

"Look," said Flores to a reporter, "although I am no fighter I have not panicked when I have been involved in fights with knives or guns; this time I was really frightened. My legs were trembling, and when we finally got to Tampico (a further 250 km—J. G.) my mouth was still very dry."

This account has many classic features. The bluish-white light changing to red, then violet before extinction, or disappearance of the object; the absence of noise—which rules out lightning as an explanation; the stopping of the wristwatch possibly due to electromagnetic effects; the physiological effects on a tough man—could these have been due to shock, or to the UFO itself? It is noted that there is no mention of any effects experienced by the second driver.

World round-up

ENGLAND

Hitchin cone and sphere

The *Hertfordshire Express* of July 11, 1968, told how Hitchin had its first UFO report on the morning of July 10:—

"The 'ufo' was reported to Hitchin police by Mr. Jack Fairweather, caretaker at Bessemer School.

"Mr. Fairweather saw the object just after 9 a.m. yesterday: 'I was looking across towards the gasworks and I saw these boys looking up in the sky...' Mr. Fairweather and the boys saw a cone-shaped object with a sphere suspended underneath it, coming down about two miles away from them.

"Mr. Fairweather estimates that it must have been about two feet in width and he thinks that it came down somewhere in the Willian area.

"The Meteorological Office at Bassingbourne, near Royston, assured us that what Mr. Fairweather saw was not a weather balloon—'They don't look like that... they are wire mesh, with a cylinder underneath.'

"R.A.F. Cardington also said it was 'certainly nothing to do with the R.A.F. in this area.'"

Top-shaped UFO over Doncaster

The Doncaster *Evening Post* carried an account of a low-level UFO in its issue of July 15, 1968. We presume the incident occurred on July 14. The account continues:—

"Two Intake barmaids reported seeing the object as they were on their way home at about 11 o'clock at night.

"Said Mrs. Daisy Coote, of Flint Road, Intake: 'We were just coming out of work when we saw this thing in the sky. It was hovering around like a child's humming top just above the houses in Westminster Crescent.'

"Mrs. Mary Mawford, of Devon-

shire Road, Intake, also saw the Thing in the sky. The UFO shaped like an elongated cigar and apparently pulsing with a brassy light seemed to slip towards the two women out of the sky before finally moving away as eerily as it came.

"Daisy said: 'It seemed to get bigger and nearer and gave us a considerable fright.'"

Several see Coventry UFO

In the Coventry *Evening Telegraph* of July 27, 1968, we read how:—

"A high-speed flying object—said by one observer to be diamond shaped, with a long tail—was reported by many people to have hovered over central Coventry last night.

"Some sky-watchers who used binoculars said that after being visible for about 15 minutes, the red-glowing unidentified flying object shot away through the clouds and vanished.

"A suggestion that the UFO might have been a transparent plastic balloon on a 'hush-hush' transatlantic flight was denied by a Ministry of Technology official at Cardington (Beds.) air station today.

"Don't forget that other countries are carrying out this sort of research too," said the Ministry official.

Reports of last night's UFO sighting in Coventry follows reports of a similar object seen over the city last weekend.

Mr. Nigel Coupland, of Henry Street, Nuneaton, was on duty as a security officer at Motor Panels Ltd., Holbrook Lane, Coventry, last night when he had two sightings of the UFO with a colleague, Mr. Williams Stevenson.

"Mr. Coupland said that at about 10 p.m. they saw a red-glowing star-like object over the Earlsdon area. After about 20 minutes the object

Now let us suppose that the strange "light" was a craft of some sort, with occupants. Its strange behaviour seems to suggest that its occupants were looking for a place to land, and did not see the bus. When they did see it, they increased speed (the changing colours in so many reports invariably accompany a change of speed of the object) and lifted clear.

