



A black-and-white print taken from the colour photograph and submitted to the REVIEW by David Rudman.

A COLOUR PHOTOGRAPH

by David Rudman

I AM writing to inform you of the details of a sighting made by three men, all known to me. On Wednesday, November 28, 1962, they were travelling on the 10 a.m. "Flying Scotsman" from Edinburgh. Between Belford and Seahouses, on the north-east coast below Berwick-on-Tweed, the train was travelling at a very slow speed (about 15 m.p.h.) and one of the men, a keen amateur photographer, decided to use the opportunity to take some colour photographs of the coastline. At 11.20 a.m., glancing through the window at the opposite side of the carriage, i.e. looking inland, he saw an enormous oval-shaped object, grey in colour with three parallel luminous bands running along its length and a slight fuzziness at one end. His immediate reaction was an amazed "Good heavens (or words to that effect), a flying saucer!" His two companions, after suggesting he put more water in it next

time, had their attention drawn to the object and all three stared at it with some incredulity for nearly two minutes, for although it seemed to be at least a mile away it would have covered *eight inches of a ruler held at arm's length*.

All three men are engineers, not prone to exaggeration, and they stand by this remarkable statement which suggests that the object, whatever it was, must have been of colossal proportions. Fortunately they had the presence of mind to remember the camera, and a very successful photograph was taken, copies of which I enclose. For a few *seconds* afterwards their attention was taken from the object to check the camera and when they looked back the object had disappeared completely. They told me that they were staggered by this total disappearance in so short a space of time. I have interviewed all three men (two of them are colleagues of mine) and they are

quite certain that they were looking at a solid object.

A Met. Office report for that area shows that the cloud base was 3,500 ft. with a westerly wind of 7 m.p.h. The photograph was developed by Kodak, who made a colour transparency from which the prints were produced. The photog-

rapher is a director of an engineering firm in the north of England and although I have his permission to make what use I like of his experience and photograph, he does not want his name brought into it. The names of all three gentlemen are, of course, known to me.

The Italian Scene—Part 3

Bruno Ghibaudi's contact claim

By GORDON W. CREIGHTON

Interest in flying saucers continues unabated in the Italian weekly press. Last year, Bruno Ghibaudi submitted several remarkable photographs of saucers and now he claims further knowledge through contact. The *Flying Saucer Review* prints the following summary of two articles which appeared in *Le Ore* on January 24 and 31 of this year and, in accordance with its declared policy, neither accepts nor rejects the evidence.

LE ORE carries several photos of Ghibaudi, who is himself a journalist in Turin. He is very well known to the Italian TV and radio public as he has been for a number of years one of their chief reporters on scientific matters, especially aviation and space-travel.

Under the banner-headlines, "Bruno Ghibaudi Confirms: Yes, I Have Talked to the Pilots of the Flying Saucers," he begins by explaining that two years ago he was asked by his chiefs to prepare a TV programme about people who claimed that they had seen flying saucers. He had not paid any attention to the subject and was merely open-minded about it all. When he began to travel around Italy interviewing people he was flabbergasted (just as Renato Albanese of *La Domenica del Corriere* was—see the last two issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) to discover that it was not only in foreign countries that people had seen UFOs, as reported by the press, but that all over Italy, his own country, there were large numbers who had seen them, or taken photos of them, or met the pilots, or secured pieces of metal and other materials left by saucers that had landed, and so forth.

Ghibaudi adds (just as Renato Albanese did) that his task of going round collecting this in-

formation was no easy one. Why? Because, as he says, so many people who had had these experiences or taken these pictures and had then spoken up boldly about it, had either lost their jobs or been subjected to avalanches of ridicule and molestation, or hours of grilling by officialdom, and were by now thoroughly sick of the whole thing and loath to open their mouths again. Nevertheless, Ghibaudi completed his preliminary tour of enquiry. And, like Renato Albanese, he was shaken by the results.

A familiar attitude

In the meantime his TV chiefs had told him that the projected programme on saucers was "off." (We are quite familiar with this sort of thing, particularly in the U.S.A. during the past 15 years, and it is interesting to note a very different attitude of late where the British radio and TV authorities are concerned.) But Ghibaudi was by then fascinated, and convinced of the existence of the saucers. He therefore continued the investigation on his own account, and is today held to be one of the principal experts on our subject in Italy.

The first part of his interview is a recapitula-

tion of the main outlines of the UFO problem, beginning with the "Foo Fighters" in World War II, so I pass over this and come now to the really startling part.

Ghibaudi claims in fact that, in the summer of 1961, he was invited to go to meet some of the space-people. The meeting took place in a house, the location of which he refuses to divulge, and in the presence of several witnesses, one of whom was the go-between who had brought him the invitation.

Ghibaudi goes on to explain that the human form is, in fact "universal throughout the Cosmos, as part of a general harmony—and yet the idea of this has generally been rejected by Earthmen as impossible, no doubt because, *as almost always, the truth is too simple to be accepted.*" Apart, therefore, from various sorts of superficial differences, Man throughout the Universe resembles us (although Ghibaudi is careful to agree that some of their internal organs may well be different and even designed to perform quite different functions).

Visitors from many places

These space visitors, he says, are coming to our planet at this time of crisis from many different worlds. Hence the radical variations, as regards size and so forth, among the various reports of people who have seen them or met them. When asked from where the saucers were coming he indicated that they were coming from a number of places including, perhaps, Mars and Venus.

What is happening now is simply that the infant civilisation of Earth-Man being at a point of particularly grave crisis, the space beings are prepared to reveal themselves to us more. Ghibaudi confirms, then, their benevolence and their desire to help us. But our visitors have an exact estimate of our natures and of the level that we have reached. Their aim is to prevent nuclear disaster. Ghibaudi says flatly that they have indicated their firm intention to intervene if it becomes unavoidable. But he adds that we must bear in mind that although many thousands of years ahead of us technically and scientifically (not to mention morally), they are not omnipotent deities. They are men. So we must not rely on them to get us out of our difficulties. For, not being infallible, even their efforts and their concern might not always suffice to avert disaster if something went wrong or some accident nullified their plans to avert the worst.

On the subject of the atomic weapons, Ghibaudi points out that while the extraterrestrials are clearly fully capable of destroy-

ing such weapons (and here I would remind readers of the Russian reports of two cases of "direct action" by UFOs that I gave last year), the human heart would nevertheless remain unchanged. We should still retain the ability and, above all, the *intention*, to build fresh nuclear devices. For this reason, says Ghibaudi, the extraterrestrials are working in a more subtle manner to influence the minds of men. They fully realise the dangers of any kind of broad prohibitive action. They know that in the last analysis Earth-Man must make his own way.

Other reasons

It will be noted that, while Ghibaudi agrees that one of the principal reasons for their revealing themselves more to Earth-Man at present is the nuclear bomb, he also makes it clear that there are also other reasons, of which he is forbidden to speak.

Ghibaudi confirms that the principal consideration in the minds of our benevolent visitors in adopting so reticent a policy towards us is not merely the great dangers that would result from panic—tremendous as these dangers would no doubt be where primitive and backward creatures like ourselves were concerned. But all this is not the really serious danger. The real danger lies in the fact that—as the space people well know—their open appearance among Earth-Men would lead to *comparisons*, sad comparisons, and Earth-Man might feel so deflated, so inferior, that he might lose hope. We all can visualise what the effect might be on politicians (on both sides of the Iron Curtain).

I quote Ghibaudi's words at this point:

"The *real* problem is, nevertheless, not panic at all. Our masses are not yet ready for a revelation of this kind. . . . The real problem is something quite different. Do not let us forget that between their science and ours there is a gap of thousands of years, and that for this reason an 'official' mass descent of space beings from other planets would inevitably bring about comparisons between their worlds . . . and ours. How could such an encounter be permitted? At an inner level, we should quite certainly be severely shaken as a result of it, and they do not want to alarm us in any way. And this is all the more so, inasmuch as there are cosmic laws which prevent the more evolved races from interfering, beyond certain limits, in the evolution and development of the more backward races. For every race must be the maker of its own progress, paying the price for it with its sacrifices, its failures, and its victories. There are also other reasons, but I am not permitted to reply to you about those."

