

# GOBBLEDYGOOK

*Gordon Creighton*

ONE evening in the latter half of the 1950s, with Brinsley le Poer Trench and Alec Heathcote, I went to an apartment in Mount Street, in London's fashionable Mayfair district, to interview some French people who claimed that they had just had an extraordinary experience.

We found them to be a highly intelligent, refined, and wealthy family consisting, if my memory is reliable,<sup>1</sup> of an elderly lady (the mother), and two or three of her daughters, all women of mature age.

None of these ladies claimed to have the slightest knowledge of, or interest in, the UFO phenomenon, but they were all obviously extremely excited about something that they said they had heard a few nights before in a radio news broadcast from Paris. They said that, as they sat there listening to the news in French, an excited voice broke in on the programme, and announced that a "flying saucer" had landed near the town of Samarra, in Iraq, and that a great crowd of people, including officers of the Iraq armed forces (Air Force I believe), had observed several tall beings that had emerged from the machine. The report went on to say that some of the officers had gone forward and had had some sort of communication with the beings, which had stated that the political and military situation on this planet was causing them great concern. One of the Iraqi officers had been so unnerved by the experience that he had collapsed on the spot and had to be removed to hospital. He was quoted as having said that, on approaching the beings, he had become "aware of his own thoughts," which he could see in front of his eyes, outside his body, and had become aware of what seemed to be a "wheel"<sup>2</sup> rotating on, or in front of, his forehead.

I wrote at once to the broadcasting authorities in Paris, explained the details of the above story, and enquired whether they could throw any light on it. I also asked for a full list of all the emissions, in all their services, during the week in question, and I was careful also to enquire whether they had put on any science-fiction programmes or stories about flying saucers.

In due course I received a reply from the Director, enclosing the French equivalent of the British *Radio Times* for the week in question and assuring me that the matter I had raised was totally unknown to him and his staff, that he had made enquiries, and regretted he could throw absolutely no light on it.<sup>3</sup>

It seems that nobody in France had heard the curious, excited, breathless interruption and the announcement about the flying saucer landing near Samarra. Nor could the French ladies in Mount Street produce any other people who could vouch for their extraordinary story, and confirm that they too had heard the "report from Iraq."

So far as I know, the matter was never solved. It may very well have been a hoax. If so, by whom? And if so, why does nobody else appear to have heard the hoax?

Of only one thing am I absolutely certain, and that is that these elegant and distinguished French ladies, with whom we spent at least two hours, hearing all details of the case, cannot possibly have been lying or hoaxing. They all definitely thought that they had heard what I have reported above, and nothing would budge them from their story. *They may well have been hallucinated. If so, by whom, and for what purpose?* They were not "flying saucer buffs".

If they were the victims of an auditory group hallucination, it is interesting that we have never heard of anyone else who participated in their hallucination.

## An American Case

Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz, M.D., has just given us, in his article "*Beauty of the Night*,"<sup>4</sup> details of a similar occurrence claimed to have befallen Mr. B.C., a fifty-three-year-old university graduate in engineering and business administration, and his wife, during a six-to-nine month period in 1958. The account is as follows:

"My wife and I heard a WOR radio news bulletin which interrupted the regular programme for a few minutes but which no one else heard. We were driving from Montclair to Pluckemin, New Jersey, where a meeting on saucers was held every week. While I was listening to the regular programme, an announcer cut in and said: 'It's been reported that the British have communicated with a saucer in England and have made arrangements to meet with the occupants.'

"I turned to my wife and was stunned. When I asked her, 'Will you tell me what was just said on the radio?' she gave it to me just the way I had heard it.

"I enquired about this when we arrived at Pluckemin, and although the people there were also listening to that particular radio show, they hadn't heard what we did! I could hardly believe what I had heard. I never had an experience like that before or since. A hoax would have been very unlikely."

Well, now. Let us note that here again there was allegedly an interruption in a regular news broadcast and an announcement concerning flying saucers. An interruption that apparently nobody else noticed and an announcement that apparently nobody else heard. The features of the French case and the American case are identical.