Although there is a small measure of support for Dr. Finch's theory of UFO-nauts' affected vision in this hypothesis, I prefer to think otherwise. It is quite apparent that UFO technology is superior to ours, and if there were an element in our atmosphere harmful to the occupants, then I am sure they would have solved the problem. Yet the pattern of behaviour persists, which makes me think there is some cause other than the short-sightedness suggested by Dr. Finch.

of news and comment about recent sightings

disappeared and returned at 10.45 for a short period. 'I thought that it looked about the size of a large hovercraft, lit up.'

"Mr. T. S. Cross, of Coundon Green, Keresley, who is a partner in a building firm, watched from his garden and kept a log of the UFO's strange journey.

With his wife he saw the object appear at 10.1 p.m. and said it was visible over the centre of the city for 12 minutes.

"After hovering over the city it moved off towards the south-west for about a mile and then 'shot off at a terrific speed.'

"Mr. Cross, who has been associated with the Air Training Corps, said: 'It was too large for a plane light. It was a very bright red light, and had a slight tail.'"

[Several similar witness accounts were also given: we have insufficient space to include them here.—ED.]

Credit: H. Chinn of Keresley, Coventry

Surrey UFO

The following account was given to Brinsley le Poer Trench by a colleague, and we are indebted to Mr. Trench for sending it to us:—

On Thursday June 6, 1968, my wife and I were motoring across Ranmore Common in a westerly direction towards Guildford from Dorking. At the beginning of the descent of the steep hill down to East Horsley I became aware suddenly of a stationary bright light directly ahead at a distance which I estimated to be about a mile. It was above my eye level vision at about 4-5,000 feet above the ground level of the Wey Valley. I would estimate its position as being approximately 4 miles S.E. of Guildford town.

Due to its stationary appearance I

assumed that it was an aircraft directly approaching, and drew my wife's attention to the golden yellow light emanating from it with the remark, "Look at the lights on that thing."

Almost at the moment that my wife saw it half the illumination went out as though at the flick of a switch to be followed almost immediately by a similar effect on the remaining light.

I had stopped my car and switched the engine off to listen for aircraft noise, but there was no sound, and suprisingly, in a clear sky neither myself nor my wife could see any indication of any object.

My wife remarked "It's one of Brinsley's UFOs and I checked my watch, the time being almost exactly 10.40 p.m.

I would point out that although it was late the light was good enough to enable me to read my watch quite easily.

L. W. Dover, Guildford Road, West End, Woking.

UFO over A3 traffic jam

Again, from another colleague of Brinsley Trench—this time an American who has lived in England for 15 years—comes this intriguing account:

On Sunday, June 9, 1968, at 8.00 p.m. while en route by car to London on the A3 approximately at Raynes Park, my wife and children and I were witness to an aerial phenomenon that bewildered us then as it still does.

The sky was still a light blue, the air bright and unobscured, the sun at the rear of the car low, but substantially above the horizon. Traffic had slowed to a standstill in a narrowed section of the road, and as we waited to proceed my eye was attracted through the front windscreen to a slowly moving object forward of the car, I should judge about a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet in the air, crossing at right angles more or less to the direction of my glance, left to right. I first thought it was a dead-black child's balloon, for in size and movement characteristic this seemed momentarily possible. But only for a moment. It struck me almost immediately—wryly I might add—that the shape was not spherical nor balloon-like, but rather like two domes cupped together with the axis of join parallel to the earth, although the featureless blackness revealed no line of joining. The movement was in no way meandering, but directed in an apparent side-slipping motion downward. The object was surrounded by a haze, of diameter equal to itself or greater, also faintly black, and tenuous to the point of near invisibility, and seemingly in ultra-rapid whirling motion. The feeling of solidity, heaviness, and perspective in