Although suggesting that space entities have always been visiting or passing by our Earth, Ghibaudi also admits that some of them are so much like us in appearance that they are in fact living among us now. Infiltration, he claims, is a fact. He confirms, too, that in their chance meetings with Earth-Men they sometimes communicate by gesture, sometimes by telepathy, and sometimes in the language of the person whom they meet. After all, people who are so advanced technically as their flying machines indicate them to be can hardly be expected to have difficulty in learning all our main languages from our broadcasts before they even land here.

Asked whether *war* existed among the space peoples, Ghibaudi replied that he had no precise information, but that he felt sure the struggle between good and evil must be found in some form or other throughout the Universe "wherever there are created beings."

Questioned next as to whether such "human" sentiments as love, hate, friendship, loyalty, solidarity, were found among the extraterrestrials whom he had met, Ghibaudi replied emphatically: "The experience that I have had of them permits me to affirm that in them the good sentiments are enormously strong, while the bad sentiments are almost entirely absent."

MYSTERY SATELLITES

IN the January-February, 1961, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there appeared an article contributed by Gordon W. Creighton concerning the mystery object tracked in orbit by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation of Bethpage, Long Island, New York. The REVIEW printed the tracking photograph kindly supplied by the Grumman Corporation and this clearly showed that the satellite was travelling in the opposite direction to all satellites launched either by America or Russia. Although the tracking was confirmed by other corporations in the U.S.A., nothing more has been heard of the mystery object.

The London *Evening Standard*, however, has revived the subject.

In its issue of March 15, Peter Fairley writes: "Ten military satellites are now orbiting over Russia on secret missions. A further 21 have been sent up during the past year, for an average period of three weeks in space. All were launched by the U.S. Air Force. *But six other large spacecraft have been orbited—some passed repeatedly over Britain—to which neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will own up. No mention is made of these 'orphans' in official American space records, which are published monthly. Even confidential lists mark them only as 'Unannounced' and 'Status Unknown.'*"*

Peter Fairley quotes a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London as saying that the mystery ob-

jects could be part of Russia's Cosmos series of sputniks, but American experts disagree.

Because of the direction in which it was orbiting ruled out an earthly origin, the satellite discovered by the Grumman Corporation remains unidentified. Peter Fairley, however, does not afford us sufficient information to make any guess as to the source of the six "status-unknowns." In view of the *Evening Standard's* editorial dismissal of flying saucers (see leading article in this issue), it is not surprising that its contributor should not even consider the possibility that the unknowns are neither Russian nor American. The British Air Ministry's view? "No comment."

* Our italics.—Editor.

OLD BUT TRUE

Can the astronomer or the geologist, the physicist or the biologist, know more on this subject than those who have no special knowledge of astronomy, or geology, or physics or biology? The astronomer can say how large such and such a planet is, its average density, the length of its day and its year,

the light-reflecting qualities of its surface, even (with the physicist's aid) the nature of the atmosphere surrounding it, and so on . . . But no astronomer, or geologist, or physicist, or biologist, can tell us anything certain about life in other worlds. Richard A. Proctor, *Science Byways* (1882).

World round-up

*of news
and comment
about recent
sightings*

ENGLAND

A sceptic's sighting

Miss Mary Sharp, of Shilton, near Coventry, writes to report the following sighting: "My mother, Mrs. E. L. Sharp, went up into the kitchen to draw the curtains at 5.20 p.m. on January 28. Our kitchen is up five steps and from the window there is a view of fields and a farm. She saw a blaze of light and stood, dumbfounded, watching it. Then it must have turned round and she made out four portholes with light coming from them. It was yellow-orange in colour. She watched it for about a minute, then it suddenly shot off in the direction of Rugby. My mother has seen pictures of them in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, but d'ed not expect to see one herself. She found her tongue just before it shot off and said: "There's one of those cigar-ships over there. I can see the portholes." Unfortunately it had gone by the time I reached the window. It had hung over the farmer's orchard about 250 to 300 yards away. It was just above the trees. It looked two feet long and one foot in depth—I do not know what that would make its actual size. It was extremely brilliant. There was no noise. We should be very interested to know whether any one else in this area saw it. The sighting has had its usual effect—my mother has come to believe in the existence of UFOs. Oddly enough, two days before that a lad who is keen on UFOlogy came to tea and stood looking out of that very window. My mother said to him: "You needn't look out of that window. You'll never see a flying saucer through it!"

Yeovil mystery

The following letter was printed in the *Western Gazette* in its issue of March 8: "Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers noticed anything unusual in the sky on Saturday evening, March 2, or can offer any explanation of what I saw.

"My attention was drawn to what, at first, appeared to be two stars lying close to each other, low in the sky, towards the north-east. This in itself did not seem unusual, until later I noticed that they were not in their original position; they were slowly moving in a westerly direction. I thought at first that it was an aeroplane.

"I began to doubt this, however, as the two 'lights' moved closer. It was 6.43 p.m. By now they had gained speed and brightness and appeared not to be passing as much east to west as coming towards me. Their colour when first sighted was similar to a star, but as they approached they became whiter.

"After a while they were directly ahead and quite high in the sky. Their elevation was approximately 45 degrees and in the north. They slowed and stopped. The 'lights' by now were very bright. The sky was clear and all was very quiet; there was no sound at all. Just these two weird 'lights.' They remained stationary for between 15 to 30 seconds, and then, moving slowly at first, then with ever-increasing speed, they vanished into the night in the direction from which they came. There was no noise at all from anywhere, and there was certainly nothing to suggest the presence of an aeroplane or helicopter. They vanished approxi-

mately 10 minutes after they were first sighted.

"What was it? Could it have been something from Yeovilton or Westland or was it another 'unidentified flying object'? Could anyone suggest?—R. C. P. Terrell, 40 St. Michael's Avenue, Yeovil.

"[Letters have been received from other Yeovil readers who give similar descriptions and times, asking if anyone has an explanation of these two 'bright lights.' Both Westland and the R.N. Air Station at Yeovilton state that none of their planes were flying at the time. — Editor.]"

Bolton revisited

In the March-April, 1962, issue, the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* reported a "wave" of sightings over Bolton in Lancashire. The *Bolton Evening News* on March 8 prints the following account of a new sighting over the town:

"A level-headed 12-years-old schoolgirl couldn't believe her eyes when she saw a flying saucer hovering in Bolton's evening sky. It happened when Jane Barnett was walking home along Albert Road West at 6 p.m. last Wednesday.

"I gazed at it for several minutes as it hovered in the sky," says Jane. "It appeared slightly blurred, but I could see the shape quite clearly. And the colour appeared to be a dark silvery blue."

"Jane made a quick sketch of the saucer, and her drawing shows the conventional bulging disc.

"When Jane told me about it I thought at first that it was a figment of her imagination," said

her father, Mr. Maurice Barnett, of 9 Greenmount Lane.

“But I questioned her at considerable length about it and I am quite sure she must have seen something. It wasn't a balloon or anything like that.”

Over Wallsend

The Newcastle - upon - Tyne *Evening Chronicle* carried the following report in its March 21 issue: “A Longbenton man has claimed he saw what may have been a flying saucer hovering over Wallsend.

“He is Mr. William Muir, of Rowanberry Road. He has written to the Editor of the *Evening Chronicle* in the hope that someone may be able to corroborate his story.

“He saw the ‘object’ on March 8, at about 8.30 in the evening, while walking in High Heaton.

“The object was shaped like two discs joined together by a tube and was grey-blue in colour he writes.”

Wimbledon Saucer

The following account is taken from the *Wimbledon Boro' News* issue of March 15: “Artist David Briggs phoned the Air Ministry to report: ‘I've seen a flying saucer. . . .’ And now Mr. Briggs, Haydons Road, Wimbledon, wants to know: Did anyone else see it?

“‘It would be good if someone could confirm the sighting,’ he said.

“These are the details he gave the Air Ministry:

“Time of sighting: 3.55 a.m. on Wednesday last week (March 6).

“Description of unidentified flying object: Gleaming silver, a little smaller than Venus when it is nearest Earth, but not as bright. Circular, about 100 ft. in diameter.

“Speed: Over 500 m.p.h., apparently noiseless.

“Position: Somewhere over Wimbledon Common, speeding from south-west to north-east.

