

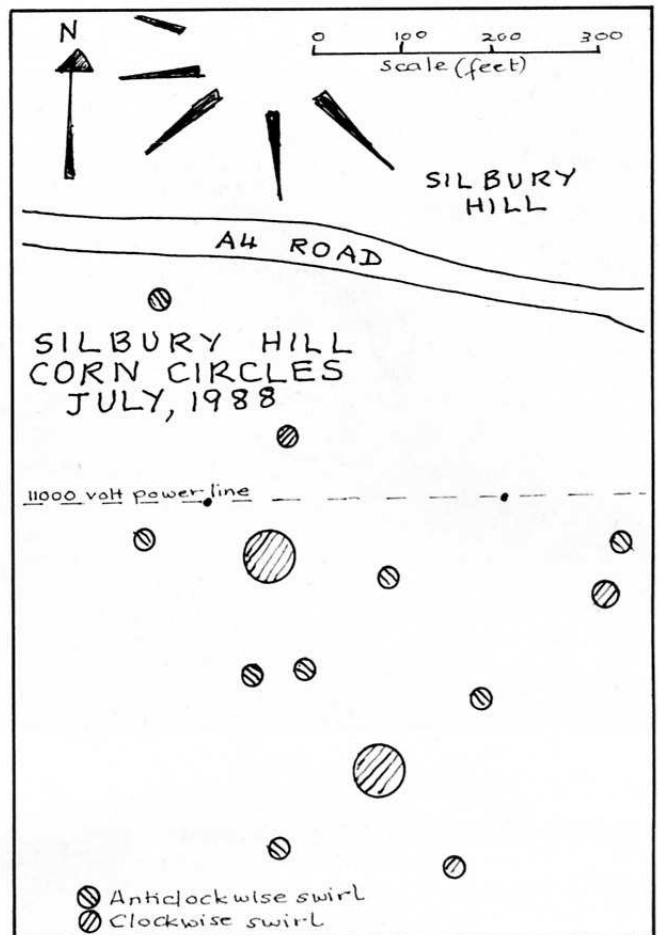
of that on Allington Down, intersect at this point. This is something that Mary Freeman could hardly have known, since very few people were aware of the positions of Circles other than of those at Silbury Hill. Moreover, the second line running to Allington Down coincides exactly with a major ley line, which goes through Avebury, Silbury Hill and the site of a Stone Circle (at SU098671) which has now vanished. The first line is close to the position of a major ley line running from Avebury to Glastonbury Tor.

Whether the connection of the Circles with ley lines is relevant or not, we may one day discover. The connection of the Circles with the whole subtle and complex UFO Phenomenon should be by now beyond reasonable doubt. It may not be satisfactory to explain one mystery with another mystery, but currently there is simply no other satisfactory approach that even begins to account for this mysterious phenomenon. Nevertheless, in asserting this, I do not attempt to adduce any evidence for or against the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs. That is a separate issue.

Meanwhile, on August 16, news came that a large Quintuple Set of Circles had appeared in a field north of Hungerford, some 15 miles east of Silbury Hill. At the time of writing the wheat has already been cut and harvested and there is little left of the 1988 Circles which can be seen. Soon these fields near Silbury Hill will go under the plough. No doubt the summer of 1989 will bring even more surprises, for it appears that the saga of the Corn Circles will run and run.

G.W.

September 1988



THE DEMON WHO ADMITTED IT! A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN FRANCE IN 1987

Report by Denise Lacanal and Théodore Revel (Groupement Midi-Pyrénées).

(Translation from French)

We give below our translation of this highly interesting case which appeared in LUMIERES DANS LA NUIT No. 291-292 (September-October 1988), now under the able guidance of Monsieur Joël Mesnard whose name is well known to FSR readers of some years ago, as we had a lot of very good reports by him. We take this opportunity to offer our warmest congratulations to Monsieur Mesnard, and we remain sure that LDLN will continue to prosper under him. We know that, in common with all other UFO investigation journals in Europe and the USA, LDLN have been urged by our detractors to provide no collaboration with FSR or make any reference to our existence, but we shall continue with the policy which we have always held, right from the establishment of LDLN, which has been to give all possible support and all possible publicity to this excellent French journal, published in a country for which we all harbour the greatest regard and esteem!

EDITOR

THIS extraordinary affair occurred at about 10.50 a.m. (9.50 a.m. Greenwich Time) on December 12, 1987 at a small place called Malvési situated some 3 kms. to the north of Narbonne in the far south of France. (43° 11 N., 03° 00 E.), on an open level tract of ground flanked by hills and close to the Malvési uranium-treatment plant. The weather was rainy and misty, with low cloud cover. (A Perpignan newspaper *L'Indépendant* of December 20, 1987, carried a report of the case, with a photo of the witness at the site.)

The eyewitness, a married man named G— L—, aged 40, who has one daughter aged 16, struck us, when we interviewed him, as totally balanced, sensible and trustworthy, and apparently in no way traumatized by his extraordinary experience. Formerly owner of a restaurant, he is a musical composer.

His account was given to us with great clarity and in tones conveying unmistakable sincerity. He had no objection whatever to the publication of his name, but in view of the strange nature of this case, we have thought it better not to reveal his name, but are keeping it on file, and we shall simply call him G— L—.

His Account

"I had gone to Malvési to gather some firewood, as I often do, in order to grill a meal. I had parked my car near the old demolished factory buildings and was heading towards the building rubble, hoping to find there some beams or planking. I had not gone more

(continued on Page 20)

MORE ON THE NULLARBOR DESERT CASE

In the *Stop Press-Latest Reports* section of FSR 33/1 and in special articles by FSR Consultants Pat Delgado and Paul Norman in FSR 33/2, we chronicled the affair of the Knowles family and their alarming experience in the Australian Outback on January 20 of this year.

Several of the first press clippings which we saw on the case seemed to suggest that the roof-rack and the family's entire baggage had been removed by the UFO when it attempted to lift their car. But in an interim air-mail letter mailed to us on August 3 last, Mr Paul Norman told us that this part of the story is nonsense since *the car did not have a roof-rack, and consequently had no baggage up above.* (From what we have learned later from Mr Norman, it seems that, in the United States, the dedicated UFO-debunker Philip Klass had meanwhile enjoyed quite a field-day, broadcasting the splendid "explanation" that it was in fact *the roof-rack itself* that had caused the damage, and that the Knowles family were simply telling this fabricated "UFO story" in order to collect insurance money!)

Now, as Mr Norman tells us, it seems that there NEVER WAS a roof-rack!

We have since received the two following further reports on the Nullarbor Case from Mr Paul Norman, and we have great pleasure in reproducing them for our readers. EDITOR

I. ON THE UFO TRAIL. By Paul Norman, FSR Consultant, © 1988.

(This article has also appeared in *The Australian UFO Bulletin* for September 1988. The journal is the organ of the Victoria UFO Research Society, of Moorabbin, Victoria; President Judith M. Magee, Vice-President Paul Norman; and the article is now reproduced in FSR at the suggestion of Mr Norman himself, and we hereby express to him our thanks.)

ON 3rd of July, 1988, I returned to Australia from the United States after receiving a report on dust samples taken from the Knowles family 1984 *Ford Telstar*. Due to briefings with the VUFORS Committee and the necessity to catch up with accumulated correspondence, I was delayed until 22nd of July before going to the Nullarbor Plain and other areas in Western Australia. Priority for this trip was, of course, due to the fact that the Knowles experience has emerged as the most outstanding mystery case in Australia.

The highlight of my journey was, without doubt, a visit with a resident of Norsman, who was in the Nullarbor area at the time of the event and had a report of his own experience concerning that particular encounter including a sighting of his own. Not only did this key contact provide me with accommodation and hospitality in his home, but he spent several hours driving me to the spot where the car had skidded and over several kilometres around the area. He reported that soon after daylight, he noticed a short fiber-like substance scattered in spots along the bitumen highway for about a kilometre from where the car stopped. At that time he did not realize that the material had a connection with the UFO. He picked up some of the fibers which crumbled between his fingers into a powder similar to graphite only much lighter. So light in fact that the wind was already blowing it away. Being intrigued by the incident and hearing more details from other people he returned to the spot a second time, only to find that the wind had blown the fibers away.

A few days later this man began to suffer an illness similar to that of Faye Knowles, who had previously touched an object on top of her car, and her arm was covered with the dust. But his symptoms were more severe than those of Mrs. Knowles, and he was later admitted to hospital. He did not report this mysterious experience, because he thought he would be ridiculed. However, efforts are now being made to determine whether or not the illness was related to the dust.

It now appears that dust samples vacuumed from inside the Knowles car are the only samples to remain intact from contamination. Sufficient dust was vacuumed from inside the car after it reached Adelaide, for several laboratory tests. One set of samples



was given to Dr. Richard F. Haines, a retired NASA scientist. Dr. Haines submitted the samples to a high-technique, state-of-the-art laboratory in the United States. Two other laboratories are also checking on the material. The apparatus being used is a scanning electron microscope with an EDAX analyser and ECON detector. Some of the particles are magnified 5,000 times. The samples are composed of oxygen, carbon, calcium, silicon and potassium. The analyst mentioned that atomic element 85 (*astatine*) was also possible.

The mention of possible *astatine* has aroused my curiosity since I have suspected some sort of temporary radiation that would have disappeared by the time the car had reached South Australia, where it was checked for radiation and found to be negative.

Astatine is a radio-active chemical element that has no stable isotopes. It is the natural element 85 At. Astatine was *synthetically* produced in 1940, at the University of California, when three scientists bombarded bismuth with accelerated alpha particles (helium nuclei to yield astatine and neutrons.) After the reaction it has a half life of only 7 to 8 hours before decaying.

Prior to the arrival of the Knowles' car in South Australia, the encounter was being treated seriously until after the debunkers got into the act and made their first debunking attempts. The first samples alleged to have been analysed were done by employees of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories (AMDL) in Adelaide. The statement released from AMDL was that "The dust was mostly iron oxide consistent with residue from worn brake linings." The large amount of the dust was ignored.

The AMDL report was being distributed both in Australia and abroad as if it were God's gift to the sceptics. Apparently the first analysts did not realize that the affair would be taken further afield. Whether the AMDL report was an attempt to cover up, or

The Coyne Case

there was some other reason, I am not prepared to state. The opinion of other analysts is that the dust from the brakes had been mixed with dust from other parts of the car. Naturally the result would show predominantly brake-dust. VUFORS' own samples were kept separately and analysed accordingly.

