

# THE CENNINA LANDING OF 1954

*Sergio Conti*

NOVEMBER 1, 1954, is a date that marks the occurrence of one of the most extraordinary UFO landing and contact cases ever recorded (it has already been quoted by Vallée as No. 24 in his *Century of Landings*).

Cennina is a small town near Búcine, in the Province of Arezzo.

On the morning of that day (a Monday and a feast-day in the Catholic Church) Rosa Lotti nei Dainelli, a forty-year-old peasant woman, mother of four children, living at a farm called "La Collina" which is situated in a lonely region between Cennina and Capànnole, had risen early to go down into Cennina to visit the church and the cemetery. She was carrying a bunch of carnations, destined for the altar of the Madonna Pellegrina, whose procession had taken place the preceding evening.

It was 6.30 a.m.

Rosa Lotti rarely went into town, and spent most of her time on her arduous duties on the farm.

On this feast-day morning however she had put on her new dress and started out along the footpath that leads, through fields and thickets, towards the town. She went barefoot, carrying her stockings and her "best" shoes so as not to get them dirty. She would put them on before she came to the first houses.

She reached a point on this path, regularly taken by her, where it passed through a thicket of low bushes. She knew this path perfectly. She had even gone along it many a time at night, without ever having any sort of unpleasant encounter or noting anything unusual.

Arriving in the middle of a small clearing among the shrubs and sparse trees, she suddenly beheld, near a pine tree and on the edge of the little grassy area, a strange and unwonted object that at once aroused in her both curiosity and surprise. It was a sort of huge *spindle*, fixed vertically in the ground.

## The Craft and the "Little Men"

This is how Rosa Lotti subsequently described the strange machine:

"A sort of double cone, over 2 metres high and about a metre wide in the middle." (In *La Nazione Italiana*, November 2, 1954.)

"Like two bells joined together at their bases." (In *La Settimana Incom*, No. 24, Year XV.)

"The object was very swollen out in the middle and pointed at the two ends. It seemed to be covered with leather." (In *Il Giornale del Mattino*, November 2, 1954.)

"The outside of it shone as though it was of very polished light metal. On the lower cone there was an open glass door, and inside it could be seen two little seats, *little seats like those used by children*. In the central part of the *spindle*, where it was widest, there was a sort of roundish glass, closely following the round shape of the mysterious machine. Rosa Lotti had heard no

## AN ITALIAN CLASSIC

Thanks to the work of Aimé Michel, Charles Garreau, Jacques Vallée, René Fouéré, Raymond Veillith, and of the many other excellent French investigators, we now know the great French UFO Wave of 1954 in much detail.

But naturally a UFO wave cannot be expected to stop short at one of our national frontiers, so it will carry on and spill over into neighbouring territory. It seems that the Italian part of the Wave of 1954 will one day be seen to have been just as great as the French phase, but our knowledge of the Italian picture for that year is still very far from complete. The Umbrian Section of C.U.N. (Centro Unico Nazionale) have promised us for the near future the first full Catalogue of all the Italian cases of that extraordinary year, and we look forward to publishing it.

In the meantime, I have translated from *Il Giornale dei Misteri*\* No. 17 (August 1972) Signor Sergio Conti's exhaustive account of what the Italians consider to have been perhaps the most remarkable of all their 1954 cases. It figures briefly in Dr. Jacques Vallée's *Century Of Landings (Une Siècle d'Atterisages)*—published by *Lumières dans la Nuit*—which is an up-to-date version of the catalogue which accompanies the American version only of his *Passport to Magonia*, but so far as I am aware, no full description of it has ever appeared in English. I am sure that our readers will welcome it. I believe also that the Cennina case will be accepted as a very important one, on account of the duration of the encounter (ten minutes) and the reported very close approach (at a distance varying from under 1m. to 4m. or so) of the entities. This gave the eyewitness plenty of time in which to study the features and the dress of two homuncules who, to my way of thinking, bear a remarkable likeness to certain small creatures seen repeatedly by our European forebears over the past thousand years and more.

