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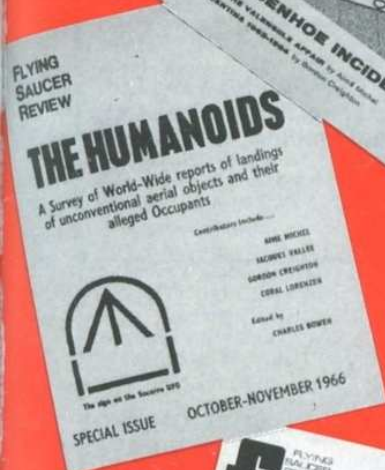
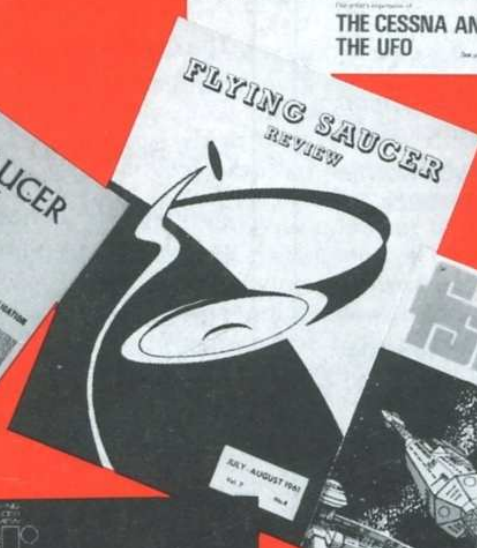
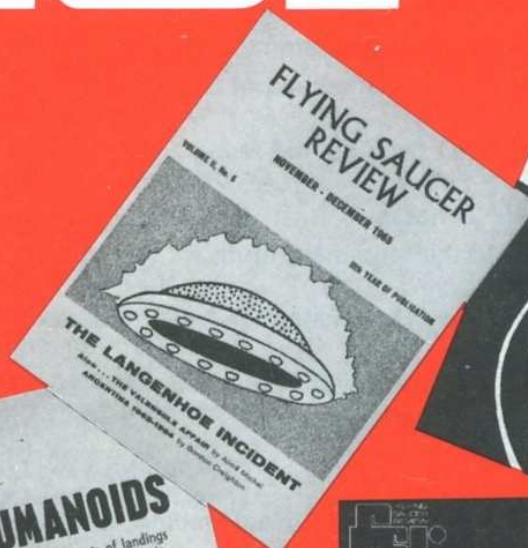
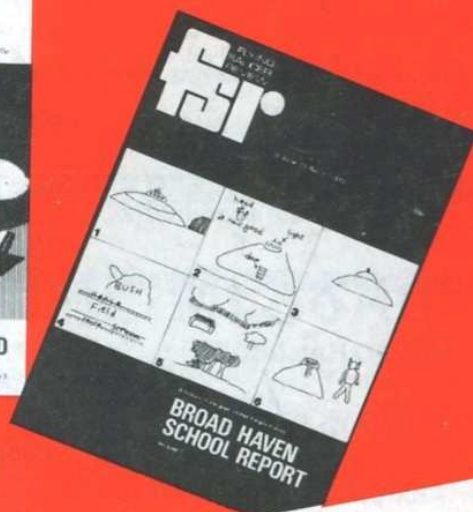
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Volume 26, No. 1, Spring 1980

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FSR's SILVER JUBILEE



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WAS THIS THE MESSAGE?

THIS issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is its SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE. It had been intended to mark the occasion of the anniversary of the first ever issue, for *Spring 1955*, with some extra-special content, but the spate of production problems which dogged FSR during its twentyfifth year, left me with no alternative other than to press ahead in the normal manner and style in the hope of recovering the lost ground.

So there will be no sonorous fanfares, no "waving of flags" — apart from the montage of past issues of the magazine which adorns our cover. The closing of the REVIEW's first quarter of a century of continuous publication passed without much ado with the publication of our previous issue, Volume 25, No. 6. When one looks back over those 25 years one sees quite a few things that are encouraging: the FSR team has done a good job to the best of its ability and within the limitations imposed upon it by its continual lack of sufficient time to do everything that needs to be done, by insufficient funds and by the lack of well-equipped premises; in-depth investigation and careful research have been encouraged and assisted in the case of the UFO Investigators' Network in the United Kingdom; a proportion of the precious funds we could spare have been devoted, over and above generous donations from readers for the purpose, to the expensive business of establishing the Institute for UFO Studies — about which we expect there will soon be more to tell.

Those indeed are things to cheer about, and I can assure you that I and my colleagues share a sense of satisfaction born of survival, and, to paraphrase Waveney Girvan's words written in 1964 (FSR Vol. 10, No. 6), "To have survived 25 years of publishing in an era of adverse economics and without subsidy or patronage of any sort would normally be regarded as an achievement for a small magazine dealing with any other interest, but as the establishment would have us believe that flying saucers lack both existence and significance, then the achievement should appear much greater to the sceptic than to the believer." That said, I cannot help but observe that had the UFO mystery been solved, or had *all* governments "come clean" and revealed all they knew about the subject while devoting public funds to research — and no one can deny that they have been vigorously exhorted from many quarters to do just that — then FSR would have expired long ago and I would not be penning these lines; quite simply, the subject would have been wrested from our grasp.

That said, then the only way in which this Jubilee issue differs from our usual style of presentation is that this Editorial leader is much longer than usual, and that it is written in the first person. So, for the first, and probably only time, it will be signed, and the reason for that is that some of the things I have to say do not necessarily reflect the policy of the REVIEW. They are the products of a little "thinking aloud."

Looking back through FSR's first quarter century I was prompted to glance with interest at the five issues which made up our first volume in 1955. I needed to remind myself of the views that prevailed at that time. Needless to say the extraterrestrial hypothesis regarding the origin of UFOs would be found to be in vogue; what I needed to find were the articles, if any, which looked at other possibilities.

By 1955 ufology was already well-established, although there was little in the way of organisation. It had seen the big waves of 1947, 1952 and 1954, although the latter was still under examination; there was already a sizeable literature. "Sides" had been taken. Donald Keyhoe — who formed NICAP — and his followers were sympathetic to the idea of extraterrestrial visitants surveying the earth, but were *very* guarded on the score of landings. Needless to say they reacted scornfully against the claims of the other side, the "contactees" and their cult followers. Contactees were the human beings who claimed to have had meetings with saucer occupants, godlike creatures from Venus, etc., and to have had trips in space with them, and to have been given messages. Generally these messages seemed ludicrous in content; quite often, however, they included warnings about Man's tampering with atomic power, and polluting his environment, whereupon the detractors suggested the contactees were riding their personal ecological hobby-horses, and everyone laughed. The best known of the contactees was George Adamski who, after stating that he had met his Venusian in the desert beyond Desert Center, California, later claimed that he was taken on a trip around the Moon which, he said, was a place of lush vegetation and water — which, now, we all know is nonsense. *Flying Saucers have Landed* by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski was, despite the ridicule, a best seller; it brought many serious-minded people into the subject and its success encouraged Waveney Girvan and his friends to launch FLYING SAUCER REVIEW with Derek D. Dempster as editor.*

With all this in mind I scanned the 1955 issues. Right from the start the bias was towards the ETH. After the Editorial, Volume 1, No. 1 led off with "Let's talk space" featuring the story of Air Force *Meteor* pilot James Salandin's near miss with an object over Southend in October 1954. There followed an account of Capt. James Howard's remarkable BOAC *Stratocruiser* incident off Newfoundland in June 1954 supported by author Leonard Cramp's "space ship" speculations.

In Vol. 1, No. 2, there was Professor Hermann Oberth's statement: "They are from Outer Space," and although the rocket pioneer condemned Adamski's claims as unfounded rumour, he thought flying saucers were "Vikings of another planetary system." In the same issue Dr. Carl Jung wrote of the United States Air Force: "Despite all the information in its possession and its so-called fear of creating panic (it) seemed to work systematically to do that very thing . . . since it has never yet published an authentic and certain account of the facts, only occasionally allowing information to be dragged out of it by journalists." Desmond Judge warned against occultism, and that we should be on our guard against flying saucers being put forward as another piece of "spiritualistic mumbo-jumbo."

In Vol. 1, No. 4, however, Meade Layne suggested, in "Mat and Demat" that UFOs emerge on to our plane of perception from a space-time frame of reference which is different from ours, while in Vol. 1, No. 5, a contributor was already describing experiments with psychokinesis.

*Dempster was followed by Brinsley le Poer Trench (Lord Clancarty) in July 1956, and Waveney Girvan took over in September 1959 and was editor until his death in October 1964.

Dr. Rolf Alexander's article was not concerned with UFOs but, in an introduction, Derek Dempster wrote that "Psychokinesis can be classified as thought-power, which many believe propels the spaceships."

So the "spaceships" were getting a fair crack of the whip. However there was a surprise in store for, when turning the pages of the one issue not yet mentioned, namely Vol. 1, No. 3, there suddenly was an article "Flying Saucers and the Psychic" by our old friend Wilfred Daniels. The veteran Staffordshire investigator wrote: "Most people who are prepared to admit that flying saucers are real, are material and mechanical, and originate from other planets, are yet unable or unwilling to accept the idea that the saucerians may be, by our standards, almost pure 'spirit' although possessing flesh and blood corporeal bodies much like our own." He had pointed out that generally people fight shy of the idea that there is "evidence of gigantic intellect, of spiritual superiority, and the ability to communicate with each other, and people of earth by means of mental telepathy." He went on to ask: "Could it not be that just *because* of their peculiar powers of mental perception, spiritualists, and those with 'psychic' sensibilities, may be the very people better equipped than anybody else to be sought out, or inspected at close quarters, by alien visitors in flying saucers?" Mr. Daniels then reminded readers that one of the criticisms levelled at George Adamski was that he was a medium, that his exchanges with the "Venusian" were made under trance conditions, and that Adamski had "painted in" the story of the physical contact in the Nevada desert to make the story seem more factual and less fantastic. Wilfred Daniels, however, found it "... easier to accept the idea of a 'trance' contact rather than a 'chance' contact."

To support his theory Mr. Daniels cited three cases, including that of Mrs. Jennie Roestenburg — who retold her 1954 story so convincingly 23 years later on the BBC-TV documentary *Out of this World* on May 11, 1977 — who was known to possess psychic powers long before her CEIII experience.

During the last fifteen years there has been a growing sense of the improbability that the mass of flying saucers, UFOs, or alien aeroforms, are themselves "nuts and bolts" spaceships. There has been a deal of speculation around the question: "From whence do they come?" If they are not exploring extraterrestrials, then are they denizens of parallel universes (metaterrestrials) who have seeped through some "window" or common focal point of their time stream with ours? Are they in some way connected with the elementals? Are they, as Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington have suggested, the creations of the minds of certain folk, and controlled by telekinesis? Or are they indeed, in line with Wilfred Daniels' suggestion, pure "spirit" entities of a kind which Aimé Michel has envisaged in Note 5 to his article "The 'Cat-Flap' effect" (see FSR Vol. 25, No. 4)?

We have collected so much data about the effects of these UFOs that it is quite easy to imagine how "they" work. For example my own preference is still that a possibly extraterrestrial influence is at work (although it could be metaterrestrial or elemental), perhaps keeping us under surveillance directly from its distant abode, or from, say, an orbiting body. As anything we do could be of interest to this influence — whichever its "world" may

be — it would need to “keep tabs on us” so, for its purpose, images are projected for certain kinds of witnesses to see visually, or to “see” in the mind; such thoughts as these were expressed as long ago as 1966 in the conclusions to the chapter “Few and Far Between” in *The Humanoids*.

That the visual imagery could be projected by lasers is discussed by J. G. Adams in his contribution “Projection of Humanoid Images” in FSR Vol. 25, No. 6. That the mental imagery could just as well be projected into human minds by super-intelligent beings, was shown by C. Maxwell Cade in his brilliant 5-part series “A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence” in FSR during 1967.

So we are left to consider the derided “messages” which were prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s. I have never made any bones about the fact that we should *not* ignore the contactee claims, but look at them shorn of the ballyhoo and cultism that surrounds them. So — and this is highly speculative thinking aloud — what if “it” (super-ET, or MT, or elemental) endeavoured to descend to our mental level and, as Wilfred Daniels postulated, selected trance subjects for its purpose, but was unlucky in its choice? Unlucky, for example, that its message fell on the minds of, among others, individuals who endeavoured to manipulate their experience for their own “philosophical” or pecuniary ends. Unlucky therefore, that other recipients of the “message”, horrified at seeing the ridicule heaped on the garrulous, extrovert “contactees” kept their experience to themselves. For if they had spoken out — even without writing books, going on lecture tours or starting a neo-religious cult — their message would have been instantly suspect, and they too

would have become objects of derision. Yet, as stated earlier, the derided messages invariably warned of the grave consequences of the dangers to which man is exposing his world.

In *The Times* of March 27, 1980, one reads of a document entitled *World Conservation Strategy* issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. In the frightening list of regions of galloping devastation, we read of “Deserts expanding by 23,000 square miles — the equivalent of two Belgiums, each year.” Again of “Tropical rain forests (Earth’s main generating source of oxygen in our atmosphere — C.B.) in particular . . . in danger of diminishing by half in the next 20 years, and disappearing altogether in the next 85.” Elsewhere, of vast silting and floods due to deforestation; of the “disappearance of 1,200 square miles every year of agricultural land under urban sprawl;” of loss of soil by erosion caused by bad farming and careless forestry; of the progressive collapse of the world’s fisheries.

We are all well aware too of vast pollution of the seas by oil disasters, and the effects of effluent.

Is this the way — in Aimé Michel’s words in his notes to “The ‘Cat-Flap’ Effect” — in which we human beings are committing suicide at the close of our “technological episode”?

Was this the message which some entity somewhere, an entity perhaps with a vested interest in what happened to our planet, tried to get through to *all* of us? Perhaps there is still time to heed that message.

