

THE GREAT CULTURES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD AND THE WORK OF ZECHARIA SITCHIN

By Martin Burgess FIIC, FSA, FBHI, FSR Consultant

UFOLOGISTS everywhere are given to a great deal of speculation. This is not to be wondered at, because there is so little really hard information unless we are lucky enough (or unlucky enough) to have experienced a close encounter. Even then, what we know, or think we know, will depend on belief. No one is motivated by the truth, only by what they believe to be the truth. This belief is coloured and structured by the general climate of belief with which each one of us is surrounded in the culture we happen to live in. We in the West happen to live, at least in the developed world, in a scientific and technological age where a fact that can be shown to be true by a repeatable experiment is regarded as more 'true', and therefore more important than other sorts of truth. However, very few of us are in a position to repeat even one of the great experiments which have structured the modern world. We have to take the scientists' words and writings on trust even if their conclusions are wrong.

UFOS Not "New"

Most Ufologists appear to be working on the study of a subject which has no proper roots. There is a general feeling that 'it all started in 1947'. There are very few serious subjects which have no past like this. The history of science and technology and the history of mankind can be traced back and back and if we bother to study these things we can see which event led to what, step by step. We cannot even speculate properly about where we might be going if we don't know where we came from. The past always governs the future.

It is true that there are reported 'sightings' in the Middle Ages, a most unreliable period because it was a time when 'belief' was given more weight than 'fact'. Many 'visions' may have, in fact, been UFO visitations.

The Legacies of the Past

However, if we go back much further in time, before the world of Greece and Rome and look at what we have inherited from the Ancient Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Sumerians, we find a wealth of material. It is not only or even mainly the archaeological artifacts but the huge libraries of written material which have survived. Much more would have survived if the ignorant and the bigots had not burned the great library of Alexandria which must have contained the whole written knowledge of the ancient world. Scholars could read it now.

There is a catch in all this. Just as we can't repeat the great experiments of the scientists, so we can't check the translations of the scholars for we ourselves cannot read Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Babylonian Cuneiform, Ancient Hebrew, Sumerian Pictograms. Even if we could read these writings we would need to know the context. Translation is always

doubtful because it depends on the knowledge of the translator as well as the writer. The ancient writer may not know the full meaning of what he is describing. Just you try translating this simple English statement into any other language. "The depth of the engagement of the teeth with the pallet depends on the height of the cock."

The ancients did not always have a word for things of advanced science or technology from a different culture. The same is true today. Walk behind a pair of students of engineering from the Indian Sub-continent and you will hear a lot of English loan words. The same was true of the army of scribes who made the great clay tablet library of King Ashurbanipal in Nineveh. They used a lot of Sumerian loan words which had no root meaning in their own language when they were dealing with subjects like mathematics and astronomy because the Sumerians knew more about these subjects than they did. Sumer was the first really advanced civilization that we know of, starting some time between 4,000 and 3,800 B.C. Some branches of knowledge were not a progress upwards but a regress downwards. **This is because the Sumerians did not obtain their knowledge by observation and experiment as our own culture has done, but got it as 'given knowledge' direct from people whom they called their 'gods'.** The same is true of certain cultures in remote parts of the world today. An advanced technology imposed from outside will, if left to itself with no further back-up, gradually decline because it has no roots.

The Modern Translators

Most of these many thousands of written texts were found by archaeologists in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It took armies of scholars whole lifetimes to translate and then attempt to make sense of what had been found. The work of understanding these priceless treasures still goes on but these scholars could not be expected to understand knowledge which they did not themselves possess. This situation is made worse by the fact that modern man still thinks that the progress of man has been ever upwards and that people in the past were always more ignorant than we are now. How could the scholars translate something as a real flying machine of very advanced type when they had not even seen an aeroplane? How could they be expected to translate correctly the names of the planets from the Sumerian when Neptune had only just been discovered and Pluto had not yet been seen and would not be seen until 1930?

