

S3E1

Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:36 PM

Who: Stephen Michalak

When: May 20, 1967

Where: Falcon Lake, Manitoba

What: [The incident](#)

Evidence

- Witness (Stephen Michalak)
- [Shirt burn](#)
- Injuries
- [Radioactivity in area](#)
- [Radioactive Silver found](#)

Weirdness

- [Investigators tried to get him drunk](#)
- Stuff went missing

Falcon Lake

Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:37 PM

Case File: Falcon Lake UFO

Location: Falcon Lake, Manitoba

Date: May 20, 1967

Description: Falcon Lake is located in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in southeastern Manitoba, Canada. The lake is reputedly named for Métis poet/songwriter Pierre Falcon (1793-1876). Falcon Lake is a community in Manitoba with a population of 390.

From <https://unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Falcon_Lake_UFO>

One of the most dramatic and harrowing supposed UFO encounters in not only Canadian history, but that of anywhere else, began in 1967 in the remote wilderness of a place called Falcon Lake, Manitoba, located just about 150 kilometers east of the city of Winnipeg.

From <<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2020/01/the-mysterious-case-of-the-ufo-attack-at-falcon-lake/>>



Stephen Michalak

Sunday, August 1, 2021 4:56 PM

STEFAN (STEVE) MICHALAK Peacefully at Victoria General Hospital on Thursday, October 28, 1999 at the age of 83. Stefan was born in Poland on August 7, 1916. When he came of age, he enlisted in the Polish Army and began the training that would prepare him to attain a junior officers rank at the outbreak of the Second World War. With the defeat of the Polish Army, Stefan joined his comrades in the Polish Home Army and continued the struggle as a partisan, participating in clandestine operations, which earned him the respect of his peers. It was during this turbulent time that he met the woman who would become his wife. They were married in 1946 only to be separated again for a ten-year period after his escape from Communist-held Poland in 1948. Stefan immigrated to Canada via the Allied occupation forces in Germany. He settled in Saskatchewan and, while working on a family farm as a hired hand, began a ten-year struggle to bring his wife, daughter and son to Canada from Poland. In 1957, he was reunited with his wife and family, and in 1958, a second son was born into the family. Subsequently he and his family moved to Winnipeg where he worked as an industrial mechanic and, before his retirement, as a millwright on hydro-electric projects in Manitobas north. Having severed his ties with his homeland, Stefan embraced his new country and was, until the last, a proud Canadian citizen. His passion for this vast, new country developed into a love of nature, open spaces, animals and birds and a celebration of what Canadas unending wilderness had to offer. Geology became one of his hobbies and the reason for many trips to the wilderness to see the world in a grain of sand. He was an accomplished painter, his canvasses often reflecting his love of nature. Left to mourn his passing is his wife, Maria; daughter Eva; sons, Mark and Stan; his granddaughters, Christy and Marnie; daughters-in-law, Leslie and Sybil; and family members in his native Poland. The family would like to thank the nursing staff of the Victoria General Hospital for their kindness and compassion and the Department of Veterans Affairs for their generous assistance. Cremation has taken place. A memorial reception will be held on Sunday, October 31 at Thomson Funeral Chapels, 669 Broadway from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Stefans memory may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 301-352 Donald St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2H8. THOMSON FUNERAL CHAPELS 783-7211
As published in Winnipeg Free Press on Oct 30, 1999

From <https://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-47556/Stephen_Michalak>



Radiation Poisoning

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 6:40 PM

[Radiation sickness](#)

Overview

Radiation sickness is damage to your body caused by a large dose of radiation often received over a short period of time (acute). The amount of radiation absorbed by the body — the absorbed dose — determines how sick you'll be.

Radiation sickness is also called acute radiation syndrome or radiation poisoning. Radiation sickness is not caused by common imaging tests that use low-dose radiation, such as X-rays or CT scans.

Although radiation sickness is serious and often fatal, it's rare. Since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II, most cases of radiation sickness have occurred after nuclear industrial accidents, such as the 1986 explosion and fire that damaged the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, Ukraine.

Products & Services

- [Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 5th Edition](#)

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Symptoms

The severity of signs and symptoms of radiation sickness depends on how much radiation you've absorbed. How much you absorb depends on the strength of the radiated energy, the time of your exposures, and the distance between you and the source of radiation.

Signs and symptoms are also affected by the type of exposure — such as total or partial body. The severity of radiation sickness also depends on how sensitive the affected tissue is. For instance, the gastrointestinal system and bone marrow are highly sensitive to radiation.

Initial signs and symptoms

The initial signs and symptoms of treatable radiation sickness are usually nausea and vomiting. The amount of time between exposure and when these symptoms develop is a clue to how much radiation a person has absorbed.

After the first round of signs and symptoms, a person with radiation sickness may have a brief period with no apparent illness, followed by the onset of new, more-serious symptoms.

If you've had a mild exposure, it may take hours to weeks before any signs and symptoms begin. But with severe exposure, signs and symptoms can begin minutes to days after exposure.

Possible symptoms include:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Fever
- Dizziness and disorientation
- Weakness and fatigue
- Hair loss
- Bloody vomit and stools from internal bleeding
- Infections
- Low blood pressure

When to see a doctor

An accident or attack that causes radiation sickness would no doubt cause a lot of attention and public concern. If such an event occurs, monitor radio, television or online reports to learn about emergency instructions for your area.

If you know you've been overexposed to radiation, seek emergency medical care.

[Request an Appointment at Mayo Clinic](#)

Causes

Radiation is the energy released from atoms as either a wave or a tiny particle of matter. Radiation sickness is caused by exposure to a high dose of radiation, such as a high dose of radiation received during an industrial accident.

Sources of high-dose radiation

Possible sources of high-dose radiation include the following:

- An accident at a nuclear industrial facility
- An attack on a nuclear industrial facility
- Detonation of a small radioactive device
- Detonation of a conventional explosive device that disperses radioactive material (dirty bomb)
- Detonation of a standard nuclear weapon

Radiation sickness occurs when high-energy radiation damages or destroys certain cells in your body. Regions of the body most vulnerable to high-energy radiation are cells in the lining of your intestinal tract, including your stomach, and the blood cell-producing cells of bone marrow.

Complications

Having radiation sickness can contribute to both short-term and long-term mental health problems, such as grief, fear and anxiety about:

- Experiencing a radioactive accident or attack
- Mourning friends or family who haven't survived
- Dealing with the uncertainty of a mysterious and potentially fatal illness
- Worrying about the eventual risk of cancer due to radiation exposure

Prevention

In the event of a radiation emergency, stay tuned to your radio or television to hear what protective actions local, state and federal authorities recommend. Recommended actions will depend on the situation, but you will be told to either stay in place or evacuate your area.

Shelter in place

If you're advised to stay where you are, whether you're at home or work or elsewhere, do the following:

- Close and lock all doors and windows.
- Turn off fans, air conditioners and heating units that bring air in from outside.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Bring pets indoors.
- Move to an inner room or basement.
- Stay tuned to your emergency response network or local news.
- Stay put for at least 24 hours.

Evacuate

If you're advised to evacuate, follow the instructions provided by your local authorities. Try to stay calm and move quickly and in an orderly manner. In addition, travel lightly, but take supplies, including:

- Flashlight
- Portable radio
- Batteries
- First-aid kit
- Necessary medicines
- Sealed food, such as canned foods, and bottled water
- Manual can opener
- Cash and credit cards
- Extra clothes

Be aware that most emergency vehicles and shelters won't accept pets. Take them only if you're driving your own vehicle and going someplace other than a shelter.

From <<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/radiation-sickness/symptoms-causes/svc-20377058>>

The incident

Monday, August 2, 2021 8:46 PM



The Falcon Lake UFO Encounter tells the story of a UFO close encounter which occurred on May 20, 1967, near Falcon Lake, Manitoba, Canada. Stephen (Stefan) Michalak, a prospector was working alone searching for minerals in the wilderness when two strange crafts appeared in the sky. One craft landed nearby and the curious prospector ventured dangerously close to what he thought to be a spaceship. The resulting chain of events left him feeling lucky to survive. The Canadian police and military conducted an extensive investigation but never developed a conclusion. An extensive trail of paperwork related to the case was left behind. To this day there are many questions about what happened nearly 50 years ago at Falcon Lake, but no answers seem to be forthcoming.

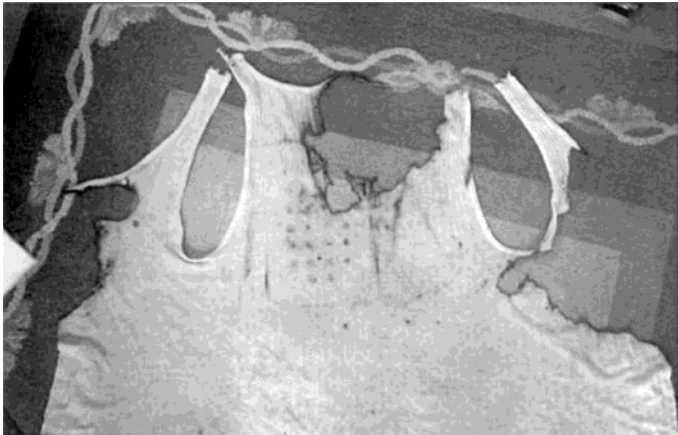
From <https://www.latest-ufo-sightings.net/2020/02/the-falcon-lake-close-ufo-encounter-in-manitoba-canada-1967.html>

The encounter

Stefan Michalak was an industrial mechanic by trade and an amateur geologist who liked to venture into the wilderness around Falcon Lake — about 150 kilometres east of Winnipeg — to prospect for quartz and silver.

He had staked some claims the prior year and set out on the May long weekend in 1967 to explore some more.