CHARLES BOWEN
March 28, 1980.

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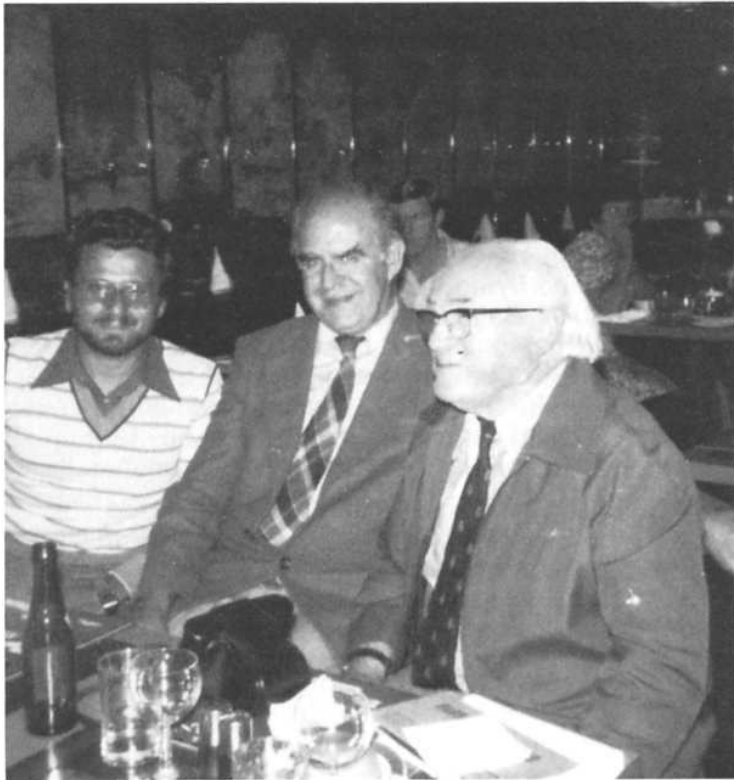
Luciano Boccone

THIS episode took place during the night of December 6/7, 1978, at Marzano, a village near Torriglia, in the Province of Genova (Genoa).

Signor Fortunato Zanfretta, aged 26, married, with two children, is a night-watchman employed by the *Cooperativa* of Valbisagno. He was carrying out one of his regular nightly inspection tours to check up on the many villas and cottages which, scattered here and there in the municipality of Torriglia, are normally only occupied during the holiday season, and was driving a *Fiat 126* car, owned by the Cooperative and equipped with a radio linking him with the Genoa Head Office.

It was almost midnight, cold, the sky clear, and visibility very good. Towards the North, in the direction of Pentema, a big fire had broken out.

Zanfretta drove through Marzano and headed for the last of the summer houses, the villa *Casa Nostra*. Suddenly, about a hundred metres before reaching the villa, and after a turn in the road, he perceived four white lights, described by him as "like four torch lights," arranged in a triangle and moving horizontally to and fro at about a metre or so above ground-level, in front of the south-eastern façade of the house. So he immediately pulled up and got out of the car to get a better view.



Dr. Roberto Pinotti (left), with Charles Bowen (centre) and Gordon Creighton in London, September 1979.

We are indebted for this report* to Dr. Roberto Pinotti and his colleagues on the Editorial Board of *Notiziario UFO*, the journal of the Italian National UFO Research Centre (*Centro Ufologico Nazionale*), published in Rome. The article appeared in their issue No. 3, year 2, March 1979, and therefore came to us in Italian, and with a rendering already made into English, which has been collated and edited by translator Gordon Creighton.

EDITOR

Thinking it might be one of the cases of housebreaking that are so frequent in that district, he switched off his engine and prepared to call the Head Office to report the matter and tell them of the action he proposed to take. All he could get however was the call-sign from one of his colleagues: "Canguro here!" He glanced mechanically at his clock. It was precisely 11.45 p.m. He went on trying to make contact, and suddenly realized that his radio had stopped working. Then, for no apparent reason, his headlights, which had been on until that moment, also packed up, as well as his dashboard lighting and the internal car light. Surprised, though not yet worried by this, he simply decided that he would go over and inspect the villa first, and then look to see what was wrong with his lights. So he got out his electric torch, and pressed and pushed the button to see that it was in good working order. Then he shut the car, switched off his torch again, and began striding towards the villa, determined to confront the burglars.

Quickly he was across the hundred metres or so separating him from the house, all the time keeping his eyes on the mysterious lights. By now he was more convinced than ever that a big housebreaking operation was in progress. All around, the most total silence reigned.

But a moment more and he was at the entrance gate to the villa. This is a wooden gate, painted white, about 80 cms high, in keeping with the rest of the villa's surrounding enclosure. The lights were still there, very clearly visible, about fifteen metres or so from him. They were still in movement, but there was no sign of any persons. And there was absolutely no sound. He halted for a second and then switched on his torch and shone it straight at the gate, and saw that the left half of it was shut while the right half was opened inwards. Then he shone the torch towards the front door of the villa, about ten

* A brief news version of this case appeared in the *World Round-up* column of *FSR* Vol. 25, No. 2, (March-April 1979).

metres from him and a little to his right, and he noted that it too was standing wide open. Well now, he thinks, there is no doubt about it: it is a genuine case of housebreaking. He switches off his torch and draws his pistol. But he still cannot find a satisfactory explanation for those lights. . .

Then suddenly the four lights began to move towards him, and passed rapidly from left to right in front of him, vanishing an instant later behind the north corner of the house. Instinctively and courageously he headed for the southern corner, on the left-hand side of the building, in order "to surprise them by meeting them as they came round the house."

He quickly got to the south corner, determined to take up his position there, leaning against the drainpipe, with his torch in his left hand and the pistol in his right, and beside the clump of rambler roses growing there. Peering round the corner of the house, he tried to see where the "lights" had now got to, or to ascertain how many robbers he had to deal with, when suddenly he felt a broad, powerful, solid "push" — an explicable sort of push, but something very, very different from a push from one or more human hands. He staggered forward and fell on the grass. The torch slipped from his hand, and as it hit the ground, it switched itself on!

His immediate thought was that the "thieves" must have turned the tables by taking him from the rear. . .

Everything that happened now was in a matter of a few seconds. Still lying on the ground, he grabbed his lighted torch, which was close by him. He swung round quickly, pointing the beam of light upwards to about the height of a man. As he turned, the peak of his cap struck "something" which was visible by the light of his torch: it was like a mass of big horizontal dark grey-coloured tubes, set one above the other, which he beheld, just a mere few centimetres from his face. Picking himself up slowly from the ground, he tried instinctively to see the "face" of this "something" which he still thought to be a burglar, so he shone his torch upwards to where the head ought to have been: but at that point there were more grey "tubes," so he shone his torch still higher, until, at a height of about three metres, he saw the "face" of the intruder: it was a big dark-green coloured head, about sixty centimetres wide and with two dreadful enormous triangular, luminous yellow eyes, inclined upwards at the outer corners, and, on the lower part of the forehead there was also an indefinable something, also of a luminous yellow colour, like an eye, surmounted by enormous irregular wrinkles. The head also had, at the sides, great pointed "spines" in the place of hair, and, in front of them, there seemed to be a suggestion of straight, pointed "ears" or "horns" sticking up!

No sooner had he caught this glimpse of it than, brief seconds later, the alien entity vanished. . . Amazed, horrified, terrified by the repulsive appearance and searching gaze of the being, the watchman made a dash for the gate and out through it, on to the road. As he tore madly towards his car, which was not far from him, he suddenly began to hear an extremely loud, steady, unbearable whistling noise, like the sound of a centrifuge accelerating, and accompanied by a tremendously powerful wave of heat.

He halted, swung round, and looked back in the direction of the villa and of the whistle, hoping to discern maybe or see something that could explain this nightmare



Arrowed, the southern corner of the house where Zanfretta had his close encounter.

of unreality through which he was living, something that might provide some reassurance; but what he beheld terrified him even more, for there, above the villa, silhouetted most sharply and clearly against the dark backgrounds of the sky, was the profile of the upper part of a large flattened triangle, a sort of "Chinese hat," the base of which appeared to be hidden in an immense glow, a blinding, dazzling light, so bright that he had to put up one arm to shade his eyes. In this briefest snatch of time he saw the vivid white glow spread out beyond the northern and southern corners of the house, and then



First sketch by Zanfretta, showing the entity's face.

shoot straight up into the sky like an arrow. Overwhelmed by the heat from the object and filled with dread, he fled in wild panic towards Marzano and his car and his radio.

Breathless, he reached the *Fiat 126*, and without stopping to wonder how it was that his headlights were now on again and why all the electrical circuits of the car were now functioning normally, he made a desperate call to the office and gave the alarm, shouting into the microphone all his terror: **"My God — they're brutes — they aren't men, they aren't men!"** Such were the words heard by the colleague who was on duty at the radio call post at the time. And immediately after that, as another colleague was commenting ironically on this desperate message, the night-watchman felt his knees giving way and his consciousness fading. Exhausted, he collapsed on the ground beside the car. The time was now 00.16 hours on Thursday, December 7, 1978. It had taken Zanfretta about half an hour to walk the distance of roughly 100 metres from his car to the villa and then the same distance back to the car again.

Almost another hour would elapse between the moment when he suffered his "swoon" and the moment when, hot, lying face-down in the middle of the big field on the south-eastern side of the villa, he re-opened his eyes and caught sight of the headlights of the car that was bringing his two colleagues to his aid. Imagining however that he was about to undergo a repetition of the terrifying experiences of shortly before, he merely grasped his pistol and made ready to defend himself. But in reality fifty minutes had elapsed since he had "fainted." The time was now precisely 01.06 a.m.

His colleagues had no easy task in restoring him to some state of reason, calming him down, and reassuring him that his nightmare was over. The spot where they found him, agitated, terrorized, trembling and utterly demoralized, is about 80 metres from where his *Fiat 126* was standing.

Zanfretta was unable to say how he came to be in the big field, and recalled absolutely nothing whatsoever of what might have happened to him between 00.16 and 01.06 hours of that night. Fifty minutes were missing from his life, a second and an eternity of which he had absolutely no memory, just as he had no recollection of how long it had taken him to walk those 100 metres from the car to the villa and then the same distance back again.

Verifications

While the door of the car was found to be open, and its main headlights and dashboard light and inside light and the radio were all switched on and working normally, the garden-gate to the villa and the main door of the villa were, on the other hand, found to be firmly closed, contrarily to what Zanfretta claimed to have observed. And nothing was found to be missing from inside the house — unlike what had happened a year before, when not only the door but the front wall too had been broken through, though all that was stolen consisted of three stuffed specimens of extremely common animals.

That earlier robbery of a year before had been duly reported at the time to the Carabinieri at Torriglia, who made an investigation, though with no positive results. (It was subsequently to that previous robbery — a thoroughly absurd affair for professional thieves to have perpetrated — that the proprietor of the villa had, at one

stage decided to dispense with the services of the *Valbisagno Cooperative*.) In the present affair, the night-watchman had thought he was simply thwarting another attempted break-in at the villa.

In the big meadow to the south-east of the villa, at the spot where Zanfretta re-opened his eyes that night, a dark horseshoe-shaped impression was to be seen, about three cms deep, 15 cms wide, and with a minimum diameter of about 2.5 metres and a maximum diameter of about 8 metres. This impression was photographed with panchromatic film and flash by Luciano Zeggio, photo-reporter for *La Gazzetta del Lunedì*, on the afternoon of Saturday, December 9, 1978.

In the course of the evening investigation on the site made on Thursday December 7, 1978, by the Carabinieri and Zanfretta's colleagues, they also found a horseshoe-shaped mark, with a maximum diameter of about two metres, in the small field lying to the north-west of the villa. This mark, which was invisible by day, is still detectable by night if illuminated, according to the statement of the Carabinieri and of Lt. Cassiba of Valbisagno. On the afternoon of Friday, December 8, with a fine rain falling, we photographed this mark using infra-red film.

During the course of that same afternoon we discovered a heap of earth, seemingly freshly made, in the kitchen-garden of the villa. The kitchen-garden is located to the south of the corner of the house where Zanfretta had his baffling experience. The soil seemed to have been thrown up in a disorderly fashion by somebody or something operating in a hurry. It is interesting to note that only a few metres separate this heap of earth from the south corner of the house.

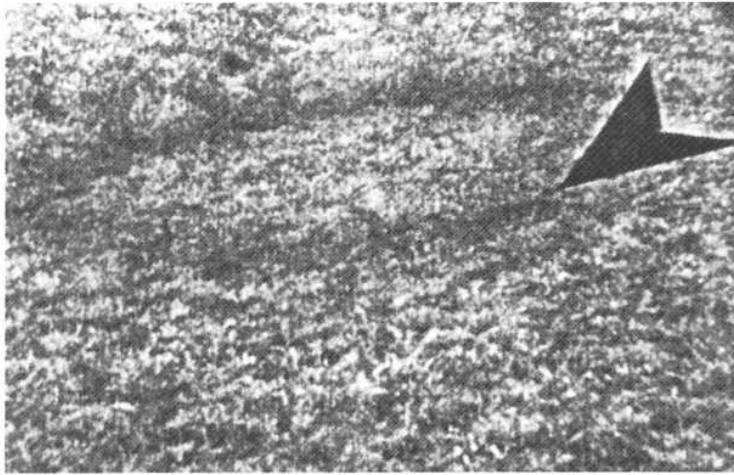


The big horseshoe-shaped mark in the field to the south-east of the villa.

Despite the fine rain, we also discovered, on that same afternoon of Wednesday, December 8, 1978, a slight degree of radioactivity, amounting to an average of 0.25 mR/h between 3.30 p.m. and 4.45 p.m., in connection with the western corner of the property, below the bowling green. That is to say, more or less right behind the house, at the spot from where the witness claims that he saw the big luminous triangle rising up towards the zenith.