“Said 28-year-old Mr. Briggs: ‘It was definitely not a weather balloon, meteor, comet or aircraft. I am interested in these matters and am too familiar with aircraft in particular to make such a mistake. I saw it when I went into the garden to investigate noises—I thought we might have had a raider. I saw the object for about 30 seconds before it disappeared behind cloud.’”

NORTHERN IRELAND

Search off Rathlin

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reader Mr. T. Thompson has sent us the following account taken from the *Belfast News Letter* in its issue of March 21: “Trans-Atlantic shipping arriving in the United Kingdom altered course late last night to help Portrush lifeboat and coastal craft search an area off Rathlin Island after two red flares had been sighted by coastguards.

“At least one R.A.F. aircraft, believed to have been on exercise, was also diverted to assist in sweeping the area—about two miles off Bull Point lighthouse at the western end of the island.

“Repeated broadcasts were being made this morning for shipping passing the search area to look out for a vessel in distress. The alarm was raised by Ballycastle coastguards who estimated the position of the flares. No further distress signals had been seen.

“Mystery still surrounded the signals late this morning. No ships passing through the area—on a main coastal shipping route—reported having seen the flares. Many trans-Atlantic vessels which would normally pass about ten miles off shore on their way to Scotland had altered course to steam within two miles off Rathlin.

“This morning coastguards said the search area was ablaze with ships' lights as the search continued. It had been difficult, they said, to pin-point the position as only one bearing had been obtained on the flares.”

FRANCE AND CHILE

The South China Sunday Post on January 26 printed the following account with a Pau, S.W. France, dateline:

“Two farm workers said they saw a luminous object in the sky yesterday afternoon while working near Livron, not far from here.

“They said they observed it for about 30 seconds as it moved, at high altitude, on a north-easterly course. It appeared round and flat and seemed to revolve, they said.

“In scattered districts of Africa, a north Chilean seaport, large numbers of people yesterday reported seeing a flying object cross the sky on Thursday night about midnight.

“The object, which appeared to be at normal aeroplane altitude, emitted flashes of bright blue light, the witnesses said, adding that the spectacle was like a lovely fireworks display.”

NEW MEXICO

Something from outer space

The London *Daily Mail* on March 2 carried the following report: “An invader from outer space crashed into the Earth's atmosphere last month and bombarded New Mexico with cosmic rays.

“It was a mere nucleus of an atom—probably hydrogen—but it had 3,000,000,000 times more energy than anything U.S. scientists had so far produced.

“When it invaded the Earth it struck the nucleus of an atom of the air. The resulting atomic debris grew by a type of chain reaction into a shower of high-speed atomic particles.

“The cosmic ray shower covered an area of several square miles, bombarding the Earth for only an instant. But it lasted long enough to be recorded.

“Where did the invader come from? Physicists say because of its enormous power it must have

belonged to a much more active galaxy than our own—far beyond the Milky Way.

"The event is reported by Mr. John Linsley, of the Nuclear Science Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

AUSTRALIA

"I have no idea what it is"

The following account is taken from the *Sydney Morning Herald* for December 12, 1962:

"An unidentified crescent-shaped object sighted high in the sky at noon today (December 11, 1962) caused a stir at Albany, 253 miles south of Perth.

"The head of the meteorological staff at the Albany post office, Mr. Bernie Hall, watched the object for nearly three and a half hours. 'The object is definitely not a weather balloon of the type used by Australian weather stations,' he said. 'I have no idea what it is.'

"The acting Government astronomer, Mr. B. J. Harris, said at the Perth Observatory today he had received information about the object from Mr Hall, but could not identify it.

"'At the moment it is a mystery, and we have not been able to pick it up,' he said.

"No aircraft were flying in the Albany area at the time of the sighting. The post office staff first saw the object while tracking a weather balloon at midday. It was white, appeared to be of considerable size and crescent-shaped. The object was moving in a south-westerly direction at slightly spasmodic speeds ranging from about six to eight degrees an hour—from 320 to 560 miles an hour.

"A news broadcast by a local radio station brought scores of people out of doors. The object was only barely visible at times to the naked eye, but it could be seen quite clearly through the balloon tracking telescope at the post office and through binoculars."

Stationary object

The *Adelaide Mail* on January 5 reported this strange sighting: "The 'saucer' was first sighted at 1.30 a.m. today (December 29, 1962) by Mr. Tom Hoey, a farmer, ten miles from Clifton. Mr. Hoey said the object first appeared as the brightest star in the sky, but was closer to the earth than the moon.

"It was very large, very bright, and was fringed on one side by an orange glow, he said.

"'About 3.30 a.m. a smaller, duller light started to move slowly away from the larger one. It changed course several times and finally disappeared below the horizon,' he said. 'The smaller light seemed to be quite close.'

"Mr. Hoey said he had not seen the smaller light return to the original object. A Toowoomba photographer who visited the site for a Brisbane newspaper said there was definitely something there.

"'It looked like a shining disc,' he said.

"By four o'clock this afternoon the object had not moved, but cloud cover prevented observers from gaining a clear view. The R.A.A.F. cannot track the object with radar.

"A spokesman at the Amberley air base (30 miles from Brisbane) said tonight the R.A.A.F. usually trained surveillance radar on objects reported, but the Clifton object was too far away. The radar, designed for airfield approach, had a range of only 42 miles."

NEW ZEALAND

Another photograph

The *Auckland Star* in its February 3 issue carried this interesting story: "A photograph at the D.S.I.R. auroral station Lauder, confirms that Mr. C. B. Taylor, who was at Cape Hallett last June, saw a 'mystery object' travelling across the sky.

"A scientist at the station, Dr. M. Gadsen, said tonight that a long-exposure photograph taken on the all-sky camera showed the object's train.

"*It was not a meteor, and there were no reports of a satellite burning out in that area at the time.*

"'We are puzzled by it,' he said."

The Cape Hallet incident was originally reported in the REVIEW in its September-October, 1962, issue. As Lieut. Holden comments in his letter to us, the photograph must have been under detailed scientific study for a long time, from June, 1962, to January, 1963.

Hallucinated cows?

We are indebted to Lieut. A. R. Holden, R.N., RETD., for the following items from New Zealand. On February 16 the *Auckland Star* printed this report: "Farmer Charlie Brew's cows 'turned somersaults' in fright when a mysterious flying object visited his farm near Moe, 80 miles south-east of Melbourne, yesterday. Mr. Brew told reporters his son Trevor and he were milking cows shortly after 7 a.m. when he saw an object descending through the rain to a height of between 75 and 100 feet.

"'I thought it was going to land but it suddenly shot off to the west at two or three times the speed of a jet and disappeared into a cloud,' the farmer said.

"Mr. Brew said the object was about 25 feet wide. It looked like a thick grey disc with a transparent band round its circumference and a number of scoop-like protrusions. His son heard the pulsating, whooshing sound it made as it revolved overhead.

"The cows turned somersaults and the horses reared in panic.

"Mr. Brew added that he had often laughed at people who said they saw such objects—'but this was the real thing.'"

SOUTH AFRICA

Kimberley and Johannesburg

Our correspondent in South Africa, Mr. Phillip J. Human, sends us the following accounts:

Pretoria News, January 19. "A weird bright light was seen over Jacobsdal, about 30 miles south of Kimberley last night. According to a farmer, Mr. J. C. Combrinck, the light was low on the horizon and varied between brilliance and dullness. 'We have no idea what it could be, but we were afraid. We have never seen anything like it before,' he said."

The *Daily Dispatch*, East London, January 25. "Several people telephoned a Johannesburg newspaper last night to report a strange, stationary light in the north-east sky. 'It was in the sky for about half-an-hour after 9 p.m.,' one said. 'It was a brilliant red-brown with a long tail of light and seemed to have a sort of halo around it.'"

Durban sighting

On January 28, 1963, at about 11 p.m., Mrs. S. C. Montgomery, 65, was standing at a window in her home looking at the sky, which was particularly clear, and watching a planet which was burning with a steady reddish light. Her home stands near the edge of a hill, about 2,000 feet above sea level, 15 miles inland from the city of Durban and the Indian Ocean.

