

Mystery Objects Sighted in Asia

Clusters Spotted Near Red Islands

A U.S. AIR BASE, Northern Japan (AP)—Mysterious flying objects—"rotating clusters of red, white and green lights"—have been sighted over Northern Japan by American airmen, the Air Force disclosed Wednesday night.

Intelligence reports placed the sightings close to Russian territory in the Kurile Islands and Sakhalin. They added: "There are too many indications of the presence of something . . . to be considered an observation of nothing." And they discounted the possibility the sighted objects were mere "reflections of light."

SPOTTED BY PILOTS

Col. Curtis R. Low, commander of the Northern Division of the Japan Air Defense Force, said the flying clusters were seen by fighter pilots and ground personnel and were tracked on radar. He released official intelligence reports on the sighting to the Associated Press.

The reports were similar to those describing "flying saucers" in the U.S. One said the lights appeared to hang motionless at times, and at other times disappeared with blinding speed.

Col. Donald J. M. Blakeslee, World War II ace and commander of an escort fighter wing, took detailed observations on one rotating cluster and tried in vain to intercept it in a jet.

Sightings were made by many persons at many points over Northern Japan Dec. 29. On Jan. 9 a rotating cluster was spotted by two fighter pilots and was tracked on radar.

COUNTRY ON EDGE

The report was signed by Lt. Col. Russell Powell, intelligence officer, U. S. Air Force.

The sightings occurred over the frozen, ice-locked reaches of Northern Japan, a land tense with continued air harassment by near-flying Russian fighter planes.

Russian territory in the Kurile Islands is only 4 1/2 miles north-east of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

OUT TO LUNCH

DES MOINES (AP)—When the 46 GOP members of the Iowa Senate gleefully took down the picture of Harry Truman at the moment of President Eisenhower's inaugural Tuesday, they found on the back of it a placard reading:

"Out to lunch—back in 1956." Their four Democratic colleagues solemnly denied knowledge of the prank.

Soviet Paper Blasts Israel

MOSCOW (AP)—A leading Soviet publication Wednesday blasted Israel's Premier David Ben-Gurion, foreign minister Moshe Sharett and late President Chaim Weizmann as tools of American-British imperialism.

A long editorial in the foreign affairs weekly New Times also charged the Zionists with supporting a policy to establish "bloody, Fascist regimes permeated by a spirit of racial bigotry, including anti-Semitism."

It was the most severe attack on Zionism yet to appear in the Soviet press. New Times also accused the Israeli nation of waging "a cruel war of destruction against the local Arab population in Palestine." It said that armed Zionist detachments seized land from the Arabs, expelled them into the desert and evicted them from factories.

Siamese Twins Die

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Four-day-old Siamese twin boys joined at the chest and stomach died at a hospital here Monday. Officials of John Gaston Hospital said Terry and Jerry, born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sims, Union, Miss., died of either "respiratory complications" or of some "abnormality present but not yet detected."

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Airmen Recount Ordeal In Icy Waters Off China

By DON HUTH

Associated Press Staff Writer

MANILA, (AP)—Choppy seas surged over the rubber raft. Three American Coast Guard fliers, chilled to the bone, braced against the icy waters.

The raft bobbed and drifted inside a treacherous reef. Land was perilously near—the unfriendly coast of Communist China. There was safety there from the angry seas and winds—but danger, too, of almost certain imprisonment or death.

"We were so cold we didn't care who got us, just so they had fire to keep us warm," says Lt. John Vukic.

Then, in midnight darkness, the U. S. destroyer Halsey Powell picked its way expertly through the reef and plucked the frozen, bedraggled men to safety.

That ended 7 1/2 hours of misery for Vukic, of Pittsburgh, the pilot; Joseph Miller Jr., chief aviation machinist's mate, of Long Beach, Calif.; and Robert F. Hewitt, aviation structural mechanic, third class, of Dan Diego.

They were crew members of a Coast Guard Mariner amphibian that overturned in heavy seas, burned and sank Sunday after picking up 11 of 13 Navy airmen shot down off Swatow, a Red China port, by Communist shore batteries.