With comments being made by dedicated debunkers from various sources, such as "The family was mesmerized by a light in the sky" or "had been driving all night, dozed off and had overturned the car", or "UFO experiences are made during dozing-off state or while awakening." (dreamtime ufology), it was urgent that Ufologists should begin investigations. *The facts are: dreams do not leave holes in the ground. Dreams do not lift motor cars off the road. Nor do dreams lift helicopters hundreds of feet in the air as experienced by Larry Coyne and his crew while flying over Ohio, during 1973.* These facts were some of the reasons that prompted my colleague John Auchettl and myself to go to Adelaide and check out the car at first hand. After our tests on the car were televised, we understand that some of the sceptics made adjustments to their original comments, and the case was again being treated seriously.

Meanwhile, all over the world, UFO organizations and publications were receiving inaccurate reams of newspaper accounts and stories taken from these inaccurate newspaper clippings. One of the most amusing stories was about the "roof-rack". What happened to the roof-rack? Even Philip Klass, the foremost dedicated UFO debunker in the United States (Klass is the US counterpart of the Australian sceptic) broadcast that the roof-rack had caused the damage, and that the family was telling the UFO story to collect insurance money. *So much for the so-called scientific investigation of Philip Klass! There never was a roof-rack!* As this article goes to press this interesting case is still under investigation.

II. PAUL NORMAN'S EDITORIAL IN THE AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN (SEPTEMBER 1988).

(Now also reproduced in FSR at the suggestion of Mr Norman.)

WHILE the scientific community introduces one debunking attempt after another, all contradicting, and none satisfactory with regard to the UFO Phenomenon, yet another encounter has occurred which indicates that the mysterious objects have a strong gravitational force or similar capability.

On 20th January, 1988 the Knowles family car, a 1984 *Ford Telstar*, was lifted temporarily from the bitumen highway as the family was crossing the Nullarbor Plain just west of Mundrabilla, in Western Australia.

As the UFO tugged at the roof to lift the car the occupants apparently did not realize they were off the ground until the object lost its grip, and the car dropped, landing on its rear right wheel and bursting the tyre. In fact, the driver thought he was speeding at 200 kilometres p.h. to get from under the object.

There is reason to believe that this was an abduction attempt that failed. There is no doubt that a 1984 *Ford Telstar* cannot travel at that speed on the ground. There is no doubt that the same car can spin its wheels at 200 kilometres when off the ground, as proven by a test conducted by VUFORS investigator John Auchettl on 1st February, when the front wheels were jacked off the ground and the speedometer accelerated to full scale (200 kilometres), as documented by *Channel 7 VIDEO* in Adelaide.

On 18th October, 1973, another such encounter took place when a four-man crew aboard an Army helicopter was flying at 2,500 feet over Ohio, in the United States, when the crew chief spotted a light which he at first thought was on a radio tower beacon. But to his surprise the light was approaching the flight path of the helicopter on a collision course. As the UFO came closer the captain, Larry Coyne, saw that it was cigar-shaped and metallic. When the captain thought the object would collide with him he put the controls into descent position. When the helicopter reached an elevation of 1700 feet, Coyne looked up and saw that the UFO was overhead. He looked back at his altimeter and saw that he was being pulled up. The helicopter went from 1700 feet to 3500 feet in a matter of seconds, with the controls still set in the descent position. At 3500 feet Coyne regained control of his aircraft and flew on to his destination.

The Valentich Case

Australia's most outstanding UFO case is of course the Frederick Valentich encounter of 21st October, 1978. VUFORS members and subscribers are familiar with this incident as the details have been told time and time again. In addition, Mr. Guido Valentich, the pilot's father, is a VUFORS member and attends our public meetings where those present have the privilege of discussing the case with him and with members who investigated the incident. While we do not know what happened after the mystery sound interrupted radio transmission between Frederick Valentich and Melbourne Flight Service, such experiences as the above mentioned cases lead us to wonder if the Valentich case was not a successful abduction. Was the sound heard that of the UFO latching onto the *Cessna 172* aircraft? Anyway, Larry Coyne and his crew got back to tell about it, and Frederick Valentich did not.

The Rosedale Case

Many other cases are recorded where cars have been lifted from the ground and aircraft have either gone up, down or disintegrated during encounters with unidentified flying objects. Then there are the incidents concerning gravitational or similar effects that do not seem to make sense, such as the White Acres physical trace incident which occurred between 1 and 2 a.m. on 30th September, 1980, near Rosedale in eastern Victoria, Australia.

The witness, George Blackwell, was awakened by the noise of his horse galloping around the paddock and a commotion among his cattle. When he went outside to investigate, he saw what he at first thought to be an aircraft about to crash. But to his surprise, the object levelled off above the ground and flew within 300 feet past his house before flying on to a water tank three-quarters of a mile away. George watched the object hover over the tank and then settle to the ground 100 feet from the tank. He then considered the possibility that a helicopter might be making an attempt to rustle his cattle. He then jumped on his motor-cycle and sped to the scene.

When within a short distance of the object he could see that it was no known aircraft. By the light of the full moon, he could tell the craft was bell-shaped. The main body was orange-coloured with a white dome on top. As the UFO gave off a blast of heat and began to rise slowly in the air, he noted a large circular rim that resembled a huge inner-tube under the bottom.

This rim receded in width as the craft ascended. The witness noted objects falling from the craft as it flew away. The 10,000 gallon concrete water tank had been kept full in case the regular supply failed. When examined after daylight, only one foot of water was left in the tank. Algae were sticking to the sides of the tank all the way to the top.

Rocks Drawn to UFO

Rocks which had been thrown up against the tank to be out of the way from mowers had been drawn by force in a path from the tank to a circle left on the ground where the object had landed. Smaller rocks seen falling from the UFO as it flew away were found

on the ground directly below the flight path.

Perhaps the purpose of the UFO was to secure water? But the force that pulled the rocks from the tank does not appear to have served any useful purpose, unless the problem was in the UFO's control system which, after drawing water out of the tank, was not properly switched off. There is also a possibility that the UFO was disabled in some way, such as "filters" or other apparatus being blocked with algae from the tank? If this is a correct assumption, then the ufonauts may be subject to failures. Or are they merely performing tricks "to induce thinkability" and/or confusion into the developing mentality of the human race?

THE CALVARY OF THE KNOWLES FAMILY

Gordon Creighton

"These people are going through hell".
— Colin Norris of I.U.F.S.R. (Australia).

As we all know, it is quite normal for the eyewitness or victim of a UFO encounter to be crucified by the media and by public in general, and this has been especially so in the case of the Knowles family. It is also very much in keeping with what we know about the average Australian. Superficially very tolerant and inclined to extremely "laissez faire" attitudes in general, he can become even more hostile and more cruel than most other humans when confronted suddenly with the unknown and the incomprehensible, and he can then become a rabid persecutor, for, deep down, he has a strong herd-allegiance, and is a great conformist.

In the case of the Knowles family, they are furious at the way in which they have been treated by the Police, the hospitals, the doctors, the Press and Media — in a word by *everybody*. The Police, says Mrs Knowles, just treated them as "*another lot of cranks*".

On the day following the incident (which was on January 20, 1988) the whole Knowles family *felt extremely unwell*. They were finding it impossible to sleep, and could not eat. Said Mrs Knowles: "We went to one hospital (this was probably in Melbourne. — G.C.) and they made fun of us. They can make you feel like a real fool at times. They slam questions at you, and you have to know (the answer) straight out, or else they call you a liar.¹ You get upset and you get angry."

One of the interviewers who had the Knowles on television said that the "little green men" in UFO stories "always go for corn farmers in Iowa but never for a Nobel Peace Prize winner or a military genius."

The Knowles family were particularly infuriated by one newspaper headline which read: "DOCTOR TREATS UFO FAMILY". As Mrs Knowles' younger sister Belinda, resident in Melbourne, said: "That's *our* family. The family that had an encounter with the UFO. *Not* the UFO family. *They're not aliens!*" "No" — added Patrick, the eldest of the three Knowles sons, "*But they make you feel like one*"...

On the day following their harrowing experience, the Channel 7 TV Network (after thoughtfully securing a three-month monopoly on the television rights to the Knowles story) took the family back to the scene of their encounter on the Eyre Highway across the Nullarbor Plain, and shot some videotape of them there. The videotape shows Mrs Faye Knowles talking to two men who had driven up in a car and ques-

tioned her. She has explained: "I was talking to *American Police*... They were up there on the next day. They stopped me and asked me all about it, and they said they believed me, what happened to us. They knew we were coming over, and what had happened." Sean, her second son, aged 20, went on: "But they have Australian police uniforms on, and they are in an Australian police car." "Yes" — replied Mrs Knowles — "But they had American accents. It's weird. I thought they were country coppers!"

There is said to be a huge American defence installation at Nurrangar, near Woomera, and not far off there is also Maralinga, where the British Government tested its nuclear weapons in the 1950s. And there are also other secret installations. All in this huge, wild, Australian "Out-Back".

Disturbing and persistent rumours from the United States suggest that, during the 1960s or maybe even earlier, the sinister small aliens induced — or more likely *coerced* — the U.S. Government to turn a blind eye to the wholesale cattle mutilations (over 10,000 beasts) and the establishment of a great alien underground base beneath an Indian Reservation in a wild and formidably inaccessible region of New Mexico, near Dulcie. The same rumours tell of some sort of *collaboration* with the aliens — in return, of course, for "advanced technical aid and information". This would mean that U.S. military personnel might be actually present in an alien base. (The latest reports suggest that the "deal" has "gone sour", and that a shoot-out has taken place, with great loss of American lives.)

Well now — if there is co-operation with aliens in New Mexico — may there not also be other bases elsewhere in the world where such collaboration occurs? (We have already seen hints of it here in England, at the American Air Force Base near Rendlesham Forest.)

And, extending our speculation still further, might there also be American-alien collaboration at some huge base in the Australian "Out-Back", and near the scene of the Nullarbor Desert case? If so, this could account for the presence of *American Armed Forces* personnel *in Australian disguise*.

As for the "thing" that terrified the Knowles family, we still have no idea what it was. It might have been an alien machine from this secret American-cum-Alien base out in the Australian wilderness. Or it might have been a new secret weapon under develop-

ment by the Americans *WITH ALIEN AID*.

Would such a theory account for the following story, which has reached us and has no doubt received very wide publicity. (In our case it came via a New Zealand publication.)

The story is as follows:-

"A man who does not wish to be named, who has lived and worked at service stations across the Nullarbor, believes that the origin of the craft that terrified the Knowles family is far more earthly but perhaps no less sinister than some people think. He points out that the Nullarbor is close to several high-security areas — Maralinga, where the British tested nuclear weapons in the 1950s, and Nurrangar, near Woomera, where there is a major U.S. defence base — a focus of controversy for many years past. The man is curious about Forrest Airfield, which is 80 kms. from Mundrabilla. He asks: "Why is Forrest Airfield so much 'off-limits'? We see U2 spy-planes flying in and out of there all the time. Train-loads of water and aviation turbine fuel are transported to a town called Cook, which has a population of only 200 people. They can't use two and a half trainloads of water a week!"

