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DECEIT AND CONFUSION

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TUCKED away in the *Mail Bag* column of this issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there is an interesting letter which came to us on Center for UFO Studies notepaper, signed by Dr. Willy Smith. In his letter Dr. Smith dismembers, with clinical precision, the account of the UFO event which Walter Rizzi claimed to have experienced, and which was described in his article "Close Encounter in the Dolomites" in our issue Volume 26, No. 3. We are not surprised that Dr. Smith should feel the urge to do this, and we suspect that everything he writes is perfectly true and reasonable, for after all, there are many things about the story that stick instantly in the "respectable" craw,

However, there have been many details contained in hundreds of CE3 reports that have disturbed respectable investigators, researchers and readers over the years, and these reports, with their bizarre elements, keep on turning up. We are plying with variations of cock-eyed astronomical, physical, chemical, mathematical and historical "facts" that recur to such an extent that we are forced to wonder whether or not there may be something of importance buried in the rubbish, a "signal hidden in the noise."

That signal, in the belief of many researchers, is that a campaign of deception has been undertaken by whoever, or whatever controls the UFO phenomenon, be they extraterrestrial astronauts, earth-bound elemental beings, ultra-terrestrial denizens of a parallel universe, or Old Nick (Satan or Ahriman) himself. The purpose of that campaign being to spread confusion, and to construct pitfalls for the unwary — all for purposes best known to the perpetrators.

Perhaps the most common pitfall is that which encourages a too-ready assumption that we are somehow involved with a "nuts and bolts" extraterrestrial surveillance of our planet, and that the UFOs are manned, or controlled, by extraterrestrial "opposite numbers" of Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Yuri Gagarin, to name but a few.

Yet whenever the visitors conduct their clandestine meetings with assorted humans, perhaps at the summit of an Alpine pass, or by the side of a Venezuelan ranch, or half way across a remote field being ploughed by a backwoods Brazilian farmer, or in the picnic ground of a New England nature park, and there pass on their dubious information and gibberish messages to the humans, and sometimes subject them to incredible medical examinations, etc., the more vocal of the bemused witnesses reveal it all to the waiting world. And when that happens they find that very few people believe them. For one thing, Armstrong, Glenn, Gagarin and company wouldn't behave like that, and for another they would be correct with their astronomical and scientific information. True extraterrestrial operators would be expected to act likewise, so when the data is false, then it must be the human witnesses who have either got it all wrong, or are hoaxing the respectable guys!

To return to Mr. Rizzi, whose story seems to be par for the contactee course, we think it more likely that he *did have* a most unusual experience up in the Dolomites, but that it was he who was probably hoaxed. If that were so, then it would not surprise us that the details he has quoted are false, and we suspect

that, like others before him, he may have embroidered his story here and there (such as the nonsense about the plants passing through American Customs). Experienced researchers are well aware of facts like these. As for the building in the photograph, could it not be a shelter, a shrine or a cattle byre? We certainly do not think it is the "clinch" proposed by our correspondent.

It is not surprising that some researchers despair of the extraterrestrial idea, for in all conscience a properly conducted surveillance, with landings, should not take as long as 34 years (since 1947) to organise — or probably longer, for we are thinking only in terms of modern publicity for the UFO phenomenon. The problem becomes even more acute if one takes note of Aimé Michel's suggestion that UFOs and their controllers may well have been around in Upper Palaeolithic times, as long as 15,000 or 20,000 years ago* — and no doubt exposing Magdalenian Man to doses of "cosmic kidology."

Readers should not deduce from this article that FSR has discarded the extraterrestrial idea. To do so would be unwise for many reasons, not the least of which are, first, that there is little proof that the alternatives are any more valid; secondly, that we and the alien interlopers could well be existing on different time scales; thirdly, that there could well be more than one group of alien beings which is interested in our future. If our speculations are near the mark, and there are such beings — some of whom could

be mimicking others — then their need to keep us confused, controlled and off the scent, would be understandable.

* * *

It is interesting to have confirmed, in an article by Nikita Schnee (see page 00), that strange close encounters of the "unbelievable" kind are also reported in the Soviet Union. A delightful picture is conjured up of the officer witness who, desperate to avoid having his memory of the encounter erased, resorts to the demon drink to try to solve his problem. In the end — no doubt unintentionally in the way it happened — he succeeds in confusing both his own "pulses" and, to a degree, the confabulators in their purpose. If the story is to be believed, then the aliens must have known what was going on in their abductee's mind, but the inference we draw is that they could do nothing about the effects of the booze.

This Russian account is as weirdly bizarre as most of its kind from elsewhere in the world, and the only comment we can make is a suggestion that our Russian colleagues will surely come round to being a little more cautious in their reactions to the things that the entities are said to tell the contactees about having come from distant star systems, or from remote galaxies, and so on.

* See Michel, A: "Palaeolithic UFO-shapes" in FSR Vol. 15, No. 6 (November-December 1969).

UNDER INTELLIGENT CONTROL?

When a UFO "paced" an ambulance in Northern Poland — and obstructed the road.

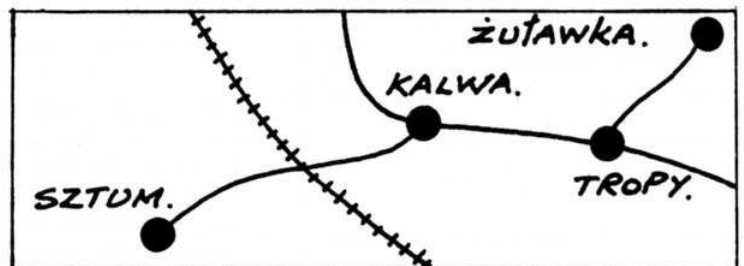
Emma Popik

Our contributor, who lives in Gdańsk, sent her article directly to *Flying Saucer Review*. She is also MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, Inc.) representative in Poland.

BEFORE we start, let us take a quick look at the road map. To the South East of Gdańsk, Poland's major port on the Baltic Sea, there lies the small town of Sztum. The action to be described took place along the roads between the village of Zulawka and Sztum. I was glad to have the opportunity of investigating this close encounter.

On September 5, 1980 at 3.15 a.m., the telephone rang in the first-aid department of the hospital at Sztum. An ambulance set off quickly in response to the call. Its destination, the village of Zulawka, where a confined woman, Mrs. Elzbieta Pluta, aged 25, was waiting. Aboard the ambulance were Dr. Barbara Piazza, Grzegorz Skoczynski the driver, and stretcher bearer Andrzej Olejuik. None of them expected they would be watching a red UFO from about 3.40 a.m. until 4.15 a.m.

At about 3.30 a.m. they were on their way back to hospital. Elzbieta Pluta was comfortable, sitting, not lying — which means there was still a little time. She had pains every ten minutes.



Suddenly Dr. Piazza noticed a big red ball in the sky, some distance from them. She asked: "What would that be?"

"The notorious UFO," volunteered one of the others, and they all burst out laughing. . . who believes in such things? UFOs only appear on the front pages of the evening papers!

At that point the time was about 3.35 a.m., and the