GORDON CREIGHTON.

sound from it." (In *La Nazione Italiana*, November 2, 1954.)

Rosa Lotti had stopped in her tracks, astonished and curious. But her surprise was only just beginning. From behind the "spindle" she beheld two strange beings emerge. "Almost like men, but of the size of children," was her description.

The two little beings approached her with friendly expressions on their faces. She had plenty of time to

\* The new Italian monthly, *Il Giornale dei Misteri*, devoted to Forteana, Ufology, Parapsychology, Mysticism, etc., is published by Corrado Tedeschi Editore in Firenze (Florence) and can be recommended as excellent value to those who read Italian. We are indebted to its Editors, Giulio Brunner and Sergio Conti, for permission to reproduce a translation of Signor Conti's account of a truly remarkable Italian case.

make a thorough examination of them, so that she was afterwards able to describe them in the minutest details. About 1 metre in height, they were wearing a sort of grey overall, all in one piece, including the feet. On their backs they had short cloaks of a grey material, and over the one-piece overall they wore a sort of doublet, fastened, right up to the collar, with little buttons "like shining stars." Their trousers were tightly-fitting, "like the long underpants that our men wear in the winter."

Their faces, crowned by helmets, were normal, but small. Both were no taller than a five-year-old infant, but their bodies were in proportion. "It would have taken two of those things to make a man," she said, "but they were very fine looking, even though rather old."

Vigorous, lively, they were talking away "as though they were Chinese. They kept saying: 'liu,' 'lai,' 'loi,' 'lau,' 'loi,' 'lai,' 'liu.'"<sup>2</sup>

They gesticulated, but with no trace of menace. Indeed, on the contrary, in a friendly fashion, as though they were trying to make themselves understood and to strike up a rudimentary conversation.

The older looking of the two was the more jovial, laughing and obviously trying to establish contact with her. They had magnificent eyes, full of intelligence. Their noses were of normal shape, their mouths just like a man's, but their upper lips were slightly curled in the centre, so that even when they were not laughing their teeth were still exposed. They were teeth like ours, broad, strong teeth, but short (as though they had been

filed down) and somewhat protruding, like the teeth of rabbits.

Their ears were hidden under two leather discs, and there was a band around their foreheads, also of leather.

Approaching Rosa Lotti, who was now terrified, they snatched out of her hands the bunch of carnations and one of her black stockings. When she remonstrated timidly, the one who seemed the older of the two handed some of the flowers back to her, but kept five of them. Then, having examined the structure of the flowers with an air of curiosity, and laughing the while, he wrapped them in the stocking and threw them into the "spindle" through the small opening.

Then they stepped back a few paces from her, and took two "packages" from inside the machine—white objects, circular, which they carried in the hollow of the arm, holding the arm bent with the hand on the chest. The *thing* seemed to be wrapped in a newspaper, but it was not a newspaper. (*La Nazione Sera*, November 2, 1954.)

Then they turned towards the lady again, but she had seized the moment to escape. After running about 100 metres, she looked back. Everything had vanished.

### Psychological Effects on the Eyewitness

Dumbfounded and terrified, Rosa Lotti reached the town, gasping for breath. The sight of the little men and the spindle had petrified her. She was frightened to death. Shortly afterwards, she seemed for a while to be able to remember nothing; all she could recall was that, when at last she had managed to move her legs, she had fled, screaming. (*La Nazione Italiana*, November 2, 1954.)

She reported her extraordinary adventure to the local Brigadier of the Carabinieri,<sup>3</sup> Brig. Rocco Benfanti, and to Corporal Nello Focardi. Later she repeated it to Captain Massaro and to the Chief Inspector of Carabinieri for the Búcine region, Elio Lolli.