The references

Il Secolo XIX of December 10, 1978, reported that, at the spot where UFOs were sighted in the Province of Bari on



Arrowed: the ellipsoidal mark, about one metre in diameter, in the field to the north-west of the villa.

December 8, the witnesses being four youths, a number of night-watchmen, and a patrol of Carabinieri, a horseshoe-shaped mark over two metres wide was subsequently discovered. Quite apart from the evident similarities, the presence, near the Villa "Casa Nostra," of a big horseshoe-shaped impression and of a small ellipsoidal one (ellipsoidal under infra-red light, but horseshoe-shaped under spotlights, and invisible by daylight), not to mention the radioactivity by the bowling-green and exactly behind the house — albeit quite faint, but discovered by us without any indications of its having been reported by the Carabinieri, or any of the other people present at the spot on Friday, December 8 — all this seems fully to confirm the experiences which the witness claims to have undergone. And this story he has related on various occasions without ever falling into any contradictions, either to us or to the representatives of the press (*Il Secolo XIX*; *La Gazzetta del Lunedì*; *La Domenica del Corriere*; etc.), or the national RAI-TV (Portobello) or the private TV interests (*Telegenova*, *TVS*, and so on).

And finally, in addition to discovering the above-mentioned horseshoe-mark in the field on the south-east side of the villa, the journalist Rino Di Stefano and the photo-reporter Luciano Zeggi (both of *La Gazzetta del Lunedì*) have found at least two more pieces of confirmatory testimony from people living around that area, who told them that they had seen a luminous object in the sky over Marzano during the night of November 6/7. Two ladies in a neighbouring village had in fact seen, from the terrace of their house, at about 9.00 p.m. that same evening, a luminous craft moving in the direction of their position. And another woman, resident in Marzano, said that on several occasions she had seen a UFO flying around above the district

Interview with Fortunato Zanfretta

Question: Can you try to give a good description of the being. . . ?

Answer: No, look, no. . . I have a headache. . . I haven't managed to sleep for the past two days.

Q: But, did he have arms?

A: I don't remember. . . look, the only thing that I have said I remember is the shape — that is, on the four or five occasions that I have awakened, terrified, at home, the

shape of how I may have seen him — that is to say, a big "spiny" face.

Q: And what about sounds?

A: Only that whistle when it left. But I don't understand the business about that gravel. When you walk on it, you can hear it, but I heard absolutely nothing. I heard him only when he was already right behind me, so much so that I swung round and hit him with my head.

Q: And then what happened after you had touched him?

A: Nothing, I don't remember anything. . .

Q: You had scarcely the time to shine your light on his face and then. . .

A: I saw the face, this great big thing, and something like a pretty thick big trunk. . . a mass of dark grey flesh, and when I saw the face I was terror-stricken and I couldn't move, standing there with my pistol in one hand and the torch in the other. . . for I don't know how long.

Q: A mass of flesh, how do you mean? Did it look smooth or not?

A: Like ripples. Look. . . it was like seeing the chest of a fat person bent over, who straightens up, and then goes down again, and keeps on like that. In brief, like ripples.

Q: Like the "Michelin" man?

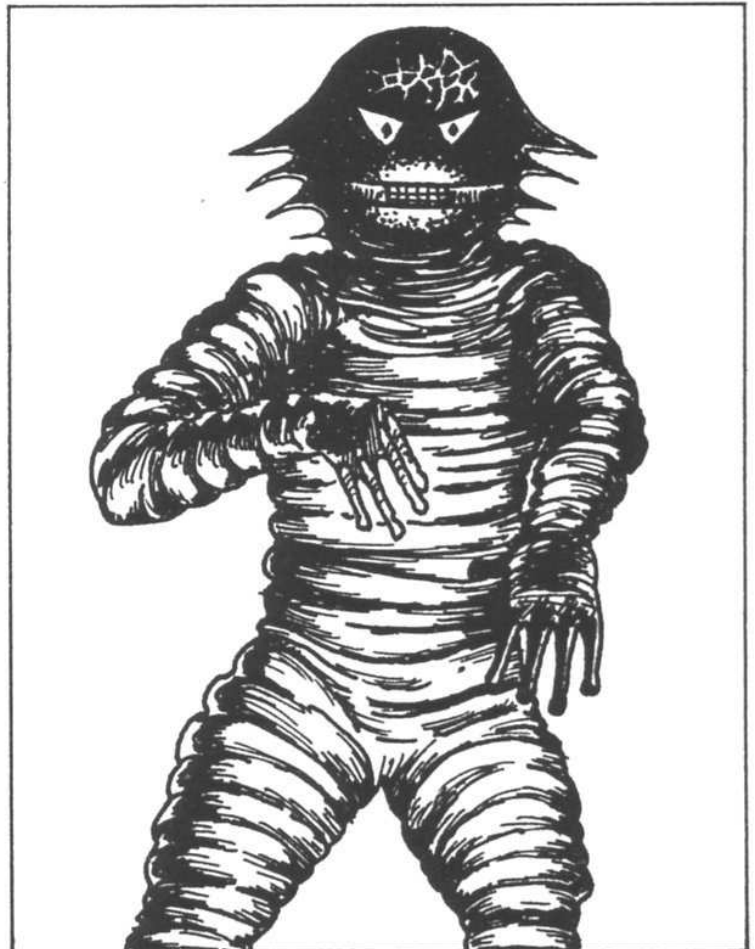
A: Excellent! That's it. Yes, yes, that's it! Something like that. Dark grey.

Q: And when you hit him with your head, what was it like? Was it soft, or hard?

A: Look, I hit him hard, but it was only for a second.

Q: Any smell?

A: No, I don't remember any.



The entity seen by Zanfretta (reconstruction by L. Boccone).

Q: Now, apart from your headache, which could be due to tiredness or stress, have you had any other physical disturbances of any sort?

A: As I have told you, it's only when I'm going to sleep. For the past two days I have gone to sleep in the afternoon, I sleep just one hour and that's all. And I always see the same scene all over again. . .

Q: But you are continuing normally at your work?

A: I've asked to continue; it's worse if I stay at home.

Q: Did nobody else see the lights?

A: Two people saw the light, a sort of triangle, at about 9.00 p.m.

Q: At about 9.00 p.m.?

Q: Yes, from a spot a few kilometres distant from there, and right over in the direction of Marzano.

The results of the hypnotic regression

In the course of our first talk with the witness on Wednesday, December 13, in the offices of *La Gazzetta del Lunedì*, we made a tape-recording of his account of his experience (which we divided into two phases: the first phase, from 11.30/11.45 p.m. of December 6 until 16 minutes past midnight on December 7, and the second phase, from then until six minutes past one of that same day, December 7). We suggested too that he submit himself for an experiment in regressive hypnosis, by which it might be possible to secure precise information regarding the time gaps, of approximately a quarter of an hour in the first phase, and about fifty minutes in the second phase, which the witness himself was unable to fill.

The full consent of the witness for such an experiment was given in the course of a subsequent meeting which we had with him in the presence of Lt. Cassiba, his immediate superior, and of the journalist Rino Di Stefano, on Saturday, December 16, at the Valbisagno Administration headquarters. At this same meeting it was therefore also decided how the experiment should be carried out. The representative of the Press, who had assumed the responsibility for publishing the report at the national and local levels, proposed the name of Surgeon-Doctor Mauro Moretti, a specialist in medical hypnosis, with whom arrangements were duly made during the next few days to fix the first session hypnotic regression for Saturday, December 23.

Commentary

In the presence of the psychoanalyst A. Massa, the hypnotist G. Cesari, the physicist Dr. Ferraro, the journalist R. Di Stefano, Lt. G. Cassiba and of myself (Luciano Boccone), Dr. Moretti commenced the first session of regression, bringing the witness rapidly into a state of deep hypnosis.

The visible fear of the witness before the experiment — namely that any revelations that he might make under hypnosis would probably be of no effective help towards the results of the investigation — was in fact totally dispelled by the exceptional results that we obtained, and which were quite unexpected by practically all of us who were present.

The results of this initial hypnosis session served as further confirmation of our original first impression that the witness was indeed sincere and telling the truth: in fact



Fortunato Zanfretta.

he described his experience in a most frank and open fashion, re-living with most profound emotion its most salient moments, and manifesting to us in physical form his reactions vis-à-vis his close encounter and the time-gaps he had experienced.

His various kinds of behaviour while in deep hypnosis, such as, for example, his panting, his head-movements, the broken delivery of his words and their repetition — all these were patent to all of us as we observed him, especially when he appeared to be re-living the experience of the encounter itself.

In deep hypnosis, the witness not only confirmed in the most minute detail the experience that he had described to us when he was conscious, but, in the course of his account of the occurrences pertaining to his encounter with the being, he also introduced into the story, without any solicitation from any quarter, yet another experience of which he is still entirely unaware in his conscious state, and which in fact completely fills out the first time-gap — otherwise inexplicable — of some eighteen minutes or so, which he took to cross that notorious space of some hundred metres or so from his car to the villa and then back again over the same distance to the car.

His unquestionable initial expressions of well-founded terror vis-à-vis unknown "monstrous beings," his vigorous initial protests that he was totally unwilling to follow these "beings" who were bent on taking him "somewhere else" against his will, gave way to equally indubitable expressions revealing that his mind was now entirely dependent upon the will of his "kidnappers." From the phrases spoken by this witness in profound hypnosis, and despite one or two timid attempts at rebellion on his part, the state of suggestibility and cap-

tivity in which he was held during the experience was patently obvious, as was also the fact that those "beings" had employed unknown means to prevent him from moving, or from looking around him, and for transmitting to him certain definite concepts or messages. Equally evident to all those present was his desire to know "who" or "what" was "touching" or manipulating him, as also were his affirmations regarding the non-human nature of those "beings," his entreaties to be allowed to "go home," and his calls for an ending to the torment inflicted upon him by "that thing on his head," by the "blinding light" in his eyes, and by the "unbearable heat" in which he was immersed.

Evident to all who were there was the total subjection of the witness to the will of those "monsters" — a subjection which however is not admitted by him at all at the conscious level. And this subjection was confirmed several times in the course of the witness's re-experience under hypnosis of the encounter he had undergone.

In the first part of his account, that is to say in the section referring to the period of time comprised between 11.30/11.45 p.m. of Wednesday, December 6, and six minutes past 1.00 a.m. of Thursday, December 7, the witness gave us, in our opinion, the description of a real experience, although he did not also re-experience, at the level of this experiment, those physical symptoms which he experienced and felt over a period of four days after his encounter of that night — such as, for example, the acute

and persistent pain localized in the upper part of his head.

In view of the obvious state of Zanfretta's anxiety Dr. Moretti did not consider it advisable to pursue the enquiry further by asking about what had happened during the second stage of his experience, namely the fifty-minute period between 00.16 and 01.06 hrs. of Thursday, December 7. Regarding the happenings during this second phase, which the witness did indeed start to describe, while giving confirmation once again of his state of total obedience to orders already received, he was in fact very brief and concise, though he did confirm, in the final part of it, all that he had already described in the conscious state, and all that his colleagues had said about the moment when he was found by them.

Thus, while it is not of course possible for us to maintain with the most absolute certainty that the experience of Zanfretta is indeed true, nevertheless, at the present state in our investigations, it would seem that, if we are to explain the hot condition of the witness's body and clothing more than one hour after his experience, plus his evident physical and emotional reactions under hypnosis, plus his state of anxiety and his visible reactions as though suffering a condition of subjection after his encounter of that night — then, indeed, the provisional hypothesis that Zanfretta had been kidnapped and then examined and communicated with, in some "hot place", would seem to be the best hypothesis available to us.

TRANSLATOR'S COMMENTS

Here, once again, I draw attention to certain features to which, over the years, we have become quite accustomed:—

(1) **Light:** vivid, blinding light, possibly employed for more than one purpose, and one of the purposes being, perhaps, use as a hypnotizing agent;

(2) **heat of an unbearable sort;**

(3) **Helmet:** the use of some sort of "helmet" or head-piece, said to be placed over the head of the individual unfortunate enough to engage the attentions of these charming creatures who most probably emanate from the Lower Depths.

One example of the clapping of such a "helmet" on to the victim springs to my mind. It will be found in Húlvio Brant Aleixo's article "Abduction at Bebedouro" which I translated in 1973 (see FSR Vol. 19, No. 6, November-December 1973. See also the recent paperback *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review*). I am inclined to think that

a careful search of the literature would yield quite a crop of other "helmet" cases.

Not too dissimilar was the Monte Grande case (No. 44 in my contribution "The Humanoids in Latin America" (Section IV of *The Humanoids*, currently a Futura paperback), in which the victim claimed that entities had tried to put him into some sort of "space suit."

This theme of being coerced into donning a "space suit" will also be found in a number of other cases if one examines the literature. See, for example, one of my favourites, the case of Mr. James Cooke who, in September 1957, thought that a fetching breed of hermaphrodite critters from the planet Zomdic had been good enough to shuttle him from his home at Runcorn in Cheshire on a round-trip (see "Mr. Cooke goes to Zomdic," p. 36 of FRS Vol. 4, No. 4, July-August 1958). I must say it really is refreshing to find that they weren't mere homosexuals.

GORDON CREIGHTON



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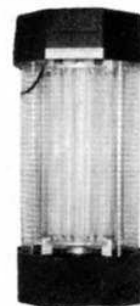


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FURTHER EVIDENCE OF "RETRIEVALS"

Details of cover-up revealed following lawsuit against the CIA

Gordon Creighton

PUBLICATION of Leonard Stringfield's paper "Retrievals of the Third Kind" is bound to cause alarm in some quarters. It would be foolish to expect anything else.

This might therefore be the appropriate moment to point out that this whole thesis about the crashed craft and the dead occupants does not stand or fall solely with Leonard Stringfield. There are other competent investigators who have arrived at the same conclusions as Stringfield. One of these is the aerospace engineer William Spaulding, who actively leads an Arizona group of investigators known as *Ground Saucer Watch*. This is said to be a nation-wide American research organisation of about 500 scientists and engineers, and it is the body which recently brought a lawsuit against the CIA and, in the Brooklyn Court, won the day.