On May 20, 1967, Stefan was near a vein of quartz along the Precambrian Shield in the area when the 51-year-old was startled by a gaggle of nearby geese that erupted into a clattering of honks.



A grid of dots can be seen on Stefan Michalak's burned shirt. According to his accounts, as reported in newspapers at the time and since repeated in books, magazines and on TV shows like *Unsolved Mysteries*, Stefan looked up and saw two cigar-shaped objects with a reddish glow hovering about 45 metres away.

One descended, according to Stefan's account, landing on a flat section of rock and taking on more of a disc shape. The other remained in the air for a few minutes before flying off.

Believing it to be a secret U.S. military experimental craft, Stefan sat back and sketched it over the next half hour. Then he decided to approach, later recalling the warm air and smell of sulphur as he got closer, as well as a whirring sound of motors and a hissing of air.



The Mysterious Case of the UFO Attack at Falcon Lake

One of the most dramatic and harrowing supposed UFO encounters in not only Canadian history, but that of anywhere else, began in 1967 in the remote wilderness of a place called Falcon Lake, Manitoba, located just about 150 kilometres east of the city of Winnipeg. It was here in this peaceful wilderness where on May 20, 1967, industrial mechanic and Polish immigrant Stefan Michalak was out prospecting for mineral deposits. At one point he seemed to have found what he was looking for, a rich vein of quartz, but as he was getting ready to try and go about staking a claim on it a very bizarre sequence of events would unfold that would change his life forever, and would go on to become one of the most intriguing cases of a purported UFO attack ever.

As he scoped out the area, Michalak was startled by a gaggle of geese suddenly alighting into the sky with some commotion, which he followed skyward until his eyes fell upon an otherworldly sight hovering above. He says that the geese passed in front of two large, oval or cigar-shaped objects in the air surrounded by a reddish glow, and that one of these began to descend as he looked on in awe to land on a nearby flat shelf of rock, where it seemed to morph into a disc-like shape right before his startled eyes. As the strange object did this, the other craft allegedly ascended into the sky to disappear, leaving Michalak alone with the glowing disc that had landed only about 45 meters away from him.



The witness would claim that he had warily approached the curious sight, and as he did so a hatch would open on the side of the object as the glow subsided to reveal a metallic surface. He claimed that the opening belched forth a smell not unlike sulphur, and that a motorized whirring noise could be heard emanating from within, as well as the glare from a bright light. He still crept closer, and says that he could hear what sounded vaguely like voices echoing about within. Michalak allegedly called out to whoever it was, but there was no reply. The multilingual Michalak even tried calling out in Polish, Russian, and German, thinking that this was a manmade craft, but met with only that unearthly machine hum each time. Where as most people would have probably called it a day and gotten out of there with haste, Michalak was so curious that he moved ever closer to the craft, each call out to the occupants unanswered, until he was purportedly standing right at the portal that had opened in the craft, and it was here where things would get truly bizarre.

After taking a peek within to see various flashing lights, panels of some sort, all bathed in a purplish glow, he reached out to touch the side of the object to find it extremely hot to the touch, causing him to withdraw his hand in surprise. Inspecting his glove, he apparently found that it had been actually melted, and as he stared at his hand in bafflement the whole of the craft then began to rattle and shake. As this was happening, the now frightened man says he was struck in the chest by what felt like a stream of very hot air emitted from within the craft, which sent him sprawling back away from the disc. The bizarre craft then began to lift off the ground to hover over him, before shooting off over the trees into the sky to leave

From <https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2020/01/the-mysterious-case-of-the-ufo-attack-at-falcon-lake/>

Case

History: On May 20, 1967, fifty-one-year-old Stephen Michalak was prospecting in Falcon Lake, Manitoba, when two UFOs appeared in the sky. He described them as two cigarette-shaped objects with humps in the middle. One of the objects then landed near him. He looked to see if there were any identifying marks on it, but he did not see any. He assumed that it was an experimental vehicle from the United States. A few seconds later, a door on the craft opened and he heard voices inside the craft. He tried to speak to the operators of the craft in English, Russian, Polish, and German, but received no response to all of them. As he walked closer to the door, the light emitting from inside became so bright that he had to snap down the visor on his safety goggles. Then, the door suddenly shut. He tried to touch the craft but was burnt by its exterior. The craft rotated clockwise and he noticed a grid-like exhaust vent on the side of it, which shot out a large amount of gas that set his clothes on fire. Mysterious burns also appeared on his body. The UFO then went up into the sky and flew away.

From https://unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Falcon_Lake_UFO

In May 20, 1967, amateur geologist Stefan Michalak was prospecting for quartz (some say silver) near [Falcon Lake](#) in [Manitoba](#) — the Canadian province that begins above North Dakota and stretches nearly 800 miles (1,200 kilometers) into the frigid north. During his survey, Michalak was startled by a flock of agitated geese swooping past him. The geese were apparently fleeing from two glowing, cigar-shaped objects in the sky. One of the objects flew off, and the other landed on a rocky terrace nearby.

The witness would claim that he had warily approached the curious sight, and as he did so a hatch would



A piece of the radioactive metal that was retrieved from the crash site in 1968. It was found in the cracks of the Precambrian rock. (Chris Rutkowski)
He also noted a door open on the side with bright lights inside, and said he heard voices muffled by the sounds from the craft.

He said he called out, offering mechanical help to the "Yankee boys" if they needed it. The voices went quiet but did not answer, so Stefan tried in his native Polish, then in Russian and finally in German.

Only the whirr and hiss of the craft responded.

He claims he went closer and noted the smooth metal of the ship, with no seams. He then looked into the bright doorway, pulling on the welding goggles he used to protect his eyes while chipping at rocks during prospecting.



Stefan Michalak wearing the welding goggles he says he used to peer into the craft he encountered in Falcon Lake. (My encounter with the UFO/Stefan Michalak)
Inside, Stefan said he saw light beams and panels of various-coloured flashing lights, but could not see anyone or any living thing. When he stepped away, three panels slid across the door opening and sealed it.

He reached to touch the craft, which he said melted the fingertips of the glove he was wearing.

The craft then began to turn counter-clockwise and Stefan says he noticed a panel that contained a grid of holes. Shortly afterward, he was struck in the chest by a blast of air or gas that pushed him backward and set his shirt and cap ablaze.

He ripped away the burning garments as the craft lifted off and flew away.

From <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/falcon-lake-incident-book-anniversary-1.4121639>>

North Dakota and stretches nearly 800 miles (1,200 kilometers) into the frigid north. During his survey, Michalak was startled by a flock of agitated geese swooping past him. The geese were apparently fleeing from two glowing, cigar-shaped objects in the sky. One of the objects flew off, and the other landed on a rocky terrace nearby.␣

The air was warm and smelled of sulfur, and the craft was noisy with whirrs and hisses. The saucer was hot to the touch — so hot it burned the tips of Michalak's gloves, he said. It sounded like there were voices coming from within.␣

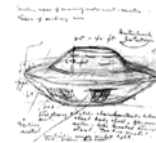
When Michalak looked into the craft through an open door, he expected to see a team of U.S. military pilots. But instead, he saw little more than a panel of blinking lights before the door closed. The craft then rotated and a grid-like pattern of tiny holes in the ship's exterior sprayed his abdomen with scorching-hot gas.

From <https://ufo.fandom.com/wiki/Stefan_Michalak_encounter>

The Falcon Lake Incident is a reported unidentified flying object (UFO) encounter near Falcon Lake, Manitoba, Canada claimed to have occurred on May 20, 1967 by Stefan Michalak. He had had taken a short vacation in Whiteshell Provincial Park to prospect veins of quartz near Falcon Lake when he spotted two cigar-shaped objects descending, one of which landed near him. Michelak says he saw a door open and heard voices from inside the object, after which he tried to make contact in English and other languages but got no response. He claims to have burned his hand while attempting to examine "colourful glass" found around the object and seen a grid-like exhaust vent that expelled gas that burned his clothing.

From <<https://coolinterestingstuff.com/the-strange-falcon-lake-ufo-incident/>>

UFOs at LAC: The Falcon Lake Incident - Part 1



053: UFOs at LAC: The Falcon Lake Incident - Part 1

May 15, 2019

[Listen Now](#) [58 MB, length: 1:02:17]

After a morning of working in the bush, and a light lunch, Stephan Michalak returns to the task at hand, chipping away at a quartz vein he has found. The cackling of some geese nearby, obviously frightened by something, startles him. He looks up, and see's two glowing objects descending towards him.

In part one of this two part episode, we unravel Canada's most infamous UFO case with the help of Stephan Michalak's son, Stan, and Canadian UFO expert and author, Chris Rutkowski. Also, Palmiro Campagna, an accomplished author and a 'regular' in the research rooms at LAC, will take us through some of the extensive records surrounding the case.

From <<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/news/podcasts/Pages/ufo-falcon-lake-incident.aspx>>

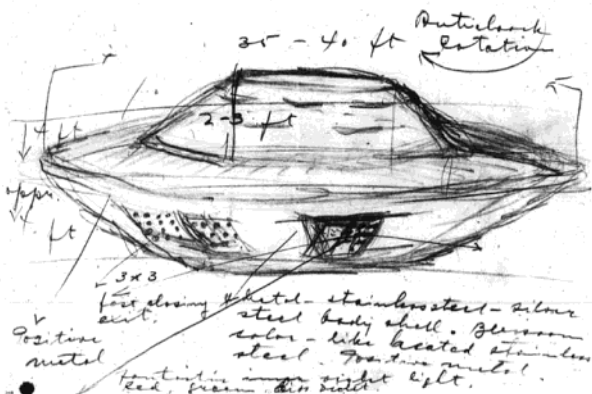
The Falcon Lake Case - In Brief

While described in detail elsewhere, here is a short version of the Falcon Lake UFO case of 1967:

Just north of Falcon Lake on May 20th, 1967, at 12:15 pm, amateur prospector Stefan Michalak looked up and saw two disc-shaped objects, glowing bright red and descending in his direction. One dropped down and appeared to land on a large, flat rock about 150 feet away. It changed colour from red to grey, until it finally was the colour of "hot stainless steel."

