

Fig 3 . The 'ocean-going' space ship with 'flying saucer' scout pinnacle 'entry-exit' apertures on the nose.

MYSTERY OVER LABRADOR (June 1954)

By Leonard Cramp ©

Because our very few remaining old readers (of nearly 40 years ago!) have by now probably forgotten all about it, and because, in all likelihood, not a single one of our more numerous newer and younger readers will have ever heard of it, I have today decided to reprint — from FSR's very first issue, No. 1 (Spring 1955) — part of Leonard Cramp's famous account of one of the most extraordinary UFO happenings of all time — the sighting of a massive alien craft (thought by at least one witness to have been "as big as the Queen Mary"!), together with smaller attendant vessels, over the North Atlantic near Labrador.

Through the years since then FSR has carried several further articles on this same case, and in due course I propose to look them out and re-issue them in full or at least in résumé.

So far as we know, Captain James Howard, the "skipper" of the B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser *Centaurus*, is still around, and he too has, over the years, given further details about the story when being interviewed by TV or radio programme writers, and has figured in the later FSR reports.

Finally, I can add that, through a mutual friend, I have by chance traced the lady who was serving as the airhostess that day aboard the *Centaurus*. Along with Captain Howard and First Officer Lee Boyd and the other nine crew members

and about a quarter of the 51 passengers, she was a witness to the entire sighting, and I have been given to understand that she will let me have her story.

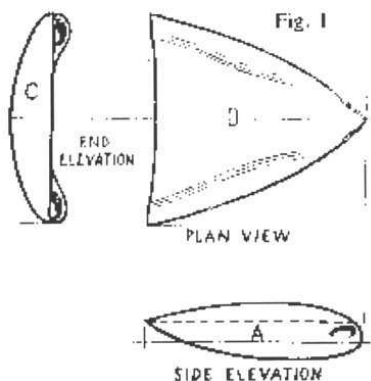
Unquestionably the "Labrador Affair" can now be seen as something of enormous importance in the history of "our subject", and several reasons for this can be quoted.

Firstly the date — June 29, 1954. Because the following day, June 30, was the date of the astonishing affair of the filming of two UFOs over Norway by scientists engaged in observing the eclipse of the Sun. (We recently gave a re-run of this story, on pages 11 to 14 of FSR 36/2, Summer 1991, but I warn you that we are not finished with it yet, because I still have some extraordinary new things to reveal about the Lifjell UFO film seen by our friend Mr. Denny Densham who, I am sorry to have to mention once more, has now left this world and is no longer with us.)

The second reason for the probably very great importance of the Labrador Sighting is the fact that it seems to have been part of the prelude to the fantastic and unequalled UFO Wave of 1954 over the whole of Western Europe, and in particular over France and Italy, regarding which Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallée and several of the leading Italian investigators have provided such lengthy and detailed reports. EDITOR.

High above Labrador, in a clear crystal sky just before sunset on June 29 last year (1954), a formation of strange objects closed in on the B.O.A.C., Stratocruiser 'Centaurus' and kept station with it for 18 minutes before disappearing over the horizon at the approach of an intercepting Sabre jet fighter sent up from Goose Bay airfield to investigate. Capt. James Howard, the pilot, his crew of eleven and a dozen of the fifty-one passengers he was flying to London saw the formation.

In his report Howard said the big object in some strange way seemed to have definite shape,



although it changed from an inverted pear shape to a flying arrow or delta and a telephone receiver as they watched. But, he added, this may have been because it altered its angle of flight. It was roughly in the centre

of the group, with the smaller ones extended fore and aft like a destroyer screen conveying a battleship.

"I counted six small ones," he said. "Sometimes there were three stretched out in front and three behind. Sometimes five stretched out in line ahead and only one behind." He added: "I had the impression that just before I got around to counting them there were more than six, which ties up with Lee Boyd's idea that they were flying in and out of the central object like aircraft entering and leaving a flight hangar." Lee Boyd was the 1st Officer aboard "Centaurus."

Convinced Saucer enthusiasts may find the reference to a change of shape difficult to explain, while some scientists will suggest that the phenomenon was a mirage and reject the Flying Saucer explanation. But careful study of Capt. Howard's statement, together with his valuable sketches, will indicate that he is probably right when he says the change in shape may have been due to the change

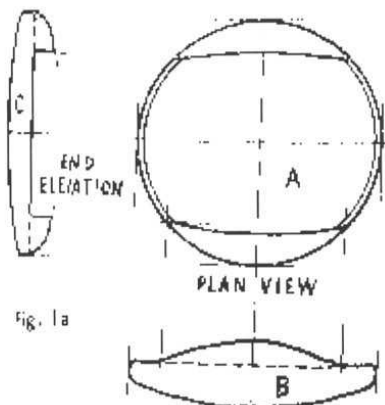


Fig 2

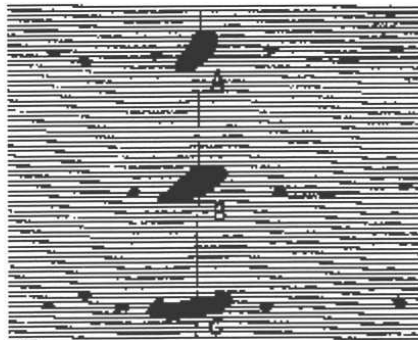


Fig 2a

slightly different aspects of the original sketches

of flight angle.

Using these as a guide, I have prepared two alternative suggestions which could conceivably coincide with the true shape of the object.