The CIA has repeatedly said that it had finished its investigations and closed its books on UFOs in 1952, but *Ground Saucer Watch* asserts that, from the contents of the first 1000 pages of secret documents winked out of the CIA under this "freedom of information suit" it is evident that the Agency and the American Government are still lying about the UFO problem. Says William Spaulding: "After reviewing the documents, *Ground Saucer Watch* believes that UFOs do exist, they are real, the U.S. Government has been totally untruthful, and the cover-up is massive." (See article in *New York Times* of January 14, 1979, headlined 'CIA papers detail UFO surveillance'.)

So William Spaulding and *Ground Saucer Watch* assert that in their view there has been a "massive cover-up" on UFOs. But what else do they say? They say — as is indicated in this important special report published in the *New York Times* that they too have sworn statements from retired U.S. Air Force colonels that at least two UFOs have crashed and have been recovered by the Air Force. One crash, says Spaulding, was in Mexico in 1948, and the other was near Kingman, Arizona, in 1953. Spaulding also says that the retired Air Force colonels claimed to have seen, in connection with both these crashes, the corpses of alien beings about four feet tall wearing "silver outfits that seemed fused to the body from the heat."

Here then is proof that Leonard Stringfield is not the only person in America today who is talking about crashed craft and dead bodies in pickle. There is clearly a considerable amount of smoke.

It will be seen that William Spaulding and his colleagues were waiting in January 1979 for a Federal Judge to rule on the final phase of their suit against the CIA, which sought access to 57 items of documentation which would provide "hard evidence" of UFOs or retrievals of the third kind, and which included motion

We regret this article has appeared rather later than it should have done. We had been promised a report from an American contributor on the GSW-v- CIA situation, and so on, but this has failed to materialise. In its absence we have been forced to rely on the limited material at our disposal, on conversations with an American researcher who visited us, and on Gordon Creighton's correspondence with Leonard Stringfield.

EDITOR

pictures, gun camera film, and residue from landings. What precisely is the present situation, I have not yet heard.

One final thought: isn't it really rather odd that we have heard nothing whatsoever here, in the British or indeed in any of the European media, about this remarkable report which was printed in the *New York Times* for January 14, 1979?

After all, here is a news item in which seemingly responsible folk are cited as claiming proof that what is allegedly the most powerful government on Earth has possession of crashed flying saucers, and dead occupants pickled in brine or on ice, and that that government has been pulling the wool over everyone's eyes for more than a quarter of a century. A tremendous hullabaloo was raised over lying, and "monkey-business" and financial crookedness in high places, but compared with the pettifoggeries of American politics the problem of Earthman's possible contact with alien intelligences is something of an altogether more immediate and more important order, yet it warrants little or no comment. The fact that the achievement of *Ground Saucer Watch* against the CIA in an American court of law has been allowed to pass thus, virtually without comment anywhere in the world's media — apart from this item in the *New York Times* — surely contains a pointed message for those who can think for themselves and can see things a bit more clearly than the rest.

Leonard Stringfield tells me that threats against his life have been uttered since he started his campaign to gather evidence about retrievals, and this should surprise nobody. I grant that it is conceivable that somewhere in the Galaxy there may be a planet where governments are concerned for the general welfare of their peoples, but such is not the case on *our* planet, where every government serves the interests of a small oligarchy. It is patently obvious that individuals who advance inconvenient views, make embarrassing discoveries, or produce new inventions that threaten existing vested interests, are very

much at risk. So let us honour Leonard Stringfield and William Spaulding and all those others who are struggling at present to have a little more light cast on some very grave and murky matters. And should the critics and discreditors launch their campaign of ridicule against these two investigators let us not forget that such ridicule was, and is, entirely predictable. And ridicule can be a very potent weapon;* just as potent as the weapons used by the advocates of stronger arm methods.

The New York Times article

In view of its importance, and in view of the total silence with which this article has been greeted throughout the British and the West European media, it is vital that we reproduce its text in full. The piece is datelined Phoenix (Arizona), January 13 (1979). From it we learn that, "Documents obtained in a lawsuit against the Central Intelligence Agency show that the agency is secretly involved in the surveillance of unidentified flying objects and has been since 1949, an Arizona-based UFO group said yesterday.

"The CIA has repeatedly said that it investigated and closed its books on UFOs during 1952, according to Ground Saucer Watch, a nation-wide research organization of about 500 scientists, engineers and others who seek to scientifically prove or disprove the existence of UFOs, but 1,000 pages of documents, obtained under a freedom of information suit, show "the government has been lying to us all these years", it said.

"After reviewing the documents, Ground Saucer Watch believes that UFOs do exist, they are real, the U.S. Government has been totally untruthful, and the cover-up is massive," William Spaulding, head of the group, said.

Embassies gather information

"Mr. Spaulding, an aerospace engineer with AiResearch, one of the largest producers of specialized aerospace components, said the documents show that United States embassies are used to help gather information on UFO sightings and that the information 'seems to be directed to the CIA, the White House, and the National Security Agency.'

"A CIA memo of August 1, 1962, recommends continued agency surveillance of 'flying saucers,' saying, 'It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press of public, in view of their probably alarmist tendencies to accept such interest as *confirmatory* of the soundness of *unpublished facts* in the hands of the U.S. Government,' the document said.

"Among the documents are several detailed reports of Air Force attempts to either intercept or destroy UFOs.

"In a 1976 incident in Iran, one report says, two F-4 Phantom jet fighter-bombers pursued a large UFO that seemed to send out smaller craft. One of the smaller craft 'headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed,' the report said. 'The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications.' The pilot eluded the craft, then watched as it 'returned to

the primary object for a perfect rejoin,' the report continued.

Concern about Russian aims

"A major point of concern, a CIA document of October 2, 1962, shows, is that UFO sightings could mask Russian air attacks or 'psychological warfare.' The report — to the Director of Central Intelligence from the assistant director for the Office of Science Intelligence — recommends that the National Security Council be advised of the 'implications of the *flying saucer* problem;' that the matter be discussed with the Psychological Strategy Board, and that the CIA help 'develop . . . a policy of public information which will minimize concern and possible panic resulting from the numerous sightings of unidentified objects.'

"A document dated November 1975 directs against acknowledging any pattern in sightings. 'Unless there is evidence which links sightings, or unless media queries link sightings, queries can best be handled individually at the source and as questions arise,' it said. 'Response should be direct, forthright and emphasize that the action taken was in response to an isolated or specific incident.'

"Mr. Spaulding says the documents show that there are links and patterns in the sightings. From that evidence, he says, he believes UFOs are here on surveillance missions.

"We find a concentration of sightings around our military installations, research and development areas,' he said. 'The UFO phenomenon is following what our own astronauts are doing on other planets — we send a scoutship, we take soil samples, and then we land.'

Another suit pending

"Mr. Spaulding said he has sworn statements from retired Air Force colonels that at least two UFOs have crash-landed and been recovered by the Air Force.

"One crash, he said, was in Mexico in 1948, and the other was near Kingman, Ariz., in 1953. He said the retired officers claimed they got a glimpse of dead aliens who were in both cases about four feet tall with silverish complexions and wearing silver outfits that 'seemed fused to the body from the heat.'

"Mr. Spaulding said his group is waiting now for a Federal judge to rule on the last phase of its CIA suit, which seeks access to 57 items that would provide 'hard evidence' of UFOs or 'retrievals of the third kind.' That evidence includes motion pictures, gun camera film, and residue from landings, he said.

"Among the films they want are 40 to 48 frames taken in 1952 by Ralph Mayher, then a cameraman for KYW-TV in Cleveland and now a member of Ground Saucer Watch. The Air Force borrowed the film in 1957 and has never returned it. The official finding was that the object had been a meteor, Mr. Spaulding said.

"We're past the story-telling stage,' Mr. Spaulding said. 'We have to have it in black and white to satisfy the scientific community. We have to establish the existence of the object to all the people in Missouri and then figure out who's driving it.' "

*[I never forget how the late Waveney Girvan, the previous editor of this journal, insisted always that the best weapon against ridicule is . . . ridicule. Let's not forget that — EDITOR]

A RE-VIEWING OF THE GREAT NOCTURNAL LIGHT

UFO fallout over New Zealand, December 1978

W. C. Chalker

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THE humble "nocturnal light" has in recent years held little sway with most researchers and investigators. It was generally felt that by the nature of the beast, it lent itself towards considerable ambiguity, despite the fact that, in sheer weight of numbers, nocturnal lights outnumbered all the other extremes of UFO observations. Understandably the stuff of a thousand fruitless hours of investigation drew little enthusiasm from researchers, unless the lights were the precursor of a localised "flap"¹ or they were supported by photographs² and/or instrumented evidence.³

An inherent level of ambiguity and lack of finality in resolution exists in most *unexplained* nocturnal light cases. For example, even in events of suggested classic status, such as the Lakenheath and Bentwaters, England affair of 1956,⁴ the RB-47 flight of 1957⁵ and the Washington area flap of 1952,⁶ the elusiveness of quality documentation is quite adequately demonstrated.

However, a complex series of nocturnal light sightings over New Zealand during late December, 1978 and early January, 1979, afforded us all a remarkable look at this thing — or these things. The affair provided researchers with an excellent scenario of events, characterising in sharp relief the problems that plague the whole UFO subject, and balancing the whole with a wealth of data.

We have in the New Zealand sightings, a collection of fascinating anecdotal accounts, supported in a number of cases by possible radar correlations and in one particular case, by TV footage of our prey. What followed was the inevitable sociological consequences of the current status of the phenomenon — the need to explain, to understand or to rationalise the reports, unfolded in a veritable "festival of absurdity." A colleague of mine⁷ pointed out that by late January, 1979, there were at least 23 suggested explanations for what they were.

Some of these explanations should be endeared to history through these pages. They include:

- (a) top secret US military remote control drone vehicle (explanation by former RAF research specialist);
- (b) plasma or ball lightning (Duncan Lunan & Erik Tandberg. I must ask where was Phil Klass at this juncture? — B.C.);
- (c) reflections from (i) squid boats (crew of RNZAF *Orion* tracker aircraft), (ii) squid boats via mutton birds (NZ ornithologist J. Harrow); (iii) from moonlight via cabbage leaves (Mrs. Eru Pilcher of Kaikoura, NZ);

This contribution is a commentary on the UFO flap over New Zealand at the back end of 1978, and in particular on the case of the UFO filmed from a plane, which so shook the world on New Year's Eve. So far the event has been dealt with but briefly in the pages of *Flying Saucer Review*, in the Editorial "Spanners in the Works" in Vol. 24, No. 5, in an article by Paul Norman entitled "Debunking runs wild" in Vol. 25, No. 1, and in a letter from Mr. Ian Ridpath in Vol. 25, No. 3.

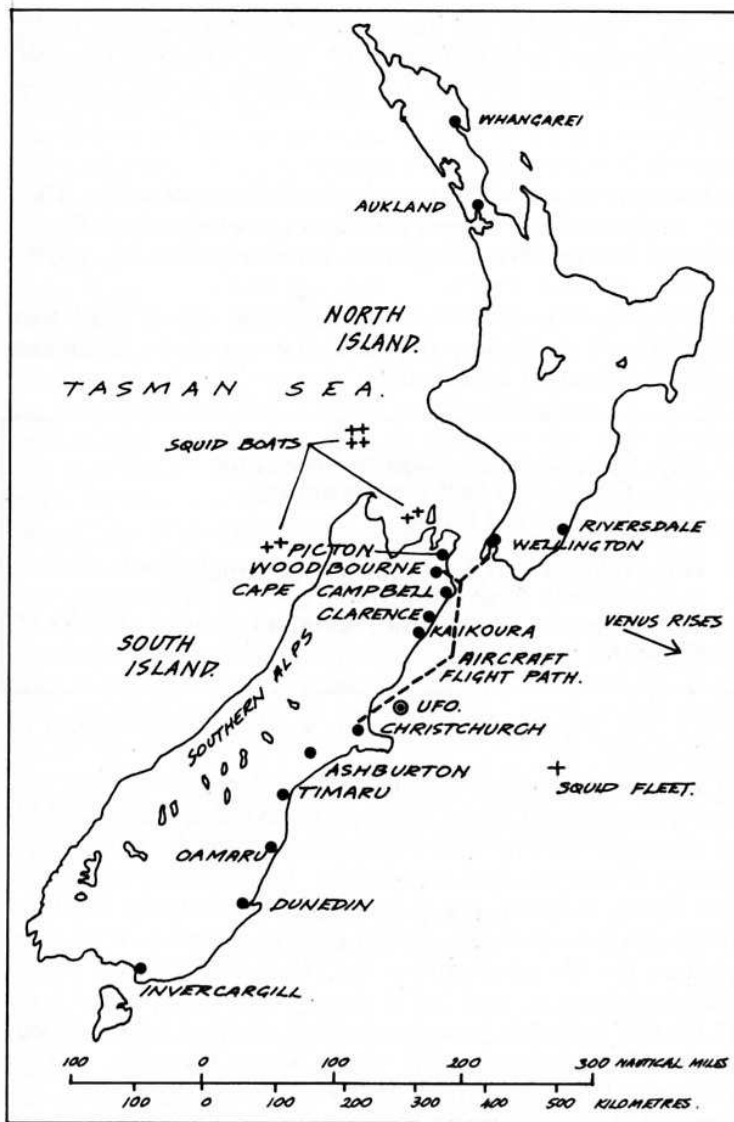
—EDITOR

- (d) a hoax (Sir Martin Ryle, Astronomer Royal);
- (e) meteorites (Sir Bernard Lovell, Adrian Berry & Prof. Ronald Brown);
- (f) Venus (Mt. Stromlo scientists; Norman Oliver; David Mabin, the head of NZ's Mt. St. John Observatory; Sq.Ldr. R. Charran, RNZAF & DSIR);
- (g) Jupiter (Robert Lanigan-O'Keefe,⁸ Mt. Stromlo, and so on);
- (h) helicopters operating illegally at night (unnamed professional airmen);
- (i) a reflection, a balloon or an unscheduled aircraft (opted for by no less a keen mind than Patrick Moore — obviously hedging his bets);
- (j) "unknowns" (Quentin Fogarty, Captain Bill Startup, etc.), and
- (k) in keeping with the spirit in which a number of these suggestions were (or should have been) intended, my colleague suggested — wait for it — *Superman* ("after all why not? Everything else has been suggested and I'd hate to be unoriginal!").