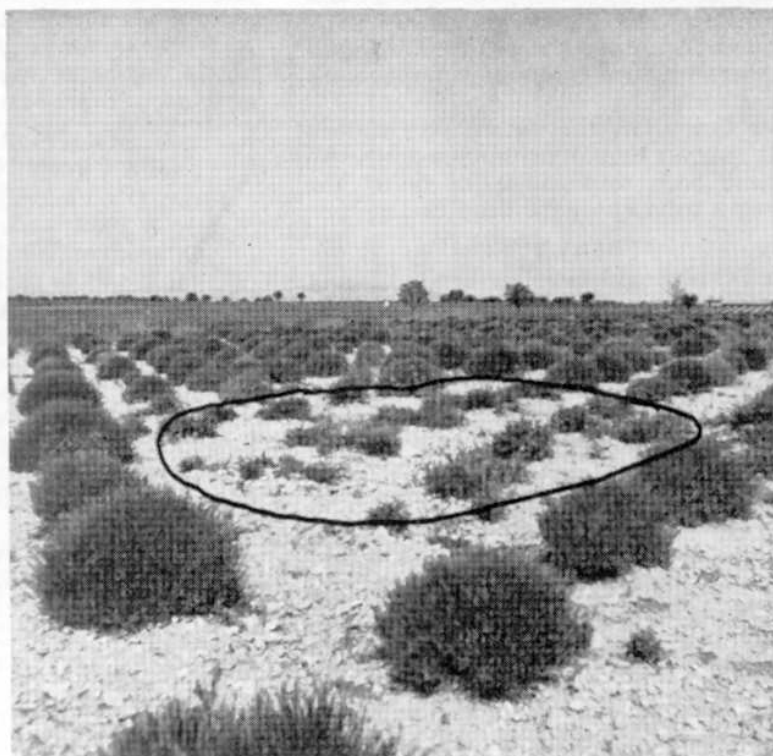
relation to nearby objects on the ground never vanished. A bird flew in front of it, a distant jet plane was flying forward and high behind it. There seemed to be no doubt but that this was an object.

I said tentatively, and jokingly of course, to my wife: "Darling, I think I'm seeing my first flying saucer." She looked up, gasped, and asked "My God, what's that?" The children looked too, immediately, and my ten-year-old had an immediate explanation of extraterrestrial visitors as explained to her in daily TV fare for children.

The traffic jam held, and we observed the people in the front car also staring (and a walking person across the road), and they must have seen with us that the angle of descent sharpened, and the object came to within fifty feet of the ground above a tree, now about seventy-five feet to our right across the road; it hovered, then started up at a rather sharper angle of ascent. Traffic pressed from behind and we had to move on.

The period of observation was easily a full minute. The volume or density of the object never fluctuated. The whirling flickering black haze, of near ineffable thinness never ceased. The orientation of the mid-axis never varied except as one would expect for an object that was being propelled. The size impression was that approximately of an over-inflated football (soccer). It was the most absorbent black any of us had ever seen. The aerodynamic characteristic of its aerial movement remains wholly inexplicable in terms of any object heretofor familiar to me. We all saw the same thing at the same

The photograph taken by Mr. R. A. Richardson at l'Olivol field near Valensole. The "Observatory" mountains are in the background.



time, through glass and then through an open window. I know others saw this, and would like to hear confirmation of our observations from them—and an explanation, a rational, earth-bound explanation if possible. Cy. Endfield, Thurloe Square, London, SW7

FRANCE

Valensole site three years after landing

Reader R. A. Richardson, who has been a subscriber to FSR since Volume 1 No. 1 in 1955, paid a visit to Valensole in May 1968. The photograph he sent us shows the state of the landing site three years after M. Masse's experience (see the most recent account by Aimé Michel and Charles Bowen in FSR for January/February 1968).

Mr. Richardson confirms that the plants within the line he has drawn are all weeds [*the yellow flowers are clearly seen in the colour print.*-EDITOR] despite attempts to re-sow lavender.

What killed the cattle?

The review *Lumières dans la Nuit* for March/April, 1968 carries a letter from a correspondent, J. Billandaz, in which he reports two cases that occurred in France on Sat. May 27, 1967, and Sunday May 28, in the communities of Passins and Sermérieu, near Morestel.