## A New British Case (1972) Involving the Telephone

The following story appeared in the British edition of *Fate* magazine.<sup>5</sup> I have checked every detail of it by telephone with Mr. Eric Pummell of Eastern Counties Newspapers, who is the gentleman concerned, and he assures me that the *Fate* story is entirely correct, that it happened this year, and that so far it remains totally unexplained.

Though he was speaking on the phone at the time, Mr. Eric Pummell, manager of the London office of Eastern Counties Newspapers, had an instinctive feeling he should fasten a seat belt.

He was in the middle of a routine telephone conversation with the Ipswich office, when suddenly he got a crossed line.

And what he heard made him sit bolt upright and brace himself. He found himself listening in to what seemed a highly dramatic conversation between a crippled Pan-American airliner and the control tower at Heathrow Airport.

Mr. Pummell heard the "aircraft" give warning that its starboard engine was losing power and that its undercarriage was jammed. There were a few more exchanges before the "control tower" stated that a runway had been covered with foam, and emergency services contacted, and that it was all right to land.

After three minutes of this interruption, Mr. Pummell was able to return to his original conversation.

What he really overheard remains a mystery however, for both Pan-American and the Civil Aviation Authority have confirmed that no aircraft was in trouble at the time of the telephone call.

The number of the aircraft was mentioned in the conversation, but at the time this aircraft was at Istanbul.

The Department of Trade and Industry thought that Mr. Pummell must have somehow overheard a television or radio programme or a tape recording.

Asked if he could throw any further light on the matter, a Post Office spokesman replied: "I am foxed".

### The Voices on Tape

More and more readers of *Flying Saucer Review* are becoming aware of the possible links between "Ufology" and "psychic phenomena," and many will therefore have heard of the enormous hullabaloo recently in psychical research and parapsychological circles over the so-called "*Raudive Voices*." To state the matter briefly, it seems that in the early 1960s a Swede named Jurgenson, bent on tape-recording birdsongs from his cottage window, began to get a jumbled smattering of human voices, fragmentary and disconnected, in a number of languages. Jurgenson promptly thought he had captured the voices of the Dead, and wrote two books about it. The Latvian savant Dr. Konstantin Raudive, then resident in Sweden, found he could duplicate the phenomenon for himself, and soon had a collection of over 72,000 voices on tape. He too wrote a book about it, and this book,<sup>6</sup> for some mysterious reason, has created a sensation among even sceptical and conservative European parapsychological research circles, such as the Germans and the Swiss. Raudive's book has been translated into many languages and is a best-seller. Everybody is hard at work getting his own "messages from the Dead". And a fine welter and hotch-potch it is. I notice that the owner of the tape is most likely to get messages in those languages that he himself knows. In Raudive's case, this means a farrago of pidgin-Latvian, pidgin-German, pidgin-Russian, pidgin-Swedish, with a very small amount of pidgin-English and pidgin-Spanish. (And I should perhaps make it clear at this point that I have met Dr. Raudive and have heard his tapes.<sup>7</sup> I am just as sure as he is that they are "paranormal." That is to say, that *he* did not perpetrate them. At any rate not intentionally! There are however

sceptics who prefer to see in the phenomenon a product of the human subconscious but I do not share this view.)

Neither Jurgenson nor Dr. Raudive knew—at any rate I can confirm that Raudive did not know until I told him—that this phenomenon of "mystery voices on tapes" is nothing new to readers of *Flying Saucer Review*. Already, in August 1957, Philip Rodgers,<sup>8</sup> an exceptionally gifted, half-blind musician of Grindleford, Sheffield, was getting snatches of voice, and music too, by precisely the same method of hanging his tape-recorder out of the window.

Mr. Rodgers was a "UFO buff," and he accordingly announced that he had secured recordings of "Spacemen's voices and Spacemen's music." Dr. Raudive and Herr Jurgenson, not being UFO fans, plumped for the "voices of the Dead" theory.

