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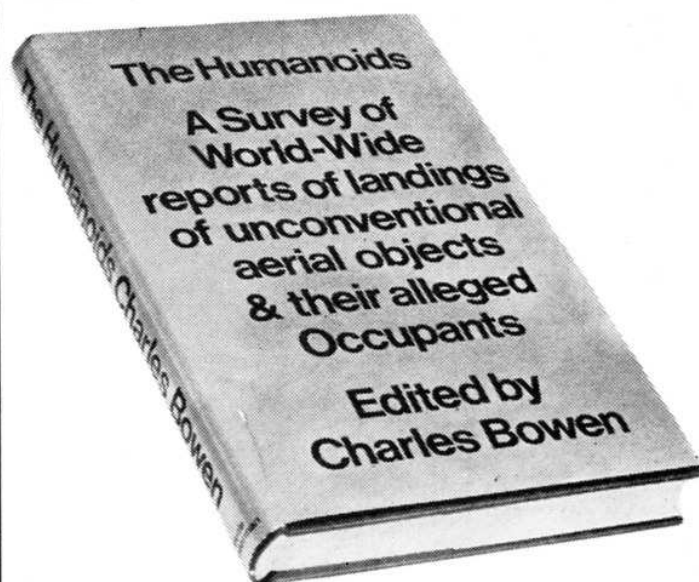
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UFOs IN TWO WORLDS

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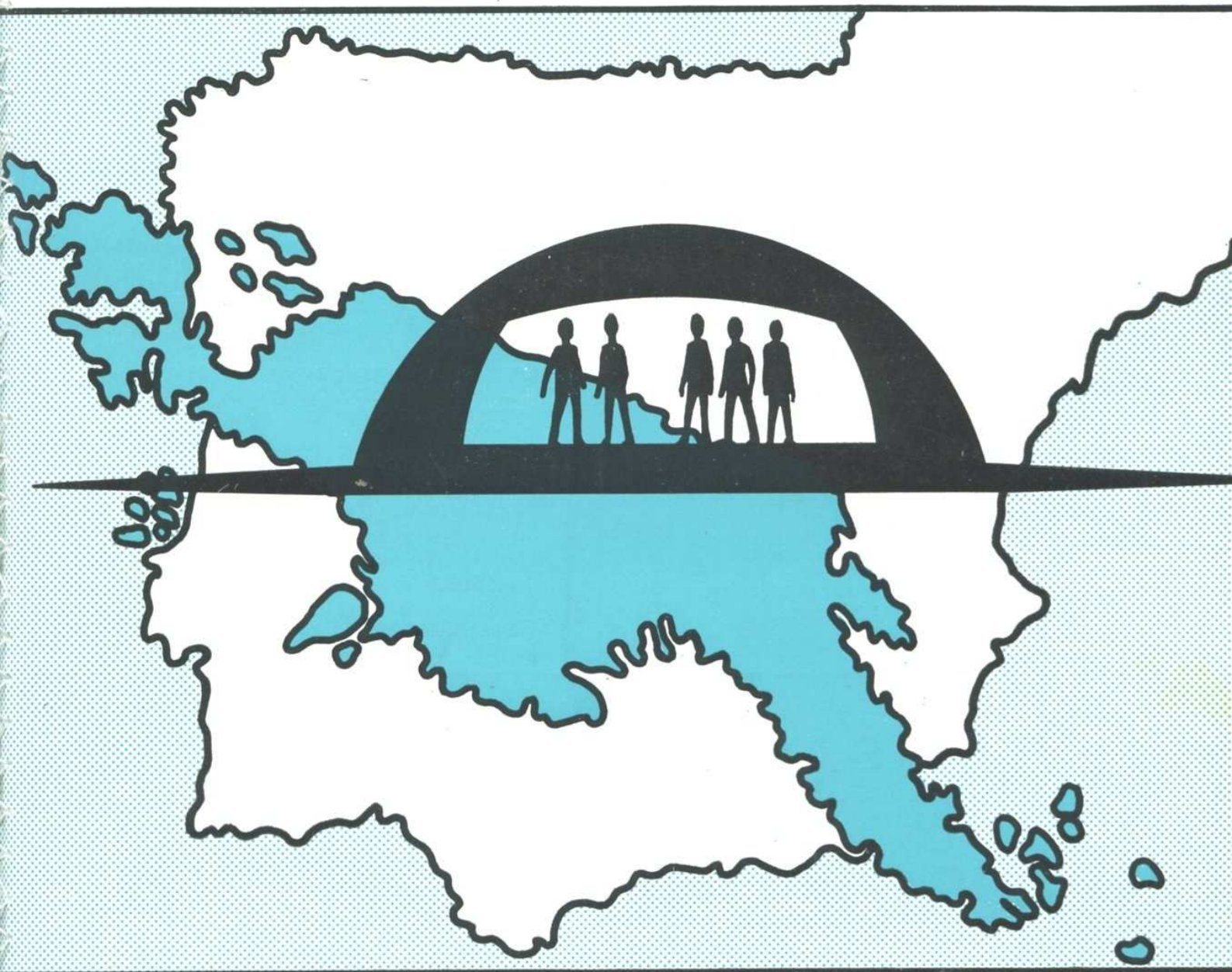
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UFOs in Two Worlds



Edited by CHARLES BOWEN

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1971

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Confounding the Critics

PERSISTENT individuals, and small groups of dedicated investigators, have essayed, for more than twenty-four years, to make a case for the flying saucer. Their critics are legion.