History needs to be constantly updated in the light of what each age knows. What was needed was the intensive work of a dedicated scholar who would be prepared to look again at all these old texts and the translations of these texts to make a theory which would fit all the old stories. He would have to have a totally open mind and be outside the academic estab-

lishment. No research worker inside that establishment can stick his neck out too far or publish any way-out theories if he is not to be totally discredited in the eyes of his colleagues. No expert likes to be told that what he has always believed is wrong; it is much too uncomfortable. Even good scientists are only human after all. *However, the scholar who was required for this great new study was at hand. His name is Zecharia Sitchin.*

Zecharia Sitchin

Zecharia Sitchin was born in Russia, brought up in Palestine and now lives in the U.S.A. He tells us how his great study started. When he was a young school-boy his class was studying the *Book of Genesis* in the original Hebrew. In our 1611 A.D. version Ch.6 v.4 reads "*There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children unto them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown*". This verse bristles with problems but the point here is that the word for "giants" is in the text *Nefilim*. Sitchin's teacher explained that this word should be translated 'giants'. Sitchin objected; surely the root meaning of *Nefilim* was "*those who were cast down*" (*those who from Heaven to Earth came down*). Sitchin tells us he was reproved and told that he must accept the traditional translation. Sometimes little acorns grow into great oak trees. Most of us accept what we are told, especially when we are very young, but look at any of the great thinkers and research workers of history who have changed our view of the world and our place in it and you will find someone who simply would not accept the status quo but worked unstintingly to find out the truth or to make changes.

The Nefilim

Who *were* the *Nefilim*? If they really came down to Earth from the Heavens then where, exactly did they come from? Sitchin spent many years learning the archaeology and history and languages of the ancient Near East, the Hebrews, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Ancient Egyptians, the Sumerians.

In the past, writing and reading were difficult and were limited to a few specially trained people, the scribes; we have to accept that they thought, at least, that they were writing down the truth. When an archaeologist finds an object he does not understand he often states that it is a cult object of ritual use, something to do with a religion. This tells us nothing. It is like a doctor finding a nice long name for a disease. It does nothing to cure the disease. Scholars always regarded many of the old stories as myths, products of a culture's imagination. Once you do that, all chance of looking for the truth behind the story is lost. Sitchin started out by accepting the stories as true or at least the end-product of something which had once really happened. What did the ancient writers actually say? What does that mean for us? The end-product of Sitchin's lifetime of dedicated work is as convincing as it is shattering to our beliefs. It would not be so shattering if we had taken the *Old Testament* more seriously and not regarded most of it as myth. But often the original writers themselves did not know what lay behind the stories, for they had obtained these from other much older cultures. This may make me sound like a religious fundamentalist. Nothing could be further from the truth! All these old

writings are the word of stupid man, none of it is the word of any god or gods!

Sitchin's Three Books

Zecharia Sitchin has written five books which as a group he calls "*The Earth Chronicles*". The first book is "*The Twelfth Planet*" and it was published in 1976. It is a long book but quite an easy read, considering the great complexity of the subject and the total freshness of the conclusions he comes to. It has very many illustrations to support the text. Sitchin tells us how and when modern man first discovered the sites and civilizations of the ancient Near East. It is a wonderful introduction to these early cultures. I found this part fascinating because, for 10 years, in the 1950s, I restored Ancient Egyptian Antiquities for University College, London. I had had close contact with archaeologists and knew how they thought and worked. I also knew that there were basic problems, areas of ignorance, questions for which no one had a proper answer.

The Twelfth Planet

"*The Twelfth Planet*" has four basic stories to tell derived from the old texts. 1. The formation of the Solar System. 2. The arrival on Earth of a group of pioneers from their home planet which the Sumerians called *Nibiru*. 3. The creation of *Homo Sapiens* from the higher apes. 4. The sweeping away of the first bases of the *Nefilim* by a great flood which wiped out most of mankind in the area in about 11,000 B.C. Sitchin does very little in the way of 'jumping to conclusions'. The whole work is backed by a mass of texts from different cultures and very many illustrations. The truth of it is also confirmed by modern science in many instances, and some statements have been shown to be true by scientific research done since the book was published. We therefore need to pay attention to what Sitchin has to tell us.