Dr. Bruce Maccabee, prominent American scientist — an optical physicist — and UFO researcher for NICAP and Dr. Hynek's CUFOS whose visit to Australia was funded by the TV Company, mounted a thorough investigation. He provided possibly the best available documentation on phenomena of apparent "nocturnal light" status, supported by possible radar-visual correlations, multiple witnesses and an audio-visual record in the form of audio tapes, radar tapes and film footages of seemingly anomalous lights in the night sky.⁹

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New Zealand, showing areas where the objects were seen and filmed. The point marked UFO on the map is the position of the spectacular return flight encounter.

Maccabee's report, "What Really Happened in New Zealand," has appeared widely in various forms in the literature¹⁰ and it was a solid rebuff to the, at best, premature findings of the RNZAF & DSIR issued soon after the initial media circus had subsided. The RNZAF report, released by the Ministry of Defence on January 25, 1979, stated that the visual sightings were attributed to lights from surface objects, or bright planets affected by atmospheric refraction and distortion. The unexplained radar sightings were "spurious returns." The report said: "It was significant that on the occasions a large light was being filmed by a television team on board an *Argosy* freighter, neither Christchurch nor Wellington radars reported any related sightings on their screens." The report also suggested that the light source from a large Japanese squid boat fleet could not be discounted as a cause for some of the sightings.¹¹

Dr. Maccabee's report deals exclusively with the complex December 31st sighting, which captured most of the media publicity. It provides a "detailed history of the technical aspects of these sightings." Maccabee likens his efforts in this affair (which constitute the *only* enquiry which has encompassed all aspects of the sightings) to the

following analogy:

"This one case is like sending a man to the moon: he brings back several pounds of rocks and those rocks keep scientists working for years to find out what the rocks mean to our understanding of the moon, the solar system, and cosmology in general."¹²

In studying about 28 separable incidents involving the Wellington radar, Dr. Maccabee concluded that there were 4 discrete events during the December 31st sightings that qualify as apparent radar-visual events, i.e. apparent coincident temporal and spatial correlations of nocturnal lights and radar returns. Another apparent radar/visual event, this time involving the aircraft's own weather radar for about 4 minutes continuously, occurred as the *Argosy* left Christchurch:

"...the object was picked up on radar as soon as the radar was warmed up, and the sighting line to the object was in the direction of the radar azimuth until the object was so far to the right of the plane that it went off the radar scope. The object was not detected on radar when the plane turned toward it, but at that time the depression angle (angle below horizontal) was quite large, so the object may have been below the radar beam."¹³

Since Dr. Maccabee's analysis appeared, the DSIR came out with a more detailed report, entitled "Unfamiliar Observations of Lights in the Night Sky" by Mr. W. Ireland, Physics and Engineering Laboratory, December, 1979. The report's abstract is quoted:

"This report examines the readily-available data relating to unidentified lights seen at night by many people in New Zealand between 20 December 1978 and 10 January 1979. It also examines the unidentified radar echoes, and refers to trans-Tasman radio communications at ultrahigh frequencies which occurred during the period.

"A brief introduction sets the sightings and other related events in chronological order. An historical perspective is provided by reference to previous New Zealand observations. The unusual atmospheric conditions prevailing at the time are discussed, and shown to be a significant factor to be considered in attempts to explain the observations. The unusual radar echoes should not have been unexpected. Each event is considered in detail, and a "most likely explanation" given.

"It is suggested that the lights were generally unusual views of either terrestrial sources, such as lighthouses, navigation beacons and city lights, or of the planets Venus and Jupiter, seen through an unusually clear atmosphere. In the most widely publicised case the most likely source was a squid boat seen under quite normal viewing conditions."¹⁴

The controversy has therefore polarised into 2 main camps, with the latest DSIR report sure to engender considerable criticism. The first salvo came from Quentin Fogarty.¹⁵ Not only does it include some cogent criticisms

of the DSIR findings, but it also gives Dr. Maccabee's reply to Mr. Ireland's analyses. The present status of the controversy offers researchers the rare situation of readily accessible data (thanks to Dr. Maccabee in particular) of what appears at face value to be a most interesting phenomenon — anomalous nocturnal lights interacting with the human environment on a variety of levels, not the least of them being at instrumented, psychological and personalised levels.

Researchers would do well to give this interesting data much consideration. I for one cannot but help think that the New Zealand affair has considerable significance, particularly with respect to the sophisticated level and breadth of evidence, and its possible relevance to theoretical considerations recently drawn. I refer here to the Jungian orientated hypothesis drawn tentatively by Allan Hendry as a "non-revolutionary, alternative UFO theory."¹⁶ Indeed I find some sympathy for Hendry's comment, "...there isn't one single UFO case whose implications are as important as those of the rich inferences that have grown around the sightings. The UFO reports address us not on a high intellectual plane, but at those primitive depths of the subconscious where fairies and demons retain their vitality, even in the twentieth century."¹⁷

The New Zealand affair provides us with a rich harvest of information, both at a technical and non-technical level. I have drawn to your attention the course of the technical debate. Following I have provided what in essence are some personal perspectives on this affair. Much of the coverage on these sightings has been largely impersonal and technically orientated. Thus when I had the opportunity to interview some of the principals of this case, the task was approached from the point of view of clarifying the appalling misinformation that punctuated the media's coverage of the incidents and to gain some some personal perspectives as well. To this effect, I have given edited excerpts from two separate and lengthy interviews conducted with two of the principals in the NZ UFO film controversy. David Crockett, the camera-man

on the December 31st flight, was interviewed by David Reneke and myself during May, 1979. Quentin Fogarty, in turn was interviewed by the author during October, 1979.¹⁸

Interviews with the members of the Australian TV team which filmed an object over the sea off South Island, New Zealand, on December 31, 1978.

The separate interviews have been edited and then recombined to bring together the separate comments made by the two principals.

Key: Q.F.: Quentin Fogarty (reporter);
D.C.: David Crockett (cameraman);
B.S.: Bill Startup (pilot);
B.G.: Bob Guard (co-pilot);
N.C.: Ngaire Crockett (sound recordist);
D.G.: Dennis Grant (journalist);
Interviewers: B.C.: Bill Chalker, D.R.: David Reneke.

B.C.: The trip from Wellington was quite uneventful in retrospect. . .

Q.F.: Yes. Flying across Cook Strait, the only thing, it was just a weird flight being stuck on the back of a loading bay of a freight aircraft with no windows, just the noise. As a matter of fact that was a highlight. It was pretty incredible just flying 'freight.' It was an experience in itself. Nothing really happened until we went downstairs to do a piece to camera for the programme, and then Bill Startup (B.S.) called us up. . .

D.C.: We had only just got through the first take and Bill said: "You better come up." Then Quentin started yelling out. I didn't know what he was talking about. . . I kept insisting that we finish the stand up. Now that I think about it, it really was funny. So we finished the interview and then we rushed up top. . . I believe B.S. and B.G. . . waited till they got some radar confirmation of



Some of the people involved in the filming of the UFOs on December 31, 1978, and Wellington Air Traffic Controllers. The occasion was the preview of the *Kaikoura UFO Documentary*. Seated (L to R): Capt. W. E. Startup, Alan Jervis (film narrator), David Crockett. Standing (L to R): Geoff Causer and Andy Herd (ATC Wellington), Ngaire Crockett, Co-pilot Bob Guard This photograph appeared in the newspaper *The Dominion* (April 23, 1979).

what they were seeing first before calling us.

Q.F: I suppose the first highlight has to be the first time we saw them. . . A row of 4 or 5 possibly. . . bright lights. They were quite spectacular. They were a long way away, but they were still quite large to look at. (They) were just pulsating out from a pin point to a balloon full of glowing light. They were visible for quite a while and then faded down to a pinpoint, then another would come up alongside it, sometimes 4 or 5 together. Then maybe, one, then 2 or 3 would go out. . . There was no fear or anything. It was just incredible. . . They were large say in comparison to street lights. To me they looked like Chinese Lanterns strung out in trees. They appeared to be just above the lights of the town (of Kaikoura). . . The initial sightings were definitely between the aircraft and the land mass; below the height of the mountains. On the way further south that wasn't the case, as one was alongside. It was like it was their playground. (They were) so completely in control of whatever they were doing. It was spiritual or above the physical plane. . .

D.C: The Highlights to me, and I've been a cameraman and associated with films for years and years. . . and done all sorts of crazy things like sitting on the skids of helicopters and filming; and lying in rivers watching jet boats fly past and all those sort of things; but to hear through the headphones of the *Argosy* that you've got one of these things a mile behind you following you. What an experience. You can't see anything at this stage.

**"You have a target
in formation with you. . ."**

D.C: We did a 360 degree turn, but couldn't see anything. Wellington radar confirmed that it was still in the area. . . Then radar said: "Sierra Alpha Echo. Your target has increased in size. . ." After they mentioned that, B.G. looked out his window and I was behind his seat with the camera and he went like that (pointing out the window) to me. . . So I ducked round there. The wing is out there, with the navigational lights right behind me. I tried to get the camera behind, but couldn't. So we all started looking and pushing too. Fortunately it was on Auto Pilot at the time. We looked down and here's this bright light and then there's the navigational lights. . . There was a jumble of lights there. . . Then B.G. (switched) off the navigational lights. . . (There was now) a big bright white light, very brilliant. . . I couldn't get it (with the camera) without telling Bob to get out of his seat. . . Immediately after we spotted it, Bob said we will do a turn, so we did a 360 degree turn, but by the time we came around. . . (we) could not see anything, but according to radar they said it was still there. . . in the vicinity. . . but had turned its lights off. . .

B.C: What was the reaction of the other people on the plane (to the report of a 'return' behind them)?

Q.F: David's wife had a 'drawn' back feeling. She could hear my voice through the headphones. Bill said it was quite natural on board an aircraft being crouched down to get a feeling of being drawn back. She was going through all sorts of hell. I did not know that until we landed. If you listen on the tape my voice is quite excited. You can hear me say: "We have one a mile behind us" and David's voice goes strange as well. My voice goes up about 3 octaves. . . I genuinely thought I was going to die. . . I

didn't turn to God. God was the last thing on my mind. It was Sue (his wife) and the kids. Maybe I convinced myself, I wasn't going to be hurt. . .

D.C: . . . There's no way you could have a tripod up for the camera (inside the plane) and on full zoom you just can't. . . hold it. . . and yet for 30 to 40 seconds of the film there it is dead centre. That's when I dropped it on to the back of the seat and finally managed to hold the thing. . . The whole thing was that this 'thing' was moving. People still don't realise this. . .

**" . . . Then of course they started talking about
Valentich, of how he disappeared,
and I thought to myself, 'Oh God'!"**

B.C: You landed at Christchurch. What sort of reception did you get? You had targets on the way down?

Q.F: Bob saw one on the way down alongside the aircraft (at one stage this behaved like a car light travelling along, except for when it passed over a river, where no bridge was located). . . (From the ground) there was one in the sky above us. . . (They — the local ground crew) said it was just the radio mast. . . I pointed out that the radio mast was to our left. . .

D.C: . . . There was this tremendous bright light. . . I actually plomped the tripod down and started putting the camera onto it, and one of the guys at the airfield, said: Oh no, that's the beacon. . . So I took the camera off the tripod again and took it in. . . (Inside we were) looking out of the window, and this thing had gone. I said, "Oh, your beacon has gone out," and he said, "Oh. It can't have been the beacon. And there was this object I could have had a static shot at it from the ground.

(On the ground, news had already leaked out about the flight from Wellington to Christchurch. Ngaire Crockett refused to go on the return flight back to Blenheim. A local reporter known to Fogarty — Dennis Grant — joined the group in her place for the flight from Christchurch to Blenheim).

D.C: . . . I must admit that I was a bit stirred up. The two things that made me feel a bit concerned was when of course they started talking about Valentich, of how he disappeared; and I thought to myself, "Oh God"! (The second thing) was when Bill Startup said to Bob Guard on the return track: "How about taking off auto and heading towards it?"; and my comment (was) the same as Bob Guard's: He felt that we were closing in on the thing. . . but apparently it didn't come any closer than 5 miles. . .

Q.F: We took off so quickly. We were just out of Christchurch about 2 or 3 minutes (ca. 2.18 a.m. — B.C.) and there were 2 lights. The brighter one reflected on the cloud cover and as we got higher it came up with us. Dennis remembers 2 as well. There was no film taken of the second one. It was much further away below. We got the one big one on film. It wasn't the highlight to me. It just stayed there — an anticlimax. . .

B.C: But actually one manoeuvred and then disappeared?

Q.F: Yes, when we turned towards it. Its very difficult without a horizon line. When we made the turn (to starboard), there was a movement of the object in relation the aircraft. Bill said it went to the left side and under-

neath.* Whether, because the plane was banking then, I don't know. It went off radar as we turned towards it, but Bob said we overflew it. . .

“Without any further adjustment to the lens, this thing changed. . .”

D.R: When you were looking at the light, even through the telephoto, when you closed up on it, what could you see? Could you see any difference in the shape of it? Or was it still just a round light to you?

D.C: That's what I saw (at this point D.C. showed us a drawing of a sphere with lines of “light” — like lines of latitude — around it — B.C.). . . These things (the lines — B.C.) were sort of spinning.