Naturally many people at once ran to see the spot where the weird happening had occurred. All of them were in agreement that they had seen a great hole in the ground at the spot where the *spindle* had stood. The Carabinieri who went there in an effort to investigate the affair also found, in their turn, that there was indeed a deep cavity recently made in the ground. It was impossible for the Carabinieri to take impressions of any particular marks as the horde of curiosity-seekers had already trampled down everything all around, wiping out any footprints that might have been there. The hole was also seen by the Chief Inspector of Carabinieri at Ambra, Signor Zulimo Botarelli, who happened to be out hunting in the vicinity at the time.

### The Aftermath

The encounter with the two beings had lasted about ten minutes. The first person met by Rosa Lotti after her precipitate flight was a man whom she knew, a certain Beppe Gostinelli, known also as Di Giacco, who was out hunting nearby. But she was so dazed and stunned that she did not even think of telling him anything about it. It was only later, in church, that one of her friends, a certain Annita Valenti, seeing how disturbed she was and how she was trembling, asked her: "Oh, Rosa! What have you been doing?"



Artist's impression of the incident, from *La Domenica del Corriere*.



Then Rosa Lotti told her everything, giving full vent to her emotions. Don Guido Belardi, the parish priest of Cennina, who knew her to be an extremely well-balanced member of his flock, absolutely free of any sort of foolish fancifulness or empty reveries, himself was greatly impressed by what she had to say, and he believed her.

### The Latest Investigation

Now, eighteen years after the event, we have re-examined the Cennina case and, thanks to the active support that we have received from the Prato UFO Study Group, we have been able to check the details and also gather valuable pieces of supporting testimony. The Prato UFO Study Group, consisting of Siro Menicucci, Stefano Corsi, Ignazio D'Andrea, Daniele Bianco, and Virgilio Chiari, visited the landing site several times and contacted Rosa Lotti, who is still alive.

These young investigators have carried out a painstaking enquiry, and have secured confirmation of all the facts of what happened on that far-off day in November, 1954, and in addition to that they have also secured a number of fresh details which, perhaps through carelessness, the newspapers omitted at the time, or which they distorted.

For example, Rosa Lotti maintains—contrary to what the press reports said at the time—that she had *not* felt any fear whatsoever during her contact with the mysterious little beings. The fear and alarm overcame her *only later*, when, as she got further and further from the place of the encounter, she began thinking over what had happened and she became fully conscious of it all. This point would in fact provide grounds for supposing that the presence of the humanoids created a state of tranquility in the human subject, and that only when she was at a distance from them did atavistic fears manifest themselves, getting the upper hand in her and producing the sensations of terror and anguish that any unknown phenomenon inevitably provokes in the human mind. This further clarification by Rosa Lotti is consequently of great importance. It is moreover borne out in other UFO contact reports, where likewise no psychological disturbance occurred in the parties involved so long as they were still in the presence of the “visitors.”<sup>5</sup>

Another discrepancy arises in connection with certain of the details of her description of the “spindle.” Here are the actual words of the statement made by Rosa Lotti nei Dainelli to the investigators from the Prato Centre when they interviewed her:

*“In the thickened part of the spindle, it had two port-holes, on opposite sides to each other, and in the centre, between them, there was a little door, enabling me to see, inside, two little kiddie-chairs<sup>6</sup> set back to back, each of them facing towards one of the port-holes.”*

A further reported detail which the lady denies concerns the shape of the mouths of the two unknown beings. She maintains, contrary to what was reported at the time in the press, that the upper lips were in fact *not curled*, but were normal. And she adds that she noticed, at the time, that the two little beings were “well



shaven.” She lays particular emphasis on her recollection of this point.

In her description of the mysterious machine, she has confirmed her reported impression that it seemed as though it were covered with leather or at least in a metal of a similar colouring to leather, but she has made it clear that it was in fact *not shiny*. Also the detail about the tree has been rectified by her. It was in fact *not a pine* near which the machine was standing, but a *cypress* (still existing today). Moreover she fixed the time of the encounter more precisely, and made clear that it was at 6.30 a.m. and not at 7.30 a.m. as had been reported.