She then saw above and to the left, a black object silhouetted against the deep blue of the clear sky. She described it as being about the size and shape of a cigar. At the tail end there was

a strong glow with a display of light which she described as being similar to fireworks such as catherine wheels. There was the sensation as if a continuous regular discharge of sparks was leaving the tail from amongst the coloured glow. These showers of light were not quite sparks, but something close to it, and varying in colour. She is most definite that the object was not an aircraft, and is familiar with their appearance at night since they often fly overhead. Nevertheless, she watched carefully to see if it would change course for the local airport, but it headed on a steady course about south-east, straight out to sea until it was lost to view. The object was in sight for a time between 30 seconds and one minute. There was no sound.

Significantly, this sighting recalled to her memory a similar object, identical in every respect, which she saw in the summer in England during 1954, over the village of Amesbury in Wiltshire. At that time she had assumed it was a special aircraft from Boscombe Down, but is now sure it was not.

(Credit to Mr. D. S. H. Montgomery, the son of the witness.)

HAWAII

The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* in its issue of March 12 carried the following report: "A mystery light seen moving across the sky north and west of Oahu last night might have been a rocket fired from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California.

"The Air Force announced the firing of an Atlas inter-continental ballistic missile at a target. The brief announcement didn't specify the target and a

spokesman would not say when it was fired.

"A Hawaii Air National Guard pilot, flying at 40,000 feet, said he thought it was a spacecraft or rocket flying a predetermined course. Military spokesmen here were mum.

"The commanding officer of the Pacific Missile Range facility at Kaneohe had a succinct 'no comment' this morning. Accounts of spectators were reminiscent of old flying saucer sightings.

"The Vandenburg firing was described officially as a routine training launch.

"Air Guard pilot Captain Jon Parish, flying a F-102, said the light was moving west between 7.43 and 7.45. The Pacific Missile Range 'shooting gallery' runs north of the Islands from California to downrange impact areas as far away as Kwajalein. A P.M.R. duty officer said last night 'I don't know' when asked what the light was.

"A Pacific Air Force spokesman at Hickam Air Force Base said 'We don't know what it was.' Parish and Lieutenant George Joy said they were flying south-west when they saw the 'light spot' with a vapour trail. Joy said the object was moving at a very high altitude, at high speed and due west. They could see it for a minute and a half.

"The vapour trail, lighter than that usually made by a jet, disappeared over Kauai and beyond the horizon, Joy said. A U.S. Weather Bureau observer saw a 'yellowish light' like an inverted pear about 60 degrees above the horizon. William Garrett, watching from Waikiki, said it looked red to him. He likened it to an automobile headlight. He said he watched it for up to 20 minutes. (Credit to Miss O. M. Beaton.)

NO LIFE ON VENUS?

(Continued from page 14)

Dr. Conway Snyder, of JPL, said Mariner found "solar winds" boiling constantly off the sun to be atomic particles one million degrees Fahrenheit hot and moving at speeds from 200 to 500 miles (320 to 800 kms) per second.

"There are 10 to 20 particles per cubic inch," making them "the predominant feature of interplanetary space," he said.

Other scientists said that Mariner found Venus to be virtually motionless on its axis or at best rotating only very slowly.

The spokesman at the American Embassy added that the temperature at the surface of Venus was a matter of speculation only. We invited Mr. V. A. Firsoff, the noted British authority on Venus, who wrote for us on this subject in the July-August, 1961, issue, to comment and we quote from his letter:

"I am afraid I am unable to offer any definite comment. This is not a scientific report, but a journalistic hand-out, rather sensational in parts and containing obvious errors, e.g. no Earth-based studies have ever indicated the clouds are composed of carbon dioxide and nitrogen."

"That the achievement of the Mariner probe is remarkable and that it has supplied some very interesting data, there can be no reasonable doubt. But so far these data remain unknown. We have only interpretations, which appear to be wildly improbable. Interpretations are based on the assumptions made, and if interpretations are improbable one must look for errors in the assumptions, which again are unknown.

"The report has further puzzling features. Thus, the probe was supposed to distinguish between atmospheric and surface temperatures by means of absorption by water vapour, which stops certain wavelengths of microwave radio emission and transmits others. The transmitted radiation would then relate to the surface. But if no water vapour has been found this method could not work. . . . etc., etc."

Another report

A fortnight later the British Press reported that the balloon-telescope launched from Dallas, Texas, had discovered that Mars was a vast desert and would be capable of supporting only an extraordinary form of life, though it was admitted that much more data would be required before any definite pronouncement could be

made. Despite the caution of Dr. Harold Weaver, of the University of California, a number of newspapers jumped to the conclusion that Mars, too, could be written off as a source of life. The journalists had apparently overlooked the fact that the deserts of the Earth can, for that matter, support human life.

Views sought

As a result of these newspaper reports, a representative of the London *Sunday Telegraph* approached the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for his views, apparently expecting that the flying saucers would have to be buried at last in view of these allegedly negative findings, and seemed quite surprised to discover that the policy of the REVIEW is to keep an open mind as to where the saucers were coming from. It is certain that they exist and the evidence that has accumulated has been gathered on earth and in its atmosphere and not in outer space. If it can be proved that the UFOs do not emanate from Mars and Venus, then they must be coming from somewhere else. It can be agreed, of course, that if Mars and Venus are uninhabitable, then those contact claimants who mention these planets are not telling the truth, but at the moment there is no certainty about conditions on our neighbours in the solar system.

Before leaving this question, it would be as well to recall that in 1959, Commander D. Ross, of the United States Navy, and Dr. Charles B. Moore, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, discovered three to five times more water vapour on Venus than at comparable altitudes on earth. One writer has suggested that Mariner II either failed to measure this owing to a failure in the equipment or information is being deliberately withheld from the public. In the earlier report on Mariner II's findings which was printed in the March-April issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW a distinction was made between the two sides of Venus. The later report, however, makes no distinction and the findings, as released to the Press, seem to give the impression that great heat would obtain over the whole surface of the planet. The reports which have appeared in the Press have therefore been inadequate and misleading and the REVIEW would endorse the warning given by the spokesman at the United States Embassy in London.

PHOBOS AND DEIMOS: AN INQUIRY

By Wade Wellman

DAY by day, suggestions are mounting that Phobos and Deimos, the baffling companions of Mars, could well be artificial space stations launched into orbit by the races behind the flying saucers. I say "races," for there seems to be very little doubt that more than one planet has the Earth under survey, and surely there is some chance that Phobos and Deimos have a role in the matter. The issue cannot be decided even tentatively at this stage, but I will set up the pros and cons and try to judge which way the scales tip in each instance. First, however, it may be pertinent to quote a text from Patrick Moore, a text that reveals most baldly the schoolboyish dogmatism that popular science writers like to indulge in. Moore, in his otherwise excellent *Guide to the Planets*, counts out this theory with a characteristic dismissal:

"Nature has provided Mars with two perfect ready-made space stations, and it has even been suggested that the first visitors from Earth may find that Phobos and Deimos are constructed of steel rather than the more orthodox rock! It is certainly an attractive idea, even though we must regretfully class it with Gruithuisen's cerebrations on Venus, H. G. Wells's Moon men, and recent theories about flying saucers." (p. 112.)

Moore does not bother to explain why this theory is preposterous; he simply writes it off in his infinite wisdom and assumes that his word settles the question. Elsewhere, he has ridiculed Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* as "one of the little-men-from-Mars books,"¹ thereby proving that he had not read the book and, probably, did not intend to read it. So much for

Zarathustra's word; there is no greater critic of your professional than your amateur, and Moore, who made observations of Saturn at the age of nine, now seems determined to verify the principle: "Once a child prodigy, always a child prodigy." Let me now turn away from the child prodigy and break Moore's rules by studying the facts, such as they are. Unfortunately there are not many to be had.

Evidence inconclusive

If the satellites are indeed synthetic moons, this is no proof of a *native* race on Mars. Such bases would be launched by a visiting race if the visitors cared to stay awhile, and for that matter we will almost surely orbit space stations around Venus and the Moon when we make our settlements on those worlds. Although life on Mars is not the question before us, I hasten to add that this question still remains open, though very nearly all of the assembled evidence is unfavourable. And, of course, the assembled evidence is inconclusive, for the most powerful telescopes reveal about as much detail on the Martian surface as one sees on the Moon through low-power binoculars. One can therefore understand why our information on the satellites is practically negligible.

