

Readers' Reports

The alleged landing at Winkleigh

Dear Sir,—I am prompted to write following the letter from Mr. Richard Farrow in the eighth issue of *FSR Case Histories* concerning the alleged UFO landing at Winkleigh, Devon.

The BUFORA report referred to came into my hands in 1970 when I was editor of *Pegasus*, journal of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. It was passed to me for perusal by Omar Fowler, at that time BUFORA national investigations coordinator. He discovered it while cataloguing the reports in BUFORA's files.

I was particularly interested in the case and wrote to the witness for further details. I subsequently wrote a lengthy article on the case—which appeared in the May/June 1970 issue of *Pegasus*—based on the details contained in the BUFORA report and the answers obtained to my questions. My investigations turned up some extremely interesting further snippets of information which I feel readers should be aware of—particularly concerning the “forcefield” which apparently emanated from the UFO.

In a letter to me dated April 23, 1970, tanker driver Mr. J.P. (he wishes to remain anonymous, although I have his full name, address, and other biographical details) wrote saying that the forcefield “seemed to completely surround the object, and on trying to walk towards it, the feeling was like walking into an invisible air cushion resisting your movement. You could actually lean on it.”

After the UFO had taken off, Mr. J.P. was “able to walk with no difficulty to where it had been. The only indication of its presence was a black powder circle, approximately 50ft. in diameter. This black circle was very

faint and fine. It looked like burnt carbon. Naturally, I didn't touch to find out.”

Continued Mr. J.P. in the letter: “My personal feelings were one of intense relief at its departure. Mentally it felt as if a weight had been lifted from me, but physically I felt no pain, shock, tingling, loss of memory, or any other ill effect.”

On the day of the sighting Mr. J.P. was driving a milk tanker from Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, to Torrington, Devon. He went on to say in his letter that when he set out on the journey his watch had been correct. But when he arrived at the Torrington factory, “my watch was 20 minutes slow.”

The May 1957 UFO is the only one Mr. J.P. has ever seen. “This subject interests me and I only wish one knew what and who they are. There were no little green men or sign of human, or otherwise, life. Please, I am not a crank. The silence of its flying operation for a thing so large has never ceased to amaze me, as it appeared to be the size of a large submarine.”

Mr. J.P. believes many people saw the UFO in the air. At least one other person saw it on the runway. Apparently this other witness, like Mr. J.P., doesn't want any publicity either, and is reluctant to come forward. It was Mr. J.P.'s wife who suggested her husband should tell BUFORA of the sighting. “My wife rather forced the issue,” said the Somerset man.

After receiving the letter, I compiled a special questionnaire and sent it to Mr. J.P. He very kindly filled it in. Most of the questions concerned small points not mentioned in his original report. Mr. J.P. estimates the UFO was 150 yards from his lorry when he first saw it. In answer to another question, he says he was some 90

yards from the UFO when he came up against the forcefield, whereas in the BUFORA report he gives the figure 200 yards. This is the only discrepancy I have come across. But I don't think we should let this worry us too much. Indeed, it is very fortunate Mr. J.P. manages to remember so many of the details.

Mr. J.P. also said in his letter that at the time of the sighting the aerodrome was not used for anything. Now there is a saw-mill, a fuel dump for a farmers' depot, and a go-cart track.

Mr. J.P., who is married and lives in Yeovil, Somerset, says in the original BUFORA report form, completed on November 21, 1966, that the UFO was visible for “ten to fifteen minutes.” When accelerating away, the object moved in front of trees and a low hill, establishing without a doubt that it was definitely a physical thing. The UFO made no sound at any time while under observation.

Mr. J.P. said the metallic fluorescent blue UFO was “almost submarine-shaped, apart from the tail fins.” The edges of the UFO were sharply defined. He adds that when he first saw the object he was looking in a SW direction. When it moved off, it headed NW. The sky was clear at the time of the sighting, 4.50 a.m. one May morning. It was dry with a warm, light breeze.

Winkleigh, where the UFO was seen, is a small Devon village straddling the B3220 road. It is 23 miles from Exeter and approximately nine miles, as the crow flies, to Okehampton, where the “flying crosses” of 1967 were seen.