Michalak knelt behind a rock outcropping, trying to remain hidden from sight, making a sketch of the object and noting things like waves of warm air radiating from the craft, the smell of sulphur and the whirring of a fast electric motor and a hissing, as if air were being expelled or taken in by the craft. Brilliant purple light flooded out of slitlike openings in the upper part of the craft, and a door opened in the side of the craft where he could see smaller lights inside. Michalak warily approached to within 60 feet of the craft and heard two human-like voices, one with a higher pitch than the other. Convinced the craft was an American secret test vehicle, he walked closer to the craft, ending up directly in front of the open doorway.

Guiding nose of incoming instrument - motor -
Knee of sucking air



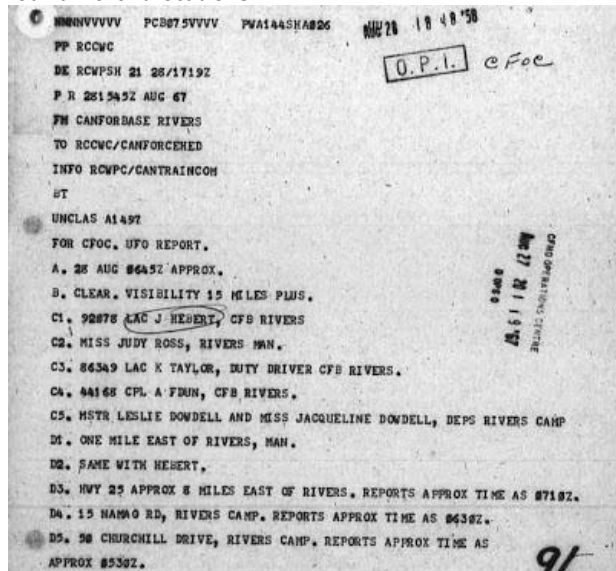
Suddenly, the craft rotated and an exhaust vent of some kind blasted hot gas hit him in the chest, setting his shirt and undershirt on fire.

From <http://forum.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-falcon-lake-case-in-brief.html>

The Rivers Incident

Monday, August 2, 2021 9:13 PM

The report, in the National Archives, notes that the incident occurred at 0645Z (12:45 am) on August 28, 1967. There were six witnesses, three of whom were military personnel: LAC J. Hebert, LAC K. Taylor and CPL A Fedun, all stationed at CFB Rivers, plus civilians Judy Ross, Leslie Dowdell and Jacqueline Dowdell, all of Rivers. Hebert and Ross were driving one mile east of Rivers, Taylor was 8 miles east, Fedun was in the town, and the Dowdells were at a different location in the town. In other words, we have six observers scattered across four different locations.



But that's not all. Two more military personnel, CPL K. McArthur and G. Stefanson, a Commissionaire, both at two additional different locations on the Rivers base, reported hearing an "explosion" that rattled windows and created "vibrations."

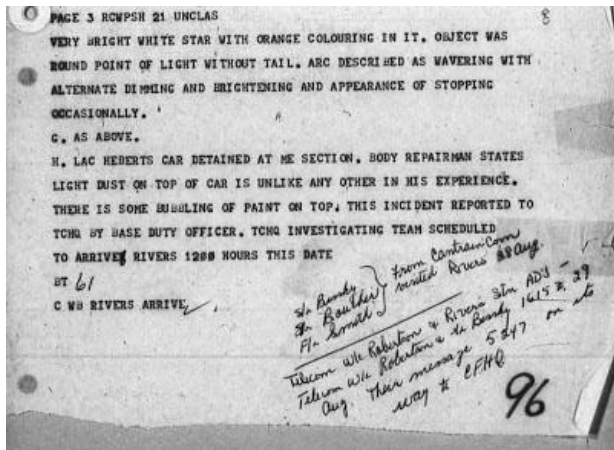
Here's the sequence of events:

- At 0530Z, the Dowdells "first saw [the] object through upstairs window, rising from [the] west. They went outside and observed [the] object proceed in an arc towards NE, becoming dimmed as it traveled. Object [was] described as very bright white with orange colouring in it. Object was round point of light without tail. Arc described as wavering with alternate dimming and brightening and appearance of stopping occasionally."
- At 0630Z, Fedun saw "a round ball of orange white flame with a reddish orange tail which was either very large or very low and which flared up at mid point of its arc. Flaming was clearly visible and very noticeably brightened sky. Direction of travel was SSW to NNE and passed NW of point of observation."
- At 0645Z, G. Stefanson, a Commissionaire, reported hearing a loud noise similar to what McArthur would report later.
- Also at 0645Z, Hebert "observed an ultra violet coloured light coming from directly above [the] car which remained stationary for 30-50 seconds and moved away before [the] light disappeared. It was accompanied by an increase in heat in [the] car." However, Ross only saw "a white flashing light, round in form. She feels it was stationary for a period but noticed no temperature change."
- At 0700Z, CPL K. McArthur reported hearing an "explosion" that rattled windows and created "vibrations."
- Finally, at 0710Z, Taylor saw "a red ball of flame trailed by a blue light or tail, at 3-4000 ft. altitude."

The first problem to deal with is the discrepancy with regard to the differing times of observation. Even if we assume the Dowdells' time of observation is an hour out, there's still the matter of reconciling 0630Z to 0710Z, at least half an hour. It's reasonable to assume that the military observers would be accurate in their times, so it seems possible there was more than one object seen. More on this later.

We also have some insight into the actual investigation of the case by military personnel. The Archives file notes:

LAC Heberts car detained at ME section. Body repairman states light dust on top of car is unlike any other in his experience. There is some bubbling of paint on top. This incident reported to TCHQ by base duty officer. TCHQ investigating team scheduled to arrive Rivers 1200 hours this date.



There are a number of things to note here. First, Hebert's report was taken seriously enough that they impounded his car as evidence. Second, the military vehicle repairman noted there was an odd dust on the car and bubbling of paint on the roof. Third, this was considered such a significant case that "TCHQ" - the RCAF Training Command Headquarters in Winnipeg sent a team to investigate. This team was the Canadian equivalent of the USAF Project Blue Book.

Who were they? Well, although this isn't part of text of the telexed report to DND, there are handwritten notes on the documents. The handwritten script reads:

- S/n Bissky
- S/n Bouthier
- F/n Smith
- From CantrainCom
- Visited Rivers 28 Aug

In other words, they were immediately dispatched to the scene. Since Rivers is about four hours' drive from Winnipeg, if they were to arrive by noon, they would have to have left Winnipeg no later than about 0800 hours, or within the hour that the sightings were reported to CFB Rivers. They had to have been roused in the wee hours of the morning, packed into a military transport and driven out.

This also says something about the team. To have been essentially at the ready, they would have to have been identified as a team and prepared for "action." Even arranging a transport at short notice is impressive in itself.

Of course, the makeup of the team and its readiness is not completely surprising. August 1967 was just three months after the Falcon Lake incident in Manitoba, only about 400 kilometres to the east of Rivers. It's sensible, then, that Squadron Leader Paul Bissky of CFB Winnipeg was part of the investigation team. Bissky was a devout skeptic; in an official document about the Falcon Lake case, he described how he attempted to get UFO witness Stefan Michalak drunk at the Falcon Lake hotel bar in order to break his story about being burned by a flying saucer. As for the other two team members, they don't seem to have popped up anywhere else.

An additional handwritten note on the page reads:

- Telecon w/Robertson & Rivers Stn ADS
- Telecon w/Robertson & S/n Bissky 1615Z 29
- Aug. Their message 5247 on its way to CFHQ

In addition to the available documents, we know that there were two telephone conversations between both the CFB Rivers commander and Bissky with Wing Commander D. F. Robertson at Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa. Robertson was also involved in the Falcon Lake case and received all materials relating to that case investigation as well.

The report of the TCHQ team's investigation read:

TCHQ team conducted short investigation at Rivers and found:

- o A. No evidence of radiation on suspect car
- o B. No magnetic field surrounding car which were unlike patterns of similar autos
- o C. No blistered paint anywhere on car to indicate excessive heat application
- o D. Dust on car appeared to be ordinary western Canadian dust and which more than likely was picked up while in the gravel pit and travelling to and from Rivers.
- o E. LAC Hebert is not suffering any ill effects resulting from his encounter. He was to have a white blood cell count conducted and if any abnormality, to be reported. He complained of a severe headache to approximately 12 hours after allegedly sighting the brilliant ultra violet light
- o F. Suspect sightings were of a falling meteorite which may have fallen in the Rivers vicinity. Have advised Prof. Leith office, U of Man, in accordance with CFA071-1. Prof Leith away on vacation and will not be back for one week.

No further action contemplated on this case at this time.

So the team drove out all the way to Rivers but did only a "short investigation." They did only a visual inspection of the dust on the car, without taking any samples for laboratory analyses. Their opinion outweighed that of the carpool jockey, who had certainly seen gravel dust before, as CFB Rivers was only a few miles from a gravel pit. And what had happened to the blistered paint?

But notice what they did test for: radiation and magnetism. Why? What protocols would have dictated such tests?