From the specimens of Mr. Rodgers' "Spacemen's wisdom" that have come my way I would judge that they are every whit as unenlightened and platitudinous as Dr. Raudive's person-to-person callers from the Great Beyond.

Raudive's "voices," which some listeners can detect at once, while others require an initial period of ear-training, come in several degrees of audibility and in a grammatically and philologically nonsensical mixture of several languages, as stated above. But the blending and fitting together of this garbled result is highly ingenious and decidedly uniform in pattern; it has a real system and "pseudogrammar" of its own. The result is a pithy, concentrated brand of shorthand-cum-international telegraphese.

The bursts of speech on the Raudive tapes are generally of but a few words and seldom run to long sentences. The voices are highly imitative. Many of the participants in these experiments have instantly "recognised" them as of their own departed ones.

Adopting great familiarity of manner, speaking in a strange sort of rhythm, and at a speed of at least twice the speed normal for humans, the "communicators" leap from subject to subject like squirrels in a cage. They claim that they are present in the room, see the operators, know all about them, address them by name or nickname, give their own names, speak of "feeling cold" (even of "feeling unwell" in one case!), of being able to "see the Moon", and so on. (There are no references to UFOs.)

There is much vague hint of strife and fighting and alarms, snatches of soldier-talk from the last war, in Latvian, German, Russian; mention of outposts, bridge-heads, operations, passwords, passes, control-points, permits, bridges that they are building, and so on. It all sounds depressingly like *this* world that we know! If the voices come from Valhalla, then it must be a special Valhalla for the Insane!

There are frequent references to the Nazis, to Stalin, Hitler, Trotsky, and various other luminaries who, if they exist in any sort of Limbo today, may well be expected to be gracing some of the lowest possible Depths.

The alleged "communicators" include of course scores of "deceased relatives" and "friends" (generally named), and a mixed bag of notabilities ranging all the way from Nietzsche, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy to the two

terrible Dictators of World War Two. And what those titanic minds of Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy have to tell us from the Shades is an incredible farrago of jibberish, disjointed and fragmented platitudes, all of the most utterly mastodontic banality.

The sceptics naturally solved the problem in a trice by announcing that all this stuff was faked, picked up from radio stations. While the more conservative of the German parapsychologists said of course that it was simply the old human unconscious projecting itself onto magnetic tape—though so far they have failed to show us how it is done.

As regards the radio station thesis, Raudive points out that all European radio stations are constantly pouring out music, so that, if the radio station thesis be correct, it is decidedly odd that all his mass of material contains *not one scrap of music*. Also, says Raudive, even in our crazy world no human radio stations are given to transmitting programmes in a gobbledygook cocktail of tongues such as his tapes contain.

It is odd to see even scientists getting excited about these Raudive tapes, but there may be valuable results if finally the investigators can bring themselves to recognise that the "communicators," far from being dear old Uncle Bert and Auntie Mabel, are a great deal more likely to be gremlins, elementals, poltergeists, goblins, a choice selection from the grand ragbag of zany spooks and, no doubt, other as yet uncatalogued categories of weird life-forms of low level that probably infest the unseen worlds around us.

From the examples of the radio-programme and phone-call interruptions which I cited at the outset of this article, it will of course be clear that while no doubt the only aim in all cases is to *deceive*, there certainly does seem to be a coherence and a logic, and unity, about the first-named category of phenomena which are strikingly lacking in the Raudive tapes. That this is so must be admitted. The explanation may well lie in the fact that the entities (UFO entities?) responsible for the first category are of a far more intelligent level than the gremlins responsible for the mess on the tapes.

