

A Layman's Time and Space

By A. G. Cadman

The following article is reprinted from the SPHERE of June 13, by courtesy of the Editor. We include it in this issue of the REVIEW not only because of its great intrinsic interest, but also as an incitation that flying saucers can be referred to seriously in a general high quality magazine. Some years ago this would have not seemed possible.

DESPITE the limitations of security and public relations expertise, many people have heard strange things concerning the experiences of spacemen regarding time measurement. Einstein's simple statement that "Time is Relative to a man's position in the Universe," he chose to prove by mathematics which could be appreciated only by the few. It seems that pace shots have provided simple physical proof. We hear that a spaceman can return after a number of days in orbit with certain of his watch type instruments recording but a fraction of that time. If this is so, then perhaps a layman may be permitted to theorise.

In the first diagram below it has been assumed that time lies in ever slower circles as one progresses away from the thick atmosphere and cloying gravity of the globe. If spacemen orbit the Earth in the four sections marked A.B.C.D., then it may

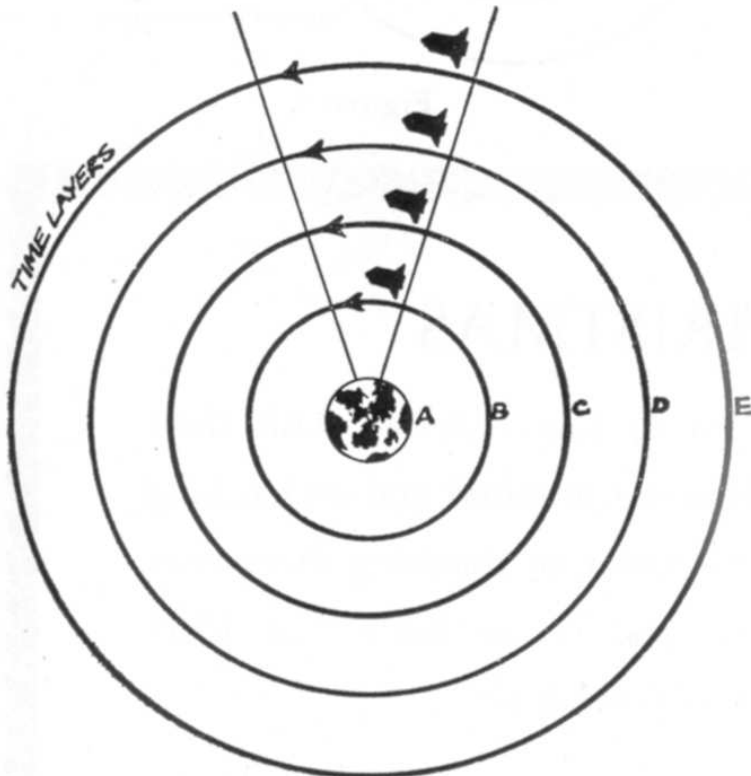


Figure 1

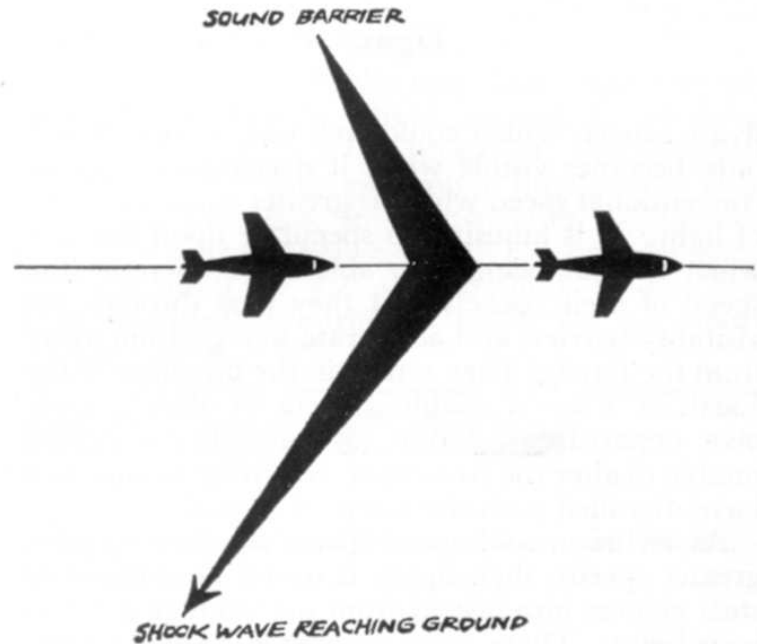


Figure 2

be that the vast distance covered at D may be but a fraction of the Earth time at A, although they may have fled across the sky in visually the same period. Hence the possibility of a spaceman visiting a distant planet and returning to find his contemporaries aged while he is still young.