In 1877—the same year that Schiaparelli reported his *canali* ("channels") — Professor Asaph Hall, of the U.S. Naval Observatory, made a special search for Martian satellites. Previous investigators had been frustrated, but Hall felt a special determination because, as he later explained, he was tired of reading in books that "Mars has no moons." Jonathan Swift, apparently stabbing in the dark, had described them with

remarkable accuracy in *Gulliver's Travels*, and Voltaire, perhaps taking the idea from Swift, referred to them in his *Micromegas*. Fiction was transmuted into fact when Hall, after painstaking efforts, finally recorded the two known moons (there may be others, still undiscovered) in the close approach of August, 1877. Mars at this time was at its least possible distance, about 35 million miles, and Hall, with some difficulty, traced the moonlets, which he afterwards named Phobos (Fear) and Deimos (Panic), after the classical attendants of the war god. It has been argued that these satellites would probably have been discovered earlier had they not been space platforms launched into orbit at about this time, but this seems quite groundless. A very special effort was required to find such minute satellites, and, prior to Hall, no one had had the two things necessary—patience and a sufficiently strong instrument.

Alternatives

Before going further, we might do well to consider alternatives. If the tiny satellites are not space platforms, what else could they be? I would lay a wager that they must be either this or a pair of captured asteroids, and the following paragraphs will try to assess the evidence for each theory in turn. It is almost impossible to believe that they came into existence in the normal fashion, condensing out of the

¹ MOORE: *Guide To Mars* (p. 68). In this same book Moore describes the platform theory as "about as likely as the age-old theory that the Moon is made of green cheese" (p. 98). His attacks on this theory, and on UFOs generally, have a persistence that sometimes becomes compulsive.

gaseous envelope that surrounds a protoplanet. Phobos at the most is twelve miles in diameter, Deimos about six, and if it isn't impossible by the laws of physics, such a tiny condensation as this is surely improbable. The small size of the moons, as compared with Mars (which measures 4,200 miles in diameter), has something unnatural about it.

The size alone makes it almost certain that these are either stations in space or captive asteroids. Willy Ley, one of the best of the German writers on space travel, has argued that even if these are very small for satellites they are gigantic when considered as artificial platforms. This is correct, but the disproportion is certainly far greater in the first case than in the second. A race with highly advanced technology and ambitious purposes might have every use for a pair of mammoth stations. The fact that Phobos is almost precisely double the size of Deimos faintly suggests a rationality at work. A size ratio of this sort would be a startling coincidence, I think, if we are dealing with a pair of asteroids that strayed into Mar's gravitational field. The consideration of size, then, points mildly in favour of artificial platforms.

The other areas

Let us now consider the remaining areas one by one.

Physical Characteristics: This field virtually draws a blank. As small and remote as they are, the surfaces of Phobos and Deimos are locked in absolute mystery. One observer, E. M. Antoniadi, reported in 1930 that Phobos is usually white and Deimos of a bluish tinge, but nothing emerges from this. Even their shape is undetermined; they might be jagged and irregular in form, which is precisely the case with most asteroids. On the other hand, we would not expect space stations to be spherical, and on this point the scales balance evenly.

Distances from Primary: Phobos travels in its orbit about 3,700 miles above the Martian surface, Deimos at 12,500 miles. This proximity is quite without precedent in our Solar System. At this distance (or nearness) they would be convenient space bases, and even if they are not platforms our flights to Mars will use them as such. But, since captive asteroids could easily enough slip into paths at these altitudes, we must once again conclude that the scales balance. So far, the space-station theory leads—by a whisker.

Speed: Phobos revolves with incredible velocity, completing an orbit in seven hours 40 minutes, circling the planet three times in one rotation of Mars. To an observer on the planet it would rise in the west and set in the east, a phenomenon unique in the Solar System. Deimos requires 30 hours 17 minutes to revolve at its greater distance. But this is no more than an illustration of the second law of Kepler, which holds, by extension, that the nearer the satellite comes to its primary, the faster it moves.

Orbits: Each moonlet keeps the same hemisphere turned towards Mars; this is the general rule of satellites, and constitutes the only respect in which the Martian moons are typical. The orbits themselves, however, seem to argue against space stations. Both paths are very nearly circular (which does not cut either way), but the point to notice is that they lie in almost the same plane, very near the equator. One would not expect two space bases to occupy roughly the same plane; they would be far more useful as loading and launching platforms if they moved in strongly divergent orbits. Indeed, there is hardly any point in having two stations if they both travel in the same zone; one could almost do the work of two in such a case.

Nevertheless, this is the reasoning of earthmen. There is no need to assume that the visiting races are the same as we are in their thinking; they might have different emotions and a different mode of reasoning. This theory of an alien psychology is supported by the fact that UFOs frequently move upward with an oscillating motion, and sometimes in a spiral. Behaviour of this sort is not consistent with human psychology, and the same could apply to their use of base platforms. The objection falls flat.

Experts differ

Some experts have opposed the asteroid theory on the grounds that it would be too much of a coincidence for two captive asteroids to travel in almost the same plane. But I feel that the asteroid theory also fits in with these orbits, perhaps meeting the objections better than its alternative. Paths can change if the bodies are gravitationally affected, and it could be that the gravity of Mars slowly brought a pair of divergent orbits close together. Of course this assumes that the capture took place aeons ago, long before Asaph Hall's discovery, but this poses no difficulty. So it looks as if the orbits are equally well suited to space bases or to asteroids taken over by Mars.

At this time I would not care to be dogmatic about either theory, nor would I completely discount the possibility that these extraordinary moonlets were formed in the usual way. But I think it can safely be said that the platform theory has at least a 50 per cent. chance, and perhaps just a little bit more than that. Certainly the United States is not oblivious to this possibility. For even now the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is preparing special probes to determine this very question. Perhaps they have not read the books of Patrick Moore.

