

recalled, had been interviewed in a BBC television programme on airships. He said that what I had seen must have been the Goodyear airship because it did come to Britain for about two weeks every year and was sometimes used as a flying platform for television cameras over Brands Hatch. He also told me that the firm of Aerospace Industries had recently built another airship something like the Goodyear one. He said that it was undergoing tests at Cardington, Bedfordshire, where it had been built (as, incidentally was the Goodyear craft also). He added that neither the Goodyear airship nor the new one built by Aerospace Industries was more than 200 ft. long.

As we see from Goodyear's letter to me, dated March 27, 1979, Mr Anthony Smith cannot possibly have been right in saying that what we had seen *must* have been the Goodyear craft, *because the Goodyear letter makes it quite clear that their machine was not in Britain on that date, namely August 13, 1978.*

Nor can it have been the new Aerospace Developments' airship that we saw, and for a very simple reason. The date of our sighting was August 13, 1978. The Goodyear letter states that these were the only two airships in Britain, and that the one built by Aerospace Developments Ltd., had only just been "produced a few weeks ago". It had therefore been completed and launched after our sighting.

The concluding paragraph of Goodyear's letter of March 27, 1979 to me reads in facts as follows:

"Up until recently our airship, which in fact was constructed at Cardington in 1972, was the only airship to operate in the U.K. Another company, Aerospace Developments Ltd., have however recently produced an airship a few weeks ago. This

airship was also constructed at Cardington, and the manufacturers can be contacted there."

NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR. Mrs Fry's efforts to contact Aerospace Developments Ltd. at their Weybridge, Surrey, office proved fruitless, because it seems that this concern has gone out of existence and their airship has now been taken over by Airship Industries Ltd. I telephoned today (February 14, 1983) to the RAF, Cardington, and their spokesman told me that it is not true that the airship was launched in either 1978 or 1979. It has, in fact, so he told me, only just been finished, and is at present still undergoing tests at Cardington. It is 150 ft. long.

Nobody, be it noted, has ever suggested that it was ever over Kent. If it has only just been finished, then it cannot have been over Kent in August 1978 — almost five years ago.

As for the BBC's "air-platforms", from which sports and other events are filmed or photographed, I have also telephoned today to the BBC Television Engineers, who inform me that their equipment in this direction consists entirely of long-shafted or long-armed 'hoists' resembling the machines used in London and other large cities for the servicing and maintenance of very high street-lamps. The idea of anything consisting of "balloons with aerials" evidently makes no sense to them and sounds absurd.

It looks therefore as though we still await a conventional explanation for what Mr and Mrs Fry claim that they saw in the skies over the fair land of Kent on August 13, 1978. G.C.

UFO REPORTS FROM CHINA (2)

Mr. Anthony Lee's reports from China

This correspondent, Mr. Anthony Lee, has sent me some new material on the UFOs in China, which serves to reinforce the data published recently by FSR in England. I give below a summary which I have made of it.

F. Lagarde, Editor of LDLN.

(Translation by Gordon Creighton from LDLN No. 217/218 (July-August 1982)).

ON the morning of October 28, 1961, several people observed for a period of some seven minutes a strange-looking object flying over the suburbs of the city of K'ai-Feng, in the Province of Ho-Nan. Appearing from low over the horizon, the object was moving slowly, and at times even was stationary. The eyewitnesses all stopped work to look up at it, and one of them, a young engineer named Chang Ching-lai, managed to get several photographs of it. Over the course of the succeeding years this sighting was to be followed by many more.

Although 1980 was the Year of the Monkey according to the Chinese Calendar, it would have been more correct to have consecrated that year to the UFOs, for it was in May 1980 that the *Chinese Association for the Study of UFOs* was formed. This group is affiliated to the *Chinese Society for the Study of the Future*, and is headed by Mr. Cha Le-P'ing, a twenty-five-year-old student of Astrophysics. In due course a number of UFO reports were gathered.

