

POSSIBLE "UFO" ACCOUNTS IN OLD CHINESE COUNTRY RECORDS?

Hung Liang

On several occasions in past years I have mentioned the abundance and antiquity of Chinese local records, and the probability that they might be found to contain accounts of "prodigies" and "strange sights in the sky" such as we already have in the writings of many Western annalists of Roman or mediaeval times. (For example, Julius Obsequens, and Lycosthenes, and Pliny the Elder). I therefore thought FSR readers might be interested to see the following article by the Chinese Ufologist Hung Liang, which I have translated from his text in the Chinese UFO Research Journal *Feidie Tansuo*¹, 1985, No. 1. Naturally, one can say nothing for certain about these old writings, any more than we can usually be sure what is meant by any of our own Roman or mediaeval items, since the language in both East and West was not what we call "scientific" today, and tended to be excessively vague. Especially is this so of the Chinese! — EDITOR

"FLYING SAUCER" ACCOUNTS IN LOCAL RECORDS OF SHAN-XI PROVINCE (NORTH-CENTRAL CHINA)

WHEN reading, by chance, through a number of issues of the SHAN-XI TONG-ZHI (SHAN-XI BULLETIN)² and some old country Annals, I found a number of entries which greatly resemble the reports of what nowadays folk call "flying saucers", this being the general term used for "unidentified flying objects." Were these truly from other planets? Were these strange things mentioned in the old books genuinely flying saucers? I cannot answer that for sure — it is merely a suspicion. So I have copied out these cases and send them to you herewith for your comments.

"Rising and Falling"

Accounts of "prodigies" or "falling stars", though of varying types, are frequent in the old records. An example is this:—

"On the twelfth day of the tenth moon of the Emperor Jia-Jing of the Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1528), a shooting star appeared over Tai-Yuan with a loud noise and lighting up the sky and then, having begun to fall, rose up again and entered the mouth of The Dipper (i.e. part of the Constellation URSA MAJOR. G.C.) and was visible until dawn, when it vanished." The statement in the first part of that entry, to the effect that it was a shooting star, is no explanation of its strangeness. Then it goes on to say "fell and then rose up again" and went right up into the head of the Seven Stars of the Dipper, which cannot fail to arrest our attention. Because litholites and meteorites — O.K. — they can fall down all right, but they can't "rise up again"!

Anything that can rise up again has absolutely got to have some sort of power that can resist the strength of the Earth's gravity. And one of the main features of flying saucers is their ability to operate with facility in any way they like.

Another case similar to this took place at Wu-tai in the fifth moon of the seventh year of the Ming Em-

peror Tian-Qi (A.D. 1627). "A great star came from the north and passed over the peak of Su-Tai Shan in horizontal flight, and making a noise."

Here the words "horizontal flight" are to be noted. Shooting stars have no power to travel in level flight over mountain peaks. To be able to travel in level flight, just as to be able to "fall and then rise up again", the star would have to possess some miraculous power of its own.

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山西方志中的 "飞碟"记载

洪亮

偶读《山西通志》和一些县志，发现有些记载颇象人们现在所说的飞碟。飞碟，不明飞行物的总称。它是否真的来自别的星球？或许，本文所引古书中那些怪物真的就是飞碟？这我都不能肯定，仅是怀疑而已。特写出来，求教于方家。

怪哉，“坠而复起”

古书中多有“龙见”或“星陨”的记载，有些记载却不同一般。如“明嘉靖七年（1528）十月十二日，太原流星陨，光炫地有声，坠而复起，入斗口，至日出方灭。”看前半截，此条说的是陨星，不足为奇。接着说“坠而复起”，一直升到北斗七星的头部，就不能不引人注意了。因为无论陨石也好，陨铁也罢，都只能落下，不能“复起”，能“复起”者，非得有一种能挣脱地球引力、可自由飞行的力量不可。而飞碟的一个重要特点，便是飞行自

FULL TEXT OF RUSSIAN REPORT OF UFO SEEN BY AIRCRAFT CREWS ON TBILISI-ROSTOV-ROUTE

From newspaper TRUD, Moscow, Wednesday, January 30, 1985
(Translation from Russian: G.C.) (See Summary already given in FSR Vol. 30, No. 4: *The Russians Again.*)

AT 4.10 PRECISELY...