THE MOON AND THE PLANETS *by C. M. Pither*

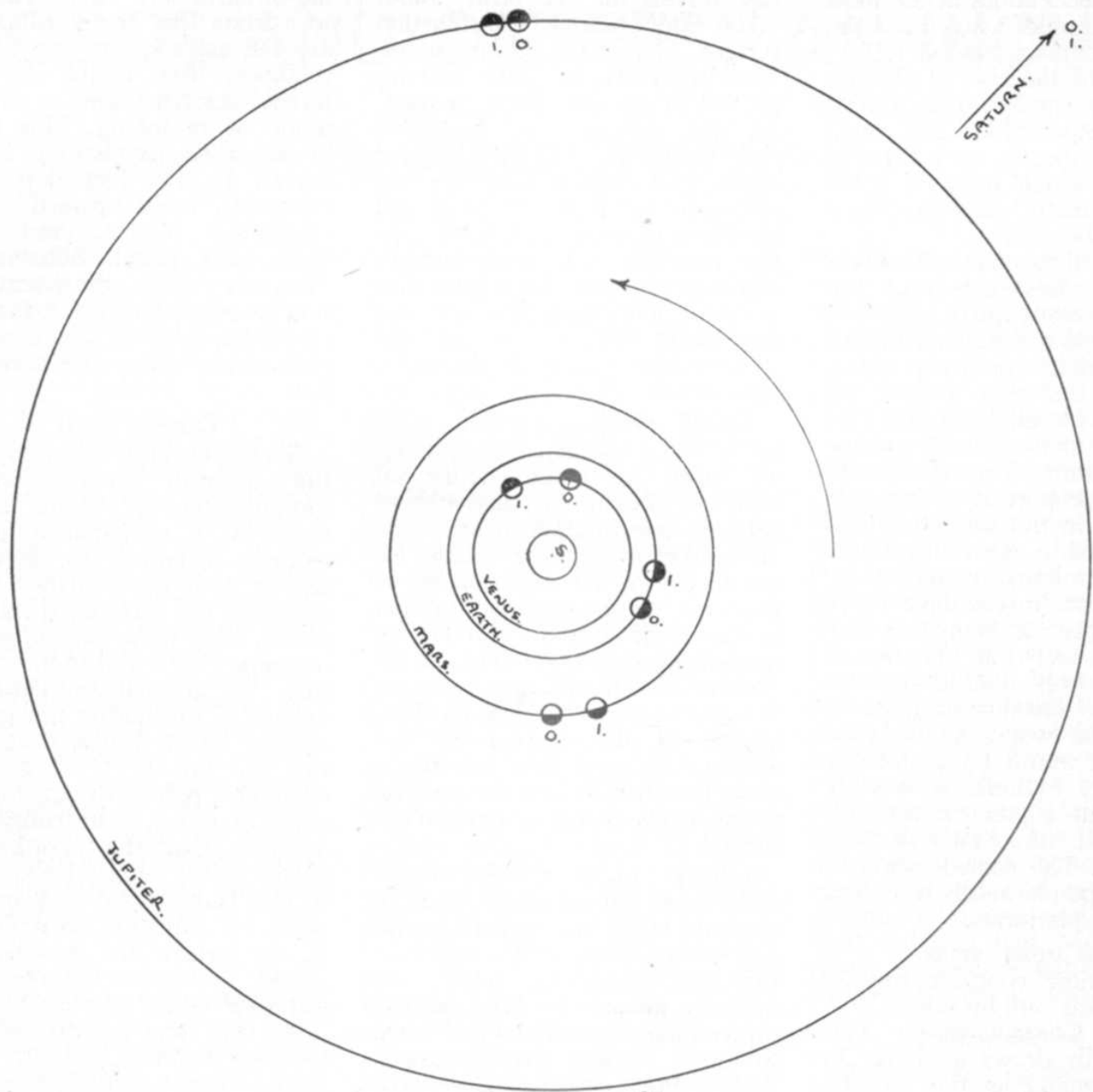


FIG. 1.

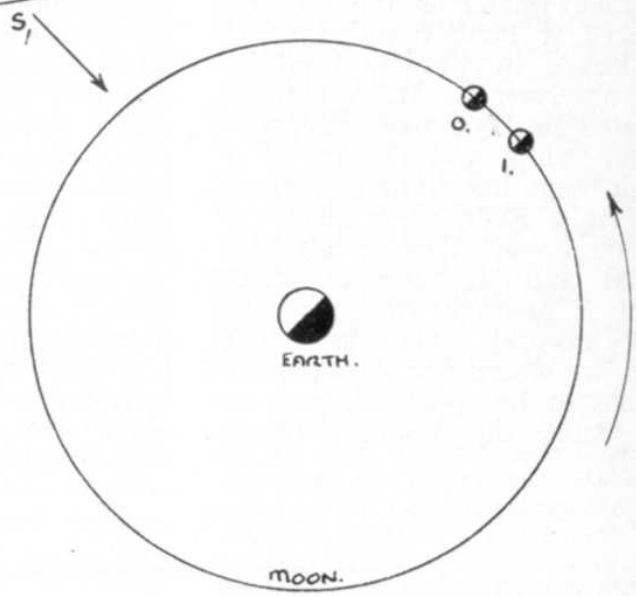


FIG. 2.

Figs. 1 and 2. O=Moon and Planets during May.
I=Moon and Planets during June.

N.B.: These charts, and others that will be following, are made out for approximately the middle of each month.

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.

Spy Satellites

Sir,—On March 15 the London *Evening Standard* carried a front-page story, with large headlines, about U.S. and Russian spy satellites. The writer told of "... a mystery about six more, status unknown," which are not claimed or admitted by either side. As no real attempt was made to explain the unknown objects, I scrawled a hurried letter to the editor, suggesting a possible answer.

The *Evening Standard*, which publishes very few readers' letters, has treated the subject of UFOs somewhat flippantly in recent weeks, so I was not surprised to receive a courteous acknowledgment and explanation about shortage of space, etc., etc.

As I feel that my idea may be of interest to your readers, I append the gist of my letter (unfortunately I did not keep a copy).

"The satellites, status unknown, could be secret devices launched by either side, carrying jamming and other equipment, to be activated when close to the offending 'spy' satellites. In this day and age such devices would not be beyond the bounds of possibility.

"Taking the idea a step further, and encouraged (!) by recent pronouncements from Prof. Lovell that there could be trillions of life-bearing planets in the Universe, I feel that it is not unreasonable to suggest that the unknown six could have been placed there by some extra-terrestrial agency.

"Furthermore, is it unreasonable to assume that such an agency might wish to restrain man's lethal activities beyond the atmosphere? Our scientists have

warned us repeatedly about the dangers of nuclear blasts in space. The Americans persisted, and their space H-bomb caused, and is causing no end of trouble."

Sir Bernard Lovell, it seems, has proved that leopards *can* change their spots! — C. A. Bowen, 28 Blackmore Crescent, Woking, Surrey.

(Our reader is referred to the leader in this issue as well as to the article on page 20.—Editor.)

Cigar-Shaped Object

Sir,—Driving with my wife on Sunday, March 10, at approximately 6.35 p.m. in an easterly direction three miles the London side of Didcot, I saw a bright red circular light through a break in the clouds. At first I took it to be sunset, but then realised that this was impossible since we were heading east. I pointed it out to my wife and we both watched it approaching, growing both larger and more "pearly" coloured. It then flattened out into a cigar shape and appeared to have two circular red objects, thus:



It then seemed to move slightly to our left and then receded into a circular shape once again and disappeared. In all, we, including my five-year-old daughter, watched it for two or three minutes.

Seeing it in a break in the clouds makes it extremely difficult to estimate either size or distance. At a guess I should say its

height was 8,000 feet and 15 to 20 miles away. While circular it was three-quarters the size of the moon and elongated three times the diameter.

I should mention that we have always been sceptical as to the existence of flying saucers and such like and must keep an open mind on whether what we saw was indeed from some other planet or some phenomenal trick of light from the moon. It was most definitely not an airplane or similar machine. Indeed, it appeared to be not so much an object as a very luminous mass of light.

We are most interested to know whether you have received any other reports from that neighbourhood for that evening. — N. Lonsdale, 41 Chelsea Square, London, S.W.3.

(No similar reports have been received from the Didcot area on or about the date mentioned. Our reader is, however, referred to the sighting and photograph on page 17 in this issue.—Editor.)

Meeting Dr. Menzel

Sir,—I notice in the January-February issue of the *REVIEW* that Dr. Menzel is in the news again. I thought you might be interested to know that when he visited Johannesburg a few months ago he came to see me and we had a long chat about flying saucers. Now, I am one of the contactees, but that didn't seem to put him off. He was most charming and considerate but asked me many searching questions.

We first met in the bookshop of this main branch of the Central News Agency here where I work. After talking most of the afternoon, I sold him a copy of your book, *Flying Saucers and Commonsense*, which he went off with to read at his hotel. Next day he was back to see me again to ask me many more questions and to examine my photographs of flying saucers. I described the flying saucer to him in detail and how it landed, etc., and the two men who took me away with

them. The professor was intensely interested and showed it clearly by the eagerness of his questions. Later, he gave a lecture at the University which I attended. He was pleased to see me and came and chatted with me for a while. The lecture hall was packed, and I was sitting with friends whom I introduced to Dr. Menzel. And he was quite charming, but at the end he said to me quietly: "Forget about flying saucers, they don't exist. What you saw and experienced was all hallucination."—Elizabeth Klarer, 15 Argyll House, Princess Place, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.

A regular flight

Sir,—I thought perhaps you would be interested in (1) a sighting which was observed by my mother on February 21, 1963; (2) sightings that occurred near Bath on March 2, 1963.

The object observed by my mother (Mrs. D. M. Cadel, 17 Highland Avenue, Highcliffe, Hants.) is unfortunately uncollaborated by the absence of other witnesses, but this is how it was described to me, with one interesting feature.

"On February 21 at about 9.45 p.m. I was in my dining-room (this faces south-east—towards the Isle of Wight) when I was preparing to draw the curtains when my attention was drawn to an emerald green object hanging in the sky with a golden? aura, it appeared to be oval tending to elongation, this may have been due to its change in position. I

observed this for about one hour after the first fear had gone (I suppose this is a result of my interest in UFOs) and during this time it appeared to be on end and during this time about a dozen smaller objects shot out from both sides of the object and rapidly vanished. I would not have seen them but for the brilliance of the bigger object. The main object appeared to be stationary during the whole time of observation, about one hour, when I finally lost interest and went to bed." Further pointers gleaned from my mother was that once she opened the window in an attempt to listen for any sound, but was unable to discern any. Two of the smaller objects appeared to return. The sighting was seen in a clear sky and that the smaller objects mostly disappeared over the Channel. She also looked the following night in the same direction but no recurrence was observed. The unusual feature is that the presumed mother-ship released her discs from a vertical position.