Vukic told their story at Sangley Point Naval Base southeast of Manila Wednesday. All three were battered and bruised. Hewitt had a back injury. Vukic sported a black eye.

The other five crewmen of the Mariner were killed and four are missing and presumed dead.

The other seven were taken to Formosa, from where the Coast Guardsmen were flown to Manila and the seven Navy men to Okinawa, their home base.

Vukic said his crew spotted a half-inflated, half-burned lifecraft holding the 11 Navy survivors at 4:20 p.m. Sunday.

He set the big amphibian down on the rough waters without trouble while other planes circled overhead.

"The survivors were so physically exhausted they had to be assisted into our plane—they couldn't stand up," Vukic said. Hours later Vukic knew just what that meant.

On the takeoff, the Mariner lurched and a wing dipped into the sea.

"My seat broke and that's the last thing I remember. The next thing I knew I was in the water. My left eye was full of blood and my right eye was blind."

Vukic and six other men made it to a lifecraft—but couldn't inflate it.

The planes overhead dropped more rafts. Vukic, Miller and Hewitt clambered aboard one.

"The three of us tried to paddle back to the others, but we could not make it. We paddled with our hands and feet. Finally we got so tired we just sat down and lost sight of the crew and plane."

About 3 p.m. they spotted the rescue ships.

The Powell deftly maneuvered into position and picked them up. Aboard, they found the seven Navy men already had been rescued.

'CARTWHEELS' PAY FINE

DENVER (AP)—A man convicted of four traffic violations in city court asked for time to go home to get the money for his \$250 fine. He returned with two paper sacks straining with silver dollars. He said he picked up the "cartwheels" on trips into Wyoming.

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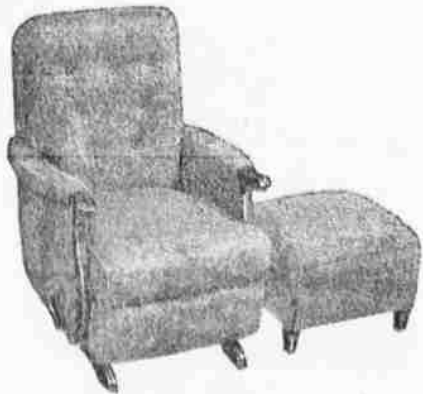
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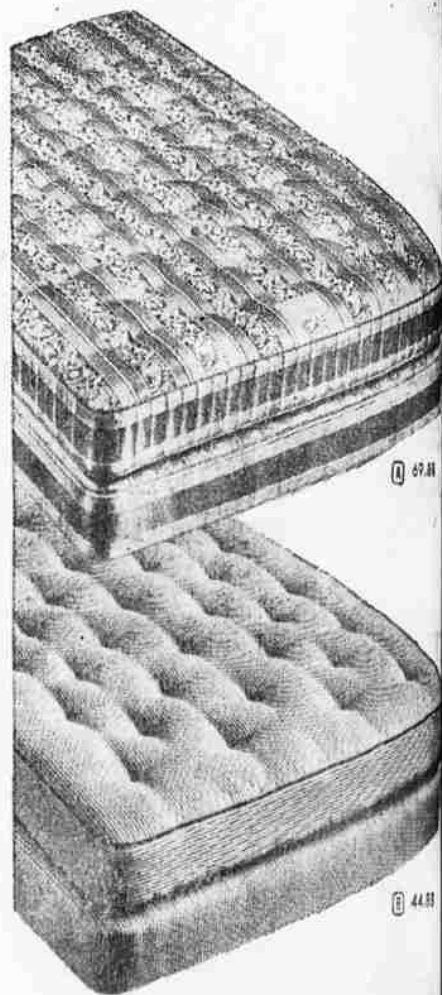
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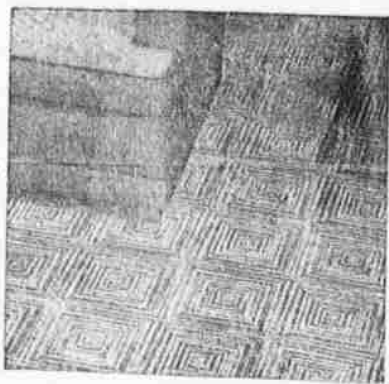


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