D.R: That's what you were seeing through the lens?

D.C: That's how I focussed it, but it came out to be that coppery coloured disc sort of thing. There seems now some criticism about that, whether it was something to do with the aircraft window, or whether it was an adjustment of the lens; could have been. But you know a cameraman has got his camera up against something through the lens and the first thing you do is to focus don't you? And that's how it focussed in (referring to the sphere with lines running around it — B.C.). Without any further adjustment to the lens, this thing changed. It went from this shaped object (sphere with lines) to this, to a dot. . .

B.C: So while you were looking at it through the lens, you were not making any adjustments, and yet, it was changing?

D.C: That's right.

B.C: What was the final action. . . before you landed (at Blenheim)?

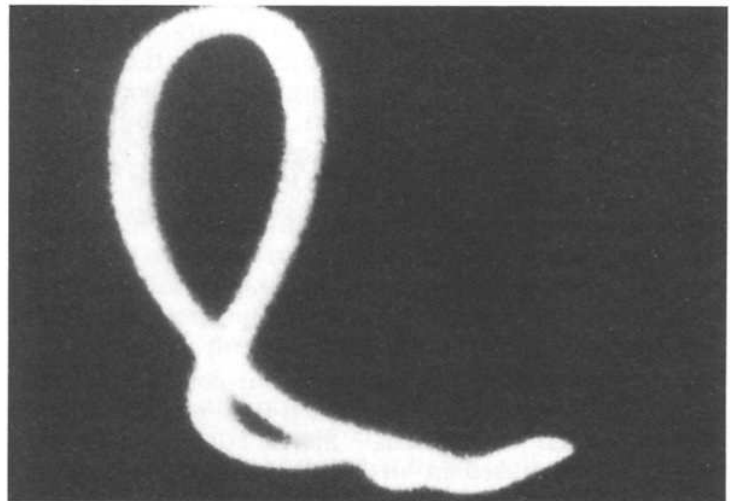
Q.F: At this stage I said I hope we don't see any more UFOs. I just felt completely drained and had seen too much. Then I said “We have another one.”. . . Two pulsating lights appeared and they were definitely above the land and (to the) left (in) front of the aircraft. I was watching them and one fell leaving the huge trail; just a blur of streak of light and reached the bottom with jerky movements. It looked like an aircraft beacon that flashes. I said turn off the beacon but there was no beacon in the area and beacons don't fall about a thousand feet and start rolling and turning. That was quite spectacular. . . There was one other thing just before we landed (at Blenheim). There was this huge globe of light (which) sort of opened up in the heavens in front of us and that really was tremendous. It was a climax to the trip. As I said if there ever was a star of Bethlehem, it would have been very much like that. It was almost like saying: “See you later folks.”. . . (as if) the whole thing. . . was turned on for our benefit. . .

D.C: . . . Bill Startup was always conscious of instruments and the moment he saw any spinning or distortion of instruments he was going to turn round and go for his life. Actually I think a fuel gauge went into a hell of a spin going towards this object (just out of Christchurch, off Banks Peninsula — B.C.), but he gave that away as occasionally it does do that. It was a very strange thing, Bob Guard said (after a few days). . . he said he went down to the aircraft the morning after to get a log, or something. He just ran his hand over parts of the aircraft and had a very slight magnetic (effect — *sic?*), like an

electric jug; a slight electrical (effect). . . (like static electricity — B.C.). . . He then went outside the aircraft and it was all over the plane. Something he had never expected before or never experienced before.

“. . . And Christchurch wiped the tapes!”

D.C: Of course getting back to radar tapes. . . I said that Wellington were out of touch. . . it was out of their area (when the *Argosy* turned towards the target off Banks Peninsula, just out of Christchurch — B.C.). . . I said Christchurch did not have it (on radar), in fact they did have it; and the tapes from that were promised to be delivered to Bill Startup. . . And Christchurch wiped the tapes! I said they closed down actually (soon after the *Argosy* had taken off from Christchurch — B.C.), but it came to me, when we were talking to them (for a subsequent reconstruction — B.C.) they had not closed down but had actually taken tapes. . . I don't know if it was a cover-up. It comes down to personalities I think.



The controversial “loop frame” from film taken on the return leg of the flight.

The radar boys at Wellington told me that the controller of radar in Christchurch is a real stickler. He doesn't believe in any of this sort of thing. He keeps strictly to the rules and apparently they are allowed to keep these things (the radar tapes — B.C.) for a month and then clean the tapes. He should have had sense enough to know that that night it was a very valuable tape (both Bruce Maccabee and Bill Startup made approaches to the Christchurch supervisor to preserve the tape, but he allowed the tapes to be erased, ostensibly on the basis of routine procedures — B.C.).

“I had this dreadful feeling of something in the plane. . .”

Q.F: I was on the right hand side as we turned back on course (after turning towards the target off Banks Peninsula — B.C.). Dennis was behind Bill on the left. I was further back as David was in front filming. I was out of Dennis's line of sight and I felt this strange vulnerability. Looked behind me. The lights were out in the plane and we looked behind us, Dennis and myself. Didn't say anything. I had this dreadful feeling of something in the plane. Dennis felt it too. It felt like a

* When the plane turned to port to regain the original track.

warning. Maybe just a psychological feeling. I had the feeling, especially on the return leg, that we were being allowed to film. I was not thinking of spacemen or extraterrestrials or anything.

B.C: It was just completely foreign?

Q.F: Yes to me it was just that they were some sort of intelligence of their own, not having occupants or anything. Whatever they were, that was the entire thing. I didn't have a feeling of anything inside them. It gets a little weird and wacky. I had another feeling at the time, which I have not written about, like they were collecting souls of the dead. I can't explain this feeling. They were far more psychic than anything. I felt there was something incredibly spiritual and emotional about it all. But could not come to terms with it; can't work out what it was. Maybe my feelings and reactions can be explained by the fact that I was confronting something inexplicable and my mind began to play tricks on me. Who knows. I've been asked my theories about what we saw that morning, but I cannot be convinced about an extraterrestrial origin, because it doesn't feel right, for no other reason.

Q.F: . . . I have written about this 'presence' that I felt and, about 2 months after I had written about that, Leonard Lee (TV channel O Producer) again approached me and said (Dr. Bruce) Maccabee wanted to have a rethink about how long I thought we were off course. Apparently everybody gave a time between 5 to 8 minutes and radar had us off course for only 1 to 2 minutes. It was only 1 minute. What he told me was that there was no way the 'plane could have landed at Blenheim when it did, if we had been off course for more than a minute or two. . . Yet I have timed my tape commentary and I picked it up when we were actually going towards it. That's the time we can gauge, when we went on to the course we could see it moving in relation the 'plane as we did the turn towards it. So I started timing from there until my last reference to it. . . It came to about 3 minutes 47 seconds. We went off course for that long. It would take equally that long to get back I gather, even though we would have been further up the coast. . .

B.C: Has Maccabee offered any explanation?

Q.F: No, it's a general puzzle at the moment. It is a time discrepancy that we can't explain. It's not something again that he has made a big thing about at this stage (understandably, if a "time warp" is suggested! — B.C.).

* * * * *

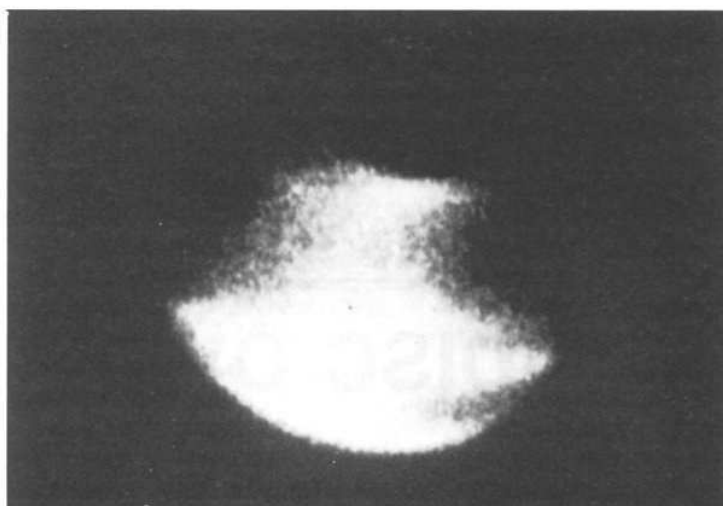
The nature of the beast we call the "nocturnal light" and the manner by which it has manifested over New Zealand leads me to recollect some words of Pope which have a measure of meaning for the phenomena:

So Man, who here seems principal alone,
Perhaps acts second to some sphere unknown.
Touches some wheel, or verges to some goal,
'Tis but a part we see, and not a whole.

Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

* * * * *

Note: RNZAF: Royal New Zealand Air Force
DSIR: the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research



Detail of large light source with apparent shape evident — return leg of flight.

References

1. See for example West Wales (1977), Warminster, Yakima Reservation etc. in the United States and Kempsey & Tyringham in Australia. "UFO Flaps — a context for Scientific Study," October, 1975, Terrigal, NSW, Australia, a paper presented at Australian national UFO conference — "UFOCON ONE".
2. The examples of nocturnal light photos are boundless and most are of little real consequence as hard evidence, sad to say. More sophisticated analyses of these photos where the supportive sighting is good are needed.
3. Here in particular I refer to radar-visual event although there are a few cases supported by apparent "electromagnetic" correlations, eg. the RB-47 case, Dr. Poher's 1954 study, alleged "detector" correlations and Dr. H. Rutledge's Project Identification, wherein correlations with a CRO signal were suggested.
4. "Science in Default" by the late Dr. James E. McDonald, pgs. 70-89, *UFOs — a Scientific debate* edited by C. Sagan & T. Page (Cornell Uni. Press, 1972). See also FSR, March-April, 1970, "UFOs over Lakenheath" by Dr. McDonald and more recently the "Debunkmanship" Editorial in FSR, Vol. 24, No.1.
5. "Science in Default," McDonald, *ibid.*, pgs. 56-69; See also FSR, Vol. 16 No. 3, May/June, 1970, "The 1957 Gulf Coast RB-47 Incident" by Dr. McDonald.
6. See for example Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on UFOs* (1956) and Dr. D. M. Jacobs', *The UFO Controversy in America* (1975).
7. John Prytz in his "Just Whistling in the dark: Explanations of the recent New Zealand UFO encounters" in ACOS Bulletin (now the Journal of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies), No. 17 — February, 1979, pgs. 7-9.
8. Robert Lanigan-O'Keefe, a Sydney based amateur astronomer has offered a lengthy analysis of the NZ sighting complex, which first interpolated an exotic "atmospheric lens" system to explain what he perceived was on the TV footage. He subsequently concluded that the TV film was attributable to a hoax perpetrated over 3 separate days, all featuring the planet Jupiter as the main "UFO" image. The earliest timing of the hoax scenario, dates the deed as taking place at about the same time Quentin Fogarty and his family were stepping off their plane in New Zealand at the beginning of their holiday!
9. *What Really Happened in New Zealand* by Bruce Maccabee, 1979.
10. *Ibid.*, See also the International UFO Reporter & the MUFON UFO Journal during 1979.

11. See for example "UFOs were atmospheric effects: report" from Ben Sandilands, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, January 26, 1979. RNZAF/Department of Defence report, released on January 25, 1979 at Christchurch, NZ.
12. *Ibid.* (9) Maccabee, pg. 2.
13. *Ibid.* (9) Maccabee, pg. 46.
14. "Unfamiliar Observations of Lights in the Night Sky" by W. Ireland, Physics and Engineering Laboratory, DSIR, Report No. 659, December, 1979, 30 pages.

15. "A Reply to the Debunkers" by Quentin Fogarty, February, 1980. (To be published in FSR Vol. 26/2).
16. *The UFO Handbook* by Allan Hendry (Doubleday/Dolphin, 1979), pgs. 146-159.
17. *Ibid.* Hendry, pg. 155.
18. Full interviews held with author & UFO Research (NSW). My thanks to Dee for the lengthy tape transcript compiled from the interviews.

MINI-DISC OVER BLACKBUSHE

Omar Fowler

Our contributor is Chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP). Copies of his report, and summary — from which this account has been drawn — have also gone to UFOIN and BUFORA.

AT 2.30 p.m. in a bright sky with five tenths cumulous cloud and clear visibility, chief flying instructor Laurie Adlington (53) and student pilot Lieut. James Plastow (20) of Sandhurst Staff College, had just taken off from Blackbushe Aerodrome, near Camberley, Surrey, in a *Cessna 150* when they encountered a most unusual mini-disc. They were at about 2,000 feet, and heading for Basingstoke, Hampshire, when it happened.

Said Lieut. Plastow when I interviewed him:—

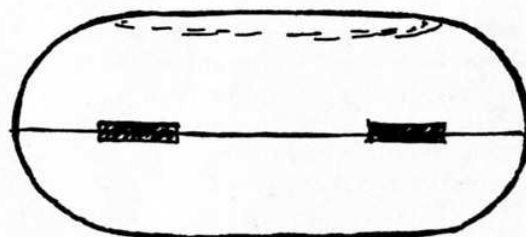
"I was piloting the 'plane, preparing for my flying test, when suddenly the chief instructor took the controls away, throwing the aircraft into, I think, a right bank. We descended to about 1,500 ft. when I suddenly observed an object go across the screen. It went fairly quickly, and disappeared past the 'plane in just three or four seconds. It was about 40 metres away from the 'plane.

"My initial impression was that it was a doughnut-shaped object about one foot in diameter, and it was a silver-metallic colour. Laurie, the chief flying instructor, described it as a 'mercury blob.' It was definitely metallic and had a solid appearance about it. He (instructor) then put the 'plane into several turns, intending to keep the object in view while he was turning. He then put out a call on the radio. At that point it seemed to be turning with the 'plane. . . He said on the radio that the object seemed to be playing with us. It seemed to be flying round the 'plane.