Creation of Our Solar System

1. Astronomers have produced several theories about the formation of the Solar System. The ancient scribes wrote down a lovely story about it which is just as likely to be correct. The World was not created in 6 days. The whole point is that the story is always found inscribed on 6 tablets. The story gives the names of gods to the members of the Solar System, so the tale is anthropomorphic, but *our* names for the planets are also the names of gods so this should not bother us. When the Solar System was very young and the planets were still in a plastic state, *Pluto* was a satellite of *Saturn*, *Earth* had not yet been 'created', and there was another large planet called *Tiamat* with an orbit between *Jupiter* and *Mars*. *Tiamat* had a satellite which later became our *Moon*. The planets were revolving round the Sun anticlockwise when seen from the North, just as they do now. Into the system from deep space came a large body. It had a retrograde path, opposite to the other planets. The gravity of *Neptune* bent its path inwards towards the Sun. Its satellites collided with *Tiamat* smashing it in two. Half was shunted closer to the Sun and became *Earth*. *Earth* took *Moon* with it into the new orbit. The other half of *Tiamat* was smashed to pieces and became '*the hammered Heaven*', the asteroid belt. The invasive planet was now locked into a long narrow orbit round the Sun, and at perihelion it passed through the asteroid belt between *Mars* and *Jupiter* crossing the orbits

of the outer planets and probably disturbing the orbits of some asteroids at each pass. The Sumerians called it "Nibiru" because *Nibiru* means "crossing" in Sumerian. *Nibiru* also shifted *Pluto* away from *Saturn* into the somewhat eccentric orbit it now has.

This story explains many things which have puzzled astronomers. Could any of it be true, and if true, how did the Sumerians know about it? They tell us that they knew because their 'gods' told them. Science also tends to confirm it on several points. I will give you one example, Sitchin could not tell us in 1976 because no one knew then. On p.243 of "*The Twelfth Planet*" he writes the following:— "Next to Shupa was IRU ("loop"). At *Neptune*, the spacecraft of the *Nefilim* probably commenced its wide curve or "loop" towards its final target. Another list named the planet HUM.BA, which connotes "swampland vegetation". When we probe *Neptune* some day, will we discover that its persistent association with waters is due to the watery swamps the *Nefilim* saw upon it?"

This paragraph stuck out like a sore thumb when I first read it in 1976. *Neptune* is much too far from the Sun for there to be any liquid water there and as for vegetation it would be much too cold even 445,000 years ago when the *Nefilim* were supposed to have passed it for the first time. The Sun might have been much hotter in the distant past. In 1989 an American probe made a good close pass to *Neptune* and sent back more information than modern man has ever had before! There is a lot of water there, but it is deep frozen ice. There is also a lot of methane! Methane is the product of rotting vegetation in swamps! We had better listen to the ancient scribes more carefully.

If *Nibiru*, which was supposed to be large and bright, still exists, why don't we see it? We don't see it because its orbit is very long and narrow like that of a comet, and it only spends a short time near the Sun every 3,600 years. If Sitchin's chronology is accepted it was last here in 200 B.C., so though it is on its way back it will still be a very long way away. We might be able to observe it with our most powerful telescopes. The new infra-red telescopes should be able to find it if only astronomers knew in which direction to look. The looking would have to be over an extended period, because movement would need to be seen against the background of 'fixed' stars and since *Nibiru*, if it exists, will be heading almost directly towards us, it will be very difficult to spot. NASA recently announced that they are sure there IS another planet, and that it is 5 times the weight of Earth. When it is found, if it has an orbit like the one stated by the texts, let us hope astronomers will stop calling it "planet X" and give it its right Sumerian name, *NIBIRU*, the planet of crossing. Comments on the chronology and the chances of there being any life on *Nibiru* will follow in a later article.

The Arrival of Beings from Nibiru

2. 445,000 years ago a group of *Nibiruans* was sent to form a base on Planet Earth. They looked rather like us because, so the stories say, we were made to look rather like them. Later they might be regarded as gods, but there was nothing spiritual about them, they were physical just like any other animal. They were sent to get gold for technical purposes back on *Nibiru*. Gold is not a very common element, and there is rather a lot of it in certain parts of Planet Earth. There were two lots of *Nibiruans*, the *Nefilim* ("those who came down") and the *Igigi* who manned a large station in Earth orbit and did not 'come down'. The Earth

station or base was established at what is now the head of the Persian Gulf. Here there was a good supply of hydrocarbons near the surface, for fuel, and a good sea lane to the gold mines which would be established in southern Africa. Sitchin makes it clear that the *Nefilim* laid out the landing place with great precision and with approach-beacons. He even shows a circular clay tablet, which must be a copy of something much older, which has defeated scholars who tried to understand its meaning. If the words on the diagrammatic representation are translated back into Sumerian, what comes out is an instruction for landing on Planet Earth. There is much that early man wrote about, especially as regards astronomy, which they could not have known if the *Nefilim* had not told them about it. For instance, they called Earth "No.7", Mars "No.6" and so on. This can only be true if all the planets we know about are counted from the outside as the Solar System is approached. *Nibiru* was the 'great number', it was "No.12". They counted the *Moon* because *Moon*, they said, was never part of Earth. Recent visits to the *Moon* and samples brought back from there have shown this to be true. Sitchin tells us that the Sumerian texts indicate that *Nibiru* comes into the Solar System from the south. The hunt for "Planet X" has started, and the astronomers are looking for it from *New Zealand*, based on NASA calculations.