WE REPORT IN DETAIL

By V. Vostrukhin

Special Correspondent of *TRUD*

Flight No. 8352, TBILISI-ROSTOV-TALLIN, by aircraft TU-134A, was operated by an aircrew from the Estonian Administration of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Flight-Captain: Pilot First Class Igor' Alekseevich Cherkashin. Trained at the Buguruslansk Flying School. Flying Time: 7,000 hours. The Second Pilot: Pilot First Class Gennadiy Ivanovich Lazurin. Trained at the Sasov Flying School and Order of Lenin Civil Aviation Academy. 4,500 flying hours. Navigation Officer Second Class: Egor Mikhailovich Ognev, graduate of the Order of Lenin Civil Aviation Academy, 3,500 flying hours. Air Mechanic: Gennadiy Mikailovich Kozlov, A.M. First Class, 12,500 flying hours.

At 4.10 am, there were still 120 more kilometres to Minsk. The aircraft did not seem to be flying, but just stationary there at the centre of the Universe. Not a crackle on the earphones. As luck would have it, they were all alone in the emptiness of Space, in a block of black glass with the stars as holes.

Glancing around his sector of the sky, the Second Pilot suddenly noticed, above them, to their right, a large star that was not twinkling. But yet not a star either. Rather a yellow blob, or the size of a 5-kopek coin, with its edges drawn out. "Like a small..." (one word illegible, G.C.), he said to himself quietly. "A light refraction in the atmosphere, or, again, something else..."

From the yellow blob there shot out a fine, slender shaft of light straight down towards the earth below. Then the Pilot nudged the Air Mechanic with his elbow: "Look, Mikhail, something..."

The Air Mechanic looked out and at once said: "Captain. We must report it".

But the beam of light suddenly vanished and changed into a vivid cone of light. From that moment onward, they all observed what was happening over on their starboard side. A second cone of light, wider but paler than the first, now appeared. And then a third, this one wide and intensely brilliant.

"Wait" — shrugged the Captain. "Report? Report *what?* We must observe first to see what else happens. Well, anyway... what can it be?"

As airmen, of all people, well understand, you can't judge distances by eye. Nevertheless, all four men got the same impression, namely that the unknown object was at a height of 40 to 50 kilometers above the Earth. The Second Pilot started to make a quick sketch of the

Сообщаем подробности

РОВНО В 4.10

Рейс № 8352 Тбилиси — Ростов — Таллин на «ТУ-134А» выполнял экипаж Эстонского управления гражданской авиации СССР. Командир воздушного судна — Игорь Алексеевич Черкашин. Окончил Бугурусланское летное училище, налетал 7.000 часов. Пилот 1-й категории — Геннадий Иванович Лазурин. Окончил Сасовское летное училище и ордена Ленина Академию гражданской авиации, налетал 4.500 часов. Пилот 2-й категории — Егор Михайлович Огнев, окончил Академию гражданской авиации, налетал 3.500 часов. Бортомеханик 2-го класса — Геннадий Михайлович Козлов, налетал 12.500 часов. Бортомеханик 1-го класса

remarkable sight. It sounds incredible, but down below, on the area of the Earth lit by the cone-shaped beam of light, everything — houses, roads — was totally and distinctly visible. What must be the power of *that* "searchlight"?!

The beam of the "searchlight" next rose from the ground and centred on the aircraft. Now they observed a blinding white point of light surrounded by concentric coloured circles. The Captain was still hesitant whether to report. But then came something that put an end to his doubts. The white spot blazed up, and in its place... four or five words illegible on photostat copy. G.C.)

"It's switched on its engines, and it's racing", said the Second Pilot, unconsciously equating the phenomenon into the realms of the habitual life of airmen.

And it seemed to the Captain that the object was