When we Earthbound creatures attempt to measure time in our simple physical form, we use as the final yardstick the speed of light. It is by this we are told the astronomers measure distances and changes in the skies. Yet it may be this theoretical barrier of the speed of light which can explain the persistent and ever increasing reports of alien objects in the skies. It is but thirty years ago that the sound barrier to the layman was the point of decimation for the speed-hungry airman. Events proved that the breach of the sound barrier brought little more danger than noise and broken glass. It is not possible that the penalty or advantage of exceeding the speed of light is invisibility? For if this is so then a ready explanation is to hand for the

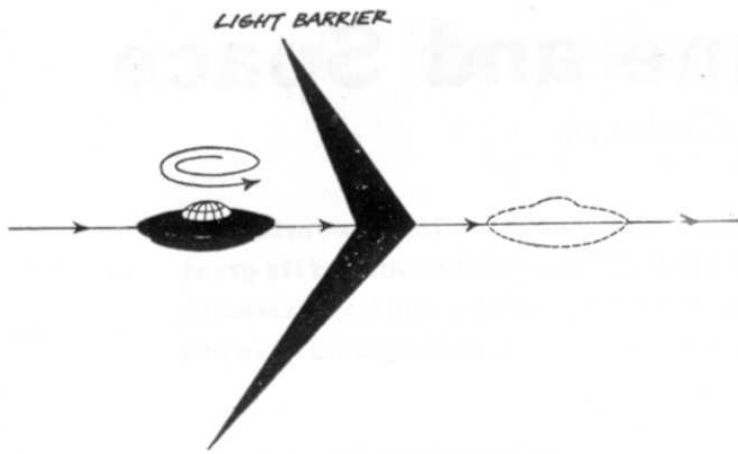


Figure 3

flying saucer, which could well be a vehicle which only becomes visible when it decelerates from its conventional speed which is greater than the speed of light. It is amusing to speculate upon the day when human beings are able so to increase the speed of their rockets that they pass through the visibility barrier, and accelerate to a position away from the Earth. They return in the direction of the Earth at a speed enabling them to observe their own departure, yet due to invisibility they are unable to alter the past event, which we would then have dignified with the name of history.

As techniques of space travel advance to even greater speeds, then surely it would be possible to steal glances into history from the vantage point of invisibility. There seems so much to learn from history, especially if one accepts that time is circular in the sense of Genesis. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust" is a fair description of the brief

human life span, but it may be possible to conceive a similar cycle for a mere planet such as ours. Perhaps an atomic holocaust would merely produce the dust from which the life cycle could begin again, taking its life as before from its one and only source of power—the sun. All this and much beside may yet be seen by our spirit in space.

The assumption that all is circular is not so unlikely when one considers the extraordinary cyclic nature of everything about us. The only difference between living man and dead man has often been said to be the dancing light behind his eyes. Call this spirit, soul, life-force, or what you will. It may yet be a moving force. The human body returns to dust to feed the earth and animals, to feed in their turn the next human being. The mysterious spirit could well be transplanted in the flash of time we call death, into another new life, new born. However, as with the flutterings of physical death sometimes this strange process goes

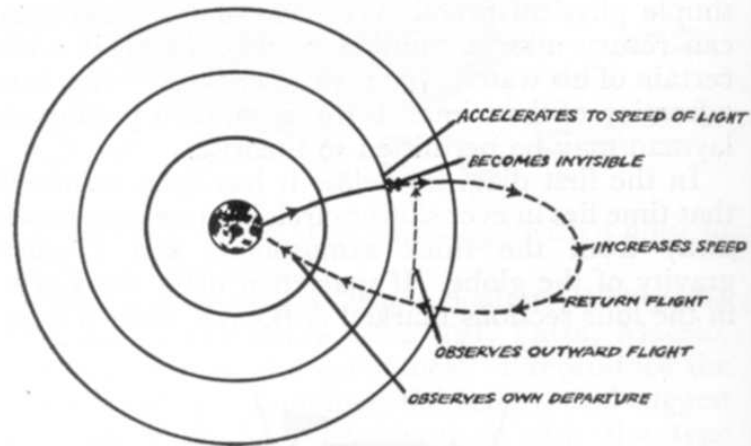


Figure 4

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers all over the world a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year. They also take this opportunity of thanking them very cordially for their support and of expressing the hope that 1965 may see truth at last proclaimed