Moreover she stated that what the beings took from her was *all the flowers and one stocking*. *Nothing was returned to her by them.*

Further interesting details given by her relate to the object that the two beings brought out from inside the “spindle.” The “elder” of the two beings (and only he) took, possibly from under one of the seats, an object (only one object) which resembled a small cardboard package. It was round and of a dark brown colour. He raised it to his chest, and pointed it at her. Rosa Lotti thought he wanted to take a photograph<sup>7</sup> of her. It was then that she ran off, and when she had gone about 100 metres she turned round and looked back. She saw that the “little men” and their “spindle” were still there. It is therefore not correct that she saw the craft take off, or that she witnessed any sort of spookish disappearance.

### Support from Collateral Eyewitness Accounts

A vast network of collateral eyewitness accounts is now available to provide quite particular validity for the Cennina phenomenon, and to cause it to acquire a value, as an eyewitness account, that is well nigh irrefutable.

Almost all of these accounts confirm the time at which the "spindle" came down over the thicket at Cennina—about 6.30 a.m.

A stonemason, Romualdo Berti, twenty-five-years-old at the time, coming back from Badia Agnano (or, according to the version of the *Giornale del Mattino* of November 2, 1954, from his house, situated at Gavignano, a place on the opposite slope of the little valley formed by the mountain stream known as the Ambra) declared that a luminous rocket, like a cigar, and exhaling flames from its tail, rose up vertically out of the Cennina woods and headed towards Badia a Ruoti. The rocket was seen by him to rise vertically at first, and then to travel onwards almost horizontally. He heard no sound from it. The colour of the object was bluish.

A workman from San Leonino, whose name the newspapers (*La Nazione Italiana* and *Il Giornale del Mattino*, both of November 5, 1954) did not give, was out hunting at the time in the Ambra area and has described how, at precisely the same time, he observed a strange luminous object land in precisely that same wood.

The nurseryman Andrea Livi, of Montevarchi, was driving his van full of flowers at that moment along the road from Lévane to Búbine when he saw, from near Búbine, a great "reddish cone-shaped thing" coming from the direction of Firenze (Florence) and heading straight towards Siena. Unfortunately he lost sight of it behind the thickets covering the hills. Consequently he was able to observe the object only for a few seconds, enough however for him to make a calculation of its length—about two metres. The object left behind it a red trail. Andrea Livi told the Carabinieri that the stonemason Berti (referred to above) was unknown to him. Consequently any collusion between these two witnesses can be ruled out. (*Giornale del Mattino*, November 3 and 5, 1954.)

But the most genuine and impressive piece of testimony came as a result of a later investigation conducted by the *Giornale del Mattino* in March 1955. This testimony comes from two pupils who at that time were attending the elementary school in Ambra, the headmaster of which was Signor Giorgio Antoni. The two boys, one of them aged six at the time and the other aged nine, are brothers, and are now living with their family in Genoa. The younger boy, Ampelino Torzini, then in the junior elementary class, revealed, in his class scrapbook, written in school, that he and his brother had both actually been eyewitnesses of the experience of Rosa Lotti while they were out early in the morning seeing to their pigs. In his brief composition, the boy said that he had seen a lady "chatting with the men", and that he had seen the "spindle", but had mistaken it for an animal.

The elder boy, alarmed at the sight, ran off to tell their father, but when he and the father got back there all that was to be seen at the spot was the hole in the ground left by the metallic craft.

Luigi Dini, an employee of the Firenze Court of Appeal, stated that he and his daughter had observed, at about the same time, from the terrace of their house at Terranova Bracciolini, a "strange thing" which was flying through the sky from Pratomagno towards Arezzo, losing speed gradually and descending. It had the speed of a meteor he thought, and he and his daughter both seemed to hear a strange "rustling noise" from it, like the sound of a projectile.

