

168. Franois, France (7.10 p.m., December 12, 1968). A number of witnesses, including a Monsieur Froidevaux and his daughter and a Monsieur Marchand and his wife, saw a round, orange, luminous cloud rising slowly into the sky, and a long ribbon-like orange object subsequently leave it. Monsieur Froidevaux's cat, which was inside the house, while the party of humans were in the loggia, was meanwhile displaying great agitation and miaowing plaintively. The cat's distress grew steadily worse, and by the time the

sighting ended (it had lasted for several minutes) the cat "was literally screaming the place down and it was impossible to calm it".

When the UFO had disappeared the cat at once reverted to its normal placid state.

FSR Case Histories Nos. 2 and 3 (December 1970 and February 1971) from *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, No. 100 (June 1969), p. 18.

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.

Dear Sir,—I am a long-standing subscriber to FSR and a close follower of the UFO Problem. (I am also a Scientific Correspondent to NICAP, Physics Consultant to APRO, etc.)

I had an opportunity to visit Valensole, on 4/7/70—five years after the sighting—at the scene of the famous case with which you have already dealt extensively in FSR (November/December 1965, p. 7; January/February 1968, pp. 6-12; January/February 1969, p. 7; July/August 1969).

Enclosed herewith I send you a photograph† which I took from the top of the hillock behind which M. Masse hid when he saw the machine.

Alas, there is no longer a vineyard, nor a field of lavender, but a huge field of wheat, without a trace of variation in the crop. I was visiting the scene (prior to arranging some infra-red aerial photography there) to see if it was worth my while, but the few shots* I took from the top of the hillock showed nothing in particular of interest. Yours truly,

René J. Hardy,
Docteur Es Sciences,
"Le Kallisté"-D,
Boulevard Charles-Barnier,
83- Toulon,
France.

† Kodacolor. Rolleiflex 6 × 6.

* These were in Infra-red Ektachrome + No. 16 Wratten filter on 24K36 Affar Contarex Zeiss. Obj. F2.50 mm.



A new look for the field at Valensole

(Translation by John C. Hugill.)

[Dr. Hardy also enclosed a most interesting cutting from the French Press of April 14, 1969, announcing that he was shortly to receive in Paris the silver-gilt medal of the Society For Arts, Sciences and Letters in recognition of his scientific work for France. As a "boffin" Dr. Hardy has to his credit no less than 250 inventions patented in various countries

of the world, and he has played a distinguished part in connexion with French work in radionavigation, teleguided missiles, radar, acoustics. As far back as 1954 his work on the infra-red photography at night of armoured vehicles and on teleguided anti-tank weapons had put France well to the fore (indeed in second place in the world) in this kind of defence work.—EDITOR.]

Any news of Angelic visions?

Dear Sir,—I am collecting information on cases where a being (often recognised as "Our Lady") has appeared as a "vision" before a number of people, often children, and often in peasant Catholic areas. The most well-known case of this type is that which occurred at Fatima in 1917, but such visions have been seen in many other parts of the world. If any of your readers know

the details of any such cases, particularly less publicised ones, I would be grateful if they would write to me:

Janet Gregory, 34A Barnsdale Road, London W9 3LL.

That Warminster Mystery photo

Dear Sir,—In the March/April FSR you have an article headed "Unexpected effects at Warminster," by Michael Samuels, in which he concludes that the mysterious object that appeared on the film must have been emitting ultra-violet radiation and so appeared on the film. I must point out that ultra-violet affects film by turning it black, this would be reversed in printing resulting in a white blob and not black as it appears in the photograph. Also I am told by my father, who is a professional photographer, that the meter reading taken at Cradle Hill (14+) is not impossible under the conditions mentioned and need not have been caused by ultra-violet radiation.

Yours faithfully,
Michael Village, 27 Shenstone Road, Hollywood, Birmingham.
(June 1, 1971)

What were they?

Dear Sir,—I think the following may be of interest to you:

On April 2, 1971, at about 8.30 a.m. I was driving down the South Coast Highway in Corona Del Mar, California, toward Laguna Beach. Three trucks, I believe they are called flatbed trucks, were going in the opposite direction. On each truck was a vehicle that looked like a flying saucer. Each one was covered with green canvas which had large white letters which said "Experimental". The wind was blowing and I could see the outlines of windows in the centre part. These vehicles were quite large. They looked about twelve feet in circumference, but not being a good judge of size, I could be off a foot or two one way or the other.

Do you have any information as to what these are?

Thank you,
Y.W., P.O. Box 364, Corona Del Mar, California, 92625, U.S.A.