They have not been helped in their aims by the unfortunate name "flying saucer", the silliness of which has rubbed off on the subject—and that despite the adoption by many of the *respectable* name "Unidentified flying object."* For that they can thank the newspapers, for the name "flying saucer"—which seldom fails to provoke a smile, particularly in the newspapers—was coined by a newspaperman after a very reasonable description of unidentified (and unexplained) aerial objects, seen in an incident over the Cascade Mountains, had been reported.†

In the eyes of its critics, a weakness of the subject is that a large proportion of the incidents are reported by solitary witnesses. Where, they ask, are the multiple witness reports? We know there are many multiple witness cases, but among those who choose to criticise without first considering all the reported facts there are those who delude themselves into believing that flying saucers are invariably reported by lone observers.

Again, it is difficult to avoid the impression that critics, particularly those in the many branches of science, consider that a truthful witness is one who reports only something that can be readily explained in the light of current knowledge. A witness who reports phenomena that are inexplicable—and uncomfortable—is either a liar, or drunk, or a victim of a too-vivid imagination, or hallucinated, or a psychotic whose mind has succumbed to the rigours of modern "civilised" life.

In face of all of this, and with the added irritant of the ridicule deservedly attracted by the cultist beliefs of certain enthusiasts, it seems that the would-be serious researcher of reports of flying saucers, or UFOs, is on a hiding to nothing before he begins his task. Yet there are good, reasonable people in every stratum of society—many of them highly qualified—who thrust prejudice aside and take the trouble to look at the facts. They find many surprising things in the records so far amassed: surprising things which, if widely known, would confound the critics.

An item which is always a source of surprise—and delight—for those who come across it for the first time, is the remarkable report of the flying saucer wave over Papua, New Guinea, in 1958-1959. Details of this wave were carefully gathered and logged by the Reverend Norman E. G. Cruttwell of the Anglican Mission in Papua.

For most of us New Guinea is a remote and unknown part of the globe; a vast sub-continent not yet wholly explored, much of which still lingers on

* On reflection it seems no more silly to query the origin of "flying saucers" than it is to puzzle oneself over things identified as *unidentified* flying objects.

† On June 24, 1947, airman Kenneth Arnold likened the undulating movement of nine unusual objects, which he saw in "flight" near Mount Rainier, to that of "saucers 'skipped' over water."

the fringe of that ancient world of the Stone Age. Lightly brushed by civilisation, the bulk of its peoples know just a sprinkling of European missionaries, teachers and doctors, and a handful of District Officers. Among those who live away from the towns, a few will have memories of the fighting in the coastal districts and among the Owen Stanley Mountains during World War II, memories which for some are retained in the form of a cultist faith in the return of "supplies from the skies." Between them, the peoples of New Guinea can muster many scores of unwritten languages, and it is only now, and thanks to the devoted work of Canon Cruttwell and others, that one or two of these tongues are being put into scripted form.

Into the skies of this ancient world of unsophisticated peoples there came, in 1958 and 1959, an intruding wave of strange aerial phenomena. We must bear in mind that this was not a world with skies criss-crossed by high-flying jet aircraft, satellites and re-entering rockets, and dotted with skyhook balloons. It was, instead, a world of largely primitive folk who knew nothing of flying saucers and their alleged occupants, or of science fiction and dreams of space travel. Some of the witnesses of the UFOs were Europeans, some were natives with mission school education and elementary training, but many were neither of these. These witnesses were neither liars nor drunks, and while it is unlikely that they were imagining things—even in the fashion of the "cargo" cultists—it is certain that they were not suffering from psychoses brought on by the pace of modern city life. Whether alone, or in groups, they reported what they saw, and what they saw were things inexplicable in our terms let alone theirs.

When, during his last visit to England in 1970, Canon Cruttwell suggested to us that *Flying Saucer Review* might consider publishing the unabridged account of the events which he himself had published in 1960, and distributed in a limited and much sought-after duplicated version, we readily agreed. As one of the two works which make up this fourth FSR Special Issue, the Papuan story will now reach a much wider audience than heretofore. Which is as well, for it is one of the most important events in the history of our subject.

For the record, the FSR team and a few friends were happy to meet the Reverend William Gill when he paid a brief official visit to England during December 1970 and January 1971. We were all deeply impressed by this quiet, unassuming churchman and teacher. Before he returned to Melbourne, Australia, where he has lived and worked for the last ten years, he also visited Aimé Michel and Paul Misraki in Paris.