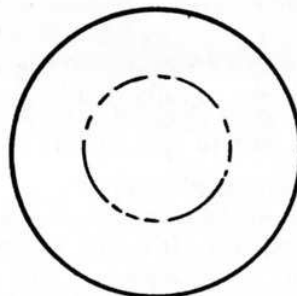
"We kept up with it most of the time. At one point it passed close to us and I had the impression that it was made up of sections, but that seemed more certain when it went underneath my side — I was on the left-hand side of the 'plane — about ten metres below the 'plane under the left-hand wing. Looking down on it, it appeared to be made up of hexagonal or pentagonal panels on the top, like little plates. I would say about twelve or thirteen panels on the top. They were not miniscule. There were about eight or nine around the circumference.

"I did at this point think that I saw some form of aerial on one side, but I am not sure. I know I saw something sticking up there.

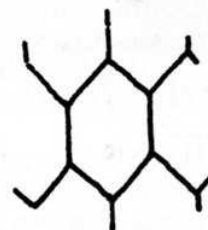
"Another recollection is that when it went in front of the aeroplane it appeared to be in two halves. There seemed to be a line around the middle, a dividing line. I also saw some form of clip at intervals around the middle.



SIDE VIEW.



TOP VIEW.



SECTION OF HULL 'DESIGN'.

The mini-UFO over Blackbushe airport, based on the sketches made by Lieut. Plastow.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

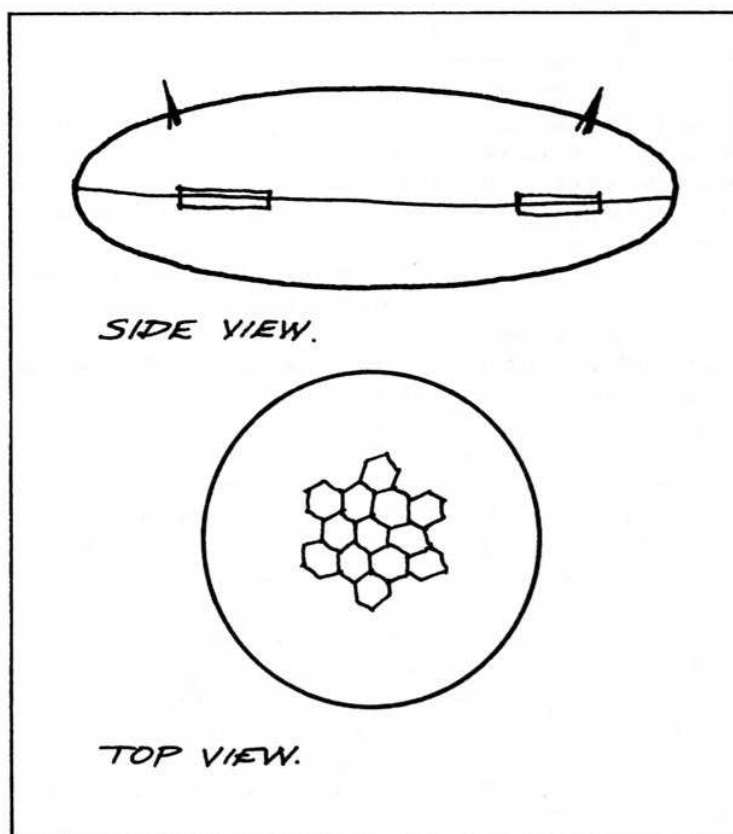
Now it wasn't spinning . . . it was turning. It wasn't gyroscopic. It appeared to be turning at one revolution every four seconds . . . it was turning slowly, but moving quickly.

"It didn't change colour and, obviously, I didn't hear anything in view of the noise of our engine . . . it tended to glint a bit in the sunshine. What was interesting was that it was turning but there were no stabilisers, no fins, no control surfaces, nothing. It looked just like a doughnut except that it was slightly higher and sort of flat on top . . ." [Not an American-style ring 'donut' — ED.]

It seems there was no outward sign of propulsion or lift in the form of propeller, jet thrust or wings. However, the disc undoubtedly had motive power, as at one time it climbed to 3,000 ft. with the *Cessna* circling up after it. It was shortly after this that the pilots decided to break away for a moment as they had been circling the object for some five minutes. Finally the mini-disc was lost from sight behind the aeroplane, and when last seen was heading for London. Both Laurie Adlington (an ex-RAF pilot) and Lieut. Plastow consider the object to have been "man-made."

* * * * *

The following day the object — or a similar one — was spotted over the airfield by a fellow pilot from the Three Counties Aero Club, Mr. Simon Spence. He estimated the altitude to be between 800 and 1,000 feet, and was only able to view the object from a distance of 200 yards, before it flew off towards Farnborough at an estimated speed of 150 mph. This sighting lasted only about a



Based on Laurie Adlington's sketches of the object.

minute, but as he was flying with a trainee pilot, he did not pursue the object.

AIRCRAFT IN ENCOUNTERS OVER BOLTON

Ron Sargeant & Jenny Randles

December 11 1979 11.45 GMT Bolton, Gtr Manchester MED Level B

THE principal witness in this case is 21-year-old Leslie Groves, who is a flying and gliding instructor now based at Barton, but who had moved into the area only a few months before the sighting. He has been quite meticulous about recording the details of his observation and despite his age, and by virtue of his occupation, is well used to flying and the various optical tricks that can take place. He was found to be friendly and willing to discuss any point that was raised, but showed no desire for publicity. The story has in fact not been covered by any media channel (unlike the previous aircraft sighting in Surrey which did make the national press).

At the time of the encounter Leslie was training a pupil pilot, but this person has preferred to remain anonymous. In fact it seems he only caught one fleeting glimpse of the object/objects (as the details of the story will indicate) and

was therefore of no real value to the investigation, save to corroborate that the incident actually did take place.

The Encounter

On this Tuesday morning Leslie had prepared for work, driven to the airfield and made preparations for what was to be his first flight of the day. The aircraft he was to use was a *Cessna F. 150* which was registered G-AXWE. After normal preliminaries he took off at 11.15 GMT. He made a few minor course changes and generally meandered about the area north of the M62 motorway, climbing in the process to a height of 4500 feet. He was flying North Westerly on a course of 330 degrees magnetic, placing him just south of Bolton, Greater Manchester (a very active location for UFO experiences

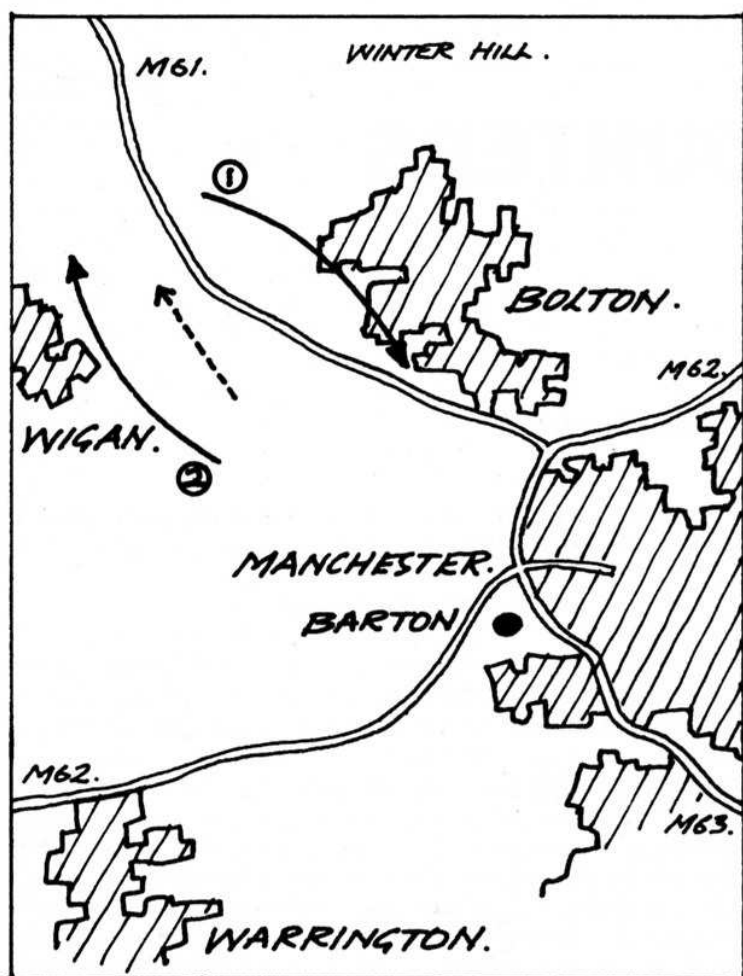
we might add) close to Hindley Green. Ahead of them was the prominent sweep of Winter Hill with its TV transmitter mast on top.

Leslie was in the aircraft's right-hand seat and his pupil was then in control of the aircraft. They had been airborne some 30 minutes. Glancing out of the window and through a gap in the cloud ahead and below them, Leslie spotted a "target." It was moving on a roughly opposite course, i.e. NW to SE, heading from the approximate vicinity of Winter Hill over Bolton and towards Manchester itself.

At first Les thought that this was just a sun reflection from another aircraft (since there was every reason to suppose that other traffic would be about), but as it passed under or through cloud below him, he observed it reappear closer to the *Cessna* and was now able to confirm that it was a clearly-defined object in its own right, and certainly not an aircraft.

In colour it was white, with a sharp outline giving the distinct impression of a table tennis ball. Its apparent size was midway between a pea and halfpenny [1 inch —ED] at arm's length,* and on a brightness scale of 1 (dull) to 10 (bright) he gave an estimate of 6 for the UFO. The sun at the time was hazily obscured and was not giving bright reflections, for example, off other aircraft (although he only saw these in the vicinity of Barton, and none during the flight itself).

* [The old *halfpenny* was 1 inch in diameter, but the new *half-pence* is only 17mm. — ED.]



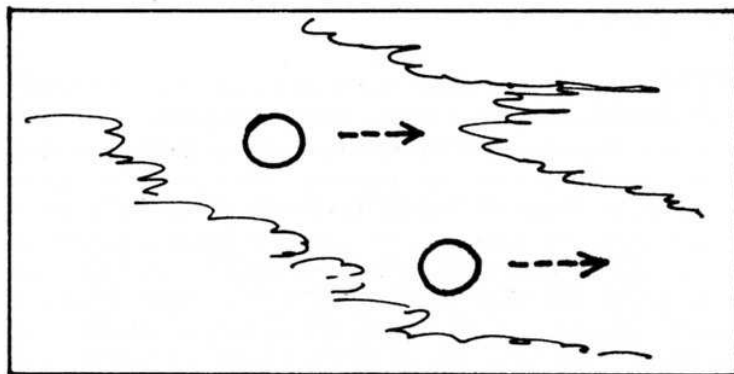
Ron Sargeant has had considerable experience as an aircraft engineer working at Barton Airport, Eccles, Greater Manchester. This was originally built, in the early 1930s, some 8 miles west of Manchester. It was to serve as the city's main airport, but was superseded fairly rapidly by Ringway — which is now a major international airport. Barton, however, has continued to flourish as a home for light aircraft, and a base for the Lancashire Aero Club (one of the first such organisations in Britain). It also has pilot training facilities and a popular summer airshow which attracts tens of thousands of visitors from throughout the region. Although Ron Sargeant left his employment at the airfield in 1978 he has maintained close ties with it through friends and colleagues. It was through one of these that the story of an airborne UFO encounter came to light, and bearing in mind the information available from UFOIN investigator Omar Fowler (who had probed a similar case from Surrey just a few weeks before) a full investigation was undertaken. The details in this account are based upon the written statements and verbal interviews obtained by Ron Sargeant, collated with background information from Jenny Randles.

The object was in a clear view for at least six seconds as it passed below cloud, but was eventually completely obscured by cloud in the distance. Leslie told his pupil that he had control and quickly banked the aircraft to enable him to see the object as well. He only saw it during the final moment before it disappeared. The course had been straight and at constant speed throughout.

Just a couple of minutes later, with the sighting dismissed and work resumed, Leslie observed more phenomena at the rear and to the left. His pupil was engaged in an instrument exercise and he could not disturb him before the two objects that he now saw had disappeared, again in a matter of seconds.

These objects were exactly like the first and moved on a more or less parallel course with the *Cessna*, passing over the Wigan area. One of the two was leading the other as if in formation.

During the whole flight they were in radio contact, but the radio was not used during the observations to alert other traffic. Shortly after the second sighting the weather



Above: The UFOs, as seen from the *Cessna*.

Left: Arrow in dashes shows route of the *Cessna*. Plain arrows (1) and (2) mark the courses of the UFOs.

deteriorated somewhat, with a frontal system passing through, and they returned to Barton.

Weather details

It was a dry day with hazy sunshine. Temperature was +10°C, which is above average for the time of year. There was plenty of cloud, mostly well developed cumulus at 1500 to 2000 feet, giving a cover of six eighths. From 4000 feet upwards there was also thinner Stratus. Wind was quite strong, gusting at 20 K from 320 degrees at a height of 2000 feet.

The terrain over which the aircraft flew is between 200 and 400 feet ASL.

Conclusions

The immediate reaction of Ron Sargeant on hearing the story was that the two men had been fooled by bright

sunlight reflections off seagulls. However, after discussing the story, and this point, with them he is convinced now that this was not so. Being an experienced flier himself, particularly over the area in question, Ron is happy to accept that there was a stranger explanation in this case.

There are also other factors to be remembered. The objects were seen to pass below cloud which was at a maximum height of 2000 feet, and consequently were at least 2500 feet from the Cessna at closest approach. Considering the size estimate given subjectively by the pilot (about 35-40 feet), this tallies well with his "arms length" estimate (which would give a size of 25-30 feet). The speed of the objects was also estimated at 250 mph. Such estimates do not relate to the sighting of seagulls, which would inevitably have to fly much closer to the aircraft to appear at such a size (and would then *not* pass below the cumulus cloud).

Whilst, inevitably, some doubt will remain, this does seem an interesting example of a potential unknown.