### The UFO May Have Returned That Evening

As we conclude this lengthy examination of the Cennina case, it is a fitting moment for us to record that, on the evening of that very same day, November 1, 1954, at about 11.45 p.m., a mysterious luminous machine, resembling in every respect the one allegedly seen at Cennina in the morning, was observed by nine persons and from three separate points in the same region.

Two farmers, Giuliano and Tosca Colcelli (now residing at Traversa di Via Marzia, No. 1, in Montevarchi) have confirmed that, from the place known as Pianacci, near Mercatale Valdarno, they were awakened that night by the shouts of a motorcyclist named Marcello Pistocchi di Giovanni, resident in Búbine, and now a mechanic with the Galileo Plant in Firenze. The two farmers got to the window just in time to see an oval-shaped object, seemingly as they thought about 1-70 metres long, vanish behind the mountains. It had a steady, reddish luminosity.

The motorcyclist Pistocchi, who was able to get a longer look at the craft, said that it seemed to be flying on a completely horizontal course, very low indeed, so that he was dazzled by its powerful, blinding light. He got the impression that the object was about to descend. Its light was so powerful that, from a distance, as he put it, "you could have seen a needle lying in the dust on the road." And—a strange feature this—he said that the light emitted from it continued far throughout the region. This light was coming from a lamp set centrally on the craft. According to the statement of the two Colcelli farmers, it also had two smaller lights on its sides. The motorcyclist Pistocchi compared the colour and intensity of the light of its centrally placed lamp to the colour and light produced in welding, that is to say: blinding and bluish-white. (*Domenica del Corriere*, September 24, 1952. In this connection it is opportune to recall the Facchini<sup>8</sup> case which happened on April 24, 1950.)

The witnesses were not able to say for sure whether they lost sight of the object because it had vanished from view, or whether its apparent disappearance was due to the fact that it might have turned its light off suddenly, in which case it would have remained invisible to their eyes which were already blinded by its intense glare.

According to yet another witness, regarding whom the press gave no further details, the machine was like a flying spindle formed by two truncated cones joined at their bases. All the witnesses agreed in saying that no sound whatever was heard from it during its passage.

The motorcyclist Pistocchi suffered a real attack of panic, so much so that he tore his trousers badly in his



haste to dismount from his machine. He now lives in Búcine, and we found him to be a serious and steady sort of individual, well regarded. When recently approached again about the case however he was no longer willing to talk about what had happened to him on that famous night.

The selfsame phenomenon, at the same time, 11.45 p.m. was seen by various witnesses in Cennina. These included the mechanic Gino Pianigini, residing in Búcine, and the land-agent Luigi Bianchi. Then there was also the parish priest of Torre, Don Nevio Rossi. All three of these witnesses declared that they had seen a mysterious machine flying low and emitting an extremely powerful bright light.

Additional testimonies were secured from various other individuals whose names have not been reported. According to all of them the UFO was seen flying very close to the ground, and at times they saw it even halt in its flight.

There is moreover the testimony of Ottorino Santarelli, a tailor of Pietraviva. A resident of Paesetto (about 3 km. from Ambra), he was with two friends, Otello Preriasi and Angiolino Brogi, at about midnight on the date in question. Just as they had left the Pietraviva recreational club they saw what seemed to be a globe, sky-blue in colour, which suddenly halted in mid-air when near Pietraviva and over towards Santa Lucia from where they were. Then it seemed to drop down perpendicularly, giving the impression that it was about to land. But it stopped half-way up the side of a nearby hill. Wanting to get a better view of it, the three young men ran towards it, but the globe rose up again and headed off towards the mountain known as Monte Benichi, but then changed course once more and moved towards Casucci. As it moved off its colour changed from light-blue to red. It gave out no sound. Subsequent enquiries established that the tailor was a well-balanced person, not easily inclined to suggestibility, and there could be no question of euphoria due to possible libations, as he was a total abstainer. Signor Santarelli is now living in Milano.

