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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects and their Occupants.

## ALLEN HYNEK

**A** PART from reproducing, as MUFON JOURNAL and others have done, the *New York Times* obituary (Thursday, May 1, 1986) on Dr J. Allen Hynek, we shall not at this time devote our energies and our very limited space to a discussion of his merits and his achievements. For one thing, we are satisfied that these will stand, and are in no danger of being forgotten by the tiny minority whose opinion counts for anything in this world of ours. And we shall not fail to return to the discussion of them later.

The main reason is however, simply, that we have other vitally important aspects of Dr Hynek's personality and position to consider, and certain judgements and prognostications which we feel it is urgently necessary to ventilate and amplify at this time.

The first, and most obvious point, is that, in the whole realm of UFO research, Dr Hynek was *unique*. *There will never be another like him*. This uniqueness derives simply from the fact that, in addition to being a trained and qualified scientist and a professional astronomer (not that we actually think that *Astronomy* has any great bearing on Ufology, for we suspect that it doesn't!) he was, for twenty whole years, 1948 to 1968, the civilian Consultant to the United States Air Force on Unidentified Flying Objects. *No other man has held that post. No other man will hold that post in future, inasmuch as, since Condon, the USAF has been able to shrug off the unwelcome incubus of having to pretend to be coping with the UFO Problem.*

This being the case, it is as plain as a pikestaff that there will be many in our world who view his departure from the scene with nothing but the utmost glee. They know it will make *their task* of lying and bamboozling and brainwashing far easier now. (We have already drawn attention to their spectacular triumph in France.)

Now, throughout the whole of the English-speaking world, will be the opportune moment for the Mendacious Brigade (so well represented in the British media), the "double-breasted revolving liars", the "Professors of the Impossible", the "societies for the abolition of the study of *this*, and the rationalistic approach to *that*" and others of their ilk, to come swarming out of the woodwork in order to deliver the *coup de grâce*, the final mortal blow, to Ufology throughout the world, and thereby smooth the way for the finalization of the take-over by those Forces to whom they themselves are subservient.

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We shall have to be on our guard more than ever against these gentry. For they know that with the passing of Allen Hynek, they have a unique opportunity.

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*THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1986*

# J. ALLEN HYNEK, ASTRONOMER AND U.F.O. CONSULTANT, DIES

*By Joan Cook*

**J** Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist and consultant to an Air Force project to assess reports of unidentified flying objects, died of a malignant brain tumor Sunday at Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Hynek, who moved to Scottsdale from Evanston, Ill., a year ago, was for 18 years professor and chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University and director of its Dearborn Observatory, until he retired in 1978. He was involved in the air Force U.F.O. research effort from 1948 to 1969.

Often his task for the Air Force was to examine at first hand more substantial reports of flying saucers and the like. In 1966, after a rash of sightings in Michigan, he went to the area to take charge of the investigation. After interviewing scores of people, he ascribed certain sightings to luminous marsh gas rather than something from space. Nevertheless, he said, "Scientists in the year 2066 may think us very naïve in our denials."

He long asserted that U.F.O.s should be taken seriously and he eventually became displeased with the Air Force approach. He said that its methods were slipshod and that it was not conducting a scientific study. The Air Force, in turn, concluded that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial craft and the U.F.O. project was abandoned.

## **He Avoids 'U.F.O. Nut' Label**

In an interview in 1974, Dr. Hynek said that he had remained with the program as long as he did to retain access to Air Force data and to avoid being marked a "U.F.O. nut".

Dr. Hynek founded the Center for U.F.O. Studies in

Evanston in 1973 and took it with him when he moved to Scottsdale.

He is credited with coining the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe humans meeting creatures from space. He used the phrase in his 1972 book "The U.F.O. Experience" and it became the title of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film, on which he served as technical adviser.

When a reporter once suggested that Dr. Hynek he might be remembered not as an astronomer but as the man who made U.F.O.s respectable, he replied: "I wouldn't mind. If I can succeed in making the study of U.F.O.s scientifically respectable and do something constructive in it, then I think that would be a real contribution."

He resigned from the center he founded a few months ago for ill health, according to the director, Tina Choate.

## **He Worked on Proximity Fuse**

In World War II, Dr. Hynek was a civilian scientist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory, where he helped to develop the Navy's radio proximity fuse.

Josef Allen Hynek was born in Chicago, Ill., to Czechoslovak parents. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1931 and earned a Ph.D degree there in 1935.

He joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State in 1936. After the war he returned there, rising to full professor in 1950.

In 1956 he left to join Prof. Fred Whipple, the Harvard astronomer, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which had combined with the Harvard Observatory at Harvard. Dr. Hynek had the assignment of directing the tracking of an American space satellite, a project for the International Geophysical Year in 1956 and thereafter.