In neither category, alas, can one feel that our species is going to find any sort of help or guidance. The over-

all aim is clearly to obstruct, to mislead, to bamboozle. They seem to be enjoying themselves, but woe betide the humans who pay too much heed to this drivel, which is the drivel that has been seeping out of the séance rooms for a century past.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> I am obliged to quote from memory, as my detailed notes on this case are at present inaccessible, buried in a small spare room filled to the ceiling with books and papers. I hope to dig them out before long.
- <sup>2</sup> One is inevitably reminded of the *chakras*, one of which (the Ajna) is traditionally located at the forehead. *Chakra* means literally *wheel* in Sanskrit, and we are told that when clairvoyantly observed, they appear to rotate like wheels and to shine with many colours. According to the arcane teachings, they are important organs in the spiritual body of Man, and serve as channels from which power flows down from higher levels of being. Another important *chakra*, the Manipūra, is located at the navel, and many readers will have remembered this when reading Aimé Michel's account of the triangles mysteriously produced on the navels of Dr. "X" and his small son. We may even be able to make certain deductions from the fact that the mark is triangular, but this is an involved matter which I must leave for discussion on another occasion.
- <sup>3</sup> See Note No. 1.
- <sup>4</sup> Dr. Berthold E. Schwarz: "*Beauty of the Night*" in FSR for July/August 1972 (p. 5).
- <sup>5</sup> *Fate*, October 1972.
- <sup>6</sup> Original, in German, *Unhörbares Wird Hörbar (The Inaudible Becomes Audible)*, Otto Reichl Verlag, Remagen, DM24.00 (1968).  
English translation: *Breakthrough, An Amazing Electronic Communication with the Dead*, Colin Smythe, London, 1971, £3.50.  
See also reviews by Herr Gerd Lüdemann in *Light*, London (Summer 1969) and by Gordon Turner and others in *Psychic News*, London, 1970 and 1971.
- <sup>7</sup> See Gordon Creighton: *These Voices Are Paranormal, but . . . In Two Worlds*, London, June 1971.
- <sup>8</sup> See Philip Rodgers: "The Sheffield Saucers," in *Flying Saucer Review* for September/October 1957. Also Bernard Smith: "Mysterious Tape Recordings: People From Outer Space Contact Earth Man By 'Radio,'" in *Flying Saucer Review* for July/August 1958.

#### THE HEALING OF WOUNDS

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and not a magnetic field. Could it possibly be that a magnetic field *was* responsible, and that the pigeons and mice at Warminster, and the mice in the French laboratory, all died *because their histamine had not been topped up?*

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## Happy Christmas

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# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## ENGLAND

### UFO terrifies Hainault youths

An unusual UFO incident in the rain was stated to have taken place on Friday, September 16, 1972, at Hainault, one of the eastern suburbs of London which reach into Essex. This account is taken from the *Ilford Pictorial and Guardian* of September 20, 1972—

"Danny Harle and Colin Hastings . . . (of) Kingswood Youth Club . . . left their homes in Brocket Way, Hainault, shortly after 9 p.m., and walked quickly to the club through driving rain. As they walked down Harbour Road, 15-year-old Colin glanced upwards.

"He stopped walking and pointed to the sky. Danny also stopped and followed his friend's gaze to a sight that seconds later, had the two terror-stricken boys running in fear of their lives.

"Above their heads, resting immobile, lay three clouds, each glowing with brilliant white light.

"There was a noise, low but distinctive, and the air seemed to fill with a deep electric hum.

"And as the sound grew louder one 'cloud' quickly compressed into a small triangle and moved from sight, leaving a strange incandescent tail across the sky.

"Another 'cloud' seemed to vibrate from side to side while the third suddenly zoomed into a tiny pinpoint of light. Danny saw it apparently about to disappear, then watched it horrified as it returned suddenly in a huge cigar shape, which tilted and then appeared to come closer and closer to them.

"We went out of our minds with fright," said 18-year-old Danny, "it seemed to be filling the whole sky. We just panicked and ran and ran till we got to the youth club."

"When we glanced outside again there was just the vibrating cloud left. It began darting about, almost as if it was lost, and then turned into a triangle and vanished in the same direction as the first one."