The answer might have something to do with both the Falcon Lake UFO case, which had taken place earlier that year. At the Falcon Lake site in Eastern Manitoba, higher-than-normal levels of radioactivity had indeed been detected at the site, so there was a precedent for expecting radiation. This also was the reference to the "white blood cell count," which was reportedly abnormal in the blood of the Falcon Lake UFO witness. But why check for a change in the magnetic field? Civilian UFO investigators had been claiming that such effects were common in cases where UFOs were said to have approached cars, but would this have necessarily been translated into operating protocol for military UFO investigations?

There is no record of Hebert being examined by the base physician. And isn't it odd that Hebert's companion, Miss Ross, was not similarly tested?

Regardless, Bissky and his team decided that the case was nothing more than a falling "meteorite" (NB - "meteor"). Ed Leith was a geologist at the University of Manitoba whose expertise included meteoritics, and he was the National Research Council of Canada representative in Winnipeg. Leith was known to be a skeptic and debunker of UFOs as well.

The meteor explanation is viable for the observations of the fireballs with tails passing from SW to the NE. The 30-second duration of the light above the car isn't compatible with meteors or bolides, although UFO witnesses' perception of duration has been suggested to be often in error. But Ross said the light seemed to have been stationary, too. It would have been useful to get more testimony from her as well, since her observation was somewhat different from that of her companion.

There was no evidence to suggest that the TCHQ UFO investigation team conducted anything more than a cursory investigation of the case. In fact, a memo dated "30 Aug" from Robertson to DSC Mr. Greenwood (a civilian?) noted:

1. Attached refers to UFO report from Rivers discussed W/c Robertson 29 Aug.
2. Cantraincom elected, on their own initiative, to conduct a fast investigation into subject UFO reports. Their report is attached.
3. Para H of subject UFO report would appear to be answered by investigation report.
4. Does it appear to be a fireball?

The paragraph in question seems to have been about Hebert's car and the dust that was found and then not found.

So according to this memo, the TCHQ UFO investigation team chose to "on their own initiative," conduct a less than thorough investigation of the incident. They didn't interview witnesses in detail, didn't arrange testing of any samples from the car and didn't try to establish a definitive timeline of events.

Despite this, a handwritten summary of their conclusions was sent to Ottawa by E.W. Greenwood, DSC/DCOps. The document, dated 4 September 1967, read:

DOPS 4C

W/C Robertson

1. Reference UFO Report Rivers, Man.
2. The actual sighting reports conform with the appearance of a fireball, and the two observations of "explosion" noises not only fit the fireball pattern, but suggest a good probability that some of the incoming material would reach the ground!
3. The only important confusion is the reported time - 5:30 to 7:10 AM. If the times are reliable, we have another coincident meteor or UFOs. Quite possibly the times are guesses - this might be checked.
4. Prof Leith can take up the fireball investigation.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE	
MINUTE SHEET	
Referred to	REMARKS
To be signed in full showing Appointment, Telephone Number & Date	
DOPS 4C W/C Robertson	<p>1. Reference UFO report Rivers, Man.</p> <p>2. The actual sighting reports conform with the appearance of a fireball, and the two observations of "explosion" noises not only fit the fireball pattern, but suggest a good probability that some of the incoming material would reach the ground.</p> <p>3. The only important confusion is the reported time - 5:30 to 7:10 AM. If the times are reliable, we have another coincident meteor or UFOs. Quite possibly the times are guesses - this might be checked.</p> <p>4. Prof Leith can take up the fireball investigation.</p> <p>96 E.W. Greenwood DSC/DCOps 4 Sep 67</p>

According to this, the final document in the case file, the incident was solved as a fireball/bolide event, even though the observations did not completely fit the explanation. Robertson even acknowledges that the time differences might suggest that two objects were involved. Were there two brilliant meteors an hour apart? One fireball and something else? And was Hebert's estimate of duration of the event

radically in error? And what, exactly, did he see? A brilliant, slow-moving object, or simply a bright flash that he assumed lingered because of a sudden shift in night vision adaptation?

And, if the meteor explanation was valid, what of the "explosion" that rattled windows? It is rare for witnesses to hear the sonic booms of fireballs, as most are high in the atmosphere, even those that explode or fragment. But meteor sounds have been acknowledged as real, electrophonic phenomena, though the theory of their production is "controversial."

(See: <http://www.pibburns.com/catastro/metsound.htm>) Whether or not Leith investigated or tried to locate pieces of the meteorite through a ground search is not known.

Finally, a note about "disclosure." The official documents from the National Archives regarding the Canadian Forces UFO file on this case are available online through the relatively recent "release" of scanned documents now available online through the Canadian government. Some have said that the sudden availability of these files is an indication of worldwide government disclosure of UFO documents. The reality is that I had these documents already in my possession more than 30 years ago, when I simply requested a microfilm copy of the National Research Council files through my own local library, then painstakingly (and expensively) microcopied the relevant pages as hard copy printouts. They are faded now and hard to read, but they are the same documents.

The Rivers, Manitoba, case of August 28, 1967, gives some insight into how UFO reports were investigated by the Canadian military. It is especially noteworthy because it involves multiple witness, military witnesses, and alleged physical and physiological effects. It remains a curious case, although evidence suggests that at least some witnesses' observations were those of a bright, fragmenting fireball. It is too bad that it wasn't more thoroughly investigated.

Labels: [1967 Rivers Manitoba UFO Canada Air Force investigation radiation physical effects multiple witnesses military meteor bolide fireball](#)

From <<https://uforum.blogspot.com/search?q=falcon+lake>>

Injuries

Monday, August 2, 2021 8:49 PM

Michalak feeling nauseous to the point that he vomited where he stood. In his head he could feel an intense pain building, as well as an intense burning in his chest area, and he knew that something was very wrong. Wrapping himself close with his jacket, he meandered off towards the road and towards civilization, constantly vomiting along the way and eventually stumbling into the parking lot of the Falcon Motor Hotel.

When hotel staff found him, he was delirious and rambling, disheveled and wild-eyed and still vomiting, and it was at first thought that he was just very drunk. Michalak managed to make it on his own on a bus back to Winnipeg, where he was whisked off to the hospital and things would get even stranger still. When examined it was revealed that he had a series of burn marks that formed a grid-like pattern over his chest, as well as signs of what appeared to be radiation sickness, the causes unknown. Michalak's son, Stan Michalak, would later say of seeing his father in this state:

I recalled seeing him in bed. He didn't look good at all. He looked pale, haggard. When I walked into the bedroom there was a huge stink in the room, like a real horrible aroma of sulphur and burnt motor. It was all around and it was coming out of his pores. It was bad. I was very afraid. My dad had been injured and I didn't know anything about it.



Stefan Michalak after the incident

From <<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2020/01/the-mysterious-case-of-the-ufo-attack-at-falcon-lake/>>

Disoriented and nauseous, Stefan stumbled through the forest and vomited. He eventually made his way back to his motel room in Falcon Lake then caught a bus back to Winnipeg.

He was treated at a hospital for burns to his chest and stomach that later turned into raised sores on a grid-like pattern. And for weeks afterwards, he suffered from diarrhea, headaches, blackouts and weight loss.

From <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/falcon-lake-incident-book-anniversary-1.4121639>>

The attack set Michalak's shirt and hat ablaze, leaving him with first-degree burns on his stomach that resemble the ship's grid-like pattern. A hospital in [Winnipeg](#) treated his burns, which later rose into welts. He suffered headaches, diarrhea and blackouts for several weeks after. Michalak reported his encounter to both U.S. and Canadian authorities. He eventually completed a physical and psychological evaluation at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The clinic determined that Michalak was of sound mind and was not hallucinating, refuting claims that he was under the influence of alcohol.

From <https://ufo.fandom.com/wiki/Stefan_Michalak_encounter>

Michalak immediately felt nauseous and his forehead throbbed from a headache. He decided to return to Winnipeg where he was taken to the Misericordia Hospital. He was tested for radiation contamination, since some radiation was found at the site where Michalak said he had his experience. He did exhibit some very unusual ailments, including reported weight loss, peculiar burn marks on his chest and stomach, charred hair, an odd rash and recurrent dizziness.

Michalak spent a great deal of his own money traveling to the Mayo Clinic, as it was not covered by Medicare. The results of the tests were negative; the physicians could find no explanation for his symptoms, and psychiatrists concluded he was not the type of person who would make up such a bizarre tale.

From <<http://uforum.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-falcon-lake-case-in-brief.html>>

Stan Michalak can still vividly remember when his dad came home sick and injured after something happened in the Falcon Lake woods in Manitoba on the May long weekend of 1967.

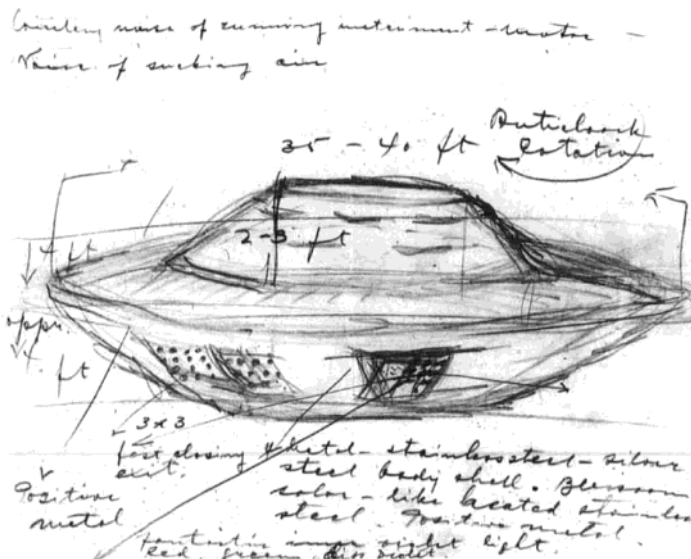
It was something that put his family life into upheaval and remains one of the world's best-known UFO encounters.