In Fig. 1 I have shown a three-view general arrangement of one particular shape suggested by Howard's sketches reproduced in Fig. 1. "A" represents the pear or side-view of the "mother ship"; "B" the delta plan view, and "C" the "telephone receiver" or end-view, which result in the three-dimensional impression shown in Fig.3.

Howard may not have been far from the truth when he said: "It looked about the size of an ocean liner." Such a shape would lend itself very well to sea-going conditions, should it require to be ocean-based on earth.

Fig. 1a shows the alternative; the three-dimensional impression in Fig. 3a being reached by the process used to build up the impression in Fig.3.

In the latter alternative the body of the ship is different in configuration — circular, in fact — and the apparent change could be explained by the vehicle tilting and rotating about a vertical axis. The pear shape in this case is the ellipse formed by

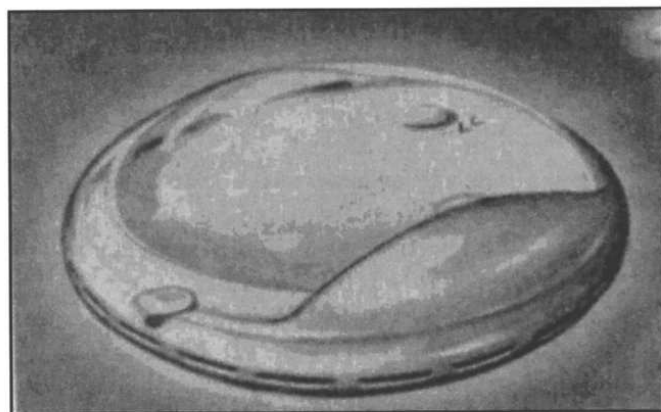


Fig 3a. The 'Flight Deck' with its transparent roof and hangers together with the launching and landing aperture, are evident here

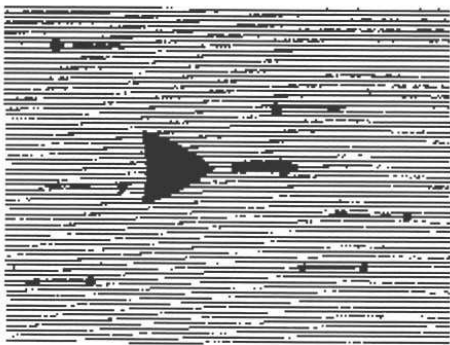


Fig 4

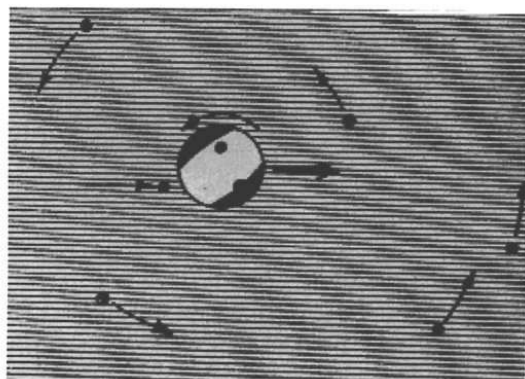


Fig4a

the ship when seen at an angle, but because of one bulge being on the high side of the ellipse and the whole in silhouette, the ellipse becomes a pear.

The delta may have been a similar illusion formed by a different angle, showing the conical bulge on the top side of the ellipse, together with a small scout ship leaving at the lower rear part. The telephone receiver shape is self-explanatory, the two sides being interconnected by some transparent "roof" as depicted in the perspective view in Fig. 3a.

Figs. 4 and 4a give a possible explanation to the behaviour of the scout ships. In Fig. 4 they are shown cruising to and from the parent vessel and in Fig. 4a circling around it, giving an observer the impression that they are, in fact moving back and forth. The latter is the more likely, since it conforms more closely to recorded Flying Saucer behaviour ■

SETI: A MANIPULATION?

By Dr. Pierre Guérin, Astronomer and Maître de Recherche Honoraire in the CNRS (French National Centre For Scientific Research).

(Translation from French. G.C.)

(Please see, as a preliminary note about this piece by Dr. Guérin, my article *The Gigantic "Con"*, on page 4 of our last issue, FSR 37/4. Editor)

On October 15, 1992, it has just been announced, the programme for SETI (*The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence*), sponsored by NASA, has begun. The giant parabolic antennae of the world's big radioastronomical observatories are now aimed at the sky, "listening" for the Extraterrestrials. Highly perfected ultra-sensitive receivers have been set up, capable of simultaneously registering, on tens of thousands of channels, all the "noise" from the Cosmos, via the window of the decimetre wavelengths left transparent by our atmosphere. The signals of artificial origin, if there are any, will be automatically sorted out and reported to the operators in the control-rooms. In this way, step by step, over ten years, the entire sky will be examined in every direction. But certain observatories will apply themselves particu-

larly to "listening" to those stars that are of *solar type*, or *neighbour type*, around which the chance of finding planets resembling the Earth are greatest. (Two relatively near stars answering to these characteristics, TAU CETI and E. ERIDANI, had already been "listened to", with less effective receivers, since 1960, without it being possible to detect any intelligent signals).

We are told that it is by "listening" to the sky in this fashion — or perhaps rather by pointing up certain anomalies in the spectra of such or such a star — that it will be possible to obtain proof of a non-human intelligence active in the Cosmos, and not by following the advice of the "cranks and visionaries" who claim that proof of this intelligence *is already there right in front of our eyes*, in our sky, and on our soil. For the UFOs, as everybody knows, only exist — for our officials — in the eyes of those who *think* they see them, as has long been demonstrated by the enquiries conducted by the U.S. Air Force. And, incidentally, so they tell us, the other planetary systems — if there are any — are vastly too far distant for craft so small as the alleged