For example, on the evening of July 7, 1977, there was an open-air film-show before an audience of

3,000 people (everything in China is on the gigantic scale!) on a sports ground at Chang-P'u (Province of Fukien, East China). The film was Romanian, and its title: *Alert on the Danube Delta*. Suddenly, at about 8.30 p.m., two objects appeared in the sky. Flying so low that they almost seemed to touch the ground, they emitted an intense orange glow and were only fractions of a metre apart, and travelling in total silence. Such was the panic which ensued that 300 people were injured and two children killed. Meanwhile, the two objects were out of sight in a few seconds.

On October 23, 1978 (another open-air film-show) pilots of the Chinese Air Force were looking at a film somewhere in the Province of Kan-Su (North-West China) when a large bright object appeared in the sky. They observed it for some two to three minutes, as it circled around above them at an estimated height of some 21,000 ft. (about 6,000 metres). The object was rectangular and carried intensely bright lights. *On October 21, 1978, (two days earlier) the Australian airman Valentich perished while observing a similar object.*

Two students from the Peking Mining Institute were camping in August 1980 at Ch'ang-P'ing, in the mountains near Peking. Their names were Hsin Sheng and Pi Chiang, and the report which they produced is as follows:-

"At about 0408 in the early hours of August 23, 1980, we were looking at the stars when we saw an object emitting a white light appear from behind a mountain to the East. At first, when partly hidden by the mountain, it looked like a portion of the disc of the Moon. But its irregular course led us to conclude that it must be a UFO. We climbed up on to a large rock to get a better view, and we were able to observe the object for half an hour.

When it moved away, it looked like three very near stars. At one moment it came towards us, and then moved away again. The entire sighting took place in complete silence."

They took a photograph, which was published in due course in the *Peking Evening News (Pei-Ching Wan-Pao)*.

On October 5, 1980, a party of sailors were fishing at night for shrimps off Ta-Kang, on the North China Coast. According to a statement made by one of them, Hung Chang-Kuei, aged 31, a cone-shaped object, flying at about 3,000 ft. (900 metres) appeared at 3.00 a.m. Although the object seemed to be quite small, it emitted an intense heat which they felt on their faces. Hung Chang-Kuei said: "It was as though we were underneath a stove. It emitted an intense glow, a bit like the glow from an electric arc. It was a vivid red colour in the centre, and bluish-green around the edges and white at the extreme rear part. The sighting lasted about ten seconds and the thing whistled as it flew over us."

Another member of the party, Chin Kuo-min, aged 46, added: "Frankly, I was terrified. We didn't know what it was, and it made such a terrible noise."

A month later, on November 5, 1980, at a textile mill at Ching-Hai, near the big port of Tientsin (North-East China), two workers, Li Jen-Pei and Li Lai-Chun, observed, in the early hours of the morning, a disc-shaped object emitting a green glow and following an irregular course. It vanished towards the East, but reappeared again about seven minutes later, flying westward. After a few seconds it again changed course and vanished finally towards the East.

Undoubtedly some of these reports may relate to sightings of meteors or of ball lightning. But it is equally certain that this still leaves cases of genuine UFOs! (As examples of meteors — one was seen in China on November 11, 1979, and again on November 11, 1980. This was a meteor that was seen also in France and in Spain on those dates.)

(Translator's Note: four last lines, about meteors, not translated, being seemingly contradictory.—G.C.)

A RUSSIAN EDITOR DUE FOR WORK ON THE PIPELINE?

The *Guardian* newspaper carried the following strange *Reuter* report from Russia during the first two weeks of 1983 (precise day not ascertained).

"The Soviet newspaper *Sovietskaya Kultura* said yesterday that the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) should not be ruled out, and revealed that a Soviet fighter plane had a brush with a mystery object two years ago.

The paper said there were still many unexplained phenomena behind various "flying saucer" reports, and urged scientists to collect and collate as much information as possible on the subject.

In an example of recent strange happenings in the Soviet Union, the report said that in 1981 a fighter

plane encountered a "fiery ball" 16 ft. in diameter.

Scientists had at first assumed that the phenomenon was ball-lightning, but the damage to the plane did not tally with this.

The report also revealed that the Soviet Union was working on plans for a long-distance, unmanned space mission to try to track down signs of civilisations on distant planets."

(We feel that the editor of this paper which suggests that UFOs exist should watch his step. Does he want to be a candidate for work on the pipeline?) Ed.