"I recalled seeing him in bed. He didn't look good at all. He looked pale, haggard," said Michalak, who was nine years old at the time and was allowed to see his dad for a couple of minutes on the day after what soon become known as the Falcon Lake incident.

• [The Falcon Lake event: Canada's most famous UFO encounter](#)

Then there was the smell.

"When I walked into the bedroom there was a huge stink in the room, like a real horrible aroma of sulphur and burnt motor. It was all around and it was coming out of his pores. It was bad," said Michalak, who co-authored the book *When They Appeared* with Winnipeg UFO researcher Chris Rutkowski.



Stefan Michalak's sketch of the strange craft he encountered.

The book will be launched on Saturday in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the incident.

"I was very afraid. My dad had been injured and I didn't know anything about it," Michalak told CBC News in recalling that Saturday 50 years earlier.

Within a couple of days, however, not only did he know more — so did much of the public.

The story about his dad being burned by a UFO ran in the Winnipeg Tribune newspaper "and that's when everything pretty much hit the fan," Michalak said.

From <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/falcon-lake-incident-book-anniversary-1.4121639>>

Stephen was disoriented as a result of the incident. He tried to find his way back home, but his compass was not working. Nine hours later, he arrived at home. He went to the hospital complaining of pain and sickness due to the encounter. For weeks, a strange sulfuric odor came from his body. He was tested for radiation poisoning, which came back negative.

From <https://unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Falcon_Lake_UFO>

Rutkowski and Dittman write that Michalak felt pain and sickness after his encounter and was treated at a hospital, initially claiming the burns were caused by airplane exhaust. Michalak's family physician reportedly stated that Michalak was confused and dazed but rational, and showed signs of hair loss and a series of raised oval-shaped sores on Michalak's chest and abdomen in a grid-like pattern, similar to a first-degree burn. Reportedly, health problems plagued Michalak for several months, including lack of appetite, weight loss, swelling, and fainting spells, despite a Mayo Clinic psychiatrist stating that Michalak was free of "significant mental or emotional illness."

From <<https://coolinterestingstuff.com/the-strange-falcon-lake-ufo-incident/>>

Reporting

Monday, August 2, 2021 8:49 PM

As soon as the man was lucid enough to give his version of events, the story hit the news and a UFO sensation was born. Apparently there was quite a lot of interest from the military and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Royal Canadian Air Force at the time, with numerous alleged searches of the area of the incident using tracker dogs and aircraft, and even Michalak himself was recruited to join in the sweep when he was feeling better. They apparently found the remains of Michalak's scorched and melted glove, as well as some of his tools and allegedly a circular area on the rock that was strangely devoid of moss or any vegetation and which possessed soil high in radiation readings and some odd pieces of melted metal within the cracks of the rock, also radioactive in nature.

In the meantime the tale was really launching itself into local legend, and there was by many accounts a pronounced military presence in the area for weeks, with helicopters hovering above at all hours. There was also a deluge of reporters and curiosity seekers gravitating towards the Michalak home, and in the meantime there was also an intense investigation going on into the claims he had made. There were some efforts at the time to discredit Michalak, trying to paint him as a town drunk who had hallucinated the whole thing or completely fabricated it, but this didn't stick and seems to have been wholly invented just to make him look crazy. He had been a military policeman in his former years and was known as an honest and responsible upstanding citizen, with no history of telling tall tales, by all accounts not someone who would be making these kinds of stories up or showing up stumbling about ranting about flying saucers. There was also the physical evidence left behind, which could not be easily explained and which was confirmed by doctors.

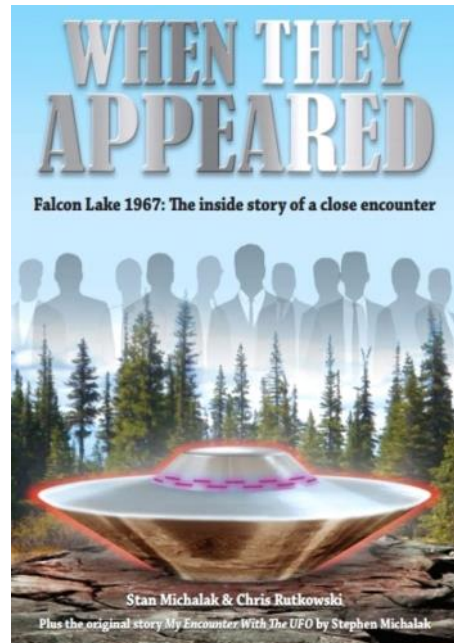
From <<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2020/01/the-mysterious-case-of-the-ufo-attack-at-falcon-lake/>>

'It just flipped our lives over'

Once the story was out, the RCMP, the air force, the media, various government agencies, and hordes of gawking members of the public descended on the Michalaks's small River Heights bungalow in Winnipeg.

That's who Michalak refers to in the title of the book — those endless visitors and phone calls, the media and people camping on the lawn, the people who would follow Michalak to school one day peppering him with questions.

"It just flipped our lives over," he said. "It took several years before it finally died down."



When They Appeared is being launched this weekend, on the 50th anniversary of the Falcon Lake incident. (Chris Rutkowski)

After that, and until the day he died in 1999 at the age of 83, Stefan believed he never should have said a thing, Michalak said.

But at the time, he felt it was a duty. He wanted others, if they were to see the same thing, to avoid it and not get hurt, Michalak said.

In Poland, before Stefan moved his family to Canada, he was a military policeman with a set of moral guidelines that he lived by — that is, if something happened, it should be reported, Michalak said.

In addition to constant probing from authorities, the family endured condemnation and criticism in the public, Stefan's sanity was questioned and Michalak was bullied in school.

Though he wished he hadn't said anything, Stefan never backed away from the story, either. He also never claimed to have seen aliens and still considered it a secret military craft.

"If you asked him what it was he saw, he could describe it in intimate detail but he would never say, 'Oh, it was definitely extraterrestrials,' because there was no evidence to prove that," said Michalak.

"He might ask, 'What do you think I saw?' but right up until he died, his story never changed one iota — nothing about it or how he told it."

In all those years since and with some 300 pages of documentation on the encounter, "there's nothing so far that has flawed his story," Michalak said.

From <<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/falcon-lake-incident-book-anniversary-1.4121639>>

Investigation

Monday, August 2, 2021 8:54 PM

Intensely investigated

The case was investigated intensely by a number of levels of government and the official conclusion, even from the United States Air Force, was that the case was unexplained, Rutkowski noted

"The Falcon Lake incident is possibly Canada's best-documented UFO case," he said.

"It even beats Roswell [the alleged flying disc that landed in New Mexico in 1947] because the United States still doesn't recognize that anything happened in Roswell out of the ordinary."

If Dad hoaxed this — remember we're talking about a blue-collar, industrial mechanic — if he hoaxed it then he was a freakin' genius.- Stan Michalak

Items were later retrieved from the encounter site, including Stefan's glove and shirt and some tools, which were subjected to extensive analysis at an RCMP crime lab. No one could determine what caused the burns.

At the landing site was a circle about 15 feet in diameter, devoid of the moss and vegetation growing in other areas of the same rock outcropping. Soil samples, along with samples of clothing, were tested and deemed to be highly radioactive.

So were pieces of metal that were chipped out of cracks in the rock about a year after the incident. The metal had somehow been melted into the cracks.

Many of the items have long since been lost as they were transferred through various authorities and agencies. However, Rutkowski and Michalak still have one of the pieces of metal, which remains radioactive.

Still sick in 1968 with recurrences of the burns showing up on his chest and suffering from blackouts, Stefan went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Doctors did a thorough investigation and even sent him to a psychiatrist "who came back with the report that this is a fellow who's very pragmatic, very down to earth — pardon the pun — and does not make up stories," Rutkowski said.

"If Dad hoaxed this — remember we're talking about a blue-collar, industrial mechanic — if he hoaxed it then he was a freakin' genius," said Michalak.

From <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/falcon-lake-incident-book-anniversary-1.4121639>

Investigations: The RCMP became involved soon after the encounter. On the day of the incident, Stephen refused to let an RCMP officer inspect his shirt or chest wounds; the RCMP officer described Stephen's condition in the incident report stating he looked he had "taken a black substance (sic), possibly wood ashes, and rubbed it on his chest." The RCMP officer also reported no visible burns to the back of his head, despite the damage to his hat.

The RCMP became more skeptical when Stephen initially could not locate the landing site. They also learned that he had consumed large amounts of beer on the night before the encounter. However, in July, he was able to locate the site, and the RCMP was able to locate radiation there. At first, the health department wanted to quarantine the site. However, it was later determined that radium ran under the entire region, which caused that high radiation levels.

A year after the incident, Stephen and a friend returned to the site. They found some molten material that was radioactive. An analysis determined that the material was a type of silver that was difficult to obtain. It had been coated with pitch-blend ore, which was a blend of uranium and radium. It is believed that this was planted by someone who wanted to make Stephen's story more believable.

From https://unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Falcon_Lake_UFO

The investigation

By late June 1967, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had taken an interest in Michalak's claims. They could not identify the site on their own, and on June 1 they brought Michalak with them. However, Michalak could not locate the site, which raised further doubts regarding his claim. The RCMP also confirmed that Michalak had consumed multiple bottles of beer the night before the sighting.

By June 26, Michalak had located the site and recovered personal belongings he had left there. The RCMP obtained soil samples from the location, which they tested for radioactivity. The tests were negative.