Case 1 "A farmer and his family were returning home in their car at about 11.40 p.m., when, at a point some 1½ km from their house, they saw what looked like a ball of orange fire, stationary, giving out a luminous trail. It was above one of their fields, and so quite near their house.

"They rushed over to investigate it, but on reaching the spot, found it had gone. The weather was clear and fine, and they are certain it could have been no hallucination or thunderbolt, etc."

"Two days later, walking in the same field, the farmer found his crop of tobacco burnt 'in rows', the rows running from N. to S. (the direction taken by the 'ball of fire' seen the night before).

Case 2 "In the village of Sermérieu, at a date subsequent to Case 1, there occurred another phenomenon unquestionably linked with it. In this case at Sermérieu (be it noted that S. and P. are right close to each other, so that the Sermérieu field and the Passins field are about only 1-1½ km apart) the farmer's wife was bringing in her cows from the pasture. Entering the cowshed, she sees that one of the cows is lying dead upon the straw. Three days later, three more cows were found dead in the same way.

"The Gendarmerie investigated and called in a veterinarian, who stated that the animals' deaths were 'due to unknown causes'.

"Examining the fields where these cows had grazed, they discovered a number of areas of burnt grass. There were four such areas, each about 50 cms wide, lying along the circumference of an expanse embracing altogether four segments of 2,500 sq metres each. Test specimens were taken, but so far the laboratory in charge of the work has issued no results.

"One surprising thing is that a powerful odour (like benzine) was coming from these marks. And the farmer tells us that if you dig there and remove a clod of soil, you get the same odour, and this is at places in the field where no such odour is detectable on the surface.

"One thing that seems very certain is that no human criminal agency can have been responsible for either the burnt tobacco or the dead cattle."

MALAYSIA

UFO photographed over Kuala Lumpur

Singapore editor Yip Mien Chun has sent us a copy of the *Malayan Thung Pan* (Daily News) of May 29, 1968. Mr. Yip also saved Gordon Creighton the task of translating the Chinese text by sending a precis of the UFO report carried in the paper:—

"A UFO was sighted over Pataling Jaya (a middle class residential estate in Kuala Lumpur) at 6.50 a.m. on May 27 by a reporter of the paper, one Mr. Phua. Other witnesses include his son and a Malay shopkeeper living in the area.

"The UFO looked like a saucer about 3,000 feet high. Except for its bottom being black it was white all

round. Flying horizontally, the UFO seemed to rotate on its axis, pulsating glittering light at both sides. It made no noise as it moved. Looking from where Mr. Phua stood the UFO appeared to wobble, 'like a ship sailing in (rough) seas.'

"Three pictures were taken in rapid succession.

"The UFO flew towards the north east direction of Pataling Jaya. In other words it flew inland which is as sparsely populated as it is mountainous and forested. The sighting lasted less than five minutes. (Apparently no one saw where the UFO came from. Pataling Jaya is situated at the south east of Klang, the chief Malaysian port in the west of the Malay peninsula.)

"At the time of the sighting the sky was quite dark, but no clouds were seen. Visibility was good. The size of the UFO was given as about 100 feet in diameter. The speed was calculated as about 15,000 m.p.h. (These calculations were made two weeks later when *Malayan Thung Pau* interviewed Prof. Tong Siew Pak, head, physics dept., University of Malaya, who questioned Mr. Phua, the photographer.)

"The *M.T.P.* has interviewed a few well-known Malaysian scientists for comments on the UFO. Among the scientists are: Prof. Tong, Dr. Li Yin Fu, head of the satellite tracking Centre in K.L., Mr. Ho Tong Guan, head of the Meteorological Dept. and Dr. Marican of the Technical College, K.L.

"After checking the negatives and talking to the photographer, all of them confirmed that the 'thing' was neither a plane, a balloon nor a satellite. However, no mention of any natural phenomenon was made."

