

## A possible historically important UFO sighting

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**ABSTRACT:** *In this paper, the author recounts his UFO sighting experience, which may be of historical interest. After briefly summarizing the main hypotheses on the nature of UFOs, the author provides a logical interpretation of his sighting that could lead to the discovery of an experiment conducted on a potentially innovative type of weapon that was never subsequently built.*

**Keywords** *Drones, history of Italy, military history, paranormal phenomena, UFO*

### I. INTRODUCTION

First of all, let's clarify. The Italian term "scuole medie" refers to a type of school that is part of compulsory education and that boys and girls in Italy attend between the ages of 10 and 13. The author attended this type of school between the autumn of 1973 and the summer of 1976. The author was attending scuole medie during the time of the UFO sighting and the day was November 30th, which was therefore between November 1973 and 1975. It was probably 1974. The author attended these schools in the small town of Castiglione in Teverina in the district of Viterbo, about 100 kilometers from Rome. That day was the feast of Sant'Andrea, the patron saint of the town. There was a fair and the kids left early around 10 in the morning ( every time indication is in hour Rome time ); normally they left at 12:30. The author did not attend the party and walked to his house, which was about three kilometers from the village. The weather was clear, there were no clouds, and visibility was perfect. There was no wind. Obviously, the author had never suffered from hallucinations, and his eyesight was more than adequate to discern objects of a certain size. The author looked at the sky in a roughly westerly direction and saw an object of this shape in the sky:



Fig. 1 UFO seen

Precise position of author ( by Google Maps) was 42.64781, 12.21366 The object was white, with sharp edges, not blurred like clouds. It was motionless in the sky and absolutely silent. For a few minutes, the author watched the object, which then, without making a sound, moved to the author's right (roughly north). It seemed to lower itself relative to the horizon and disappeared from the author's sight. Somewhat dazed, the author continued his walk toward home and after about 50 meters he noticed a group of cars and people, apparently earthbound and middle-aged (they were not young) talking to each other in low voices. They were dressed normally, not men in black. There were several cars nearby, and at least one of the people was holding an object similar to a movie camera. The author reported the sighting to his parents, who paid no attention to it, and to his peers, who took it more seriously, but without being able to conduct any investigation or report it. Subsequently, the author made no other sightings.

## II. THINKING

The UFO phenomenon has been the subject of many studies. [1] Many explanations have been given for the sightings. It has been hypothesized that UFOs may be:

- 1) meteorological phenomena such as ball lightning or small clouds
- 2) astrophysical phenomena such as luminous planets or meteor trails
- 3) artificial terrestrial objects such as airplanes, helicopters, missiles, artificial satellites, hot air balloons, airships, kites, etc.
- 4) the result of hallucinations
- 5) optical phenomena such as reflections of terrestrial lights in clouds or mirages
- 6) biological phenomena such as flocks of luminous birds or insects

In this specific case, many explanations can be ruled out. After much thinking, the author hypothesized the object sighted may have been:

a small cloud, although it is strange that it had clear edges and was completely isolated;  
a kite, although of an unusual color and shape, and it is unclear why it remained perfectly motionless ;  
a small airship of a completely unique structure.

Let's focus on the third hypothesis, the only one of historical interest.

Let's make a hypothesis. Let's imagine (you can see Fig.2) a small, conical-shaped airship covered in plastic, or not metallic, material. The object is clearly barely visible to radar. Let's imagine that on the lower part there is a propeller driven by electric motors powered by batteries. Considering the technology of the time, we can assume Ni-Cd batteries. Let's keep in mind that in 1974, drones weren't, just model airplanes there were being little more than toys, and radar-invisible bombers like the B2 ref or F22 [2] didn't exist. (Systems of this kind were only at a preliminary stage of study.) Low-yield, and therefore small-mass and small-sized, nuclear warheads with a yield of 0.1 or 0.01 kiloton did exist. [3] These warheads were placed in artillery shells that were launched from big cannons, the so-called atomic cannons, [4]. In 1974, an airship like this hypnotized could have been of considerable military interest. It was small, maneuverable, easy to handle, inexpensive, invisible to radar, able of conducting photographic reconnaissance at lower altitudes than satellites and therefore more precise. It was also able of carrying small nuclear warheads. Today, such an object is completely surpassed by stealth bombers and drones, but back then it could have been a decisive weapon. Keep in mind that we are in the period immediately following the Yom Kippur War ( Arab Israel war fought in final part of 1973), with widespread guerrilla warfare in Africa and South America [5].

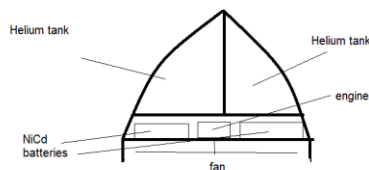


Fig.2 Hypothesis of author

Did the author perhaps witness an experiment to test the feasibility of such a weapon? Were the people he saw talking to each other with at least one camera in hand supposed to monitor the object's behavior? Keep in mind that the sighting occurred in a place far from large population centers, with the inhabitants of the nearest town busy celebrating a saint and don't watching the sky. If a child or a single people had seen the object, they would not have been taken seriously. Naturally, one might object that historical researches have not revealed any such experiments, but because it was a small object, it is possible that the testing was carried out not by military personnel on the orders of public bodies, but by civilian aeronautical experts (model radio enthusiasts, former Air Force officers) who wanted to conduct a preliminary test of the object before requesting funding to the Italian Department of Defense or to NATO

The idea may seem outlandish, but history is full of examples of experimental devices that could have served a military purpose, resulting from experiments or proposals made by individual citizens.

After discovering methane, Alessandro Volta proposed and built a methane-powered pistol [6] that could even be remotely controlled via an electrical line.

Cattaneo, an Italian rocket pioneer, flew a rocket-powered airplane he built [7] in 1931, reaching a length of 800 meters.

In 1940, Nicolas Tesla proposed a particle beam weapon called Teleforce [8], which was intended to be a true "death ray."

In 60' a common people [9] proposed to Nasa a very big rocket ( similar to Super heavy Falcon ) to reach Moon and mars

In the case of the UFO sighted by the author, it's highly likely that the experiment was a failure or that doubts arose about the object's operational viability. The small airship may have been too sensitive to wind or atmospheric conditions, or had limited range, or was incapable of carrying the weight of a nuclear weapon.

Consequently, it was never proposed or built.

### III. CONCLUSION

Regardless of the historical accuracy of the author hypothesis, episodes like this can be important subjects of study. The episode described falls within the scope of serious historical researches on a phenomenon like UFO phenomenon, which has inspired serious researches and investigations, as well as novels, movies, cartoons, and, unlucky, many pseudo scientific fantasies. But the episode also demonstrates the scope for research on weapons systems proposed, conceived, or built by individuals, by experts in the field, and by citizen scientists. Furthermore, the episode demonstrates that even observations that may seem impromptu or unreliable, perhaps made by young people or people of limited education, must nevertheless be taken into consideration.

### REFERENCES

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