Out at sea, says this man, 22 kms. from where the Knowles incident took place, there are ships moored 5 kms. offshore with all their lights on. (They are not mother-ships for trawlers, he says, because there are no trawlers about all the time.)

"I don't believe in little green men with aerials sticking out of their ears", says this man. But what he *does* believe is that the military and scientific community are testing a new propulsion system that involves electro-magnetic rotation. "In other words — a flying saucer", he says. A theory like this, involving the military, is, he says, "the only logical explanation for a lot of things that have gone on. The Police come across electrical interference all the time", he says. "Radios blank out, and radar guns don't work". This man believes that the military are "meddling with ordinary, everyday people — like the Knowles family — as part of a psychological experiment to find out how far they can go before the populace is terrorized".² And, he adds, since the Knowles family's incident on the Nullarbor, "a very effective disinformation campaign has been operating".

We do not know where the truth lies in all this. But surely we have plenty of food for thought?

— And what about the Knowles' blue Ford Telstar car?

The last that we hear of it is in a report of February 1988 from Bonython Park, Adelaide, South Australia, where the car was on show in an open-air fun-fair. It was standing next to the section where the (inevitable in Australia!) sheep-shearing demonstrations were going on. One of the car's wheels, the tyre blown, rests on a chair. The sign on the placard on the car's roof reads "CAR PICKED UP BY UFO." The crowds mill around the car, silently, gawping. As one writer de-

scribes it, it is "as if they are in a museum or art gallery. The calm is shattered intermittently by the weird growlings of five camels which, linked together, troop along near the car, with children riding on their backs". (As FSR's readers no doubt all know, camels were introduced long ago into the parched heartland of Australia, and, in fact, I believe many have now "gone wild" — or "gone bush" — and are now breeding there.)

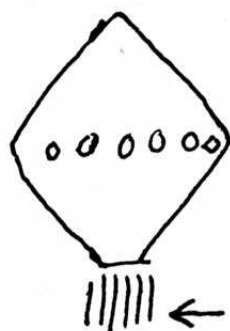
NOTES AND REFERENCES

(1) Just a few weeks before the Japanese attack against the West opened at Pearl Harbour (December 7, 1941), I was sent out of China to Australia for medical treatment, being exhausted by my wartime privations in the temporary Chinese wartime Capital in the Far West, reduced to a skeleton so that my bones made it impossible to lie down, and suffering from malaria and amoebic dysentery and a few other things. I take this opportunity to say that the many doctors and specialists whom I saw on Sydney's famous Macquarie Street (their equivalent of London's Harley Street) treated me royally and excellently, and soon had me restored to health. I have never encountered greater care or kindness or efficiency anywhere. But you do still run into a few real boors here and there in Australia, and I most particularly recall one Australian doctor — he was a Government employee — not a doctor in private practice, so I suppose he did not think it necessary to be polite. And I must place it on the record, remembering the way in which he greeted me, that he was the crudest and most swinish medico that I have ever encountered in a long life of encountering medicos on all five continents. So if the doctors who handled the Knowles family were anything like *him* — and I'll bet they *were* — then the Knowles have my total sympathy! As an example of what she got, Mrs Knowles relates that one of the Australian doctors at the hospital told her that he "practised his medicine here on Earth". And he gave her orange juice. A fine way forsooth in which to treat folk suffering from deep trauma. And it sounds certainly all of a piece with the way in which my particular "medical gentleman" had received me!

(2) The Knowles affair puts me very much in mind of the awful experiences undergone near Huffman, Texas, on the night of December 29, 1980, by Mrs Betty Cash, Mrs Vickie Landrum, and the latter's seven-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum. They suffered terrible burns and injuries from a large diamond-shaped object that swooped down upon their car. Since the U.S. Government denied that UFOs could exist, we understand that these unfortunate folk tried to secure redress from that Government on the ground that the terrible machine HAD therefore to be one of theirs! So far as we know, the U.S. Government refused to pay the bill. A comparison of the sketch, based on their descriptions, with the sketch given by the Knowles family, may be found conducive to reflection. Maybe, for example, the thing that burnt the Cash-Landrum party came from...Dulcie?

(Thanks and credit for material used in this report and received from FSR readers David Little of New Zealand; Graham Conway of British Columbia, Canada; and Joan Amos of Devonshire.)

G.C.



Huffman, Texas,
U.S.A. December
29, 1980. "A
diamond of
flame."



The
Nullarbor Plain
object, January
20, 1988

SANCTUS AGOBARDUS, ORA PRO NOBIS!

Some lessons from the 9th century abductions in France

Dr. Jacques Vallée, FSR Consultant ©

1. The Abduction Question

In these days of intense turmoil and speculation among American ufologists the problem of abduction reports has finally assumed the central position it deserves.

On one hand the skeptics like Mr. Klass brush aside any notion that the reported abductions might be real: since UFOs cannot exist, they argue, these reports must be coming from overheated imaginations or pure hoaxes, precipitated by the credulity of many investigators.

On the other hand experienced researchers like Dr. David Jacobs and Mr. Budd Hopkins are presenting evidence from their own hypnotic regressions of abductees. In their view the cases are not only real, but they represent a genuine indication that contact between mankind and an extraterrestrial civilization visiting us is entering a new phase. This new phase is characterized, they claim, by medical and genetic experimentation on unsuspecting human victims.

Many researchers of the field find themselves somewhere between these two extreme positions. Those who have followed the work of François Meheust, or my own *Passport to Magonia*, may acknowledge that the study of folklore is replete with accounts of abductions by objects coming from the sky, with stories of intermarriage with beings of light, and with theories about the genetic and racial motivations of the beings in question: If experimentation is going on, it must have been under way for a very long time.

The UFO community in the U.S. has generally discounted this information, arguing that folklore is too vague to be useful and that the parallel between our modern, technically-equipped ufonauts and the elves or the sylphs of old is so tenuous as to be irrelevant. In the words of Budd Hopkins it represents "an odd confluence of UFO case studies, free-wheeling speculation and folklore of obviously uncertain authenticity."

I submit that, on the contrary, it is extremely important to look for any historical antecedents to the reports we are studying today. The guidance we find in such accounts may help in resolving some of the research issues in modern ufology. It will be recalled that the very title of *Passport to Magonia*, which was published nearly 20 years ago, was inspired by an account in the French medieval archives. This account was attributed to Archbishop Agobard. It concerned a series of sightings of "cloudships" and the local speculation that these objects carried sorcerers from Magonia, a magical region situated somewhere between the earth and the sky.

There is nothing uncertain about the authenticity of the belief in Magonia.

In recent months I have spent some time in Lyons, France, to locate the original text of the Agobard statement. The purpose of this short article is to show that, far from being a simple rumour or a piece of fairy tale, the Magonia account is clearly established in history.

2. Who was Saint Agobard?

Agobard was born about 779 near Narbonne, came to Lyons at age 20, was ordained in 804, and suc-

ceeded Archbishop Leidrade when the latter retired to the Saint-Médard monastery in 814.

Archbishop Agobard was an enlightened, intelligent man who took an active role in the political feuds of his time: he became involved on Lothaire's side in his fight against his father, and even wrote a book supporting him. This cost him his position when Louis the Pious came back to power, but he was reinstated two years later, in 837.

As an early-day "rationalist", Saint Agobard has left no less than 22 books, including several treatises against superstitions and heretical beliefs, along with political pamphlets and volumes of poetry. The anonymous translator of his work entitled *De Grandine et Tonitruis* ("About Hail and Thunder") notes in his introduction:

All of his writings, whose style is consistently correct and often elegant, deserve the honor of being translated, for they make known to us the mores and customs of the first half of the ninth century, better than those of any other writer of the time.

In particular one must acknowledge that he fought the prejudices and superstitions of his time more strongly and with a higher sense of reason than anyone else. It is against one of these prejudices that he compiled "About Hail and Thunder".

The book was first partially translated from the Latin as a piece published in *L'Annuaire de Lyon* for 1837. The translation was then revised and reprinted as an essay, with very limited distribution, in 1841 (Lyon: Imprimerie de Dumoulin, Ronet et Sibuet, Quai St. Antoine). It is this volume I was able to study in the Lyons municipal library.

3. About Hail and Thunder

The main purpose of the "De Grandine et Tonitruis" is to debunk some popular misconceptions about the weather. In particular, the good Archbishop of Lyons fought against the idea that winds and storms were due to the influence of sorcerers (appropriately named "tempestaires" by the vulgar people): His main argument is that "Whoever takes away from God His admirable and terrible works, and attributes them to Man, is a false witness against God Himself."

It is in this context that he raises his voice against those who are insane enough to believe that there could be ships ("naves") flying through the clouds. To avoid any suggestion that I might have bent the meaning of the terms used in the original, and given the rarity of the book itself, I think it is important to put on record the key passages of the Latin text:

Plerosque autem vidimus et audivimus tanta dementia obrutos, tanta stultitia alienatos, ut credant et dicant: quandam esse regionem, quae dicatur MAGONIA, ex qua naves veniant in nubibus, in quibus fruges, quae grandinibus decidunt, et tempestatibus pereunt, vehantur in eandem regionem, ipsis videlicet nautis aereis dantibus pretia tempestariis, et accipientibus frumenta vel ceteras fruges.

Which our translator renders in the following terms:

We have seen and heard many people crazy enough and insane enough to believe and to state that there exists a certain region called MAGONIA, out of which ships come out and sail upon the

clouds; these ships (are said to) transport to that same region the fruits that have fallen because of the hail and have been destroyed by the storm, after the value of the wheat and other fruits have been paid to the "Tempestaires" by the aerial navigators who have received them.

And Saint Agobard continues:

Ex his item tam profunda stultitia excoecatis, ut haec posse fieri credant, vidimus plures in quodam conventu hominum exhibere vinctos quatuor homines, tres viros, et unam feminam, quasi qui de ipsis navibus ceciderint: quos scilicet per aliquot dies in vinculis detentos, tandem collecto conventu hominum exhibuerunt, ut dixi, in nostra praesentia, tanquam lapidandos. Sed tamen vincente veritate, post multam ratiocinationem, ipsi qui eos exhibuerant, secundum

De Grandine et Tonitruis

The first page of Agobard's book, in the Lyons edition of 1841.

I. In his regionibus¹ penè omnes homines, nobiles et ignobiles, urbani et rustici, senes et juvenes, putant grandines et tonitrua hominum libitu posse fieri. Dicunt enim, mox ut audierint tonitrua et viderint fulgura: *Aura levatitia est*². Interrogati verò quid sit aura levatitia, alii cum verecundia, parum remordente conscientia, alii autem confidenter, ut imperitorum moris esse solet, confirmant incantationibus hominum, qui dicuntur tempestarii, esse levatam, et ideo dici levatitiam auram. Quod utrum verum sit, ut vulgò creditur, ex auctoritate divinarum Scripturarum probetur necesse est. Sin autem falsum est, utabsque ambiguo credimus, summopere exaggerandum est, quanti mendacii reus sit, qui opus divinum homini tribuit. Nam per hoc inter duo mortifera maxime mendacia constringitur, dum testificatur hominem facere posse quod solius Dei est posse, et Deum non facere quae facit. Si verò in mendaciis minorum rerum veraciter est propheticum illud confusi sunt, sicut *confunditur fur quando deprehenditur*.