I know from my previous researches that there is quite a regular flight path along the South Coast, but that night it appears to have gone one better. I should be grateful if any other readers of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* have noticed anything of this nature about that time.

The second item is a report that appeared in the *Western Daily News* in its March 5 issue:

(i) The mystery whirling object which frightened three young girls at Timsbury, near Bath, last Friday has been seen again.

This time, says Mr. P. Heal, of Stockhill, Chilcompton, it hovered

in the sky for about a minute before moving off.

"I was not a firm believer in flying objects until last Saturday night, when I saw what at first appeared to be two very bright stars," says Mr. Heal. "The object started to move. As it passed overhead I saw two very bright lights at the front and a monster red light at the back, flashing like a great ball of fire. My father said it was a plane, but there was no engine sound."

Mr. Heal says the object went across the sky, increased its speed, but then turned back. Suddenly it stopped and hovered for about a minute. Then it made a funny whirring sound for five seconds before moving off and disappearing.

The other cutting reports:

That whirling Thing has been seen again. First came two weekend reports from near Bath. Now a Mr. Charles Rodber has seen a mystery object over Yeovil. "I could not make out any shape but it was definitely not an aeroplane. It made a sound like a sewing machine," he said yesterday. Mr. Rodber, a guard at Yeovil's Pen Mill station, who lives in Eastville, Yeovil, said he saw two brilliant white lights about 2,000 ft. up in the sky coming over Yeovil from the Sherbourne direction. "I called out to my children and we watched the lights go over the town. They seemed to dip and then came back and disappeared in the direction of Sherborne," he said. "I told one or two people but they thought I had gone mad or something."—D. Cadel, 24 Julyan Avenue, Wallisdown, Poole, Dorset.

UNIVERSAL LIFE

Universal life upon universal matter is an idea to which the mind instinctively clings. Kingdoms without kings and subjects—continents without cities—cities without citizens—houses without

families—ships without crews, and railway trains without passengers, are contingencies as probable as solar systems without planets, or planets without inhabitants.

Sir David Brewster
More Worlds Than One 1854

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE BRASS CURTAIN

By *Desmond Edwards*

ON June 19, 1956, the *Washington Evening Star* said in a front-page headline: "Mystery Object Sighted Over Nation's Capital." The story dealt with the appearance over Washington of another unidentified flying object, sighted by Ground Observer Corps watchers as it approached the National Airport, where it hovered for a few minutes, glowing brightly, then sped away and vanished.

Officially it became another in the long series of unidentified flying objects which have been recorded over the nation's capital in recent years. Singly and in swarms they come, circling, swerving, hovering by turns. When jets are sent up to pursue them, they flip up on edge and race away, leaving the jets far behind.

The U.S. Air Force, which is entrusted with defending the nation against any and all aerial intruders, has since 1947 been conducting an extensive and expensive investigation of these phenomena popularly known as "flying saucers." The Air Force has followed a most extraordinary policy in its public statements on the matter, a policy of contradiction, confusion and perhaps deception.

"Mere hallucinations"

While the U.S. Air Force was solemnly assuring the public that those who reported these unidentified flying objects were sadly mistaken, the same Air Force was also spending huge sums of money trying to capture one of the very objects whose existence it denied. While the Air Force persistently brushed such reports aside as "mere hallucinations"—it was also sending up its fastest jet fighter planes to chase the "hallucinations"!

Each year, as the Air Force announced that it was closing its latest project of investigating these unidentified aerial objects, it neglected to add that it was opening another such project immediately, under a different name. Perhaps this peculiar official policy was well founded. Perhaps there is developing a situation which warrants keeping the facts from the public as long as possible.

Let us examine the records. Are the flying saucers real?

The answer to that question is a well-kept secret, if we expect an answer in so many words. But if we look about us we can arrive at a conclusion without being told. Fifteen major nations, including our own and Russia, have official government projects devoted to the study of the so-called flying saucers. Only France, of all the major countries, has no government agency in this field. And only in France are reports of sightings printed in their entirety as they occur.

The German saucer-study project was headed by Dr. Hermann Oberth, famed rocket expert and long-time exponent of space travel. Dr. Oberth said, in June, 1955, that the studies of his group had convinced him that the flying saucers did not originate on this earth, but evidently came from somewhere out in space. (A few weeks later Dr. Oberth was taken to the U.S.A. and placed on the staff at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, effectively terminating his public statements on the subject of unidentified flying objects.)

The British Government followed a policy of free and public discussion on its findings in this field until the late summer of 1954, when it suddenly reversed itself and ordered all military and Government personnel to make no further public statements dealing with unidentified flying objects.

On May 15, 1954, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Nathan Twining was speaking in Amarillo, Texas. He said to his audience: "The best brains in the Air Force are trying to solve this riddle [of flying saucers]. If they come from Mars, they are so far ahead of us we have nothing to be afraid of."

The United States Government evidently thinks the flying saucers are real, for the Pentagon issued two specific orders dealing with them. The first is known as JANAP 146-B CIRVIS. The word CIRVIS is formed from the initials of the title of the order—"Communicating Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft." It was issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September, 1951. It covered all military and civilian personnel under the jurisdiction of the Government, ordering them to report immedi-

ately any sightings of "unidentified flying objects."

That was a move that was made in 1951, before the mantle of secrecy had been fully lowered. In August of 1954, after Colonel Milani's demand for the publication of the facts and after the Wilmington reports (newspaper reports carrying the story "100 Mystery Objects Sighted Here"), the second order was issued. Known as Air Force Regulation 200-2, this came from the Secretary of the Air Force. It stated flatly that it was concerned with unidentified flying objects (flying saucers)—"First as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces and, secondly, to determine technical aspects involved." In paragraph 9 of this order AFR 200-2, the Secretary of the Air Force gave specific instructions that reports of unidentified flying objects are not released. "Only reports . . . where the object has been definitely identified as a familiar object."

The effect of these two official orders, JANAP 146-B and AFR 200-2, was to require immediate reporting of all sightings of strange objects in the air, and once those reports had been made, the persons involved were expressly forbidden to make any public statements.

What kind of reports had the public been getting? It received one from the Air Force press desk at the Pentagon on June 10, 1954, when the Air Force announced that flying saucers were on the wane because it had received only eighty-seven sighting reports in the first five months of the year. The public got another jolt on that same night, when Colonel John O'Mara, Deputy Commander of Intelligence at Air Technical Intelligence Centre, Dayton, Ohio, told newsmen that "the Air Force is now receiving more than seven hundred sighting reports per week—the highest rate in the history of the entire investigation."

While the Air Force was getting its wire crossed in this fashion, hundreds of local newspapers were front-paging sighting reports by reputable citizens. On May 17, 1954, the *Dallas Times-Herald* said: "Four Jet Pilots Report Race With Saucers Over Dallas." The paper quoted veteran Marine Reserve pilot Major Charles Scarborough, who was in command of the flight of four SF-97 jets. He told how he and his three companions suddenly found themselves in the midst of a flight of sixteen silvery, disc-shaped objects which played tag around the jets for several minutes, while the jets tried vainly to match the manoeuvres of their eerie playmates. The *Joliet (Illinois) News Herald* said on the same day: "Saucer Pays a Visit"—and it told

how local citizens had watched a single silvery disc perform over the city. From Alaska, from Uganda, Africa, from every state in the Union and from countries of South America, the reports appeared. Whatever they were, they were being watched in all parts of the world.

But what were they? Dr. Herman Oberth, who identified them as visitors from space, was, by mid-1954, an employee of the United States Government, subject to strict security regulations (including AFR 200-2), and could make no public statements.

Lord Dowding's view

British Air Marshal Lord Dowding, a man with a distinguished military record and one who knew what was in the files of the British Royal Air Force, said, in 1954, "The flying saucers are unquestionably interplanetary craft and should be treated as such."

