

AN "ANGEL" IN EIRE

Landing at Blacksod, Co. Mayo

G. Toms

MY account is a composite one, being derived from what I heard from my father-in-law, and from written answers via a neighbour who tried to find out more from him. Unfortunately my father-in-law cannot write his own account, because he is now in his late 80s and has arthritis in his hands.

My wife and I first heard of the event in March, 1974, when we were in Eire for his wife's funeral, and with the general upset we took little notice as we thought he had been imagining things the night before. When we visited him the next time, in July, the story was still the same, but we discovered that it occurred during February, well before the upsets. After discussing it with a neighbour of his, we eventually came to the conclusion he had seen a UFO. On returning to England, I went to the local library and tried through books to find someone whom I could contact on the matter. After writing to a book publisher and getting nowhere, I eventually went back to the library and as a result wrote to FSR, admittedly in rather a bitter mood. My problem was one of not knowing who would be interested.

The Blacksod landing

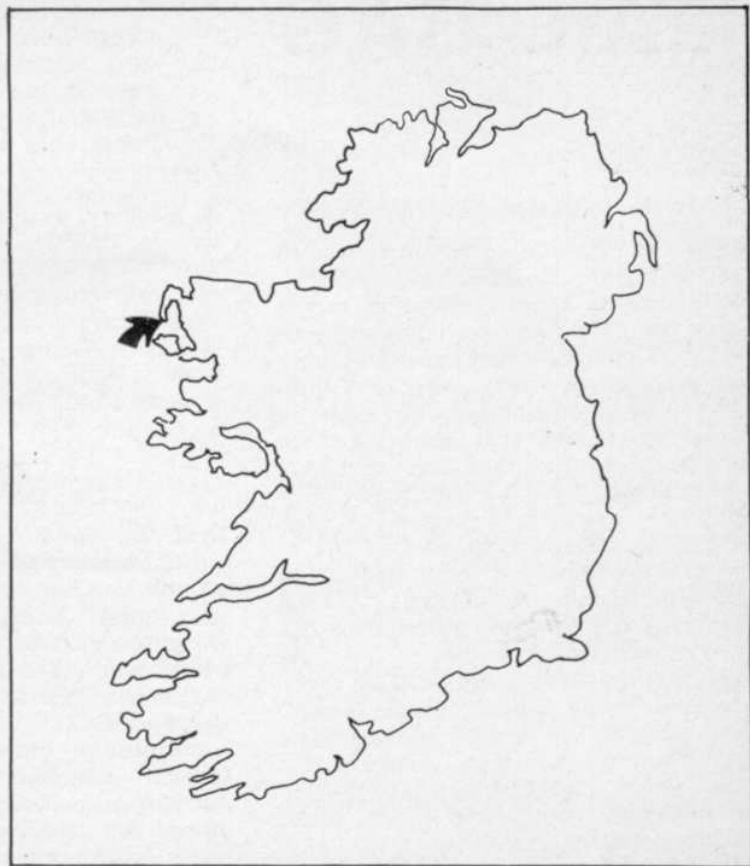
The occurrence took place at Blacksod, on the southern tip of the Mullet peninsular, on the West coast of County Mayo. It happened one evening, at 8.00 p.m. early in February, 1974.

My father-in-law had retired to bed early because of a power cut in the area. He fell asleep and was later awoken by a brilliant white light which lit up the whole room and which originated from outside. In the bedroom stood a man in white robes (with possibly some smaller persons around him). Naturally he was alarmed at what he saw and became distressed. The man then just faded away and a few seconds later my father-in-law got out of bed. On his way to the window he saw an object outside (the curtains were open — a local habit).

On closer inspection, he said that the object was glowing white and lit up the outside area. It looked like a large caravan or bus and had large wheels on it. Small people appeared to be inside. At this moment it started to rise slowly in an easterly direction, and without any noise whatsoever, disappeared into the clouds.

Comments

The above account is as factual as possible, without any comment or offered explanation. Points to note are that there was a power cut at the time, yet the area near the house was illuminated. The man in the room never gestured or spoke, nor was he seen to enter the object. The space outside where it landed was restricted, inasmuch as there is an uneven



The arrow indicates site of Blacksod Village, at the extreme tip of the Mullet peninsular

slope with a wall across it, which is very close to the house, and a small stable.

The following day an inspection by my father-in-law and a neighbour revealed no evidence of any sort that there had been a landing. No other person in the district saw anything, and to a large extent did not believe *he* did. But the aforementioned neighbour does believe him.

I have discounted the Irish Lights helicopter as a possible explanation on several counts: lack of noise, lack of space, and helicopters do not generate light. The lighthouse in the district is over a mile away at least.

Obtaining further information is somewhat difficult as he now refuses to talk about his experience, preferring to forget the whole thing. This is partly because few persons would take him seriously, and partly to preserve his peace of mind which for several months afterwards was somewhat disturbed.

My father-in-law is a retired farmer, and unfortunately was the only witness. Reactions from friends and neighbours were, and still are, of ridicule, that is except for the neighbour already mentioned and she believes, as I do, that he saw something. No unusual effects at any time seem to have taken place, except alarm and eventual frustration.

