous. She did not discount the idea the object was self-controlled. She guessed the whining noise might have been "some type of security thing."

She said several sightings have been reported locally since July 20, adding "I think we're in a flap right now." (A flap is synonymous with a large number of sightings). One theory of UFO investigators is that flaps occur during time of natural earthly disaster. There have been several earthquakes and a volcano eruption recently; and a hurricane and a tornado locally since late June. She would not speculate on the theory, however.