Lord Dowding was not alone in his views that the saucers should be treated with extreme caution. In July of 1952, when scores of these strange objects sailed around over Washington, D.C., the jittery Air Force issued an order to its pursuit pilots: "Shoot them down!" The order was issued shortly after noon on July 26, 1952, and it got nationwide coverage on the news wires as a matter of course. Prominent scientists, including the late Dr. Albert Einstein, are reported to have called the White House to urge that the order be withdrawn in the interests of common sense. Their reasoning was logic itself: any intelligence able to cross space would be able to defend itself after it reached its goal, certainly against such comparatively primitive weapons as rockets and guns.

The "shoot-'em-down" order was rescinded by the White House shortly before five o'clock in the afternoon. That night, while Washington observers watched the objects on radar and with the naked eye, jets raced back and forth in pursuit. The objects sped away; the jets returned without a shot being fired. Even after this remarkable experience in Washington, the Air Force doggedly insisted that the things were nothing more than "hallucinations."

In December, 1953, Colonel D. M. Blakeslee was flying an F-84 Thunderjet over northern Japan, when he spied before him in the gathering gloom a cluster of glowing objects. As he tried to close in on them with his jet operating at full throttle, Colonel Blakeslee reported that he could see the glowing objects flying in spiral formation around a common centre at the same time that they easily outdistanced him. According to the Air Force "explanation," Colonel Blakeslee was

suffering from an hallucination, but it is worth noting that he was not grounded for a single minute.

Lieutenant David Brigham, flying a P-51, was approaching his base in northern Japan on the night of March 29, 1952—sky clear, visibility excellent—when a shiny, disc-shaped thing came streaking at him, came to a sudden stop in mid-air, then played around over his wings, cockpit and tail planes before it zoomed away from him. Another pilot, coming in behind him, also saw and verified the report. If the Air Force believed its own “explanation,” both these fliers were in a bad way mentally. Neither man was grounded, of course. The experience of Lt. Brigham and Colonel Blakeslee are typical of those reported by hundreds of pilots, both military and commercial. It is worthy of note that not a single pilot was ever grounded for having what the Air Force claims “hallucinations” of this sort!

Is there a veil of censorship which has kept the public from being fully informed on these strange objects? The following story appears to confirm that there is.

At ten minutes past midnight, October 19, 1953, a National Airlines DC-6, just out of Philadelphia en route for Washington, was at 8,000 ft. over the Conowingo Dam. The pilot had just reported his position and estimated arrival time. He hung up the microphone and settled back for a routine milk run to the National Airport. Thirty seconds later he found himself confronted with a possible mid-air collision. A shiny, disc-shaped object slid out of a thin layer of clouds and came rushing at him. The co-pilot flipped on the wing lights as a warning. In return the object sent a blinding beam of white light into the cockpit of the airliner. The pilot, with only a few seconds left, threw the big DC-6 into a dive at full power. The object that had almost rammed them shot past overhead and vanished. The story of this unidentified flying object that apparently tried to ram a commercial airliner loaded with passengers appeared in the *Washington Post* next morning. It ran in only one edition. Then it was taken out, and it did not appear in any other paper, nor did it appear on any news wire—although such an incident was front-page news. It is obvious from this that censorship had taken place.

It is evident from records that these mysterious objects are not “hallucinations” even in the minds of those who officially profess to dismiss them as such. It is equally clear that in many nations, including our own, there is a continuous programme of investigation aimed at acquiring every bit of information that has a bearing on

these objects. The records also show that the flying saucers which are discredited by the Air Force are identical to the unidentified flying objects with which some of the largest branches of our military are deeply engrossed. The things have been observed all over the world. They have been reported by credible witnesses in every part of the globe. They have been photographed. They have been watched through astronomers’ telescopes and tracked on radar screens. They have been (and still are) chased by jet pursuit planes when such pursuit is practicable.

Where do these things originate? What do they want? Do they (as Dr. Oberth and others suspect) power themselves by distortion of the gravitational field? Is there any significance in the fact that the number of sightings increases greatly in the years when Earth and Mars are in their closest approach? If these things do come from another planet, are they using the moon for a base from which to survey Earth and its inhabitants? Does this explain the strange lights and changes which astronomers have reported on the moon in recent years?

When and if the answers to those questions filter through the curtain of official secrecy, the world will have the answer to the riddle of the flying saucers. In the meantime, the depth of the enigma is accentuated by the remarkable statement of General Douglas MacArthur, who said in an interview on December 7, 1955: “The nations of the world will be forced to unite . . . for the next war will be an interplanetary war.”

Obituary

WILBERT B. SMITH

Our readers will learn with the greatest regret of the death, on December 27, 1962, of Wilbert B. Smith in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Hull, Quebec, Canada.

He was internationally known for his work in radio communications with the Canadian Government Department of Transport. To the readers of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* he will be best known as the head of “Project Magnet,” which he organised and directed for about four years. “Project Magnet,” as may be imagined, met with some hostility in the Press and in the end was officially closed, but he continued with his personal investigations until almost the time of his death. He lectured and contributed articles on UFOs to a number of magazines including the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*.

THE DAWN OF MAGIC

STUDENTS of the flying saucer mystery will be heartened by the publication of this book written by Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier (Anthony Gibbs and Phillips, 30s.). Although UFOs are mentioned, it is not a book on flying saucers and its range is much wider—indeed, it is immense. The authors have noticed that while social revolutions are widely commended and new thought is generally admired, the scientific rebel is as unpopular as ever. *The Dawn of Magic* (not a particularly happy title) is revolutionary in its approach and looks backwards as well as forwards, suggesting that as much is to be discovered from the neglected past as there is from the projections into the future.

The book contains an excellent chapter on Charles Fort, in which the father of the flying saucers (and of many other damned phenomena) is paid the tribute he deserves. Among the most fascinating parts of the book are the references to the Nazi leaders and their involvement in bizarre and disturbing researches which were carried out during the course of the last war. This section of the book should cause a sensation and might lift it into the best-seller class, where it could perform an excellent service in freeing men's minds from the prison of scientific orthodoxy.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Conversations with Dr. Jung

by Lou Zinsstag

The Flying Saucer Tie

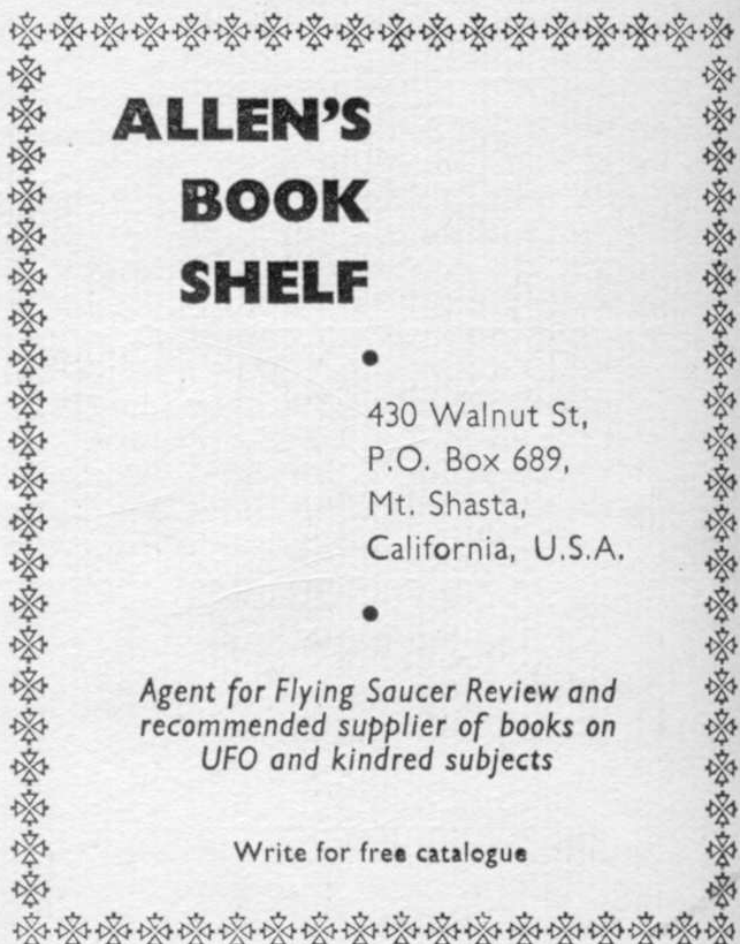
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