¹ In agro nimirum Lugdunensi et circumpositis regionibus. Stephanus Baluzius.

² Vide Adelung, *Glossarium manuale*, verbo *Aura*.

Which gets translated as follows:

We have even seen several of these crazy individuals who, believing in the reality of such absurd things, exhibited before the assembled crowd four people in chains, three men and one woman, said to have fallen from these ships. They had been holding them bound for a few days when they

brought them before me, followed by the multitude, in order to lapidate them. After a long argument, truth having prevailed at last, those who had shown them to the people found themselves, as a prophet says, in the same state of confusion as a robber who has been caught. (Jerem.2:26)

Since we do not have access to the statements made on the other side of the argument, we will never know what the "cloud ships" looked like, or why the witnesses thought that the three men and one woman had in fact come from these ships, and should be stoned to death. Naturally the mere fact of alighting from a "cloudship" may have been proof of sorcery. Stoned to death. Naturally the mere fact of alighting from a "cloudship" may have been proof of sorcery.

In one of his books the French physicist Arago states that until the time of Charlemagne it was a common custom to erect long poles in the fields to protect them from the hail and the thunderstorms. These poles were not lightning rods, as one might suppose, but magical devices which were only effective when they held aloft certain parchments. In his *Capitularies*, published in 789, emperor Charlemagne forbade this "superstitious" practice.

4. A Patron Saint of Abductees?

I nominate Saint Agobard as the Patron Saint of abductees. His statement teaches us that interaction between us and the ships that sail through the clouds is not a new phenomenon. It also indicates to me that the vision of these "ships" was linked, in the minds of the people, to atmospheric disturbances and to the stealing of fruits, plants and possibly even animals by beings from the sky.

The reference to animals comes from a passage in a book by J.-J. Ampère (in *Histoire Littéraire de la France*, III, 178): "It was believed that certain men, called "Tempestarii", raised storms in order to sell the fruits hit by hail and the animals who had died as a result of storms and floods to mysterious buyers who came by way of the air."

Most importantly, Agobard's book shows that as early as the ninth century there was a belief in Western culture about a separate region of the universe from whence these vessels sailed, and about the possibility for men and women to travel with them.

We must be thankful to him for saving the lives of these four people, an episode that shows that the skeptics, in this field, can do some good after all.

Note: The author can be contacted at 1550 California Street, #6L, San Francisco, California 94109.

FSR CONSULTANT DR JACQUES VALLÉE ON FSR AND ON THE AMERICANS

THE MUFON UFO JOURNAL for May 1988 contains an account of an interview with Dr Vallée, by Linda J. Strand, a freelance journalist living in Boulder, Colorado, who specializes in scientific subjects

and has had her articles on a wide variety of topics published in *Science Digest*, *Astronomy*, and similar journals.

We reproduce below only part of the article which

relates to *Flying Saucer Review*. In the light of the sort of things that the MUFON UFO JOURNAL has been saying about us lately, our readers may find Dr Vallée's comments not totally devoid of interest:-

STRAND: What do you think is missing from the historical analysis?

VALLÉE: Two things: a sense of the slowly-changing positions of the key researchers rather than the big, sensational events; and the international perspective. American historians of the field have looked exclusively at the U.S. scene, probably because they had to define the subject narrowly to keep it manageable. But it was always apparent to us from the beginning that the problem could only be tackled at an international level.

STRAND: Give me some examples of that.

VALLÉE: Just look at the foreign individuals and organizations that have had a major impact. People like Olavo Fontes in Brazil, or the British *Flying Saucer Review* in London. No U.S.

magazine has ever compared with it, although a lot of money has been squandered on flashy publications that disappeared quickly...

STRAND: Obviously you think there is something wrong with U.S. research into UFOs. What is it? A parochial attitude?

VALLÉE: Too much talk and not enough research.

All of which puts me in mind of the day when, on behalf of FSR, I went to welcome Dr J. Allen Hynek for the very first time, on the occasion of (possibly) his first visit to Britain. I took him to lunch at a hotel in Kensington, and in the course of the meal he told me that the U.S. Air Force had for years done their best to prevent him seeing the foreign UFO reports that were coming in from all over the world, and that it was consequently only when he began to see my translations of foreign reports, from ten languages, published regularly in FSR, that he realized that, whatever its ultimate nature might turn out to be, the "UFO Phenomenon" was at any rate global, and not limited to North America.

EDITOR

A VISIT TO NAZCA

By Omar Fowler, FSR Consultant

Our colleague Omar Fowler, who used to live in Surrey and ran the S.I.G.A.P. UFO Investigation Group (now taken over by another FSR Consultant, Paul Whitehead), is currently living near Barcelona, in Spain. He has just returned from a trip to South America, where he was able to fulfil a life-long dream of seeing the Nazca Lines and Figures, and where he also met the famous German lady Dr. Maria Reiche, who has devoted her entire life to the study of all these strange forms and markings on the Peruvian Desert. Omar has sent us this very interesting account of what he saw.

EDITOR

I was fortunate recently in being able to fulfil one of my life-time ambitions when I visited Peru in May of this year (1988), and had the opportunity to explore and fly over the famous "Lines" and "Figures" of the Nazca Plain (around 14° 53 S., 74° 54 W.)

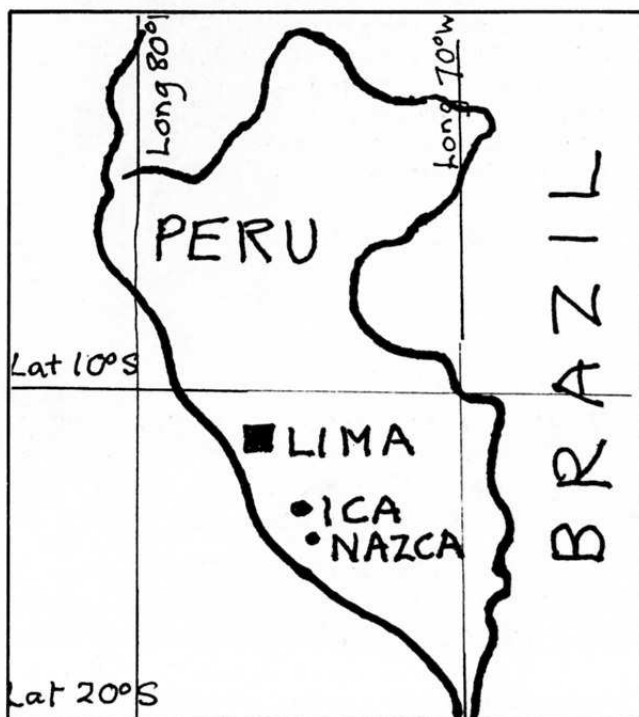
The road journey from Lima to Ica and then on to Nazca turned out to be a hair-raising adventure on tracks that rapidly deteriorated as the trip progressed. White crosses at the side of the road marked particularly dangerous points where various persons had been killed in accidents. At one bad corner up in the mountains, seven black crosses showed a spot where seven people had apparently misjudged the bend and disappeared into the rocky valley below.

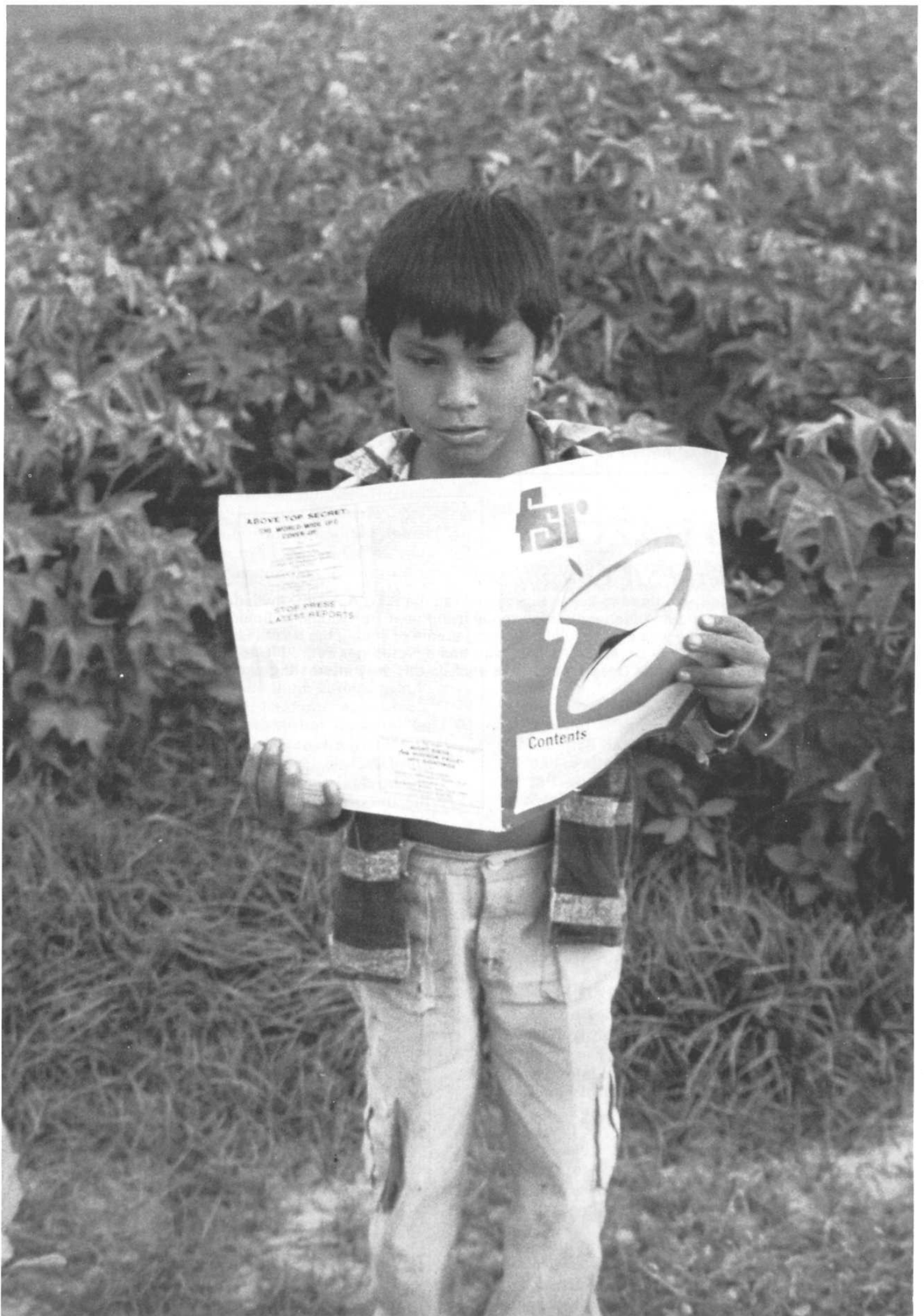
Finally the battered old Peruvian V8 "Chevy" taxi arrived on the Nazca Plain, and we pulled up next to an observation tower that had been constructed beside the highway. This tower is some fifteen metres in height and gives a panoramic view of the desert. It was possible to make out a number of distant lines and part of a geoglyph figure nearby, but it was not until later in the day, when I flew over the Plain, that the figures and lines were completely visible.