The Creation of Human Workers

3. There were not very many *Nefilim* on Earth to start with, only about 600. This was far too few to do all the work which was required, especially the hard, difficult and dangerous work in the mines, however advanced the equipment might be. There was plenty of time. The life of the *Nibiruans* was very long. Compared with it the life of any man is a mere flash in the pan. "A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday" etc. Your dog and your cat probably think you are immortal, if they think about it at all.

300,000 years ago, so the stories tell us, the *Anunnaki* ("the junior Gods"), working in the mines, went on strike. The work was too dangerous and too hard. "Make for us", they said, "a primitive worker, obedient enough to take orders, clever enough to do the work," So they took the advanced apes from the jungle, and changed them by genetic manipulation, adding some of their own genetic material and possibly some material from other sources as well. It was very difficult to do, but the *Nibiruans* managed it in the end. What they produced was not ape, and not themselves, and it was very short-lived. One word for the new animal was 'lulu' which means "mixed". So when someone tells you that you are 'mixed up' that is exactly right, we all are, who now in our gross pride and self-satisfaction call ourselves "*Homo Sapiens*". There is not very much "*sapiens*" about man, but then there did not need to be. To make the new animal too clever might be dangerous, but to start with there was little risk because the creature was a mixture like a mule, and could not reproduce itself. However, hundreds of the new slaves were required and they could only be produced by implantation: this much the ancient texts make quite clear. Then *Enki* (the *Nibiruan* in charge of the mines) did something extremely dangerous, which all the other *Nibiruans* must have condemned. He gave the creature another genetic twist so that it could manufacture itself, it could reproduce. This is where our Biblical story of *Adam* and *Eve* comes from, in a very late and changed form. The 'knowing' they acquired was the Biblical 'knowing', sexual intercourse

to produce children. What about the *Serpent*? Over and over again, on the old illustrations, the sign for *Enki* is a snake. This is only too natural, because the jungles of southern Africa is where the snakes are. 300,000 years ago seems very recent, much too recent for the evolution of modern man. Recent genetic studies of *Homo Sapiens*, done long after "*The Twelfth Planet*" was published, suggest that (a) man starts in southern Africa; (b) all man springs from the eggs of one female; (c) man is not older than 250,000 years. Once again modern science appears to confirm rather than contradict the old stories.

As soon as man could reproduce, he started to do that, fast; he is still at it. Short life and disease and famine and war did little to hold back the numbers, they still don't. No doubt some of the slaves escaped back into the bush, but all the old stories tell of how the younger *Nefilim* got offspring with the female humans in their charge. There may not have been enough female *Nefilim* on Earth. It must have been an alarming muddle.

The Great Flood

4. All the old stories from the ancient Near East speak of a great flood. It swept away the bases of the *Nefilim*, built up with so much toil over thousands of years. It is the great event which marks the end of the old epoch, and the start of the new. *Sitchin gives as a cause the slippage of all or part of the South Polar Ice Cap into the sea. This is not his theory but is based on a great body of scientific work. Certainly the last Ice Age came to a rather abrupt end in the Southern Hemisphere about 13,000 years ago. Recent drillings through the South Polar Ice Cap have found no ice older than about 10,000 B.C.* Something felled the oaks in East Anglia all in one direction and something swept up the herds of mammoth into islands of bones north of Siberia all at about the same time. Sitchin thinks that when the ice cap became unstable, because of weight and pressure and the heat of the planet trapped beneath it, a close approach of *Nibiru* was enough to set it moving. The influence of *Nibiru* on the other planets will depend on where each is in its orbit at the time.