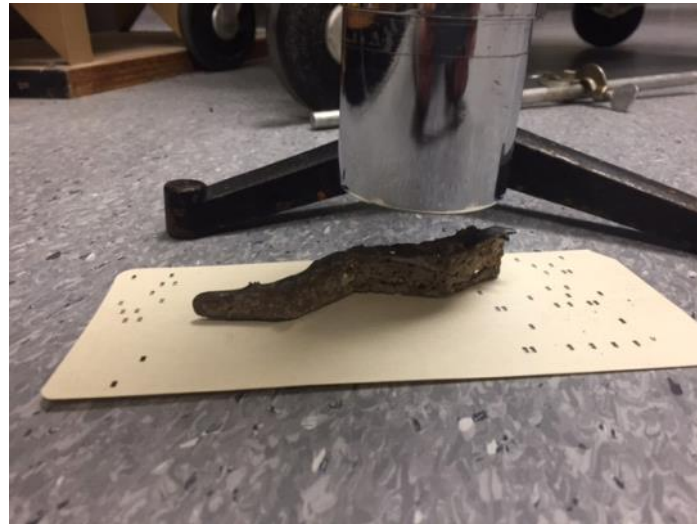
On July 28, Michalak and RCMP officers together identified a semicircle on the rock face at the scene, 15 feet in diameter, where the moss had been somehow removed. There were traces of radiation in a fault in the rock across the center of the landing spot. No trace of radiation was found around the outer perimeter of the circle or in the moss or grass below the raised portion of the rock.

The radioactive material found in the rock fault was radium 226, a naturally occurring isotope in wide commercial use and also found in nuclear reactor waste. They concluded that the level of radiation posed no danger to humans in the area.

From <https://coolinterestingstuff.com/the-strange-falcon-lake-ufo-incident>

He was interviewed by the RCAF and RCMP. He led officials to the site, where the Department of Health and Welfare found such high levels of radiation that they considered cordoning off the area for a short while.

If it was a hoax, it is the most contrived on record, involving radiation, contaminated soil, medical examinations and a flurry of interrogation by government officials at many levels. Radioactive pieces of metal were even recovered from the site, leading to much speculation on what they are and how they got there.



Access to Information requests and perusal of records in the National Archives of Canada have uncovered as many as one hundred official documents about military and government investigations of the incident. Civilian records and reports number in the hundreds as well, helping to make the Falcon Lake case one of the best-documented on record, easily surpassing some of the classic and well-known UFO cases such as Roswell and Shag Harbour.

In the report of the United States Government-sponsored UFO Project, the Condon Report, Michalak's experience was described as "unknown," implying there was no explanation for his experience. Its concluding remarks were impressive: "if (the case) were physically real, it would show the existence of alien flying vehicles in our environment."

From <http://uforum.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-falcon-lake-case-in-brief.html>

Chris Rutkowski



Chris Rutkowski is a Canadian science writer, educator, and consultant for the Winnipeg Paranormal Group .

Since the mid-1970s, he's written about his investigations and research on UFOs, for which he is best known. However, he has been involved in many other writing and media projects for more than 30 years, including TV specials (The Monster of Lake Manitoba, 1996), planetarium shows (Moonlight Serenade, 1983, and Amateur Nights, 1989) and newspaper columns (Strange Tales, in the Northern Times, Thompson, Manitoba, 1984 to 1985). He has nine published books on UFOs and related issues, a collection of short stories and has contributed to many other volumes, both fiction and non-fiction. His second book, Unnatural History, was a comprehensive and historical survey of many kinds of paranormal phenomena in Manitoba, including ghosts, UFOs, Sasquatch and lake monsters, and documented many of his own investigations.

His recent works include A World of UFOs (2008), I Saw It Too! (2009) and The Big Book of UFOs (2010). He is on Twitter (@ufologyresearch) and blogs at: <http://uforum.blogspot.com/>. In addition, he is a book reviewer for the Winnipeg Free Press, appears often on TV and radio, teaches courses on writing and is currently president of the Manitoba Writers' Guild.

From <<https://winnipegparanormal.com/chris/>>

Chris Rutkowski

[Home](#) / [Chris Rutkowski](#)



Bio: Chris Rutkowski is a Canadian science writer and educator with degrees in astronomy and education. Since the mid-1970s, he's also been studying reports of UFOs and writing about his investigations and research. He has eight published books on UFOs and related issues, including *Unnatural History* (1993), *Abductions and Aliens* (1999), *A World of UFOs* (2008), *I Saw It Too!* (2009) and *The Big Book of UFOs* (2010). He has appeared on numerous radio programs, podcasts and documentary TV series, including *Unsolved Mysteries*, *UFO Hunters*, *Sightings*, *Eye2thesky*, *The Paracast*, *Discovery's Close Encounters* and *A&E's The Unexplained*. He is past president of both the Winnipeg Science Fiction Society and the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Website: [Ufology Research](#)

Lecture: UFO, eh?: Canada and UFOs

Canada has been at the forefront in ufology since the 1950s, when Canadian engineer Wilbert B. Smith learned that the existence of flying saucers "is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb." Since then, researchers have documented more than 25,000 Canadian UFO reports, and many scientific studies have been published on the phenomenon in the country. From UFO investigations to abduction research, Canadian ufologists are asking, "What's really going on?" These Canadian studies should be the model for research projects elsewhere, perhaps leading to a better understanding of the nature of the UFO phenomenon. Important UFO cases that haven't been publicly presented before this UFO Congress will be discussed.

From <<https://ufocongress.com/chris-rutkowski/>>

Chris Rutkowski

Chris Rutkowski



Chris Rutkowski

Affiliations

- [Ufology Research](#) or [Ufology Research of Manitoba](#)
- [Official website](#), [Chris Rutkowski](#)

Christopher A. Rutkowski is a Canadian science writer, educator with degrees in astronomy and education, and [ufologist](#).^[a]

Ufology

Since the mid-1970s, Rutkowski has studied reports on [UFOs](#) and writing about his investigations and research. He has eight published books on UFOs and related issues. He has appeared on numerous radio programs, podcasts and documentary TV series, including *Unsolved Mysteries*, *UFO Hunters*, *Sightings*, *Eye2thesky*, *The Paracast*, *Discovery's Close Encounters* and *A&E's The Unexplained*. He is past president of both the Winnipeg Science Fiction Society and the [Winnipeg Centre](#) of the [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada](#).^[a]

As of 2007, The Canadian Federal Government, directs all UFO sightings to Chris Rutkowski of Ufology Research of Manitoba.^[a] Ufology Research has collected and analyzed UFO report data since 1989. Their 2017 survey showed that a total of 1,101 sightings were reported across the country, at a rate of roughly three per day — the fifth highest number since the group began collecting data in 1989.^[a]

In 2019, Rutkowski donated a collection of 30,000 UFO documents to the [University of Manitoba](#) in [Canada](#). Rutkowski's collection includes more than 20,000 UFO reports filed over the past 30 years, plus more than 10,000 UFO-related documents from the Canadian government, according to a statement from the University of Manitoba. Many of these documents concern an infamous UFO encounter known as the [Falcon Lake incident](#) — an encounter that Rutkowski calls Canada's "best-documented UFO case."^[a]

From <https://ufo.fandom.com/wiki/Chris_Rutkowski>

The Falcon Lake UFO Files

OCTOBER 31, 2019 —

On May 20, 1967, something happened in the wilderness around Falcon Lake, Manitoba, that has never been adequately explained. Stefan Michalak, an amateur geologist who liked to prospect in the wilderness around Falcon Lake, said he had been examining a quartz vein about noon that day when he was startled by geese suddenly agitated by something nearby. He said he looked up to see two saucer-shaped flying objects overhead, one of which descended and appeared to land about 45 metres away. He spent the next half-hour sketching the object then got brave enough to walk towards it. However, the object took off suddenly with a blast of hot gas, burning Michalak in the process. Later, radioactive debris was found at the site by military and RCMP investigators. Neither the RCMP nor the Canadian Forces were able to explain the event.



ARTEFACTS FROM THE FALCON LAKE UFO FONDS

Chris Rutkowski (BSc/83, MEd/92), a prominent Canadian ufologist, will give a talk about this remarkable incident on November 7, 2019, at 7:00 pm, in Archives & Special Collections.

Rutkowski will be joined by Stefan's son Stan Michalak, who was nine years old when his dad had this encounter. During the event, for the first time ever, Stefan's shirt and hat that were burned during the event will be on public display.

The talk and presentation mark Rutkowski's donation to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections of his extensive personal collection and files on this case and other UFO sightings and related phenomena from across Canada. These include more than 20,000 separate UFO reports filed with various agencies since 1989, almost 10,000 Canadian government UFO documents, plus more than 1,000 books from Rutkowski's personal library on UFOs and related phenomena. Rutkowski's files on the Falcon Lake case will be part of this collection.

Rutkowski began investigating UFO sightings, researching and collecting materials in 1975, and since then has written and published about his studies and views on unusual phenomena. To date he has published 10 books on UFOs and related subject matter, focusing on the Canadian experience.

His voluminous collection of photos, research notes, reports, publications, ufozines, and other documents will be available to the public for the first time. Others can now re-examine firsthand accounts of these mysterious happenings, including where, when and how often these reports have been made.

"This unique and intriguing historical collection will greatly add to our understanding of the study of UFOs, and will attract students and researchers to study these phenomena for a whole range of reasons," says Shelley Sweeney, head, Archives & Special Collections. "It complements our [extensive collection of psychological research and spiritualist archives](#) and puts Winnipeg on the map as the preeminent destination for the study of the paranormal."

During this event, Archives will also be launching a crowdfunding project to support the digitization and maintenance of Rutkowski's collection, titled the *UFOs in Canada Archival Fund*. If you are interested in participating in this fund you may read more about it [here](#).