The first impression was of the large number of lines that criss-cross over the desert, far more than I had expected. The famous figures became visible one after another, as the pilot flew over them in his *Cessna* for probably the umpteenth time this year. The figures were far duller than they appear in many photographs, and were a little difficult to distinguish. There were now car-tracks showing up, crossing over many of the Lines and some of the Figures. I was later to learn from Dr. Maria Reiche that these tyre-tracks were some fifteen years old, and had been caused by

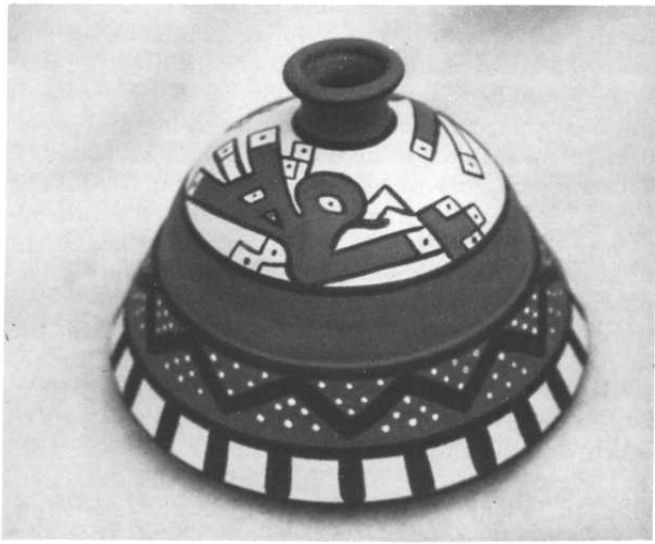
an influx of tourists after the sensational treatment given to the Lines and Figures in the books by Erich von Däniken.

The careless drivers had badly damaged several of the lines, and their tyre-tracks would probably stay there for another two or three hundred years. I photographed numerous figures, mainly for my own interest, as they have been professionally taken by aerial cameramen many times. The desert was criss-crossed



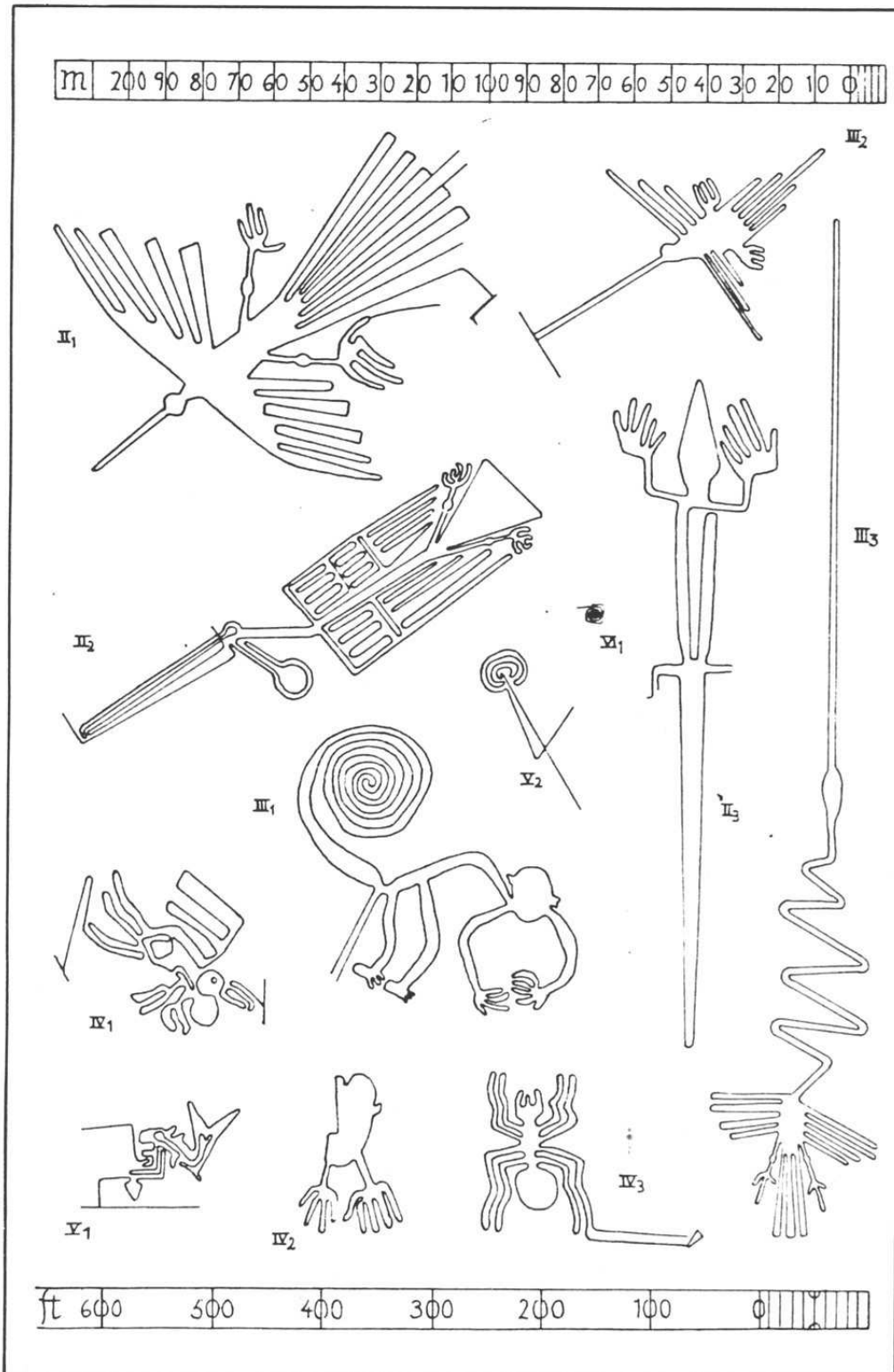


A Peruvian boy pauses from his work in the Nazca cotton fields to read his latest copy of FSR (Photo: O. Fowler).



with dried up river-beds meandering across the Plain. Although these old river-beds looked as though they had only been formed a year or so ago, they pre-date the lines and figures and are probably over 1500 years old. The whole scene was quite remarkable. Who had made the lines and figures, and for what purpose?

I had booked into the Nazca Tourist Hotel for a few days, and as soon as we landed, I intended to try and find the whereabouts of Dr. Maria Reiche. I had meanwhile already heard various theories about the lines and figures from Dr. Javier Cabrera Darquea, a person that I had travelled many miles to see. He had his own ideas, one of which was the fact that the "runway" lines on the Nazca Plain were old launching sites for spacecraft! It was not so bizarre as one might think, for Dr Javier Cabrera produced pieces of iron and other ores from the Nazca Plain to explain his



Some of the bird and animal drawings from Maria Reiche's book.

theory. When held close together, the opposite poles of the materials repelled each other. Had the inhabitants of Nazca discovered linear motive power thousands of years ago? He next showed me a model clay vessel closely resembling a "UFO" (see photo). This had been found along with many other artifacts some year ago, and the original was now in the Aeronautical Museum of Peru. The Nazca people reproduced all of their feelings and thoughts in their pottery, ranging from the birth of man, to the feelings expressed in facial features and depicted on various artifacts. In this instance, the dome shaped object appeared to be a craft. Its flight capability was signified by the bird emblem portrayed around the dome, and stars appear to be shown around the circumference lower down.

Could this have been their interpretation of a UFO seen many thousands of years ago? Had the craft landed and contacted the people of Nazca, and were the huge figures in the desert and on the hillsides a signal to bring down the UFOs? We know that many of the old Andean folklore tales speak of "Gods coming down from the sky". There are theories that they taught the people the rudiments of agriculture, and certainly the weaving of cotton, grown in the area, has been depicted in some of the oldest line drawings visible on the desert.

Finally one evening, I was fortunate in meeting Dr. Maria Reiche. I had requested an interview, and this took place in her hotel room, with her sister Renate and a young Peruvian companion nearby. I was sorry to learn that Dr. Reiche, who was now aged 85, had a stroke fairly recently. She was now almost completely blind and could only take her evening walk with the

assistance of two companions to support her. Fortunately she was still in complete command of her senses, and we chatted about her work over the past forty years, her meticulous study of the figures and lines, and her mathematical work on trying to find the unit of measurement used by the ancient Nazcans. This subsequently turned out to be what Dr. Reiche has called "the elb," a measurement taken from the elbow to the end of the fingers. (A unit of measurement used within recent memory by old people in various parts of the globe.) The Nazca lines, she believed, were mainly astronomical in importance, but the figures were, even now, still a mystery. She had calculated that one abstract design had 365 angles in it, one for every day of the year, but there was still so much work and research to be done.

The damage to the lines and figures was discussed, and Dr. Reiche pointed out the difficulty in keeping the figures clear and undamaged. It was far too easy for a driver to turn off the road across the Plain and to damage the lines and figures. The road was unfenced, and completely open. There were indeed large notices, warning of dire consequences if you strayed from the road: imprisonment and large fines. But who was there to enforce the security of the figures on the Plain? I was amazed to learn that although Dr. Maria Reiche has been honoured by the Peruvian Government and now has a home for life at the Tourist Hotel, she alone is striving to protect the ground drawings of Nazca. She employs three motorcyclists to patrol the road in an effort to stop people defacing the figures. The cost of this operation is paid for solely by the
(continued on Page iii)

BOOK REVIEW

Dr V. V. Rubtsov and

Dr A. D. Ursul

***Problema Vnezemnykh Tsivilizatsii: Filosofsko-Metodologicheskie Aspekty.* (In Russian). English title: *The Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations: Philosophical-Methodological Aspects.* Publishers: "Shtiintsa" (Science Publishing House), Kishinev, Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, USSR. Second and Enlarged Edition, 1987.**

The first-named of the two authors of this new Soviet book on alien civilizations is Dr. V. V. Rubtsov of Kharkov, Capital of the Ukrainian Republic, who as FSR readers will no doubt know, is one of our valued Consultants. (See his letter, about the book, on page iii of FSR 30/3 [1985]). The book appears under the official patronage of the scientific committee on philosophical and social problems of science and technology which in turn is under the Commission for the History of Science and Technology of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, and appears with the recommendation of four eminent academicians who have read it and given it their blessing. The book, with XIII pages of introduction plus 278 pages of close text, 38 pages of copious footnotes, and 1½ page summaries in English and French, has eight chapters, grouped as follows:-

1. The History of the Development and the Contemporary State of the Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations.