Psychic impressions? He is convinced that he had seen an angel, nothing else, and has been quite adamant about that. No change in personality has taken place, and his health is quite normal, bearing in mind his age. My own conclusion is that it could have been a UFO, but I lack the knowledge of such matters.

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.

On the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

Dear Sir,—As a kind of postscript to my last letter [in FSR Vol.20, No.3—ED], may I express my most recent view on the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

That view is based on the opinion of most astronomers, who now think that many civilisations do exist in outer space, and that many of them are more advanced than ours.

I think that the advanced civilisations have developed high scientific achievements.

I think that the most flourishing galactic science is ufology. Among those ufologists who subscribe to the extraterrestrial hypothesis the big question is: "Where the devil do these damned flying saucers come from?" The rational and sensible answer given in response to that question by responsible extraterrestrial ufologists is that they come from outer space.

Yours sincerely,

Aimé Michel

Alpes de Haute Provence,
France.

October 4, 1974

Spiritualists and UFO experiences

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read in the lead article "Behind the Times" in the latest issue of FSR [Vol.20, No.2] the mention of a possibility that some UFO manifestations might be produced non-physically "and maybe even with psychic overtones." In my opinion, the inclusion of the whole field of Psychics in UFO investigation might open a very promising area — once one forgets the flippant attitude to Spiritualism and allied subjects — sometimes described in the U.S. as "psycho-ceramics," i.e. crackpot theories.

In this connection it may interest you to know that many Spiritualists — rather like Dr. Puharich — have had UFO experiences. For instance, Peggy Mason, a prominent Spiritualist writer, described one of such experiences in a recent article in "Two Worlds," a British Spiritualist magazine edited by Maurice Barbanell. It would perhaps be worth while to contact Miss Mason and interview her about it. The sighting which Miss Mason described occurred in broad daylight — presumably in the vicinity of her own home.

We all agree that keeping "an open mind" — a semantic abstraction and psychological impossibility — is a very important condition in the entire field

of Ufology, and I strongly feel that serious Psychical Researchers should not be excluded as reliable witnesses and co-investigators.

Very sincerely yours,

George St. George

Vanves, France.

January 13, 1975

The vanishing tapes

Dear Sir,—Two items in Vol.20, No.2 struck me, wondering whether there is some link. Firstly, the disappearance of taped interviews in Gordon Creighton's article on the French radio broadcasts, then your own article commenting on Dr. Andrija Puharich, author of "Uri."

Vanishing tapes are apparently a fairly common experience in Puharich's experience, if one is to accept the truth of his book. Was there, in fact, a burglary in the ORTF office, or did the tapes just 'disappear'? I for one would be interested to know a little more of the circumstances of the alleged theft — was nothing else at all taken, was there evidence of a broken lock or something else physical to point to a conventional happening?

Perhaps I am barking up the wrong tree, but if not we may have before us yet another strange facet of the enigma, and a warning to beware of taped records with relation to UFOs, etc., without secondary backing notes — at least until someone goes to his carefully filled notebook and finds the pages blank . . .

Yours sincerely,

G.W. Holman

36 Freshfield Bank

Forest Row, Sussex.

December 27, 1974.

The Vienna Woods sketches

Dear Sir,—For the sake of the record I have to answer Mr. Gordon Creighton's letter published in FSR Vol.20, No.2. Mr. Creighton found it suspicious that the Hering sketch given in our report "New Tales from the Vienna Woods" is "entirely different" from the sketch depicting the object in "World Round-Up" (FSR Vol.19, No.5). In fact there is no reason to be doubtful about Mr. Hering's testimony and sketches.

In our investigation Mr. Hering told us that the sketch he produced for the popular paper *Kurier* and it's

highly erroneous report, which was the primary source of information for Mr. Ludwig Hanemann, Germany, shows only a *hypothetical cross-section* of the object, not the right impression he had when looking into the sky at the object's upper side. When asked to leave hypothesis out of the question, Mr. Hering drew the sketch which is given in our report. Hoping the mystery is solved now,

Yours sincerely,

Ernst Berger

A-1094 Vienna

A matter of control?

Dear Sir,—I find the current issue of FSR (Vol.20, No.2) very fascinating, especially your own article about "Uri," and Gordon Creighton's articles "Curiouser and Curiouser," and the one about cosmic zoology, which was both eminently sensible and a real scream. It is helpful to keep a sense of humour in the matter of ufology otherwise we could all be oppressed with it.

As regards any hair-brained plan to docket the ufonauts, my guess is the boot is on the other foot.

Those three words with a paragraph to themselves at the end of your "Notes on Uri..." might baffle some people. Yet here is a very deep question. It is feasible that the same unseen intelligence may sometimes appear to wreak evil and at other times good. Though I must own that our own concept of good and evil might sometimes be inaccurate. For instance, a Government or a private army might be dedicated to the project of euthanasia for the long-term unemployed, being a sound economic plan devised in the national interest. The vast majority of people would deem it good; only a small minority, including the victims and their loyal relatives, would think it bad. Advanced intelligence, however, might consider it bestial.

I haven't yet read Dr. Puharich's book but have recommended it at the local library. I am hoping to read a description of the appearance of these cosmic beings from an extra-galactic planet. If they stay here, they must at times assume some form, one would think.

Personally I think that advanced intelligence lives very close to us. Its control over matter is probably near-perfect. Whether in the long term it