#### Notes and Comments by Gordon Creighton

- <sup>1</sup> The Italian press reports cited by Signor Sergio Conti are as follows:

*La Nazione Italiana*, November 2 and 5, 1954.  
*La Nazione Sera*, November 2, 1954.  
*Il Giorno del Mattino*, November 2, 3, and 5, 1954.  
*Il Giorno del Mattino*, March 2, 1955.  
*La Settimana Incom*, June 17, 1962 (No. 24, Year 15).

The work of two Italian UFO investigation groups has gone into the compilation of this report. These are (1) MUF (UFO Section), or, to give them their full title in English, the UFO Section of the Florentine Humanistic Cultural Movement, in whose files the Cennina Case is listed as No. 92, and (2) the Prato UFO Study Group (Centro di Ricerca Per Lo Studio Sui Fenomeni UFO di Prato), whose energetic young members have just conducted a fresh investigation of the case and have unearthed much valuable corroborative material—for example, the story of the two boys who were out attending to their pigs on the morning of November 1, 1954, and are alleged to have actually seen Signora Rosa Lotti being chatted up by her *homuncules*.

- <sup>3</sup> Rosa Lotti's comparison is good. These are all very typical sounds in Chinese.

- <sup>4</sup> The Carabinieri are the Italian *Gendarmerie*.

<sup>5</sup> There is no need to emphasise the importance of this feature, which, as Signor Conti says, is borne out by other cases. It can only mean that—as we have long suspected—UFO entities, or *some* UFO entities, possess great hypnotic powers over humans. Everyone can work out for himself what the possible implications of this might be!

- <sup>6</sup> “due piccoli seggiolini.”

<sup>7</sup> There are several other cases on record in which entities have appeared to be taking some sort of photograph.

<sup>8</sup> I gave an outline of the remarkable Facchini case in my article *The Italian Scene—Part II*, in FSR for March/April 1963. Bruno Facchini, a workman of Abbiate Guazzone (Province of Varese) was returning home after a violent thunderstorm on the night of April 24, 1950. Just before 10.00 p.m., close to a line of electricity pylons, he came upon a vast black circular object hanging above the ground. In the lower part of it light was coming from an open hatch, and a being, which seemed to be a man, was standing on what looked like a pneumatic jack, and seemed to be soldering or welding the surface of the vast black object, for sparks were flying. The being was in a helmet and tight-fitting uniform, as were three others who were walking about round the large black mass. Facchini politely stepped up and asked the “welder” whether he could be of any help, and received a “guttural reply” that made him draw back in alarm and he felt himself struck by what seemed to be a jet of compressed air which knocked him down. Shortly afterwards he saw the hatch close and watched the great dark object move off silently into the sky.

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# SOME SCOTTISH MONSTERS

Janet Bord

Until her recent marriage Mrs. Bord was well known in UFO research circles as Janet Gregory. An article by her husband, Colin, will be found on page 17. Their book *Mysterious Britain* is due for publication by Garnstone Press in October.

ONE of the very few cases on record of a UFO landing and occupants being sighted in Britain took place in November 1958, in Scotland. Briefly, the details are as follows. During a Territorial Army weekend exercise, a few miles outside the village of Tarland (about 60 miles from Aberdeen), two young lads were left guarding a small hilltop for a few hours. At sunrise, they heard a strange gurgling sound coming from behind some trees not far away. They went to investigate, and then they saw two large figures stumbling in their direction. They appeared to be at least 7 to 8 feet tall, and the gurgling sound was caused by them apparently talking to one another in a guttural tongue. They were dressed peculiarly, and seemed to find difficulty in walking across the rough ground. The two lads turned and fled down the hillside, taking refuge in a small hut. As they were running towards this, they heard a swishing noise behind them and, turning back, they saw a huge, brilliant disc-shaped object coming down the road, only a few feet off the ground. It swooped up over their heads, pulsating and leaving a shower of sparks in its wake.\*

