

Flying Saucers

'THAT WAS NO AIRPLANE'

Are They Hiding Those Lights Under a Bushel?

By EVERT CLARK

Mysterious red lights which have flown over the Quantico Marine Base 22 times in the past six nights were officially explained away today as a new type of aircraft navigation light. But most of the Marines who saw them still don't believe that's what they were.

In addition, The News ran into what seems to be a deliberate attempt to cover up certain facets of the longest continuous "flying saucer" run in history.

The first man to see the light was Pfc. Norman Viets, 18, of Greenville, Pa. Since then, at least 30 other Marines, including half a dozen officers, have seen it, too.

On one occasion, sentries reported seeing three lights at once. They say they have seen the lights drop straight down, fly straight up and stand still.

Even the most careful—and skeptical—observer, the base provost marshal, Maj. D. D. Pomerleau, admitted the lights had characteristics he never expected to find on an airliner.

FIRST SIGHTING

Pfc. Viets was standing sentry duty at the Tank Park a few miles north of Camp Barrett on the southwestern side of the Quantico reservation at 9:05 p. m. Dec. 30 when he "reported a moving, blinking red light near his post which he could not explain."

The sergeant of the guard, Sergt. Francis R. Salinder, "investigated and saw the light but could not explain it."

Pfc. Viets told The News the light first appeared to come straight toward him over a line of trees about 200 yards to the south of his post.

"It was about a foot and a half in diameter," he said, "only going about 10 or 15 miles an hour. Then it followed the tree line about 50 yards to the right and went down.

"It went straight down, all of a sudden. Fifteen minutes later it went straight up and moved over here toward the tank shed.

"I saw it two times after that. It did the same thing. It was the weirdest looking thing I ever saw. There was no engine noise and no shape—just the light."



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