[I cannot begin to imagine what information Mr. "Y.W." thinks we could have about these things. We were some 6,000 miles away, so he was much nearer to them, and more able to judge whether they were a deliberate hoax, or experimental equipment which just happened to look like flying saucers, or 'mock-ups' for a fairground. Perhaps some American reader can help!—
EDITOR.

Lake Anten data correction

Dear Sir,—Thank you for publishing the Lake Anten case in the January/February issue this year. I read the comment by Mr. R. H. B. Winder and I confess I was a little astonished, but then I found out what was wrong. There had been a very sad fault in my translation into English. I hope you and your readers will accept my apology.

It is not ^{137}Ce but ^{137}Cs . That is Caesium, not Cerium. Cerium has the atomic number 58, while Caesium has the number 55. As you will understand, this is quite another thing, and I would appreciate very much if you could make it known to your readers. I think it would be very good if Mr. Winder could make another comment when he knows about this.

Concerning a chemical test, we have of course discussed it with our expert, but he has not yet done it. As the amount is so small, there are some problems in doing a test.

Once again I am very sorry about this trouble.

Yours sincerely,

Sven - Olof Fredrikson (GICOFF),
Kjellmangatan 9-415, 413 18 Göteborg, Sweden.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Leicestershire auto-stop effect

The *Leicester Mercury* of May 26, 1971, carried the following account which could be very important, and one which we hope will be investigated in full—

"A mysterious light in the sky near Ibstock terrified a young Hinckley housewife as she drove alone in a car along the main Ashby to Hinckley Road.

"Now, Mrs. Eunice Rose, of 26 Welwyn Road, Hinckley, wonders if anyone else saw a mystery object in the sky. It was, she said, about the size of a double decker bus and passed above her car moving in the direction of Oddstone and lighting up the countryside.

"The frightening feature of the incident for Mrs. Rose was that as the object went over the engine of her car began to fade out. All the car lights including the headlamps were dimmed

and a transistor radio that was playing in the car at the time faded out completely for a few minutes.

"I was so frightened that I could feel the hair on the back of my neck bristling up," Mrs. Rose said.

"I am not the sort of person who believes in unidentified flying objects. There must be an explanation for what happened and I should like to know what it is and also if anyone else saw this incident."

"Mrs. Rose had been visiting friends at Oddstone and left to drive back to Hinckley at 10.50 p.m.

"As she went along the country road from Oddstone to join the main road at Belchar's Bar, she saw a glow in the sky in the direction of Ibstock and at first thought it could be the headlights of a ditched car shining up into the sky.

"The glow persisted, and it was after she had turned right on the main road and was driving towards Hinckley

that the bright object crossed the road approximately above her car."

Credit: **John C. Tate** of Halesowen.

"Meat on a plate" UFO

The following item is taken from the *Bolton Evening News* of May 31, 1971—

"Six people at Harwood spent three hours last night watching an object 'like a lump of meat on a plate' hovering in the sky a mile from the bottom of their gardens.

"Amazed by what they thought was an unidentified flying object, they reported it to the police and then returned for their vigil.

"One of the six, Mrs. Christine Campbell, aged 23, of Hazlewood Avenue, Harwood, said the object appeared over Winter Hill about five minutes after midnight. It hovered high above the television mast and glowed amber and made a buzzing noise, she said.

"It was like a great lump of meat on a plate," said Mrs. Campbell. "It disappeared later but we stayed at the back of our house, watching and waiting for it to come back but it didn't."

"Another of the night-time watchers, Mrs. Janet Bond, aged 26, of Dewhurst Road, said they had reported the object because it worried them. 'We just didn't know what it was,' she added.

"Mrs. Campbell said that none of the group which included next-door neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Eccleshare, had ever seen a UFO before and none believed in them.

"We know we saw something but don't know what it was," she said."

Credit: John Peers of Little Hulton.

Plate—no meat

Close on the heels of the previous report came this item in the *Bolton Evening News* of June 1, 1971—

"Harwood's 'meat on a plate' UFO spotted by six people yesterday may have been visiting the area for the second time.

"Mrs. Jo Ward of Seaford Road says she saw a similar object six days ago, but 'Ours didn't have the meat on,' she said.

"The orange-coloured object appeared over Bromley Cross about midnight, said mother-of-two Mrs. Ward. 'It was very low, just above the trees, and it seemed to be coming towards me.'

"She and her husband Kevin watched the object for half an hour. Mrs. Ward said she had not talked about it before because: 'How can you expect other people to believe it when you hardly believe it yourself?'"

Credit: John Peers.

Surrey UFO like the sun

We take this account from the *Surrey Advertiser* of May 30, 1971—

"A strange light was seen in the sky in the early hours of the morning by a Godalming resident, Mrs. C. E. Taylor, of Ashted Lane, Godalming.