A Normal, Periodic Event

If such a thing really happened is there any evidence that it is a normal event on Planet Earth! How many of you were taught that coal was formed from the rotted vegetation deposited under primaevial jungles over periods of millions of years? This simply cannot be the whole truth. A modern tropical jungle does not grow on a huge base of compost. All the energy of the system is in the air. The floor of the jungle is only a few feet thick. That is why, when a tropical jungle is felled, the little fertile soil is soon washed away by the rain. The thickest coal seams are over 50 ft. thick! There are fossil tree trunks upside down in them. There are inclusions of sand and mud with shoals of fossil fish swimming upright. To make a seam over 50 ft. thick requires a deposit of vegetable rubbish over 6,000 ft. thick. No jungle ever grew on the top of such a deposit. NO! These huge masses of compost were made by sweeping up whole jungles all at once and depositing the material in oceans. *Very bad things happened to Planet Earth in the past. They will happen again some day. We do not live in a safe place. The great flood was just the last big event, that is all. Mass extinctions have taken place, huge asteroids have impacted on us, and lava flows have blotted out whole continents. These are quiet times, but it will not always be so.*

Once again, the oldest stories of the flood are much more informative and far more easy to understand as real events than the late *Noah* story we have in the Bible. The Sumerians called him *Ziusudra*, in Akkadian he is *Utnapishtim*, in Hebrew he is *Noah* but it is all the same chosen man. The great strength of the early story is that the gods did not create the flood. They could forecast it but they could not prevent it. They did not plot to wipe Man out, they were just not going to tell him what was going to happen. They could not save him anyway. It was important that he should not know, the knowledge would have done him no good.

Ziusudra's boat was not an open boat, it was covered over and sealed so that it would not be swamped. He did not take only his own family, he took all the craftsmen who had built the boat and no doubt their wives and families as well. The story has him standing on the dockside waiting to feel the vibrations and see the fires as the *Nefilim* took off in their rocket ships before he went aboard and battered down the hatches. Someone had provided him with a navigator so that the eventual landing on *Mount Ararat* was not chance.

After the flood mankind started to become herds-men and farmers. The *Nefilim* took a hand in this, for the stories tell us that useful plants and animals were 'manufactured' in the heavens and then 'lowered to earth'. Science tends to confirm this. For instance, Sitchin tells us, *spelt* (an early form of hard-grained wheat) is a mixture of botanic genes which could not have occurred by evolution, could not have occurred by mutation, and could not have been produced by selective breeding. It could have been produced only by genetic manipulation in a laboratory. Man was being upgraded.

One orbit of *Nibiru* later saw the next advance, with the start of the Neolithic and the invention of pottery. One orbit later still saw the beginning of the great Sumerian civilization to which we owe so much. It really is fantastic how very far advanced these people were, not only in knowledge but in humanitarian concepts some of which have not been bettered, even today.

Sitchin's Other Books

I hope this very brief outline of the first book will encourage you to OBTAIN and read Zecharia Sitchin's "*Earth Chronicles*" ("*The Stairway to Heaven*" and "*The Wars of Gods and Men*" are the next two books.)

These three books are now in paperback and are published by Avon in the U.S.A. Few bookshops in the U.K. stock them, but I suggest you order them from "Specialist Knowledge Services", St. Aldhelm, 20 Paul St., Frome, Somerset, BA11 1DX. There is a lot of food for thought in these books, and they are not expensive.

In a future article I will say something about the next two books, and I will try to say something about what the whole work might mean for us now. We don't have to wait for the "visitors" to tell us a lot of lies. Lies are believed only by the ignorant. We can study our own past, as far as we can understand it, from our own written history and then draw our own conclusions from that! It is a much more reliable way for moving our thinking forward!

Just after he had sent me this article, Mr Burgess informed me that Sitchin's fourth and fifth books are now out, also published by Avon. The fourth is "THE LOST REALMS", and it deals with the rise of the pre-

Columbian civilizations of the Americas. The fifth is "GENESIS REVISITED", and it sounds as though it is very important!

MULTIPLE "GROUND-AND-AIR-RINGS": A PHENOMENON DISCOVERED IN AUSTRALIA

(© 1990 V.U.F.O.R.S.)

By John Auchettl

(LIBRARIAN, V.U.F.O.R.S.)