2. Some Astrosociological Notions and Hypotheses.
3. Existence, Search, Contact.
4. The Communicative Aspect of Contact with a Civilization.
5. Contact as Cognition.
6. Direct Contacts between Cosmic Civilizations.
7. The Problem of "Palaeovisits" (Visits in the Past).
8. The Problem of Extraterrestrial Civilizations and the Illusions of the Bourgeois Consciousness.

As it stands, I am sure that the book is an admirable and utterly comprehensive piece of work, meticulous and carefully thought out as most Soviet scientific publications are. We therefore extend our hearty congratulations to authors Rubtsov and Ursul for having been able to bring out this work in Russia.

But since I do not believe in the "E.T." Theory, and consider that there is so far no evidence whatsoever that any alien beings from Outer Space have ever visited Planet Earth, I very much regret to say that I do not perceive that this book really has much bearing on the problems that are of interest to *Flying Saucer Review*.

The book deals with the theme of possible *Exobiology* — that is to say, with the question of whether other civilizations exist OUT THERE. On that score I must say most emphatically that I agree with the two authors and indeed, I think, with the vast majority of Soviet scientists, in accepting that it is *wellnigh certain* that the entire vast Cosmos teems with life and intelligence, much of it possibly of an (for us) unimaginably high level, throughout its whole, seemingly endless extent.

The essence of our difficulty seems to lie in the fact that, right from the very outset of the "Flying Saucer or UFO Era" in or around 1947, the subject of our alien visitors, and their craft, got mixed up with mankind's long-established but poorly developed observational science of Astronomy. *I do not think that "flying saucers" or "UFOs" or "alien occupants" have anything whatsoever to do with Astronomy, but I feel very sure that man's erroneous assumption on this score is itself an important part of the massive campaign of deception now being conducted against us. It is the "aliens" themselves who have consistently fed into mankind this fatuous belief that they originate from Outer Space. And this belief has cost us enormous sums of money in Space Programmes and has been an enormous drain upon our energies and our scientific capacities.*

The attempt has been made, consequently, to think up a new branch of science, which we are beginning to call "Exobiology" and inevitably of course it is linked up with Astronomy.

My own guess is that our current wild and costly attempts to get into "Outer Space" will yield no information about "aliens" since there are very likely no physical aliens (i.e. "physical" as we know this term) in our own immediate vicinity in this part of the outer rim of our Galaxy. And we must be clear about one thing: *what is going to be travelling out from here into distant Space in the future is not going to be Homo Sapiens himself — but a multitude of his mechanical devices*

and instruments. (If we are to judge by the physical condition in which the Soviet cosmonaut Romanenko was recently found to be after his record spell aloft, then our particular species is not going anywhere else for a very, very long time; at any rate, not until we are capable of creating some sort of artificial gravity and I doubt whether we are anywhere near that goal.)

If we examine the contents of our journal, FSR, we see that it is true that a very great deal of it revolves around speculation about alien life in Outer Space — Exobiology. Many of our contributors still think along these lines, and it has not yet been possible for us to separate the two strands of thinking. Perhaps what we need first of all is a new term, like, for example, "ESOBIOLOGY". Whereas "Exobiology" means "outer" or "extraterrestrial" life, Esobiology would mean life of an "inner" kind. *That is to say, life on the inner planes or inner levels, or, if you will, "life on other dimensions, but nevertheless right here".*

Long-term students of our subject, such as both Dr Hynek and Dr Jacques Vallée, long ago discarded the idea of "extraterrestrial visitors" to Planet Earth. As Dr Hynek used to say: "For one thing, there are just too many of them!"

(If of course any of these aliens from the Pleiades, Tau Ceti, Orion, Andromeda, or any of the other stops out on the line really do start landing here, why then of course G. Creighton will be the first to queue up to eat cold crow.) G.C.

THE UFOs AS A MATERIAL PHENOMENON

V.J. Ballester Olmos, FSR Consultant, and J.A. Fernández Peris
(Translation from Spanish)

DURING the past six years we have been engaged on an ambitious project to investigate all the so-called "UFO LANDINGS" that have occurred in the Iberian Peninsula. With backing from the U.S. *Fund For UFO Research*, we centred our investigations upon the existing documentation regarding about 600 known reports, subjecting them to study, and discarding all those for which a reasonable explanation could be found. Our objective has been to arrive at a comprehension of the principal parameters of the UFO Phenomenon in Spain and Portugal so as to be enabled to proceed to subsequent studies with all the requisite methodology.

The results of this programme of work have now been published in our *ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH UFOs* (Plaza & Janés, Barcelona, 1987). Now, for the first time, any reader will have at his disposal, in one volume, all the data at present available on the UFO landings in the Iberian Peninsula.

We think it will be of interest if we lay stress upon one of the strangest of the features that characterize the landing-phenomenon: *namely its material nature.*

In a great number of the reports, the eyewitnesses describe phenomena of a physical nature, of a consistent materiality — with a "manufactured" appearance — strikingly different from what might be thought of as phenomena of a purely "energy" nature. At times the reports go so far as to mention objects possessing structural elements on their surfaces, such as "cupolas", "portholes", "antennae", etc.

The eyewitnesses describe having been confronted, with actual objects, three-dimensional, solid bodies

the precise material composition of which we are, however, still far from being able to ascertain.

We recognize that these statements are very difficult to accept. Despite the many years that we have dedicated to the study of this problem, we ourselves are still astonished and incredulous, and we are not asking anybody else to accept anything. The evidence is, however, there to be evaluated; and the respective pieces of testimony, well bolstered by the trustworthy quality of their narrators, are there too, at hand for verification.

In many of the cases, the observers speak of what they beheld as having had a *metallic appearance*. Let us look at an example:—

1. Three UFOs "shaped like projectiles"

At 7.15 p.m. on November 14, 1980, at San Martín de Tous (Barcelona, N.E. Spain). The farmer J.P. aged 35, was driving his tractor, in a field some eight kilometres outside the town, when he perceived that a nearby hill was completely lit up. So he started off, on the tractor, up towards the central part of the flank of the hill in question, as he needed to pick up some tins of gasoline.

As he approached closer and closer to it, the strange light grew stronger and stronger, and more white in colour. Arriving at a bend in the track, he was astonished to find himself confronted by three objects which were emitting the light. They were stationary in the middle of the road, at about 20 metres from him. They were cylindrical, with the upper parts rounded, "like a rifle bullet stood upright", and of a

silvery-grey colour, with clearly defined contours, and "giving the impression of being totally metallic and solid".

The three UFOs were standing in a line, with a distance of about a metre between one and the next. The one in the centre was larger than the others — about 2 m. high and 1.2 m. wide at the base, while the other two were both about 1.5 m. high and 0.9 m. wide at the base. Likewise, each of the three of the objects had a "belt of lights" around it, each light being of the size of an automobile headlight but far more powerful, lighting up the entire hill. When the beams from the tractor's headlights struck the three objects, their "belts of lights" changed automatically as it were to a faint light, like the parking-lights of some sort of vehicle".

Faced with the three strange objects, the eyewitness stood there expectantly for a few seconds, and then backed away in alarm and made off across the field. Turning to look back, he saw that the things were still stationary on the same spot. After a mile, he came to the road leading back to the town. From there he could no longer see any light up on the hill.

Arriving at the outskirts of San Martín de Tous, visibly shaken, he described his experience to some of his friends who were at a mill. Then, together, they all drove back to the spot in a car, but found nothing abnormal. The sighting would have lasted, he thought, about five minutes or so. It was a clear night, with perfect visibility.

At just about the same time, two farm-workers were chopping fire-wood in front of their dwelling, at a spot some 3 kms. to the east of the site where the UFO incident had occurred, and on precisely the opposite side of the hill in question, when they saw the entire surroundings light up. Looking upwards, they saw three objects "shaped like the heads of bullets", descending towards the ground only a few metres distant, but then, without landing, they rose up into the air again and made off at high speed towards the west. (Reference: IIEE Reports and J. Huguot).

One direct consequence of this presumed totally material nature of the UFOs is the production of *mechanical effects* of very varied kinds, upon both the terrain and the vegetation around the landing site. This is, in sum, the sole physical evidence of the presence of the UFOs that — scanty as it may be — we possess, and that we can measure and analyze.

In the next incident that we shall now describe, the phenomenon wrought a very complex modifying effect upon the surroundings, for soil was moved, plants were desiccated, and there were effects indicating an intense calorific action. There were also marks forming a geometrical outline upon the ground.

2. Take-Off from a Field of Vetch

At 11.30 a.m. on May 24, 1974, at San Clemente, in the Spanish Province of Cuenca. Demetrio Carrascosa Martínez, aged 53, employed by the municipal abattoir, and also warden of a game-reserve, was returning on his motor-bicycle, from gathering wild asparagus, along a lane some 4 kms. from San Clemente, when he caught sight of an object standing in a nearby field of lentil vetch. Its shape was oval; it was about 4 m. long and 3 m. high; and it looked like "two opened umbrellas placed one against the other". It was of a dark green hue, "like the colour of the clothing of the Guardia Civil (Police)". And it had a horizontal row of six or seven square things about 25 cms. wide, like port-holes, of a shining white colour set in a black band "resembling rubber tyres".

The object was standing on three or four supports

about 2 m. long and 15 cms. wide, like "legs", and these ended on the ground on bigger things some 40 cms. wide.

The witness went over to the field. When he was still rather more than 70 m. from the UFO, it began to rise, at the same time rotating violently and throwing up stones and clods of earth, while four plumes of smoke shot out of it, with a strong smell of sulphur. Astounded by the sight, the motorcyclist skidded and fell. Picking himself up again, he ran off and hid behind a small hillock.

Meanwhile, the object continued to shoot up vertically at tremendous speed, while emitting a whistle "like the whistle of a gunpowder rocket", to use his phrase.

Reaching a certain altitude, the object shot off obliquely towards the north, and was lost to sight in the distance in four or five seconds. The entire sighting had lasted some 14 to 17 seconds.