"Mrs. Taylor said that just before 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday [May 26] she awoke and saw a patch of light in the hall.

"On looking out she saw what appeared to be a brilliant ball of light which gave the impression of hovering above the Wormley area, 'slightly to the left of King Edward's School.'

"She woke up her husband, who also saw the phenomenon. The light was too steady to be caused by a fire, said Mrs. Taylor, and, since it threw no beam, could not have been that of a searchlight.

"She had a closer look at it through binoculars and said it was 'like

looking into the sun in broad daylight.'

"The light was still showing when she returned to bed.

"Comparatively recently, four residents in the Hascombe and Munstead area reported having seen an unidentified object in the sky at night. They described it as appearing to throw a beam of light on the trees."

Credit: P. A. Richards of Dunsford, Godalming.

WEST GERMANY

Officers' wives' sighting

This item is taken from the English-language section of *Die Harke-Nienburger Zeitung* of April 26, 1971—

"Not so very many years ago, before the age of the Sputnik and the publication of the voluminous morass of information gathered by eye witnesses of fantastic occurrences, before the detailed information tabulated in Air Force Files, products of inexplicable incidents of the air and radar screen, and long before man's own more recent hazardous, sometimes desperate, journeys into space and to the moon itself, a report such as this, the account of a recent experience by two 'seemingly sane' local army wives on the evening of the 4th February, would have been considered the product of vivid imagination, the witnesses laughed out of court or the dreamers subjected to the psychiatrist's couch.

"Time has passed since the incident, yet despite attempts of reasoned argument from others, sceptics, to sow the seeds of doubt, the minds and convictions of those concerned remain steadfast, never wavering.

The witnesses' account

"The evening of the 4th February, 1971 was dark and cloudy, not particularly cold for a German winter evening; in fact a very ordinary evening. Perhaps that is why the events here recalled seemed even more extraordinary. My friend and I, both rational (most of the time) and sober people, were driving from Nienburg to Liebenau thinking and talking of nothing more startling than a child's birthday party. As we rounded the bend on Oyle Hill we noticed well over to the right a large red glow on the horizon. We commented that there must be a fair-sized fire somewhere and temporarily forgot it.

"Approaching 'Five Ways' at Liebenau the glow—even larger—appeared to be straight ahead and for a moment we thought the Station Workshops had gone up in flames. However, as we neared our destination, Pinewood Camp, the glow was still straight ahead and being curious by nature we decided to carry on and find the source of the pulsating glow. About

a mile further on we found that we were not getting any nearer and stopped to get our bearings. Here we come to the eeriest and possibly the most inexplicable part of the whole business. Ahead of us, beyond the car headlights, was a strange white glow, stretching right across the road. And yet there was no moon, no street light, no house, no possible source of light, apart from the red glowing light which we could still see ahead of us.

"Slowly, and somewhat nervously now, we drove on through the white glow. It was at this point that we began to realise that it was rather an odd fire which we were seeking; no smoke or flames, just an enormous pulsating glow. After taking one or two wrong turnings and driving along a muddy farm track in order to get to the source of the glow, we found ourselves on the road to Deblinghausen. Then suddenly, way over still on our right, there it was!

"A fantastic sight, at ground level like a vast inverted electric light bulb, brilliant, glowing, and orange red, no flames, just a throbbing light all round lighting the sky. We estimated that it was at least a mile away, maybe more. We found this phenomenon quite shattering, in fact rather frightening. It was like nothing either of us had seen before. Then deciding we needed a man's opinion we turned the car intent on driving home at speed. We turned for one last look and saw—nothing. It, whatever it was, had completely disappeared, leaving nothing but a prickly feeling on our scalps."

Summary

"The witnesses were closely questioned. Their journey has been retraced several times and their story retold. It has been strongly argued by the more rational of us that oil wells, common features of the landscape in that region, might well account for the occurrence. No one else seems to have reported this particular incident. None of us has seen anything similar since, but most of those who questioned them seem unwilling to believe that there might be something in it after all, particularly when faced with their clear, calm and precise account of the phenomena and the unquestionable assurance they radiate when referring to the strange light, seemingly without source, which caused the eerie tingling of the scalp, and has left the sharp imprint on their minds and certain knowledge that they have witnessed the appearance of a UFO."

Credit: Brigadier G. W. Worsdell (retired), who writes that the names of the ladies concerned are Mrs. Valerie Wills and Mrs. Susan Haworth-Wood.

More mystery circles . . . and UFOs

We read in the edition for Tuesday, May 4, 1971 of *NZ Truth* that—"Five more Ngatea-like circles have been discovered—this time in the Taupo area.

