

Renegade Files®

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Welcome to Renegade Files Short Drives #7 – The Red Night Vision Demons of Vietnam.

This is number 7 in our *summer series* of short episodes called “Short Drives,” covering strange stories each Friday this summer.

These short drives episodes are my presents to you for being a fan. They DO NOT replace the longer episodes which still come out twice a month.

As I mentioned in the last Full Episode which was Renegade Files Episode 87, The Wetsall UFO Event, Next Friday’s Short Drive, on the last Friday in July, is going to be the last Short Drive I post in the main feed (so on your podcast app wherever you listen) because posting these every Friday while also posting the deep dives twice a month has confused the delivery algorithms...

So I’m going to put all of the August Short Drives up as Free and Publicly Available episodes on our Patreon Page so you can listen to them there, whether you’re an RFA Agent on Patreon or not.

Full transparency here... This was an experiment that didn’t work the way I thought it would. People have liked the short episodes and they have done well, and as presents to you for liking the show, they have been very popular, and a huge success.

But as it turns out, 25-minute weekly shows and hour-long bi-weekly content target two different demographics and the scattering effect of publishing both at the same time has watered down the show’s reach. Not in any gigantic or permanent way... but my solution for tidying up the feed while still giving you the

last month of short episodes... is to put them up on Patreon and make them free for everyone there. Look for them there starting on the first Friday in August. Boom.

That's enough of that.

This is a crazy story. In Vietnam an early generation of night vision goggles caused some unintended effects. According to first-hand accounts, soldiers who used them saw things... things they were not supposed to see.

The equipment was quickly discontinued, forbidden for military use, and replaced.

Join me now as we get into Renegade Files, Short Drives #7 – The Red Night Vision Demons of Vietnam.

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Episode Text

Hello and Welcome to Renegade Files Short Drives #7 – The Red Night Vision Demons of Vietnam.

I'm your host, Lex Gordon, Broadcasting from the Jungle Villa Outpost, Deep in the Uncharted Tropics. You are now in the company of Outcasts.

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So this episode concerns a piece of military equipment used in the Vietnam War that was reported to have some extremely strange side effects.

The equipment in question was an early generation of night vision goggles that used a chemical called Dicyanin, which created the ability to see red glowing terrain in total darkness. Modern night vision goggles either look like a version of black and white, or green, but this early attempt gave everything a red glow.

So in order to understand exactly what we're dealing with here, we're going to take a short glance back in history to a time when Dicyanin was first used in optical experiments.

In the early 1900s a physician named Walter J Kilner was working at St. Thomas Hospital in London. In addition to practicing general medicine he became fascinated with spirituality, the metaphysical, and the occult.

One aspect of metaphysical study that caught his attention in particular, was the idea of living things producing auras. An aura is an energetic field that surrounds a physical object, and this includes humans. Some people with clairvoyant abilities, or a heightened sense of physical awareness, claim that they can see a person's aura with the naked eye.

In the same way that someone's personality can differ from one person to the next, and even an individual's mood can vary from day-to-day, so too can the color and character of a person's aura also change to reflect these underlying traits. Allegedly.

Many cultures throughout history have referenced auras in their descriptions of the world, and these energetic fields often go by different names, such as Toqi in ancient Egypt, or Prana in India, And those specific words may have other connotations in their original forms but for our purposes here today, they are essentially describing the same thing: The energetic field that a person's vibe generates, and that, may or may not, be visible.

A Church of England Priest in 1900 was the first to use the term aura, at least according to what I've been able to find, and his ideas were popularized by the mid-century spiritualist and clairvoyant, Edgar Cacey.

We dove into quite a bit of what Edgar Cacey had to say in *Renegade Files Episode 69, Finding Atlantis: Plato, Hemingway, and Epstein Satanism*, Which is an incredibly popular episode, so be sure to go back and check that one out, or share it with your friends by sending them a link to TheRenegadeFiles.com and telling them to look for Episode 69, Finding Atlantis.