Half an hour later, at the witness's suggestion, a shepherd went to the landing-site, and found a circular zone, approximately one metre in diameter, on which the vetch plants were all desiccated, and there were two holes 25 to 30 cms. in diameter, 20 cms. deep, and separated from each other by a distance of about 50 cms. Inside each of these two holes there were two or three smaller holes, some 4 cms. in diameter, running obliquely into the ground. Outside of the circular zone there were two holes 10 cms. in diameter, apparently over one metre deep, and set 1.5 m. apart. These two holes, with the other two larger holes, seemed to form a rhomboidal figure with its major axis oriented North-South. The walls of all the holes were scorched, seemingly produced by temperatures that must have been between 2,000° and 3,000° C.

Around the two largest holes there were fissures in the soil, and clods that had apparently been torn out of them. The shepherd appears to have noticed *smoke* coming out of the holes.

An analysis of the soil samples indicated no abnormal radioactivity. During the sighting, the sky was clear and the Sun was shining. (Reference: Reports from Enrique Villagrasa and Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos.)

A true — and very much needed — scientific investigation should have as its main objectives the analyses of the marks, the calculation of the amount of energy dissipated during the UFO event, etc.

Thus we have seen that the UFOs are not exclusively some mere elusive phenomenon, seeing that they leave behind permanent evidence of their presence. Since, as these two accounts given above permit us to deduce, what we are dealing with is a physical, material, happening, there remains open to us the possibility of securing photographic evidence, or film, or video. The Californian scientist Robert Baker has drawn up a questionnaire intended for potential photographers of UFOs, with the aim of making it possible to secure photogrammetrical analysis of the film.

The most interesting of his suggestions are as follows:— You must keep the camera steady (use a tripod or some sort of support); the field of vision should include identifiable features of the background (telephone poles, trees, houses, etc.); all the photographs must be taken from the same spot; the type of camera used must be mentioned, and the date and the time when the photo was taken; and immediately after it

(continued on Page 24)

THE LUMINOUS PROPERTIES OF UFOs

V.J. Ballester Olmos, FSR Consultant, and J.A. Fernández Peris
(Translation from Spanish)

Introduction

FOR the past six years the authors have both been engaged in an investigation project focused on the UFO-landing reports from the Iberian Peninsula. With backing from the U.S. *Fund For UFO Research*, we proposed (1) to make a critical evaluation of the six-hundred such UFO cases known in the Peninsula, by means of a co-ordination of the investigations already effected or by means of re-investigations requested from more than one-hundred of our collaborators distributed throughout Spain and Portugal; (2), to compile standard résumés of all these cases for which no conventional explanation could be found, including therein all physical or sociological descriptive data capable of being analyzed; and, (3) to create also a complementing catalogue containing all those sightings that were found to be "negative" or satisfactorily explained.

The ultimate objective of this work programme is the assembly of an unprecedented data-bank to serve as a basis upon which various analyses can be made of the most crucial category of cases, namely those of *close encounters with UFOs*.

We drew up a list of 230 "anomalous experiences". And, on close scrutiny of these, we have established that *the most fundamental features* defining the strangeness of the UFO Phenomenon turn out to be its *luminous properties*. Let us take a look at them again.

Emission of light

The UFO sighting reports indicate that the UFOs are, above everything else, most powerful emitters of light, behaving in visible space like intense sources of energy. Of all their many and extraordinary features, the one that a scientific mind should find the most surprising — and the most stimulating — is the one relating to their *radiation of light*.

At times the luminous emanation varies in intensity, sometimes emitting brief but powerful *flashes*, as we call them, of unwonted power. As is only logical, this powerful light factor is in many cases responsible both for the scanty quality and quantity of details and features observed, and for the resulting physiological *sequelae* in the eyewitnesses involved, for in fact the tremendous dazzle exercises a most potent effect upon the human visual system, resulting in an outright temporary "blackout" or in greatly reduced vision.

Persons who have been involved in various UFO experiences are at one in emphasising that the entire area round about them is lit up with an intensity equal to that of daylight. The power of the light emission is staggering, illuminating areas several hundreds of metres in diameter. In one case which we shall describe below, our calculations indicate that the power of the light put out by the UFO was of the order of 500,000 *lumens*, which would be the equivalent of rather more than eighty street-lamps.

Bathed in light in the middle of the night

It was in 1969, in the month of May or thereabouts. The place: Sumacárcel (Province of Valencia, S.E. Spain). The time: 2.00 a.m. Ramón García Pons, aged

39, proprietor of a bar, was sitting on the bank of the river Júcar fishing, at a spot behind the church and just by the bridge on the road leading to Antella, when suddenly he was blinded by an intensely powerful light. Gradually, as his eyes became accustomed to the glare, he was able to perceive that it came from an object about 20 metres in front of him. He could only see the lower part of it, which was circular and horizontal, and emitting this intense yellowish-white light to a radius of some 200 m. or so all around, so that it was "*brighter than day*".

The object was at a height of about 11 metres above a field of sugar-cane and also partly over the river and partly over the adjacent field of orange trees. Terrified, the witness took to his heels and dashed up the nearby flight of steps leading to the town. There he paused and, from the bridge, stood there dumbfounded, viewing the object. From this advantageous position (the bridge is 6 m. higher than the surface of the river) he had a good view of the shape of the UFO — rounded, not completely hemispherical, on a flat base.

The diameter of the object was, he thought, about 15 metres, and it was at a height of about 4 metres more than himself. After about two minutes in which he remained there, flabbergasted, the UFO shot away, tilted by about 10° towards the horizon, at high speed in a S-SW direction, passed between two mountains about 1,000 metres from him, and in two or three seconds was lost to sight behind them. It had emitted no sound.

From the moment when the witness was first blinded by the dazzle, until his terrified flight, he thought that maybe 30 seconds or so might have elapsed. Then it would have taken him a further 20 seconds to get up to the bridge, and so he felt that in all the total duration of the sighting could have been about three minutes. It was a dark night, with no Moon, and a sky clear of cloud.

However, the UFO Phenomenon is seen to attain one of its very pinnacles of physical abnormality — and this really does fill us with astonishment — when we come to the accounts describing the extraordinary ways in which the light *behaves*: precise, clear-cut beams and bursts of light, just like something out of Science-Fiction, *light-beams that bend*, etc., etc. Let us take one example of this last-mentioned effect.

At a military base

The date was July 28, 1975. The time: 6.00 a.m. The place: Sierra Aitana (Province of Alicante, S.E. Spain). Three members of the Spanish Armed Forces: F.M.S., aged 36, a radar operator; M.A.M., an NCO; and a third man, a top-sergeant, were on the terrace roof of the radar installations at Sierra Aitana Airfield (Alert & Control Squadron No. 5), when they observed, at a distance of some 150 or so metres towards the south-east, an object moving along in the bottom of the valley, at about 15 or 20 metres from the ground. It was travelling in a north-easterly direction and, at a very slow speed, coming across the fenced military zone towards the front of the building on which they were standing. Scared, the NCO and the top-sergeant

ran down into the building, while the third man, F.M.S., walked across the terrace towards the UFO.

The object was oval in form, "like a rugby football", with three lights, red, white, and yellow, set in a "T"-shape on its top. Although not intermittent, the lights were flashing — giving off a generally yellowish effect. On its upper portion the object had "a sort of nozzle" about 3 m. in diameter and inclined slightly down towards the ground. This "nozzle" was emitting an intense white light which, while not illuminating the surrounding terrain, dazzled and blinded the witness. The body of the UFO was dark grey and of a metallic appearance; its edges well defined; and its surface entirely covered with "rivets". It was emitting a *hum* similar to the noise of an electric motor, and in size it was slightly bigger than a *Sabre F-86* aircraft (length 11.4 m).

The flight trajectory of the object was straight and horizontal. It passed over several depot buildings and then, as it passed in front of the spot where the witness F.M.S. was standing, it halted, at a height of about three metres from the ground, and about five metres distant from him. (These military installations are up on the top of a mountain.)

While it was stationary in this position, a sort of "sliding-door" opened in the front of the UFO, and from it came a flash "like the trail of a comet", which shot out in a curve and struck the eyes of the witness. This brought him up sharply, and he now perceived that he was right on the edge of the roof and so would have fallen off had he gone a step further. At that moment the object abruptly changed course and flew off at high speed and steady altitude towards the east, and was gone from sight in three or four seconds. The sighting had lasted about 10-15 seconds.

No effect was noticed on the function of the radar equipment or in the electric power unit supplying it. An attempt was made to catch the UFO on the radar, but without success.

Need for scientific study

The analysis of the light emitted by these bodies

would be of absolutely transcendental importance for solving the enigma of the UFOs. Much information about the nature of the UFOs could be secured through a spectrographic analysis of the light emitted by them.

There is a whole mass of data to which innovative kinds of analysis could be applied, and which presumably might permit us to make headway in our present knowledge of this mystery. A combination of high technology, rigorous methodology, and trained personnel is the indispensable requisite — in a word, scientific laboratory investigation — if we desire to raise the UFO Problem from a generally sensationalist and sometimes fraudulent situation to one that is dignified and academic. We venture to predict that the investment of funds and of talent in the study of the UFO case-histories will yield significant advances of a scientific order.

In our book *Enciclopedia de los encuentros cercanos con OVNI's* (*Encyclopaedia of Close Encounters with UFOs*) (Plaza & Janés, 1987), we have furnished exhaustive material with which *anyone* can analyze all that we know today about the UFO Phenomenon. It will no longer be possible for society to make excuses for abandoning the UFO Phenomenon to charlatans and esotericists because of the alleged absence of trustworthy information: this is the challenge that we throw down to the scientific, university, and intellectual community of our country.

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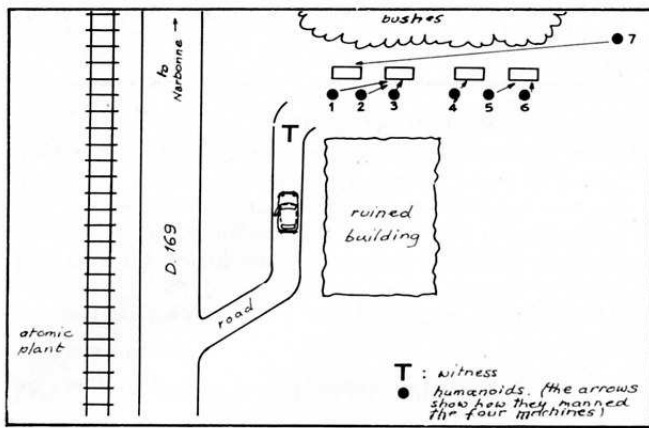
than six or seven metres when I found myself confronting six individuals who were standing near four machines that looked like snow-scooters. Diverted from my intention by their embarrassing gaze, I dropped my project of looking for firewood, and approached the party, who were all on the smallish side and seemed to be of "Asian" type and apparently seeking shelter under the bushes of a hedge.