[We acknowledge with many thanks the special permission granted to us by our Australian Consultant Mr Paul Norman (who is also Vice-President of V.U.F.O.R.S., The Victorian UFO Research Society, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189) to reproduce this extremely important article by John Auchettl, which appeared in the September 1990 issue of their Journal, THE AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN.] — EDITOR

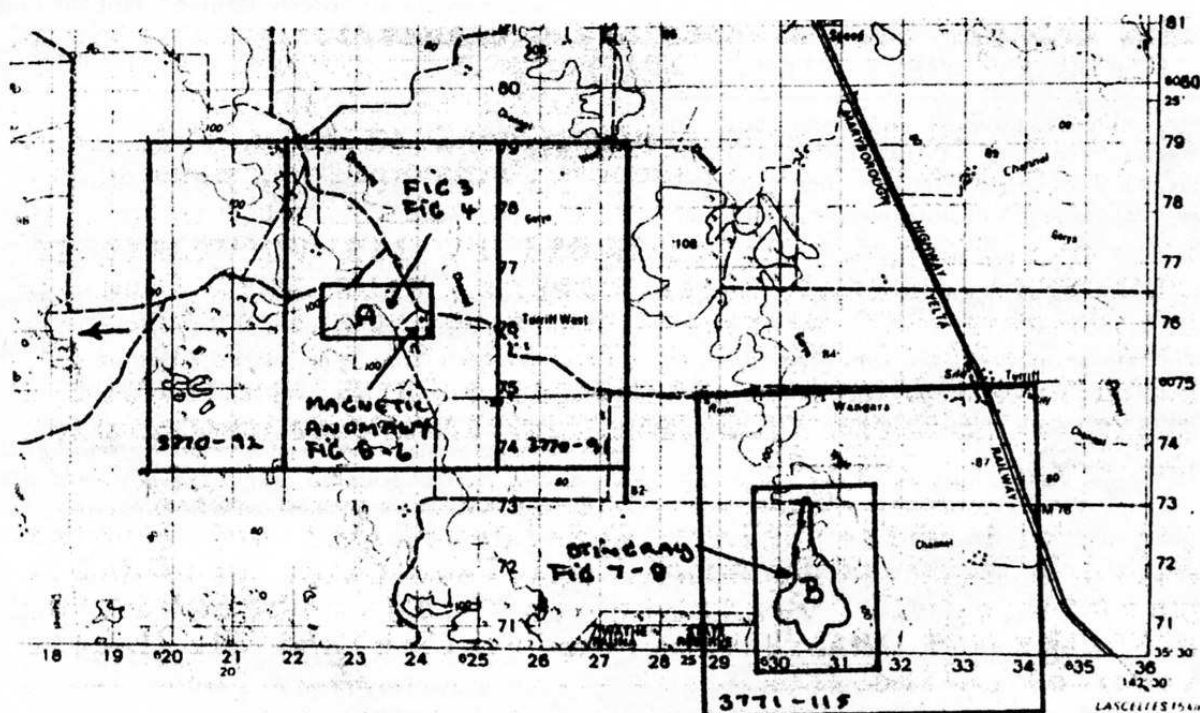


FIG 1. TURRIFF - MALLEE AREA WHERE GROUND AND AIR RINGS WERE FOUND AND PHOTOGRAPHED.

* 1 GRID SQ = 1 SQ Km

The Discovery

An amazing RING PHENOMENON has been discovered by VUFORS in the Mallee District of Victoria that has Australian scientists and UFO researchers at a loss. (See Map, Fig. 1.)

Over a 60 square kilometre land surface area, more than 400 GROUND & AIR RINGS have been professionally photographed by an independent Government organization and analysed by our researchers.

The majority of the rings were on the land surface. However, some are in a three-dimensional pattern in the air, above specific locations in the area concerned.

Not only was there an amazing quantity of these rings, but they are of tremendous size and structural volume.

The majority of the rings are dark, translucent, ground-circles. The others were recorded as three-dimensional (solid?) objects. Although this is NOT confirmed

yet, some of the rings are reported to have displayed "SURFACE STRUCTURAL FEATURES".

Two rectangular ground marks were also found. Numerous "WHEAT RINGS" and "MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH ANOMALIES" have also been recorded in this very same area. (See Fig. 5 and Fig. 6.)

Unique finding

Investigations conducted by VUFORS have established that this is the "FIRST-RECORDED" sighting of mass GROUND-AND-AIR-RINGS in this country (and/or possibly overseas?).

Data

The phenomenon was recorded by Air Photographic Equipment (Aerial frame camera, WILD RC), from an altitude of 2,300 metres (7,500 feet) AMSL.