So the term aura came about in 1900 through some work that took place at the Church of England, and then Edgar Cacey popularized the word in his writings, and it's been a part of New Age and metaphysical language ever since.

Cacey also elaborated on the idea that various colors of auras, could be reflections of various character archetypes. So that red might indicate passion or anger, yellow could suggest intellectual ability, blue might be a sign of calmness, green is said to reflect growth and healing, and purple is the aura of higher spiritual awareness and enlightenment.

So doctor Kilner at the Saint Thomas Hospital in London, believed that everyday people could see auras with the help of certain tools. In 1908 he created something he called Kilner screens. Kilner Screens were glass viewing panes coated with a chemical called Dicyanin. (Dye-Sye-A-Nin)

So at this time, spirituality was all the rage. This was the age of the seance, the fortune teller, and the Sooth-Sayer. The Mystery Schools...Madam Blavatsky...all of that.

So when doctor Kilner published his book called ***The Human Atmosphere*** in 1911, which detailed the use of his Dicyanin (Dye-Sye-A-Nin) coated glass to see auras, the Kilner Screens became something of a fad.

His idea was that eventually he could train other doctors to observe people's auras using his Kilner Screens, and by doing so, diagnose illness before it manifested in physical form.

So Dicyanin (Dye-Sye-A-Nin) is a synthetic dye that had been previously used in photography, and it is scientifically proven to have the ability to filter certain bands of light. Dicyanin treated glass can not only filter out some wavelengths of light, but it can also amplify and make visible, other bands of energy not usually visible to the human eye. But it's extremely difficult to obtain these days, because the substance has been banned, basically worldwide.

Some believe that the substance is banned because it not only allows everyday people to see auras, but it also lets you see into higher dimensions of reality, and this is something that the powers-that-be want to stop at all costs.

The official explanations for why the substance was banned is because it is extremely toxic on a molecular level, and this is absolutely true. Dicyanin Contains nitrogen atoms and atomic components which can be absorbed through the skin, or inhaled, which can cause systemic toxicity, cell damage, nausea and vomiting, and chemical burns. It is also highly persistent, so if it gets into the water supply it could poison reservoirs for decades. Nasty stuff.

Now, the Kilner screens created in the 1900s had this chemical coating applied between two panes of glass that were sealed, which is why people were able to handle these objects without harm.

In the 1960s the American military began to use some of doctor Kilner's research in their pursuit of developing goggles that would allow soldiers to see in the dark.

Initial attempts at night vision made use of optics that allowed you to see infrared light. Infrared light is normally invisible to the human eye, but with these goggles you can see it. The catch is, for them to work, you have to use an infrared flashlight to light up whatever it is you're trying to look at. So in the modern definition infrared goggles aren't night vision so to speak, they're just binoculars that can detect infrared light, and so you shine an infrared flashlight around and these goggles can see the reflection that that creates, but the naked eye cannot.

A lot of the inexpensive infrared night vision equipment that is sold today for hunters, are actually modern versions of the old infrared goggles, that incorporate a built in infrared flashlight.

The problem with these back in the day, especially when we get into the conflict in Vietnam, is that using them is bulky and cumbersome, and often requires both hands, and as such, these devices become impractical in the arena of active combat.

In 1964 the military began developing the ANPBS2, also known as the Starlight scope. These devices made use of ambient illumination and light gathering lenses to allow soldiers to see better at night. But the Starlight scope came with its own problems.

It was bulky, provided a limited range of vision, and had a fixed focal length of four times zoom, which made it very good for crossing level open terrain at night, but worthless for pilots flying helicopters, or soldiers operating in close quarters.

So sometime in 1964 or 65 a Colonel in charge of field operations was issued an initial batch of new night vision goggles which employed a modernized version of Dicyanin glass. Some discrepancies include claims that the original Kilner glass gave things a blue color and not the red described in this Colonel's story.

But either way, the Colonel was to test the new goggles using his fleet of helicopter pilots and Gunners.