An important feature of the Papuan events is that there was a marked peak of activity by UFOs, or flying saucers, during a short period of time. This "wave" effect has been observed in other parts of the world, including the "Old World" of Spain and Portugal in 1968.

The wave of 1968 is an important feature of the study by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Jacques Vallée of 100 UFO "landing" reports through the years in the Iberian Peninsula. The persistent unearthing, gathering, recording and processing of data by Dr. Vallée and his friends will prove to be another factor in the ultimate confounding of uninformed, unthinking critics of serious UFO research.

CHARLES BOWEN.

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FLYING SAUCERS OVER PAPUA

The Reverend Norman E. G. Cruttwell, MA

I DO not wish to sail under false colours. I wish to state at the outset that I have not unmistakably seen a "flying saucer". That good fortune belongs to others. I have only been an investigator and reporter. But I have been in a very good position to report and investigate the Papuan sightings of unidentified flying objects, being in the midst of the area where most of them have been seen, and knowing the majority of the witnesses personally. I have made it my business wherever and whenever possible to interview the witnesses individually.

I have collected and checked many more reports than anyone in the Territory, and as far as I know, am the only person who has taken the trouble to annotate and examine them thoroughly. I am writing this account as I feel that the sightings are of great significance and importance in the elucidation of the great "flying saucer" mystery. I do not claim to know what they are or whence they come. That is a matter for the experts. All I can claim to know is that these people have told me these things, that they are all reasonably honest and intelligent folk, and that their evidence is in many cases corroborative. It bears the stamp of sincerity. I have faithfully recorded what they have told me without embellishment and the reader must judge the reliability of their statements.

Many people are put off by the comparatively fantastic nature of the Boianai sightings and the appearance of "men". What they do not realise is that they were only three sightings out of a total of 79 so far reported. Many others were as fantastic as the Rev. W. B. Gill's. One cannot be isolated from the rest. They stand or fall together. No doubt some are explicable, but if only one is inexplicable, that one is significant. If these reports are to be rejected, they must all be proved erroneous, and many competent witnesses, such as the head of the Department of Civil Aviation, and the Manager of an Airline, not to mention a number of Clergy and Government officers, must be judged either liars or fools.

I have discussed the various possibilities of error or misinterpretation in each case, and have tried to assess the value of the report. I have recorded every detail that might be relevant to each case, but have not invented any. I have given the authority for every feature recorded.

Finally I have analysed the sightings under various headings, and tried to point out some general characteristics of the whole series, and have discussed some possibilities of their nature, origin and purpose. But the question is still open. Nothing is proved.

But this overwhelming accumulation of 70 reports in a little over a year in a limited area, by witnesses many of whom are people of the utmost integrity, cannot be lightly ignored.

It is the purpose of this paper to present the reports and discuss them with a view to finding out what was in the skies over Papua in 1959.

I. SIGHTINGS BEFORE 1958

1. The first Papuan sighting

The story opens with Mr. Drury's sighting. Mr. T. P. Drury of the Department of Civil Aviation at Melbourne gave this information personally to me. At the time of the sighting he was Director of Civil Aviation in the Territory of Papua, New Guinea, stationed at Port Moresby. He is a man of very high qualifications and has flown 32 types of aircraft himself. He has also made a speciality of meteorological phenomena. The sighting was also witnessed by his wife and children. This is his story:

"I was standing on the coast road overlooking the Flying Boat Base at Port Moresby with my wife and children. It was about 11.00 a.m. on August 23, 1953. The weather was perfectly clear and cloudless. Even the summits of the Owen Stanley Range were clear, which is unusual. My wife and children were with me. I was engaged in taking a movie photo of a native boy spearing a fish. I was not looking at the sky. My wife noticed a wisp of cloud suddenly appear in the blue sky from nowhere and start to build up rapidly into a white puff. She called out to draw my attention to it. I watched it rapidly build up into a thick white mass of cumulus. There were no other clouds in the sky and there seemed nothing to account for it. Being very interested in meteorological phenomena, I decided to take a film of it. So I rotated the turret of my French-made movie camera to bring the telephoto lens into position, and started to film the cloud.

"The cloud was at an elevation of about 50 degrees above the horizon, in a roughly south-west direction, towards Napanapa. It was impossible to estimate the altitude, as there was nothing with which to compare it.

"Suddenly an object like a silver dart shot out of the cloud. It was elongated in shape like a bullet. It subtended about one inch at arm's length. It was metallic and flashed in the sun. It was very clear-cut, sharp in front but apparently truncated behind, though the tail may have been hidden by the vapour trail. No wings or fins were visible. It shot out of the cloud upwards at an angle of about 45 degrees. It was travelling at an immense speed, at least five times as fast as a jet plane travelling at the speed of sound." (Note that Mr. Drury is an expert airman and accustomed to estimating the speed of planes.)

"It never slackened speed or changed direction, but