In addition to 247 optical stations around the world, there were to be 12 photographic stations. A special camera was devised for the task and a prototype was built and tested and then stripped apart again when, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched its first satellite, Sputnik.

## **Assumed the U.S. Would Be First**

"We had always assumed that the United States would have the first satellite," Dr. Hynek said ruefully at the time. "If I've ever had a traumatic experience, that was it."

Observations of the Soviet satellite were received, and with twice-daily news conferences, Dr. Hynek and Dr. Whipple began to reassure the public after what Dr. Hynek called "this intellectual Pearl Harbor, a real gutsy sock to the stomach."

Once things in satellite tracking settled down to a

routine, Dr. Hynek went back to teaching, taking the chairmanship at Northwestern in 1960.

He is survived by his wife, the former Miriam Curtis; four sons and daughter, Scott Josef, of Waltham,

Mass.; Joel Curtis, of Leonia, N.J., Paul Curtis, of Scottsdale, Ross Allen, of Lake Forest, Ill., Roxane of Hanover, Mass.; and five grandchildren.

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# MYSTERY SWIRLED RINGS IN ENGLAND (1985)

*Pat Delgado*

Mr. Pat Delgado, of Alresford, Hampshire, is one of our new FSR Consultants whom we have not yet had an opportunity to introduce. He is a fascinating man, with more than 52 years of experience covering a wide range in the electronic and electro-mechanical fields, mainly in research and development. (The many members of the British public who enjoy their morning tea in bed will be delighted to know that, as we understand, Pat Delgado is also the designer of the celebrated *Goblin Teasmade* device.)

Perhaps more important than that however, so far as "our subject" is concerned, is the fact that Mr. Delgado spent seven years in Government service at the Woomera Rocket Testing Range in South Australia. One may suspect therefore that he knows more about the UFO Problem than he is free to say. His work there, he tells us, brought him into close association with sophisticated optical and radar-tracking systems.

Here in Britain he and the *Daily Express* photographer Chris Wood and FSR Consultant Omar Fowler are the three men who have made the deepest study of these "swirled rings in the corn", and we can think ourselves especially fortunate in having not only Pat Delgado's carefully thought-out findings but also, to back up and illustrate those findings, the superb professional photographic skills of Chris Wood, chief photographer for the *Daily Express* for the whole of the South of England, to whom we all owe a very special vote of thanks. (These photographs are all covered by copyright, and have been made available for reproduction in FSR only.)

Prior to his becoming an FSR Consultant last year, Pat Delgado had of course already written two reports for us on the rings in the corn. (See *Cheesefoot Head Mystery Rings*, in FSR 27/5, March 1982, and *Mystery Rings Again At Cheesefoot Head*, in FSR 29/1, October 1983.)

So far as we know, precisely similar or almost similar, phenomena have been reported from both Canada and Australia in earlier years. For reports on the rings or "UFO nests" as they were called, in the sugar-growing State of Queensland, see *Queensland Again*, by Judith Magee, in FSR 12/2 (1966), and *North Queensland UFO Saga 1966*, by Stan Seers and William Lasich, in FSR 15/3 (1969). — EDITOR.

## Introduction

THE continuing mystery of the groups of swirled rings found in cereal crops has gained momentum in 1985, both in the number of ring groups seen and in media and public interest. The increase of reported sightings is probably due to greater public awareness because of past and present media coverage, also to the readiness of observers to report ring sightings knowing they will not be open to ridicule, because the groups remain in the fields for about two months until the crops are harvested. At some sites traces of the rings are still visible, even as the next crop begins to grow. Reluctance to report circle group sites is also well diminished by the fact that anyone can photograph them, walk into and examine them (with permission), carry out scientific tests and take precise measurements.

The first thing that seems to strike the casual visiting observer is the precise mechanical features displayed by the sharpness of the ring edges and the attractive geometrical layout especially when enhanced by a low sun angle.

Whenever the ring groups are discussed the ques-

tions debated come under the general heading of "How are they constructed?" and answers to the following questions would be extremely interesting.

1. What is the force that causes the cereal crops to be laid gently flat in a clockwise direction?

2. Why does the pattern of rings, usually consisting of five, have the largest in the centre with the smaller ones appearing equispaced round the outside?

3. Why are the edges of the circles so sharply defined?

4. Why are there apparently no tracks visible to some of the rings and apparently no tracks connecting them? I say apparently because in some aerial photographs very faint tracks can sometimes be seen under close scrutiny but not to all the rings.

5. Why are they always constructed at night? This question arises because in no case have any ring groups appeared during the day when they were not there earlier the same day.

6. Why have there been no sensible and thoroughly practical answers to this mystery after such a prolonged annual occurrence, namely, about forty years.