Arriving at a point about two metres or so from them, I perceived nothing particularly bizarre about them except for the strange machines. Then, in order to strike up a conversation with them, I said:-

"Good day! Rotten weather?". And in reply I heard a few incomprehensible nasal mumbblings. So I persisted, and enquired again: "Are you local?" The second of them, counting from my left (see sketch), of an effeminate appearance, said two words¹ that I was unable to understand.

Thinking they were jokers, I pressed on: "Ah- O.K. So you're extraterrestrials then?", and I looked around for the hidden cameras, as I imagined I had perhaps stumbled upon the making of a film. Then individual No. 2 approached me, squatted down, and, in the sodden ground, drew two signs, one of them resembling





the lower-case Greek *Gamma* and the other resembling a "C", and as he did so, he pronounced, in a nasal tone, the two words "Ciel, démon" ("Sky," "Demon").

I persisted in not taking the situation seriously and, in order to take on these jokers at their own game, I said:

"Are things better on your planet?"

Personage No. 2, who so far was the only one to speak, and seemed to be of female sex, replied with the two words

"Moins travail". ("Less work")?

The fantastic aspect of the adventure didn't worry me, and I carried on with my questioning:-

"How do these machines work?"

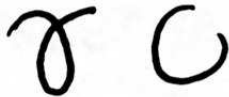
Reply: "Magnétique . . . la pluie nous gêne . . . Non relais avec base." ("Magnetic . . . the rain is giving us trouble . . . Not contact with base.")

I went on: "So you're like us then . . . there's air on your planet?"

Then, pointing to personage No. 1, the woman said: "9e siècle." ("Ninth century") And then, indicating personage No. 5, she said: "13e siècle." ("13th century").

Thereupon personage No. 1 approached me, held out his hand, and said: "Pôle arctique". ("Arctic Pole"). I didn't intend to shake hands (in any case did he want to do that himself?) but, impelled by curiosity, I brushed his hand with mine and noted that his skin — if it *was* skin — seemed to be particularly cold.

During all this time, I had continued to eye the whole group, and I observed that they were exchanging glances among themselves which seemed to express not merely disquiet, but disagreement concern-



The two signs traced on the ground as the being said (in French) "sky . . . demon"

ing the continuation of this encounter, and, above all, of our conversation.

Then the woman said to me: "You don't interest us, but a few Humans are departing with us", and then a seventh individual, in all respects similar to the others, appeared on my right. He seemed to be irritated by the situation, and even somewhat angry. He addressed the group in a nasal and incomprehensible voice. He seemed to be in a physical condition bordering upon trance.

Immediately they mounted the machines standing there. Without a sound, without even any quivering of the grass, and without any apparent manipulation by the pilots, the machines rose slightly. The craft slewed

around, and headed off towards my right, towards the top of the hill. Their speed was slow, and they climbed only very slowly, being still only 3 or 5 metres from the ground at the termination of the sighting. Then I suddenly became aware of a piercing sound, difficult to define, and as though coming from inside my own head. It was followed by a loss of consciousness on my part, but curiously enough I remained standing.²

Having recovered my senses, I was disturbed by this adventure, and returned home without collecting any firewood. I arrived home at 11.15 a.m.

In the early afternoon, I returned to the spot with my daughter. The only details that I found there that might lend credence to my sighting were four or five round marks, 10 cms. in diameter, in the grass.³

Comment By Investigators

This sighting lasted only a few minutes, and there is nothing to suggest that the witness was drawn to that particular spot, seeing that he had already come there to gather firewood.

Apart from one or two recent backaches, the witness seems to have suffered no physical or mental consequences directly attributable to the encounter.

The beings, of "Asian" type, were about 1.5m. in height in the cases of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7, and about 1 metre for the other three. The witness did in fact say that these latter could have been children.

Their skin was earthen-coloured, and apart from some horizontal lines at the lower corner of the nose he noticed no particular feature about them that was not of a "human" type. (He regrets the lack of more details in his description, and assures us that "If I did it again" . . . etc.)

Their clothing, of dark hue, was identical for all of them, and consisted of a one-piece combination suit, prolonged, in the case of all except Nos. 1 and 3, by a sort of tightly-fitting cowl or hood. The witness thinks he observed hair.

Personages Nos. 2 and 3 seemed to be of feminine type, but this assertion is based only on the more fine features of their faces. At the level where there would have been hair, or at the level of the hood, Nos. 4, 5, and 6 (the "children") had something of a silvery-white colour. Lacking any further details, the witness explains that, if this was hair, then it must have been flattened down well on the skull.

Description of the Machines

The accompanying sketch shows the machines, on which the beings, one, or two, or three, sat astride. According to the witness, these machines, measuring about 1.5m. in length and 0.4m. in height, had no instruments, no visible organs of control. "No engine, no wheels, no handlebars". Their colour was an off-white.

Conclusions of the Investigators

Once again we find ourselves confronted with an event that brings more questions than answers, with not very talkative "extraterrestrials" who treat us with contempt, and of whom we can only wonder what on earth they could have been doing at such an uninviting spot — seeing that it was not even a privileged promontory from which to observe the atomic plant.

Is it reasonable to think that some inconceivably wise ETs, with machines liable to be affected by humidity, would have got themselves lost in the vicinity of Narbonne and then engaged in a stupid dialogue with a Terrestrial before departing at the behest

of an irascible leader?

Are we to admit that our intelligence and our consciousness are insufficiently sharp to perceive the subtleties of a message which is destined for us, and which these so-called extraterrestrials do not even take the trouble to make accessible to our understanding?

This testimony teems with odd features that cheerfully annihilate any demarcation-line between the plausible and the ridiculous. Incidentally, that fact alone suffices to testify to the authenticity of this encounter experience, for it is entirely comparable to many others, and had our witness wanted to invent a hoax he would have imagined up a far more realistic story.

Had we been able to corroborate this sighting by means of other eyewitness testimony or by means of marks on the ground, our "Cartesian spirit" would have been allayed. At any rate, however things may be, we are profoundly convinced as to the sincerity of the witness.

"Arctic Pole". "Sky", "Demon", "Magnetism", "Base" . . . these words will not fail to set the readers to musing, and the readers will assuredly find correlations with other previous happenings, and will concoct their own scaffoldings of hypotheses — each one just as "way-out" as the next. Unfortunately, when these things occur, it is as though the phenomenon is just lifting up one tiny corner of the veil, while still leaving us confronting the mysteries by which we are girt about — the aim perchance being to leave us to

resolve the enigma by means of our own free unfettered efforts?

FOOTNOTES BY INVESTIGATORS

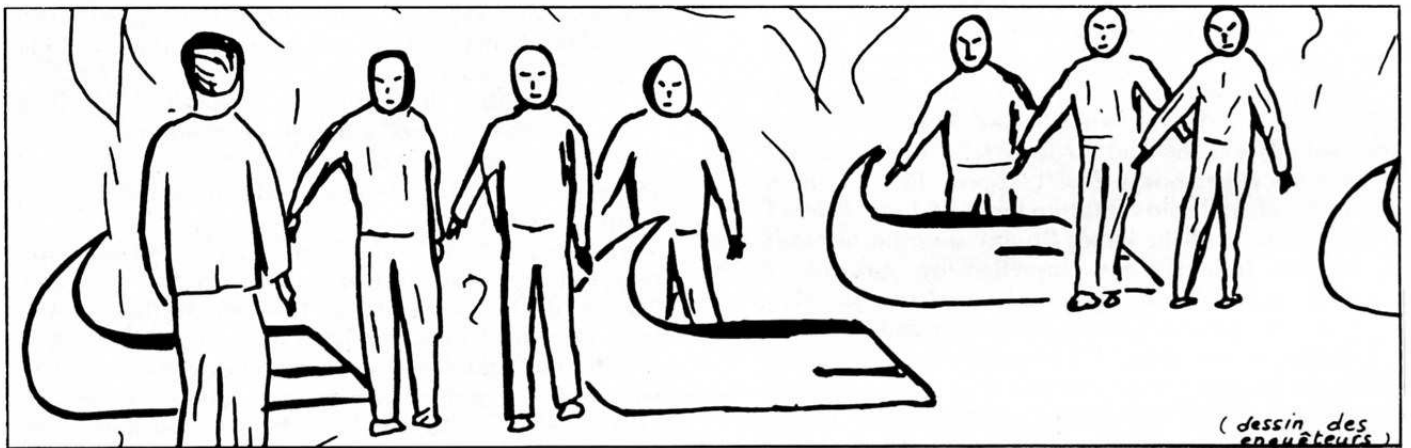
- (1) Having memorized these two words, and having then talked to friends about it, the witness thinks they were the two English words "Planet Earth".
- (2) According to the witness, this swoon lasted only a few seconds, without his falling, because his clothing was not muddy.
- (3) The grass was black, and looked as though rotted, at this spot.

NOTE BY EDITORIAL OFFICE OF LUMIERES DANS LA NUIT.

The most astonishing thing about this affair is that, in our Archives, we find a reference to *another* close encounter of the third kind said to have occurred at the same place (near the Malvési Plant) 33 years previously! And it is mentioned in the Perpignan newspaper, *L'Indépendant*, of October 21, 1954.

NOTE BY FSR

Agreed. But isn't it even more astonishing that we should have here, apparently for the very first time in the whole recorded literature of Ufology, a case wherein a demon cheerfully admits that he is a demon! Furthermore, if the witness is right in thinking that he has grasped the meaning of the first two words uttered by one of the creatures, then it is also the first case in which they have admitted where they come from — NAMELY PLANET EARTH, WHICH IS A FACT, HOWEVER, MANY FOLK MAY PREFER TO GO ON DENYING IT! — G.C.



Sketch by the French investigators.

UFO REPORTS FROM MALAYSIA, 1981-1987

Ahmad Jamaludin, FSR Consultant, Malaysia & S.E. Asia

IN my major work, *A Summary of Unidentified Flying Objects And Related Events in Malaysia, 1950-1980*, I presented one-hundred UFO cases from this country, with a statistical analysis.

Listed below, I give a brief résumé of the sightings that have been reported in the years since 1980. The phenomenon is still the same and the answer to our mystery is still — "Unidentified".*

1. 24 January 1982
Ipoh, Perak

Five men on a morning jog sighted a lighted object shaped like the planet Saturn with 3 rings round it. On the 3 rings they saw 3 bright lights shining like starlight. The UFO was revolving and descending slowly and it disappeared from view

at 6.38 a.m.

2. 16 August 1982

40 km from Sarikei, Sarawak

Many people of the town claimed to have sighted a big ball of fire falling from the sky in broad daylight at 11.30 a.m. A police party was dispatched to the area to investigate but found nothing.

3. 22 August 1982

20 km from Sarikei, Sarawak

Several schoolboys aged 9 years old reported that they saw several midgets with exceptionally large heads in a fruit plantation near their school during the daytime. Two of the boys stuck to their story when interviewed by their teacher.

4. 24 August 1982