From <https://news.umanitoba.ca/the-falcon-lake-ufo-files/>



1967-09-13

Stephen Michalak set out on a prospecting trip to Falcon Lake, Manitoba, on Friday, May 19, 1967, just as he would have for any other trip. He packed his equipment, and his wife packed him a lunch for the next day's work. He arrived in Falcon Lake at approximately 9:30 p.m. and checked into a motel. He would later report to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that he went for a coffee at the motel's beverage room. On the morning of May 20th, Michalak awoke early in the morning and began prospecting in an area he later attempted to keep secret. After a morning of work in the bushes around Falcon Lake, he came across a flock of geese, a typical scene for rural Manitoba, and sat down at 11:00 a.m. to have his lunch.

It was the ruckus caused by the geese that first caught Michalak's attention. When he looked up, there were two flying saucers directly in front of him. According to his statement to the RCMP, he knelt in amazement before the two objects.

One of the objects landed about 100 feet in front of him, while the other hovered about 10 feet off of the ground. Michalak estimated the size of the hovering object to be about 30 feet in diameter.

Related documents: [Interview of May 24, 1967](#) (PDF 2.11 MB)

The first object remained on the ground for 45 minutes. It made a whirling sound and gradually changed in colour from grey to silver. Then a hatch opened and the object emitted a bright violet light. Michalak claimed that he heard voices from within. He called out to the voices in English, German, Italian, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian. There was no response; instead the hatch closed quickly as if the inhabitants were spooked. Michalak reached out and touched the object as it began to revolve and take off, and he was instantly pushed back by a force of hot air. The blast burned his clothing and left marks on his chest. After he ripped off his clothing, Michalak felt ill. He began to vomit and noticed a metallic smell coming from inside his body, like the burning smell of an electric wire or an electric motor.

Feeling worse by the minute, Michalak headed towards the highway, where he managed to flag down an RCMP car. Michalak refused medical treatment from the officer at the time, but later went back to the RCMP detachment office and asked for a doctor. Upon learning that there were no doctors in the area, he caught a bus back to Winnipeg.

Related documents: [RCMP report Falcon Beach Highway Patrol](#) (PDF 295 KB)

When Michalak returned home, his son took him to the hospital. He did not tell the doctor the burns were caused by an unidentified flying object (UFO), but rather by airplane exhaust. Michalak also consulted his family doctor about his loss of appetite; since the ordeal, he had experienced rapid weight loss.

On May 26, 1967, Michalak was interviewed by C.J. Davis of the RCMP. His report describes the burn marks visible on Michalak's chest: "...a large burn that covers an area approximately 1 foot in diameter. The burn was... blotchy and with unburned areas inside the burned perimeter area."

Related documents: [RCMP report of May 26, 1967](#) (PDF 945 KB)

By this time, the authorities had become very interested in the case. There were aspects of Michalak's story that were difficult to explain, such as the burns on his body. The RCMP wanted to find the landing site to investigate further. They first attempted to find the site on their own, on May 31st, but were unsuccessful.

Related documents: [RCMP report of June 26, 1967](#) (PDF 1.06 MB)

On June 1, 1967, Michalak was brought to Falcon Lake to lead another search. Michalak could not find the site, causing increased speculation about the validity of his claim. The RCMP uncovered another discrepancy in his story: Michalak had reported that he went for coffee the night before the alleged sighting; however the bartender at the Falcon Lake Motel's beverage room claimed to have served Michalak bottles of beer.

Related documents: [RCMP report of June 18, 1967](#) (PDF 281 KB)

The RCMP decided to close the case until Michalak could locate the landing site. On June 26th, however, the case re-opened. Michalak claimed to have found the site on his own, and recovered objects he had left there -- pieces of his burnt clothing, steel tape, and some rocks and soil samples.

Related documents: [RCMP report of August 10, 1967](#) (PDF 1.60 MB)

RCMP Squad Leader Bissky visited Michalak on the evening of June 26th and obtained samples of soil brought back from the location. The soil samples, along with samples of clothing and the steel tape, were sent to be tested for radioactive material. On July 24th, the results of these tests were sent to the RCMP along with a memo that stated, "U.F.O. reported by Stephen Michalak. Laboratory tests here indicate earth samples taken from scene highly radioactive. Radiation protection Div. of Dept. of Health and Welfare concerned that others may be exposed, if travel in area not restricted."

Related documents: [Memo of July 24, 1967](#)

A second laboratory test was sent to the RCMP on July 25th. It stated that the Department of Health and Welfare would be sending a representative, Mr. Hunt, to Winnipeg to investigate.

Related documents: [Memo of July 25, 1967](#)

On the evening of July 27, 1967, Michalak was visited by Hunt, Squad Leader Bissky and C.J. Davis, who explained the laboratory findings of radioactive material. Michalak agreed to take them to the landing site on the following day, July 28th. The group walked to the location in the afternoon and reported the scene to be bare of evidence except for a semi-circle on the rock face, 15 feet in diameter, where the moss had been somehow removed. Mr. Hunt found traces of radiation in a fault in the rock across the center of the landing spot. No trace of radiation was found around the outer perimeter of the circle or in the moss or grass below the raised portion of the rock. The radioactive material found in the rock fault was radium 226, an isotope in wide commercial use and also found in nuclear reactor waste. In view of the small quantity of soil contamination, Mr. Hunt determined that there was no danger to humans travelling in the area.

Related documents: [RCMP report of August 10, 1967](#) (PDF 1.60 MB)

[Mr. Hunt's report of September 13, 1967](#) (PDF 896 KB)

The Department of National Defence identifies the Falcon Lake case as unsolved. Stephen Michalak wrote a book about his experience, but claimed to never have financially benefited from his ordeal.

Related documents: [Department of National Defence letter](#)

From <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/unusual/ufo/Pages/GeoMaps.aspx#mb>

M E M O R A N D U M

To: D. A.K. DasGupta
Head
Safety Assessment and Control Section

Your File No.

Our File No. 1107-4-6

From: Mr. S.E. Hunt

Date: September 13, 1967

Subject: Determination of possible radiation hazards to the general public from the alleged landing site of an unidentified Flying Object near Falcon Lake, Manitoba

Introduction

C O P Y

On the 24 July 67 the Physics Section of this Division monitored on behalf of the R.C.M.P. Crime Detection Laboratory, Ottawa, samples of soil, burnt shirt and steel tape for possible radioactive contamination. A gamma-ray spectral analysis of the three samples revealed activity level of up to approximately 0.5 Ci of Ra²²⁶ or its equivalent. The samples had been collected from the alleged landing site of a U.F.O. near Falcon Lake, Manitoba. The information received by this Division on the 24 and 25 July 67 supporting this particular sighting and samples were vague and disjointed. Further light was shed on the matter when the undersigned had an opportunity to review the investigation report of the U.F.O. sighting submitted by S/L P. Bissky, (R.C.A.F.) through the courtesy of Inspector Hendrick during a visit to the R.C.M.P. Crime Detection Laboratory, Ottawa. Appendix A to this memorandum is a duplicate copy of S/L Bissky's report.

The task of assessing the radiation hazard to the general public from the landing site did not initially indicate that it would be necessary for this Division to involve itself in the R.C.M.P. and D.N.D. investigation. However, it soon became obvious to the undersigned that collection and co-ordination of all background information was essential due to the following:

- (a) The apparent lack of cooperation by the principals toward the military and police.
- (b) The exact location of the sighting had not been established at the time of the Division's initial involvement.

The undersigned flew to Winnipeg on the 26 July 1967 where he was met by Mr. D. Thompson of the Manitoba Health Department. Mr. Thompson advised the undersigned that a meeting had been arranged between representatives of the R.C.M.P. and D.N.D. and the Federal and Provincial Health representatives. This meeting was to establish what would be the best way to proceed.

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Field Investigation Report

26 July 1967, 1330 hrs. - R.C.M.P. Headquarters Winnipeg - Met with the Superintendent Shark, R.C.M.P., S/L Bissky, R.C.A.F., Cpl. Davis R.C.M.P., and Messrs. B. Rendall and D. Thompson of the Manitoba Department of Health. A briefing of what had happened to date was given by S/L Bissky. This briefing was a very brief review of the investigation report compiled by S/L Bissky. A discussion followed the briefing as to what was the best way to proceed. The following actions were decided upon.

1. Messrs. Thompson and Hunt to visit Mr. Earl Campbell of the Manitoba Cancer Clinic to ascertain the exact location of the Radium burial ground at East Braintree.
2. Messrs. Thompson and Hunt to visit Island Cement Company to find out if the company has any Ra²²⁶ sources.
3. S/L Bissky, Cpl. Davis, Messrs. Thompson and Hunt to visit Mr. Stephan Michalak at his residence around 1800 hrs.
26 Jul. 67.

26 July 1967, 1430 hrs. - Messrs. Thompson and Hunt met with Mr. E. Campbell of the Manitoba Cancer Clinic. Mr. Campbell showed photographs of the site and gave us the name of a Mr. R. Kemp who could guide us to the site. During his visit we checked, for radioactivity, some samples of soil and vegetation collected from a Beausejour U.F.O. sighting. The samples were checked on a scintillation counter. There was no evidence of any radioactivity.

26 July 1967, 1800 hrs. - S/L Bissky, Cpl. Davis and Messrs. Thompson and Hunt visit the residence of Mr. S. Michalak located 314 Lindsay Street. An attempt was made to persuade Michalak to take us to the site of the U.F.O. landing, however, at the end of the visit it still appeared unlikely that he would go as he felt that he would lose too much money by missing a days work. Mr. Michalak showed the undersigned samples of rock, soils and vegetation collected from the U.F.O. site. These samples were located in his basement. A survey of his basement showed no evidence of any loose contamination. Radiation fields were detected coming from the plastic bags containing soil and the remnants of Michalak's burnt shirt. Michalak was at first unwilling to part with the samples, but eventually allowed the undersigned to have part of the samples from each bag for further analysis. Mr. Michalak has no respect for contaminated materials. He handled the contaminated soil with his bare hands, and was made to wash his hands with great difficulty. During our conversation with Michalak he produced a series of photographs taken by Life Magazine representatives. These included photos of the site and colour photos of the burns on his abdomen and the scorched grid pattern on his undershirt. At the time of this interview, Michalak's wife and eldest son were present.