This case sprang to my mind as I was reading a recent book, *The Big Grey Man of Ben MacDhui* by Affleck Gray<sup>1</sup>, which deals with the various legends surrounding this Scottish mountain, legends of huge ghostly figures seen close to the summit, mysterious footsteps and footprints, music and laughter. One witness of the Big Grey Man himself, a mountaineer, was alone at night on the mountain, and saw "a great brown creature . . . swaggering down the hill . . . it rolled slightly from side to side, taking huge measured steps. It looked as though it was covered with shortish brown hair," and he later calculated its height as between 24 and 30 feet. A yeti? Or a ufonaut? Although the creature has not often been seen, many people alone on this mountain have experienced presences, such sensations being powerful enough to cause them to flee in terror.

More people have heard the mystery footsteps: "As we sat there we distinctly heard the sound as of slow footsteps, as when one walks over wet gravel. We looked round, but no one was visible—no sheep, deer or human . . . The sound of the slow footsteps died away in a minute or two." Others have been followed down the mountain by the footsteps. Compare these with the reports of "invisible walkers" heard by skywatchers up on Cradle Hill at Warminster. Although footsteps were heard, no figure could be seen. But as well as steps being heard, footprints 19 inches long (with features similar to those found in the snow in Devon in 1855 and termed the "Devil's Hoofmarks") have been found in the snow on Ben MacDhui and photographed. Although a

natural explanation of this phenomenon, which has also apparently been seen elsewhere, is given in the book, it is nevertheless interesting to bear in mind the ideas of George Lyall whose article "Did a laser create the 'devil's footprints'?" appeared in *Flying Saucer Review* recently.<sup>2</sup>

Frequently during UFO sightings and incidents of a supernatural nature, animals are aware that something strange is going on.<sup>3</sup> The behaviour of a Scotsman's retriever one night on the mountain in 1939 indicates its awareness of something unusual, though his owner experienced nothing. "The dog was ranging about fifteen yards ahead of him when he suddenly whimpered, turned tail, and shot past at full speed. Donald returned to the Lodge perplexed, and found him crouched up against the back door trembling with terror." The dog would never pass the spot again, not even in daylight.

On more than one occasion, people have heard singing up on the mountain, baritone, treble and bass voices have been heard, though often the tunes cannot be recognised. Also orchestral sounds have been heard, and the music of the mountain has been ascribed to wind whistling through cracks in the rocks. However the answer is not so simple, for sometimes the music is heard in still weather away from rocks, and sometimes not all the members of a party have been able to hear the sounds. Talking and laughing by voices of both sexes has also been heard, though no words could be distinguished. This is reminiscent of some of the material picked up on tape by Philip Rodgers several years ago,<sup>4</sup> and also by Dr. Konstantin Raudive, fully detailed in his book *Breakthrough*.<sup>5</sup> Philip Rodgers believes his voices come from spacemen; Konstantin Raudive claims he is communicating with the "dead".

Is there any connection between all these strange happenings on Ben MacDhui and UFOs? Tarland, where the two UFO occupants were seen in 1958, is only about 30 miles to the east, not very far as the UFO flies. Not much farther away (approximately 33 miles in a north-westerly direction) is Loch Ness. Everyone knows about Nessie, that fabled and fabulous monster who has been such a cause of frustration to many a sincere researcher. F. W. Holiday, who wrote an important book about the monster,<sup>6</sup> now feels that that particular phenomenon is not at all what most people think it to be, i.e. a clear-cut case of a prehistoric animal still living in the twentieth century. In his article "Monsters and UFOs,"<sup>7</sup> he puts forward the idea that "In a general sense there are many parallels between monsters and UFOs," and that these phenomena may be linked.

(Continued on page 17)