"They were found by a helicopter pilot, Mr. R. D. Nairn, and last week *Truth* flew to an area about 17 miles south-west of Taupo to investigate.

"At the same time, reports have come in from the same area of several sightings of unidentified flying objects.

"They were seen over the Napier-Taupo highway, Acacia Bay, Wairaki Valley and Taupo itself. Dozens of people saw the phenomena.

"Now interested parties are asking whether there is a connection between the UFOs and the puzzling circles. It seems strange if there isn't.

"Auckland pilot Captain Bruce Cathie is a man particularly interested in UFOs. He also has visited the area east of the Rangitaiki River, and on the edge of the Kaingaroa Forest and near the Taupo-Napier highway.

"He landed on one of the circles in a helicopter and collected specimens of the weird plant growth there. It is now being analysed.

"*Truth's* chartered helicopter, piloted by Mr. Nairn, flew over the area and took aerial photographs of the circles. Four of them were in a straight line and just over a mile apart.

"The fifth was about a mile to the west but lined up with the last of the other four.

"*Truth's* helicopter also landed briefly on one of the circles. They range from between 200 and 300 feet in diameter and each covers up to 6,000 square feet.

"A fungus-like growth, only about three or four inches high, covers the circles like a carpet. There is no other vegetation.

"Captain Cathie told *Truth*: 'There is no direct evidence that the circles are made by UFOs, but they certainly are not man-made. But they are in a pattern and spread evenly apart, which suggests that they are artificially made. Otherwise, they would be spread out in a haphazard fashion.'

"He said that another strange factor was that whatever retarded other growth did not affect the fungus-like plant.

"A spokesman for the 12,600-acre Lilburn estate, on which the circles were found, told *Truth* he knew nothing about the mysterious patches.

"The estate carried about 10,000 sheep and between 600 and 700 cattle, but none of it was on the area where the circles were discovered. They certainly had not been made by anybody connected with the estate, he said.

"So the mystery deepens."

Credit: Mrs. P. D. Dixon of Te Atatu North, Auckland, N.Z.

A 19th century landing?

Cornwall is famed for its "little people", but the Lake District has them too—the dobbies. Through past centuries, they have been widely accepted and believed in by the country people of Cumberland and Westmorland, and so it is not surprising that a sighting in 1850 of strange little people should be explained as dobbies.

Jack Wilson of Martindale was returning home in the moonlight and, when he neared Sandwick Rigg, he noticed a large company of dobbies "intensely engaged in their favourite games" (no other indication of exactly what they were doing!). They noticed him as he approached, and climbed a little ladder into the sky. This description sounds suspiciously

like many reported sightings of UFO occupants, and this also raises the old question of whether all "little people"—be they called leprechauns, fairies, dwarves, goblins, brownies or pixies—are the old-time ufonauts.

Story taken from *Ghosts of the Lake Counties* by Gerald Findler.

Credit: Janet Gregory.

Musical UFO, poltergeist, or what?

This bizarre story comes to us via the pages of the *Bournemouth Evening Echo* of May 21, 1971, and the courtesy of a Honiton reader—

"This was the UFO to beat the lot. It couldn't be seen, but it kept Mrs. Barbara Williams awake for one and a half hours.

"For this time our friends from another world came in the form of a 'terrifying noise' which hovered in the middle of the night over the Williams' house in Watcombe Road, Southbourne.

"Mrs. Williams can't quite make up her mind how to describe the noise. 'It was like the repeated sound of a train crash,' she mused. 'Or maybe the roaring of a prehistoric monster . . .'

"And she's baffled, because the only other people to hear the noise were her next door neighbours. 'We almost rang the police, but we thought they would already be inundated with calls,' she said. 'But when my husband saw the police the next day, they said they had heard nothing.'

"Mrs. Williams was too frightened to look out of the window. Her husband Edward poked his head out and heard what his neighbour described as 'interplanetary music' floating through the night air.

"The noise kept repeating itself, and there was a continual hum overhead,' said Mrs. Williams. 'Eventually it faded away.'

MORE INTERESTING READING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

FRS CASE HISTORIES . . .

The Strange Case of the B-57 Photograph:

Robert A. Schmidt

A UFO and the Car which "floated" along:

W. K. Allen

Horse Falls III After UFO Incident: John Magor

Brazilian Cases 1968-9, Pt. 5: Dr. W. Buhler

Unusual Underwater Object: V-J. Ballester Olmos

Possible Landing at Centeno: Roberto Ferrari

What the Children Saw: Eileen Buckle

A further selection of Readers' Reports

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