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We rely on our readers' recommendations, so . . .

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* and *FSR CASE HISTORIES*

At the same time **WE NEED YOUR REPORTS**: don't hesitate to write up, and submit, the details of any experience of your own, or of a friend or acquaintance; if you learn from a newspaper of an interesting incident in your neighbourhood try to arrange an interview with the witness(es) and send us a fully detailed report. Please remember to write on one side only of the paper and, if possible, to provide diagrams and sketches.

Andean Night of the Flying Saucers

This recent account, taken from the newspaper *Córdoba* (issue of December 31, 1972), published in the Argentinian city of the same name, has been translated, and submitted by our correspondent JANE THOMAS.

FOUR men from Córdoba, touring in the San Juan area of the Andes—due west of Córdoba—where there are rich deposits of uranium, have reported seeing a number of flying saucers. Señor Marcello Aballay, with companions named Martino, Larchner and Vignoli, saw the first one at 11.00 p.m. on December 23. They were at a place known as Baños de Huaco.

To start with, they observed a powerful fluorescent-white type of triangular light, 100 metres high, upon a rocky mountain face. It lit up the surroundings, showing everything more clearly even than daylight. A few minutes later, while they were still arguing as to whether the light they had seen could be man-made or natural, they saw a similar light towards the south, near where the road to Jáchal runs, at a height of some 300 metres or so. They heard a piercing cry, which sounded like a woman's, and instilled a certain degree of unease and fear in them.

This second light was visible a long time, and was clearly no automobile light.

The party prepared their blankets and bedding to sleep that night in an old abandoned inn. Sr. Aballay, who is a mining expert by profession—he was once a mica miner, and had his own mine at Cerro del Valle in the San Juan district—was lying on the earthen floor at a spot facing towards the West. Suddenly he felt a physical

state of malaise, seemingly due to waves of intense heat. This finally brought him wide awake, and, looking out, he was amazed to see small lights moving eastwards along the ravine towards where they were. These lights were coming at great speed, and in a zig-zag fashion, and seemed to be emitted from small round objects of the apparent size of a one-peso coin.

One of the lights passed by them at a distance of only one metre. Despite its high speed, instead of striking the wall of the inn, it zoomed upwards suddenly and vanished. Although there were a great number of these lights, not one of them hit the wall of the inn, or the adjacent trees.

Sr. Aballay jumped to his feet and called to the rest of the party, but seemingly none of them possessed the physical energy to wake up. Still shouting to arouse them to see the spectacle, he looked towards the South, and saw a saucer which he estimated to be about 6 or 8 metres wide. It was flying slowly, in an arrogant sort of fashion, towards the North.

By now his companions were staggering about, on their feet, all of them watching it in amazement until it disappeared over the crests. It was by then 5.00 a.m., and they tried to get some more sleep. Suddenly Vignoli gave the alarm, and pointed out three more saucers flying rapidly from SW to NE on precisely the same trajectory as the first one. The hindmost of these was

smaller than the other two. Suddenly they saw it perform a lateral swoop, accelerate, and pass the others at a fantastic speed, and then vanish over the horizon. Three minutes later another came over, flying high and fast, from South to North.

Sr. Aballay described the sight of these objects as a marvellous spectacle, far beyond anything man has achieved. He said also that they noted that the edges of the smaller discs were of a different colour from the central nucleus, and he likened this to the actual colour of radioactive minerals. He described it as an "uranian grass-green," quite different from the first saucer seen, which was of the colour of polished white hammered silver, with tiny, scarcely visible stars all over it, of a colour which he described as a "yellowish-pink." But at the centre of it there was a dark, embryonic-looking area. When the great UFO passed in front of a star, it veiled the light of the star without extinguishing it, so that the disc appeared transparent in the way that a cloud can be transparent. But when the central, or embryonic, part of the object passed in front of the star, then the light of the star was blotted out.

Not long afterwards, the four travellers met a local policeman riding his bicycle along one of the deserted roads. They asked him whether there had been any reports of flying saucers

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