[We hope our reader will be able to obtain copies of the photographs for us in due course.—EDITOR.]

SOUTH AFRICA OFS Circular Cloud UFO

From *Die Vloksblad* (Bloemfontein) of July 7, 1968, we learn how:—

"An unidentified flying object like a circular cloud in a cloudless sky, kept scores of people guessing in Bloemfontein and several parts of the Orange Free State. Many were obviously distressed and telephoned *Die Volksblad* to ascertain what it was.

"According to the S.A. Broadcasting Corporation the object was also seen at Thabazimbi, Vryburg and Stilfontein.

"The pilot of a S.A. Airways Boeing airliner en route to Cape Town, reported that he had seen the object near Jagersfontein, but when *Die Volksblad* approached an official in the control tower at the J.B.M. Hertzog Airport, and asked for an explanation, he said that all such information was strictly

confidential and that he was not permitted to divulge anything.

"Early that evening several Bloemfontein residents started phoning *Die Volksblad* to report the 'thing.' One woman even asked that someone should be sent outside to investigate and to report back to her!

"According to residents who phoned from the suburbs of General De Wet, Hospital Park, Dan Pienaar and Noordhoek, the object was yellowish-white to orange in colour, with a dark patch in the centre. It seemed to be 10 to 14ft. in diameter.

"Later that night people from Bethlehem, Heilbron and Abrahamskraal (within a radius of 100 miles from Bloemfontein) phoned and gave an identical description. They said that the object approached from the south-west at a height of approximately 6,000ft. and travelled ever so slowly in a north-easterly direction, and sometimes it seemed to hover. It lingered in that area and was often visible for up to ten minutes.

"An official at the Lamont Hussey Observatory on Naval Hill in Bloemfontein, told *Die Volksblad* that people as far afield as Brandfort and even a place 110 miles away from the city, had phoned him. He said that he had not seen the object himself, and could therefore not give an explanation."

Credit to FSR Representative Philipp Human who also provided the translation from the Afrikaans.

[No other newspaper accounts of these sightings have been received so we have, as yet, no way of checking the date of the incident.—EDITOR.]

Zig-zagging Durban UFO

The *Natal Mercury* of July 17, posed the question:—

"Just what is the mysterious glowing object which . . . was seen by a large number of people on Monday (July 15) night?

"A group of eight people at the home of Mr. George Liversage were startled to see it zig-zag across the sky and take 90-degree turns.

"Mr. Liversage, who lives near the King George V Hospital, watched it through a 3ft. telescope while his son Allan followed it through a pair of binoculars. Others who watched it were his daughter Ruth and the medical superintendent of the hospital.

"It was the strangest thing I have ever seen," said Allan. "It was about the size of a beach ball and moved at great speed. There was no noise—just this glowing orange ball."

"The object was first seen shortly after 7.30 p.m., moving from the North Coast over Westville. It was seen again after 10.30 p.m. and twice more during the night.

"What intrigued the group of watchers most was that at one stage it seemed to rise from the sugar cane fields at Natal Estates.

"Flying control at Louis Botha Airport reported receiving inquiries about the object too. However, a control officer said no aircraft were in the area. An official at the American space tracking station near Pretoria said yesterday that no spacecraft or satellites had been tracked in the area over Durban."

Credit: Miss J. Dunville Lees of Pinetown, Natal.

SPAIN

UFOs seen by hundreds

La Crónica and *La Razón* (both of Buenos Aires) for July 7 carried an Agence France Presse report from Madrid to the effect that on the evening of July 3, hundreds of people in Palma de Mallorca and other places in the Balearic Islands, as well as in Bilbao, had seen UFOs. The Palma de Mallorca paper *Ultima Hora* was quoted as having said that various eyewitnesses estimated the altitude of the UFOs at 10,000 feet. Of three UFOs over Mallorca, one was stated to have climbed from 10,000 to the UFOs over Mallorca, one was stated to have climbed from 10,000 to 20,000 feet in a few seconds, before disappearing.

