

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Witness intimidation

Dear Sir,—Reference Janet Gregory's letter (*Mail Bag*, November/December 1968) and my recent letter placing on record the July 24, 1952, sighting at Vico, Italy. (*Mail Bag*, January/February 1969). I have since found another case of witness intimidation in Italy. It is reported . . . in the *Flying Saucer Review*, in an article by Gordon Creighton, *The Italian Scene*, Part 4, July/August 1963, p. 11. Perhaps you will consider reprinting this account to complete the documentation of this intriguing problem.—Jacques Vallée.

Sir,—“Better late than never.”

Having only just read *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* of November/December 1968, on page 30, in “Mail Bag”, I came across the letter “Men in black” by Janet Gregory, Mill Farm, Thringstone, Coalville, Leics.

I would very much like to answer this letter and I hope it will be of interest to both you and Mrs. Gregory. I see that Jacques Vallée has answered it in the January/February issue, but I would also like to contribute if it can be of any help.

In “Black-out sur les Soucoupes Volantes” (Black - out on Flying Saucers) by Jimmy Guieu, a well-known French author, radio broadcaster and UFO researcher, a typical case of witness intimidation was mentioned in this book on page 216, that in 1955, a certain “Mr. Blanc” (real name and town were omitted) had received an object from a UFO occupant (a woman). It was a sort of optical instrument rather difficult to describe. This “Mr. Blanc” later contacted a UFO investigator in France (where it happened) who belonged to the UFO research group called “OURANOS”, told him his fantastic story and was able to show the investigator (who up till then was rather sceptical) the optical instrument in question. The investigator examined it and was convinced that such a perfect instrument was unknown to our science. He was also able to experiment with it, which only confirmed his belief and authenticated the witness' story.

“Mr. Blanc” promised to come back again, but he was suddenly “taken ill” with pneumonia and was never seen again. The investigator went to inquire after his health but came up against a wall. He was told that “Mr. Blanc” had

left his apartment and no one knew where he was. A couple of months later a relative of Mr. Blanc came to see the investigator and told him that Mr. Blanc had been contacted by four unknown men. (It does not mention whether they were dressed in black or not.)

I have translated the end of the last paragraph:

“—After the departure of the mysterious visitors, Mr. Blanc was at a complete loss. Frightened, he disappeared the next morning, abandoned the town he lived in and went straight to one of his relatives in another part of France. Since then, Mr. Blanc is living in a state of fear. He refused to give his address to the investigator, and his relative dissuaded the latter to look for him. Also, Mr. Blanc is *not interested in flying saucers any more* and makes sure not to raise the subject of flying saucers in conversations in the new town in which he is hiding.—”

What did these four men tell Mr. Blanc to scare him so much?

In conclusion, Jimmy Guieu states that this resembles the case of Albert K. Bender.

This would seem to show that it is not only in the U.S.A. that there are “men in black” who scare off UFO witnesses.

Miss Tova Bratt, Ave de Miremont, Geneva, Switzerland.

Suggestion about reprints

Sir,—With reference to the footnote to your article “Aimé Michel v. Général Georges Lehr” in *FSR*, March/April 1969

I, for one, would most certainly support a lithograph reprint of the first two years' issues of *FSR* and I feel sure many others would do so too.

If you are in doubt about this fact, why not advertise in the next issue of *FSR* for readers' opinions on this?

M. J. Knight, 11 Tackley Road, Bristol.

[I took it that my note on page 28 of the March/April issue would be taken as a “sunder”, but the response has been very small.—EDITOR.]

The McCarthy UFO detector

Reader A. J. E. Mobey of Ewell, Surrey, suggested recently that *FSR* should seek a technical appraisal of the circuit diagram published on page 29 of the September/October issue for

1968. Following our suggestion, Mr. Mobey put his questions to Mr. C. Maxwell Cade—the designer, Mr. Colin McCarthy, had departed for Australia—who has written as follows:

“Herewith the correspondence regarding the UFO detector: **TR4** is shown inverted in the diagram. Can you take it from here?”

Taking it from that point, we record our thanks to Messrs. Mobey and Cade for their assistance in this matter. We trust readers have not been too greatly inconvenienced by this error. A glance at the author's original diagram has revealed that Miss Pauline Bowen's sketch was a faithful reproduction of that diagram.—EDITOR.

Mysterious Radio Signals

Sir,—Further to my article “Mysterious Radio Signals” in the March/April *FSR*, there have been further developments in the discovery of the nature of Pulsars. A considerable number of pulsating radio sources are now known, and optical pulsations have now been definitely observed to synchronise with the electrical signals, particularly in the case of a small star at the centre of the Crab nebula. This star is believed to be the remnant of a super-nova which gave rise to the nebula. The issue of *Nature*, dated February 8, 1969, contains three communications on the subject: “Discovery of Optical Signals from Pulsar NP 0532” by Cocke, Disney & Taylor on page 525, “Optical Pulsations in the Crab Nebula Pulsar” by Nather, Warner & Macfarlane and “Nature of Radio & Optical Emissions from Pulsars” by Hong-Yee Chiu & V. Canuto.

The theory of emission by neutron stars, given in the last paper, appears reasonably convincing, at least to a non-expert. Thus the signalling hypothesis is probably untenable in the light of recent discoveries. This does underline the dangers of drawing hurried conclusions from unusual events. However, this does not detract from the mystery of the other events which I reported, and which still remain unexplained. The radio pulses first reported by Mr. Milne are still being received in an intermittent and unpredictable manner, and no satisfactory theory has been put forward to account for them.

G. Elliott, Sandon, Chelmsford, Essex, April 22, 1969.