The goggles were issued to the men and the first night test was set to take place within hours. 4 helicopters took off and flew a short mission through secured territory with no enemy activity.

At first only the rear Gunners wore the goggles, and they communicated their experience to their respective pilots. The idea being that they could get some feedback and a general assessment of how the night vision goggles performed, before strapping them onto the pilots who were actually operating the helicopters.

Initially the men described the goggles vivid capability, saying that despite the deep red color, they could see trees, the ground, the other helicopters, and even clouds as if it were daylight. They commented that everything looking the same shade of red made depth perception a challenge, but beyond that the goggles seem to be working quite well.

That is until one of the Gunners cried out in terror, asked, "*what the hell is that?*," and immediately opened fire with his M60 machine gun.

Other Gunners in the other helicopters had also opened fire, in the commanding officers quickly called out a ceasefire, told the men to remove the goggles, and the fleet promptly returned to base Where all the soldiers were debriefed by the commanding officers.

Each of the men who had been testing the goggles reported similar stories. As their eyes adjusted to the night vision optics, and the red glow of their surroundings, They saw a giant, winged, demonic creatures, fly out of the clouds and approach their aircrafts flying on bat like wings, bearing vicious teeth, an outstretched claws.

The men said the winged creatures looked like hideous, reptilian, horned devils That beset them from every direction. Some men said there were dozens while others estimated hundreds.

This story was told in detail, many years later, by the Colonel in charge to his adult son.

In the following weeks the same goggles were tested on the ground. They were issued to the men in charge of patrolling the perimeter of the US Army field base. The base was surrounded on the back side by a low barbed wire fence. Beyond that a grass field about 30 yards wide, with a tree line of dense jungle beyond.

The front of the base face the entry road, and a low valley which sloped down toward a river.

Nightly patrolman would walk the entirety of the base, just inside the fence that surrounded it, in order to watch the grass field across the back, and the road and valley in the front. Armed night Watchmen were also stationed permanently at each of the four corners of the base. Both the stationary Watchmen, and the nightly walking patrolman, were issued the new red night vision goggles for testing.

Once again some of the men reported seeing winged demonic creatures descending toward the base from the treetops around the perimeter. Some soldiers fired at these creatures, and others requested psychological counseling, but all the while to the naked eye nothing could be seen.

Eventually the Colonel in charge went out at night and joined the patrols to see what was going on for himself. He put on a pair of the goggles and was horrified to see exactly what the men had described. Giant reptilian, horned, wine devils flying right up to the fence line without stretched claws and screeching fanged mouths, but when he removed the goggles nothing was there.

The entire night vision initiative was scrapped within 60 days, and all of the Dicyanin goggles confiscated and taken away.

Many theories have been put forth as to exactly what was going on here. I have read that the heat of the soldiers helmets, and the general high humidity of the territory in the Vietnam War, combined to cause the Dicyanin in the goggles to evaporate and make its way into the soft tissue of the soldiers eyes, causing them to hallucinate.

Others point out that demons and other spiritual creatures of a negative disposition would be attracted to the dark energies being created in a situation like the Vietnam War, And that these specialized optics, which filter out some bandwidths of light, while amplifying others enable the soldiers to see into another dimension.

And others chalk it up to hallucinations brought on by stress, or the various recreational drugs that we know were part of the Vietnam experience, at least for some of the people there.

And besides the Colonel story to his son, no official documentation exists to indicate the existence or use of red night vision Dicyanin goggles in the Vietnam War, even though since this story has grown in popularity, other veterans have come forth to corroborate this story.

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Thank you sincerely for listening to Renegade Files, Short Drives #7 – The Red Night Vision Demons of Vietnam.

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I travel the haunted highways to bring the Renegade Files Podcast straight to you. Join the RFA Agency on Patreon right now and we can chat more in there.

Until our next adventure, I'm your host Lex Gordon...

Stay Wild, Cosplay Child!