The UFO over Bilbao was seen by several hundred people at 9 p.m. on July 3 before it climbed away in a spiral and was lost to sight over the Bay of Biscay.

ARGENTINA

Two reports from Córdoba

From *La Nación*, Buenos Aires, of June 16, 1968,—

"Yesterday evening, Señor Jorge Yaru, Argentine citizen, aged 35, who for the past four years has been living at Los Cigarrales, just outside the town of Mendiola, in the departamento (county) of Colón, situated a little over 15 km. from this provincial capital (Córdoba) told newspapermen that early in the morning last Monday, at shortly after 3.00 a.m., he was just about to go to bed when he saw through a window a strange light.

"Going out of the house, he beheld, hanging above a great tree, a bit more than 30 metres distant from him, a big luminous object of the size of a bus. Around the lower part of it were red, yellow, and green flashes of light, and when he tried to approach it the machine rose a few metres into the air at a staggering speed.

"Señor Yaru said he is a former engineer in the Argentine Navy and at present a lorry driver, and he is used to evaluating luminous phenomena seen at a distance. He said he observed

the object carefully. After it had remained hanging there for over 40 minutes, it suddenly performed a leap, shooting up into the sky and moving off at high speed towards the neighbouring locality of Río Ceballos, where it disappeared.

"Shortly after he had made this statement, Señora Rosa Brizuela de García, aged 70, who lives nearby, stated that during the same night in question she was in bed when she saw, at approximately the time stated, a great light. She looked outside to see where it came from and, just as Señor Yaru did, she saw a strange machine seemingly settle on top of a nearby tree. Señora de García says that a great fear seized her, for, last year, when with a 13-year-old girl named Lola Ferreyra, they had both seen a craft just as strange as this one fly over very low and at great speed.

"Señor Yaru told nobody of what he had seen until yesterday when, in view of what happened at Villa Carlos Paz,* he decided to make known what he had seen, having in the meantime already heard of what had happened to his neighbour, Señora de García." (Translation: G. Creighton.) Credit: Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz of Buenos Aires.

*See the article "Strangers about the House", page 10 of this issue.

AZORES

UFO and creature report

We now have further details of the Azores sighting given on p. 34 of our last issue. Dated "Angra do Heroísmo, February 3", the following account was published in the *Diário dos Açores* of February 4, 1968. Speaking about his alleged experience, Serafim Vieira Sebastião told the reporter:—

"I know perfectly well what a met-

eorological research sonde-balloon is, and even at a distance I should be able to distinguish one from any other sort of object that might pass across the sky. I can therefore assure you that what I saw the night before last was in fact a manned craft, a flying saucer, or something that amounts to the same thing . . .

"The man expresses himself firmly and almost with indignation at the volume of doubt that has been woven around this much-discussed episode. Three days ago, he was an anonymous member of the public, a simple watchman at the installations of the American 'Azores Air Base', on Cinco Picos, at the place known as 'Criação do Cabrito'. Today his name has become known beyond the confines of the island of Terceira . . .

"The most recent witness to the existence of UFOs comes from the island of Terceira, an island that has an important and busy strategic air base. The American authorities are extremely interested in the statement made by Serafim Vieira Sebastião, the watchman at the Azores Air Station.

"Serafim Vieira speaks without hesitation and uses paper and pencil to describe, with minute precision, the object that he was able to watch for an indeterminate length of time (he was profoundly affected by the emotion generated in him by the experience).

"He says: 'It was of an oval shape, with a metallic gleam, and it was topped by a glass tower with a small balustrade on which two beings were leaning. Inside the tower I could see two silhouettes which looked to me like two more beings. There is no possibility of my being mistaken or of having seen a sonde-balloon. Besides, until I used my torch, the saucer remained stationary above one of the munition dumps that are at the Air

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