27 July 1967, 1000 hrs. - Messrs Thompson and Hunt visited the Radium burial site at East Braintree (see Appendix B). We were guided by Mr. R. Kemp, Conservation Officer for the Renewable Resources Branch, Department of Mines and Natural Resources for Manitoba. Only one of the steel spikes used to mark the burial site could be located. However,

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the area was easily recognizable from the photographs shown to us by Mr. E. Campbell (Manitoba Cancer Clinic). It appeared to us that the soils had not been disturbed as most of the area was covered with vegetation. Another two years will see the area completely overgrown with vegetation. No radiation checks were made as there was a minimum of three feet of sand covering the contaminated materials. The maximum amount of radium located at the burial site is in the area of 12 mgms.

27 July 1967, 1200 hrs. - Met S/L Bissky, F/O Smith, Cpls. Shepard and Reed, all of the R.C.A.F., Cpl. Davis and Constable Zacharias of the R.C.M.P., and Mr. Michalak at the Falcon Lake Provincial Park entrance. After lunch, the above mentioned plus Thompson and Hunt set out for the U.F.O. landing site. This involved crossing to the north side of Hwy. No. 1 and following the route as indicated on the attached map. The entire expedition took about 45 minutes to reach its destination. The site was confirmed as being the correct site by Constable Zacharias who had been taken to it by Mr. B. Thompson of the Winnipeg Airborne Phenomena Research Organization the night before. The landing area of the U.F.O. was recognizable from the photographs taken by Life Magazine, the origin of the circular outline of vegetation in the writer's opinion is debateable. A thorough survey of the landing area was carried out, using a Tracerlab SULL, Admiral Radiac 5016, and a Civil Defence CDV 700 survey meter. One small area was found to be contaminated. This was located across the crown of the rock. There was a smear of contamination about 0.5 x 8.0 inches on one side of the crack. There was also some lichen and ground vegetation contaminated just beyond the smear. The whole contaminated area was no larger than 100 square inches. All water run off areas were checked for possible contamination, but nothing was found. Samples of the contaminated rock and lichen were taken for further analysis. Photographs of the area were taken by Cpls. Shepard and Davis and Mr. Thompson. Since there was no serious health hazard involved due to the remoteness of the area and also due to the fact that the majority of the contamination was taken for samples, no further precautions were felt necessary at the U.F.O. site. Prior to returning to Winnipeg, it was decided that Messrs Hunt and Thompson would try and establish the source of the radioactivity by paying a visit to Mr. B. Thompson.

1 August 1967, 0900 hrs. - Samples from U.F.O. site and those taken from Michalak's residence were checked under a U.V. light in the Environmental Sanitation Laboratory in the Norquay Building. The samples taken from the U.F.O. site gave an indication that they were contaminated with Radium luminous paint. The samples from Michalak's house did not respond to the U.V. light. These samples were then packaged and sent to R.F.D. Ottawa for further analysis.

1 August 1967, 1330 hrs. - A visit was made to Inland Cement Company where Mr. S. Michalak is employed as an Industrial Mechanic. The purpose of the visit was two fold. Primarily we wanted to find out if the Company had used any radium sources in gauges and secondly to inspect the Company's Ohmart gauges using Cs-137. The latter will be dealt with in a separate report. Conversation with Mr. R. West revealed that the Company had never used radium sources ~~was~~ either in Winnipeg or Regina, where both he and Michalak had worked prior to moving to Winnipeg.

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2 August, 1967, 1400 hrs. - Visited Mr. B. Thompson at his residence at Oakdean Gardens, Suite 312, 66 Morrow Avenue. He advised us that he had no samples in his suite, but had some at his mother's place at 28 Frederick E, St. Vital. A series of rock and vegetation samples were checked, but showed no activity, Thompson then produced a soil sample that he had obtained from the Falcon Lake U.F.O. site. This sample proved to be radioactive. Levels up to 1 MR/hr were detected. Thompson was most reluctant to part with the sample so it was left with him. The sample was sealed in a plastic bag. A contamination check was made of the area where the samples were, using the U.V. light. The area was extremely cluttered with photographic equipment and a great deal of junk. Several areas responded to the U.V. light, but these did not prove to be areas of contamination, probably photographic emulsion splashes. Thompson appears to be a very sloppy worker.

During our conversation with Mr. Thompson it was established that he worked as a sales representative for a local outdoor advertising firm (Plaxlab Products Ltd.). His involvement with APRO was a spare time hobby. He stated that the Winnipeg chapter had approximately fifteen members, four of whom were investigating members. To be an investigating member, it is necessary to be 21 years or over. He stated that the remainder of the organization was made up of teenagers. The APRO organization appears to be a very loose knit organization. Thompson was unable to tell us the names of the other investigating officers. Prior to leaving Thompson, he advised us that he had taken some samples to the Nuclear Medicine Department of the Winnipeg General Hospital. He was unwilling to tell us who had checked the samples as he said the technician had carried out a spectral analysis without his superior's authority. He said that one sample showed a 1.4 mev peak. Two other very weak energy peaks were also detected. Thompson did not know where the samples were presently located. These samples had been given to Thompson by Michalak.

3 August, 1967, 1000 hrs. - A visit was paid to Hart Electronics, 196 1/2 Osborne Street. This visit was arranged at the request of S/L Bisky who had received a similar request from Mr. Hart. A contamination check on Mr. Hart's car and store showed no evidence of contamination. Mr. Hart was concerned as he had helped Michalak collect and carry home some of the samples from the U.F.O. site. Mr. Hart appears to be very interested in "Interstellar Vehicles". He has apparently seen several such vehicles. He even shot at one while duck hunting near Beausejour. Mr. Hart advised us that he was in the process of developing a device which can be used for detecting "Interstellar Vehicles". He did not have the circuitry available as he had loaned it to a friend.

3 August, 1967, 11:15 hrs. - Messrs Thompson and Hunt visited the Nuclear Medicine Department of the Winnipeg General Hospital. Technician Mr. George Dyck, was contacted. He stated that he had checked the samples submitted by Thompson. His superiors knew about the samples being checked, in fact, they still had the samples as they were going to do a second analysis on them to try and determine the isotope by its rate of decay.

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Dr. F. Helmuth was introduced to us by Mr. Dyck. Dr. Helmuth had examined the burns that Michalak had received and he felt that they were thermal burns. He said that Michalak had been sent to Pinawa and put in the W.B.C. Although Dr. Helmuth had not seen the results, he understood that no ingested activity was found in Michalak. Dr. Petco at Pinawa had apparently contacted Dr. Helmuth and had suggested that Michalak receive psychiatric treatment. However, Dr. Helmuth didn't feel that this was necessary. Dr. R.J. Walton, Executive Director for the Manitoba Cancer Clinic, was asked by Dr. Helmuth to come over to meet us. Dr. Walton was pleased to let us have the samples as they weren't particularly interested in becoming involved in work of this nature. The only reason they checked these samples was that they had made the analysis before they realized what was going on. Thompson was checking the results of one analysis against the other. The samples will be returned to Ottawa with the undersigned.

7 August 1967, 0930 hrs. - A telephone call was made to the Manager of Plaxlab Products Limited. He advised the undersigned that they did not use any radium luminous or luminous paints for their product

Conclusions

The undersigned does not intend to prove one way or the other whether a U.F.O. had been sighted as there are still too many unknowns. Secondly, in the opinion of the writer such ventures are outside the main interests of this Division.

There are however two conclusions that are of interest to this Division, they are as follows:

- (a) Radioactive contamination of rock and lichens was found at the alleged U.F.O. landing site. The origin of this contamination has yet to be determined.
- (b) The radiation levels measured were not high enough to create a radiation hazard to the general public.

(Signed) S.E.H.

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UFOs in Canada Archival Fund

Monday, August 2, 2021 9:24 PM

UFOS IN CANADA ARCHIVAL FUND

Chris Rutkowski is the preeminent ufologist in Canada, and well recognized as an expert internationally. He began collecting individual accounts of encounters or sightings with UFOs in Canada in 1975. A year later he began writing and publishing his investigations and research and to date has published ten books on UFOs and related phenomena, focusing in the Canadian experience. He has made his voluminous collection of photos, research notes, reports, publications, zines, and other documents available to the public for the first time by donating his records to the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections. This will mean that others can re-examine firsthand accounts of these mysterious phenomena and study the locations where they have been encountered, when and how often these reports have been made, and so on. The aim of The UFOs in Canada Archival Fund is to establish an ongoing fund that would in the first instance make sure that the records are quickly made available with appropriate online descriptions, and preserve the records, and then in future to scan selected documents and put them online so that people can study them without having to come to the University of Manitoba.

THE NEED

In order to provide thorough online descriptions of these records, and to look towards scanning select documents, the total funds required would be \$25,000 to establish an endowment. This endowment will then provide yearly income that can be used in perpetuity to support this important collection. If only 500 people would be willing to donate \$50 we would reach our goal. Of course, any donation is appreciated! A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for all donations over \$18.

Another way to help is to share this page personally and/or through social media with family, friends and colleagues who share our views regarding the importance of reconciliation.

THANK YOU!

From <<https://give.umanitoba.ca/ufofiles>>