"When they phoned Barkingside Police, both boys expected the whole episode to be taken with a pinch of salt. But instead the police warned Air Traffic Control at West Drayton, and then contacted the Air Ministry—because they too have seen the strange visitor in the stars.

"On the night before Friday's strange happenings a policeman passing through Hainault at roughly the

same time, looked into the sky and saw the three glowing clouds.

"The Air Ministry, too, are concerned over the sighting, and have launched a full-scale enquiry.

"But whatever the official findings, Danny and Colin remain convinced that the 'things' came from another world.

"It was all over in four minutes," Danny said, "but we were shaking like jellies afterwards. I never believed in this sort of thing before, but now I've actually seen something, I don't know what to think."

### 100ft. UFO over Oldham

We learn from the *Yorkshire Post* of October 21, 1972, that—

"Scientists at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire, are investigating a report that a mysterious 'disc shaped' object was seen in the sky above Oldham, Lancs., by a works security man, Mr. John Byrne.

"Sketches of the 'flying saucer' have been drawn by draughtsmen at the Ferranti electrical engineering works and a spokesman at Jodrell Bank said: 'We are taking a close interest but it is very difficult to come to a firm conclusion without the corroboration of independent witnesses.'

"The object, about 100ft. across, was seen by Mr. Byrne as he made his nightly patrols at the Cairo Mill, Oldham.

"He said yesterday: 'It made a humming noise like a generator and was about 300ft. above the works. Then it turned sharply on its side and shot up into the sky.'

"I have been frightened before but this was a different type of fear. I was just rooted to the spot."

"The 'sighting' has been reported to police.

"Mr. Byrne, of Sunfield Way, Lees, near Oldham, added: 'I was sceptical about flying saucers but not any more. Now I am a confirmed believer.'"

[It will be seen that the date and time of this alleged incident are not given in this report—EDITOR.]

Credit to Miss O. Atherton of Harrogate.

## WALES

### "Soupbowl" in the sky

The story of a multiple witness UFO case was featured by the *Western Mail* of Saturday, September 16, 1972—

"Three policemen called in after villagers claimed they had seen an object in the sky like a flying saucer said last night there was no doubt the sightings were genuine.

"Police were called after the object was reported by at least 20 people on a housing estate at Croespenmaen, Crumlin, in Monmouthshire.

"The bright orange object appeared in the sky on Thursday night [September 14] in the North-West in the direction of the Brecon Beacons, and changed rapidly in colour and size, said the witnesses.

"It was in the sky for about two hours, finally disappearing when an aircraft flew overhead.

"A spokesman at Glamorgan (Rhoose) Airport said last night that two Cambrian Airways Viscounts had landed at the airport at about the same time and could have passed over the area where the object was sighted.

"But as far as he was aware nothing unusual was spotted on the airport's radar.

"The Crumlin area lies directly beneath Green One—the corridor for aircraft flying between Britain and America—but a Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said pilots in the area at the time had not reported anything strange.

"The object was first spotted at 8.30 by Mr. Robert Phillips, aged 24, a plumber, of Meadow Walk, Croespenmaen, who was on his way home from Oakdale.

"He watched it for about 30 minutes through a telescope borrowed from a neighbour, and then phoned the police.

"He said the object looked like an 'inverted soupbowl with dark rings underneath it which appeared to be spinning.' Three times it disappeared at the approach of an aircraft, but on the third occasion it did not return.

"One of the policemen called to the scene, Sergeant Clive Williams, of Blackwood, said he saw an orange red circle in the sky which seemed to turn over to a cone-shape.

"Its colour changed from red to white and green and it moved away rapidly," he said. "I revisited the site in the morning and it must have been something in the sky for there are no mountains obstructing the view."

Credit to F. W. Holiday, who lives in Pembrokeshire, and who observes: "The witnesses seem to have watched the object from the B4261 road between Oakdale and Crumlin. If one takes this approximate position and plots the area in the north-west at the lower shoulder of Cefn Manmoel—where presumably the object was visible—we then find that Tenby, Aberfan and the