NEW ATTACK ON INVESTIGATION STANDARDS

Jenny Randles

UFOIN was formed in 1977 with the specific aim of improving investigation standards in Britain. A further step has been taken along this road with the launching of a new and different kind of UFO publication.

Investigation is the product of the team of UFOIN investigators, and attempts to bring home the message of this network. It has as its theme the techniques and skills of investigation and research as employed by active Ufologists. It is not intended to be a wide-circulation magazine and will not aim to provide in-depth case histories. FSR will, of course, remain UFOIN's chief medium for publishing data of this sort. Rather *Investigation* reaches out to the person who is in sympathy with UFOIN's aims; that the standards of UFO research and investigation throughout Britain (and indeed the world) are in need of some improvement.

Investigation will be published irregularly, but probably two or three times per year. An issue will be prepared only when sufficient contributions, which are both of relevance and the required standard, have been received by the editors.

Issue One is now available and contains articles on many topics including:—

The Repeater Witness (as illustrated by a frightening new CE3 from Gateshead);

Physical trace analysis (the way ahead in this tricky field);

Ethical problems of evaluating and investigating a CE3 experience;

Bioluminescence at the landing site;

The UFOIN guidelines for content and organisation of UFO investigation reports; plus much more that will be of interest to Ufologists who regard themselves as "active".

Copies are only available direct from the editor MARTIN KEATMAN at: 31 Stuart Close North, Walton, Stone, Staffs ST15 0JU, England.

Price: 50p per issue (3 issue subscription at £1.50 is available).

Overseas subscribers please remit in pounds sterling by International Money Order.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to Martin Keatman, please.

UFOs & SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

- I WAS PICKED UP BY A UFO**, by J. Wornach; booklet £1.50
ROUND TRIP TO HELL IN A FLYING SAUCER, by Cecil Michael £2.75
FACING THE UNIVERSE, by V. A. Firsoff (rare) £3.00
IN PURSUIT OF GOLD, by Lapidus (alchemy today in theory and practice) £5.00
GOLD OF A THOUSAND MORNINGS, by Armand Barbault. Alchemy as used for the treatment and cure of disease — potable gold. Gives documented proof. £3.00
MORE UFOS OVER WARMINSTER, by Arthur Shuttlewood £5.95
OUR UFO VISITORS, by John Magor £6.00
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT KELLY AND OTHERS 1955, by Isabel David and Ted Bloecher £6.50
THE LUMBERTON REPORT, by Jennie Zeidman. UFO activity in Southern North Carolina. Well authenticated. £4.50
THE UFO PHENOMENON, by Johan Von Buttlar £7.65
FLYING SAUCERS/SEARCH MAGAZINE, by Ray Palmer. Illust. recent issue £1.00
LAST BATTLE FOR EARTH, by Walter Wiers. UFOs, Oahspe and our future £4.60
THE UFO REPORTER, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Various issues £1.20 each
BIGFOOT tales of strange creatures and UFO connections £2.25
THE WALTON EXPERIENCE, by Travis Walton. UFO contact £2.10
Prices include postage and packing. Dollars acceptable, plus \$1.00 bank charge. Booklists free with order; 25p if ordered separately. Prices and availability subject to change. Enquiries should enclose an s.a.e. or international reply coupon. Write to:

Miss S. R. Stebbing, 41 Terminus Drive,
Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6PR, England

ARE "MYSTERY ANIMALS" INVOLVED WITH UFOs?

Charles Bowen

MANY readers may wonder what on earth Lake Monsters, Yeti and mystery out-of-place big cats, huge black dogs and giant birds have to do with UFOs. Janet and Colin Bord, in their fascinating new book **Alien Animals** (Granada Publishing Ltd., St. Albans, London, New York etc. — 258 pages, UK price £7.95 net) make a pretty good stab at the task of showing them the possible connections.

In the first five parts of *Alien Animals* they deal with their "...preoccupation. . . with those types of animals. . . that behave strangely and are not accepted by Science — but which have been seen by thousands of reliable people. Among other things they take the possible UFO connection with alien animals in their stride in the last part of this book.

Those five earlier sections are devoted to a massive collating and reordering of the evidence of "Elusive Lake Monsters," of "Cats that can't be caught," of "Mysterious Black Dogs," of "Giant Birds and Birdmen," and "Man, or Manimal?" (the latter being about Big Hairy Monsters). Those are the main section, or chapter heads wherein are laid out, and weaved together reports and comments on sightings of these creatures, phenomena or manifestations — call them what you will — on a world-wide basis. Impeccably written, the book is copiously illustrated and is essential reading for anyone involved in ufology.

To read through "Cats that can't be caught" was, for your reviewer, rather like a nostalgic trip down memory lane, for it re-created the sense of wonder and excitement that had been shared with his friend Waveney Girvan — then editor of *Flying Saucer Review* — in the days from mid-1962 to October 1964. There were several visitations of animals of a feline variety in the western side of Surrey, and northern Hampshire — and therefore remote from their normal habitat — plus a well-publicised appearance of what was called a "cheetah" at Shooters Hill in South East London. It can be recorded that in addition to being a prominent ufologist Waveney Girvan was also a dedicated Fortean, and during the course of our daily commuting journeys there was much discussion concerning the similarities between UFO behaviour — their *elusiveness* was a point in question — and the behaviour of the mystery animals.

Completely unexpectedly, confirmation of a possible link between UFOs and mystery animals came from South Africa. The driver of a car, and his passenger, had stopped on a road near Vereeniging to investigate an unusually large dog "as big as a buck" when a 50-foot UFO "buzzed" the car until the men drove away. The story was reprinted in FSR Vol. 10, No. 3 (May-June 1964). Thereafter there were reports of the "Surrey Puma" at Crondall, Odiham and Ewshot, close to

Waveney's home, as well as at Dunsfold, Hascombe and Hurtwood Forest near Cranleigh.

By mid-September 1964 it was learned that Waveney Girvan was a very sick man, but he wrote one last item which was to appear in the World Round-up column of FRS Vol. 10, No. 6. Here is an extract from that piece: "Because of their possible connection with UFOs the *Review* this year has published accounts of mystery animals seen in South Africa and England. There is another to add to the list, and it comes from Crondall, Hampshire. The animal is an unpleasant creature quite apart from its disgusting stench. It has apparently attacked a man and a steer. Mr. Edward Blanks, manager of Bushylease Farm, Ewshot, said both he and his son had seen the animal several times in recent weeks. . ."

Waveney Girvan died on October 22, 1964, but just before that, your reviewer visited Bushylease Farm and learned that whenever the prowling "puma" was in the area the farm's fierce alsatian dog cringed in a corner; that the animal's nocturnal visits were preceded by the appearance of lights playing on the roofs of the buildings from an undetectable source; that the animal was also accompanied by a strong smell.

As the years went by, connections between Lake Monsters and UFOs, and "Big Hairy Monsters" and UFOs, began to become clear to researchers like Janet and Colin Bord and the late Ted Holiday. And as for that strong smell — that was also reported in a number of "Humanoid" cases (the "Spectre of Winterfold" for example, and Winterfold is close to Hurtwood Forest).

The Bords confess that "...there are many questions we have been unable to answer, and some that we have not even attempted to answer, such as: Why do alien animals appear in such a multiplicity of forms? Why are they materializing at all? Is there an intelligence behind them?" In other words they have been very careful, and objective; they have not committed themselves to any particular idea. However, they have examined and explained the many ideas and views that have been put forward — are these manifestations the result of teleportations? Of time-travel? Are they phantoms of beasts which once lived in the areas? Are they denizens of other planes of existence? Are they holograms? (Presumably holograms projected in our direction by something.) Are they Black Magic conjurations?

All this, and much else besides — including a brief look at the problem of animal mutilations — is examined in considerable depth. Above all, it seems we should be prepared to accept that UFOs and alien animals are inextricably linked.

FSR BOOKSHELF — 3

New UFO books reviewed by...

Janet & Colin Bord

ON January 1979 the House of Lords debate on the question of UFOs was introduced by **The Earl of Clancarty**, who is also Brinsley le Poer Trench, author of several UFO best-sellers, founder of Contact International, and a past editor of this magazine. During the 3½ hours of the debate the noble lords appeared to be as generally uninformed about the UFO phenomenon as might any other assorted collection of individuals. The result was very much a foregone conclusion, and Lord Clancarty's appeal "Is it not time that Her Majesty's Government informed our people of what they know about UFOs?" was stonewalled by Lord Strabolgi for the Government with the customary "...there is a wide range of natural explanations to account for such phenomena. There is nothing to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that such phenomena are alien space craft."

The text of the debate is now available in book form, with the addition of marginal notes by **John Michell** which enlarge upon the UFO references made by each speaker and provide the UFO novice with the background necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the debate. He has added a brief biography of each speaker, and there are also some 20 relevant illustrations of variable quality. Lord Clancarty provides a Preface and an Afterword, and the whole will be a necessary addition to the collection of UFO historians. **The House of Lords UFO Debate** is published by Open Head Press and Pentacle Books, and is available from the former at 2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 1NN, price £3.30 inclusive of UK postage.

As Hilary Evans observes in the title of his large-format UFO book, UFOs are "the greatest mystery." He has attempted a concise overview of this incredibly complex phenomenon, and has for the most part succeeded well. Short chapters on different aspects are interspersed with data on famous cases such as the Betty and Barney Hill abduction and the death of Captain Mantell. The book is very heavily illustrated with many full-page colour pictures, mostly artists' interpretations of UFO encounters. The danger with these is that they can tend to detract from the reality of the subject matter and give UFOs a science-fiction aura. There are few actual UFO photographs to redress the balance, and the photograph captioned "UFO, ball lightning or camera shake?" looks to us like a street lamp.

Our principal criticism of this book is that there is no list of further reading. Having read the intriguing though brief data in this book, the newcomer will be frustrated by not knowing where to look next. Nevertheless, this is a book we definitely recommend to the newcomer to

ufology. (**UFOS: The Greatest Mystery**, by **Hilary Evans**, Albany Books, 1979, £3.95, 94 pages)

Canadian author **Yurko Bondarchuk** has written an interesting and useful book which documents the Canadian UFO scene: **UFO: Sightings, Landings and Abductions** (published in a large paperback format by Methuen Publications, 2330 Midland Avenue, Agincourt, Ontario, M1S 1P7, Canada at a price of \$7.95 (Canadian dollars). Copies can be obtained direct from the publishers, and purchasers outside North America should send an extra Can\$3.10 to cover airmail postage, or Can\$.70 for seamount). The scope of the book is shown by a list of the chapter titles: The Photographic Evidence; UFO Landings and Physical Traces; Physical Reactions to Sightings; UFO Occupants; UFO Abductions; UFOs and Military Installations; Military Pilot Sightings; UFOs and Energy Generating Sites; the E.M. Effect and Power Blackouts; UFOs and Radar Sites; Civilian Pilot Sightings; The Canadian Government and UFOs; Future Scenarios. The book is fully illustrated with drawings and photographs which give added interest to a readable text. There are also a full bibliography and index.

Ten years on... **Brad Steiger** has come a long way since he wrote *Flying Saucers are Hostile*. In his latest book **Gods of Aquarius**, subtitled "UFOs and the Transformation of Man" (Panther paperback, £1.25), he states: "I believe that it is an integral part of the UFO phenomenon to lead us to a clearer understanding of our true role in the cosmic scheme of things and to direct us to a level of awareness whereby we might more readily attain that 'state of oneness and self-sufficiency that is equivalent to deity itself.'" (p. 44). This is a far cry from *Flying Saucers are Hostile* with its chapter headings "Someone Up There May Not Like Us" and "Must We Prepare for a War of the Worlds?" What has happened to Steiger since 1967 to change his mind so dramatically?

In his new book Steiger has collected together material on all aspects of the benevolent space brothers as they are interacting with mankind today. He quotes extensively from other people's writings (some essays were prepared specially for his book) and has highlighted some unusual and rarely discussed aspects of ufology, such as the many people who believe themselves to be not of this world. However, the effect is one-sided: there are still many unpleasant cases in ufology, such as abduction and medical examination, harassment and injury, which are surely strange behaviour for benevolent space brothers.

Who will this book appeal to? The "popular" market,

eager for sensationalism, will find it uninteresting; the serious researcher will be concerned at the lack of documentation such as sources and bibliography, though there is an index. But in spite of its faults, there is some interesting material in this book, and ufologists should read it. It may spark off new trains of thought.

Yet another large-format, lavishly illustrated, compendium of enigmas, **Mysteries of the World** (Lyric Books, £4.95) has been published, with a dozen contributors. *John Rimmer*, editor of *Magonia*, tackles UFOs. He starts with a brief overview of the subject, but soon concentrates on his own eclectic approach which sees the phenomenon as a product of modern man's mind, and cites psychoanalyst Carl Jung's theories linking UFOs with mandalas from the collective subconscious. Although inadequate in explaining *all* of the data which the phenomenon provides, this approach merits consideration by all concerned with ufology, and John Rimmer's article is worth reading, but it does not present the broadly balanced view which the enquiring layman, at whom this book is directed, should have been given. Some of the other articles deal with Atlantis, the Pyramids, Stonehenge, King Arthur, the Turin Shroud, and Miracles. Loch Ness researcher Tim Dinsdale writes on "Monsters of Land and Sea," and Robert Rickard,

editor of *Fortean Times*, deals knowledgeably with stigmata (the spontaneous appearance of wounds, which resemble those received by Christ, upon the bodies of the pious).

1979 saw the publication of four new UFO books for children. We have an especial interest in these because we have ourselves written a children's UFO book, **Are We Being Watched?**, which should see publication later in 1980. Ours is somewhat different from those now under review, being for older children and containing only sightings reported by children themselves. Of the paperbacks recently received for review, the most arresting is Bob Rickard's **UFOs** (Scimitar, 40p). It is a small but dynamic book with full-colour illustrations on every page and introduces the young enquirer to the basics of ufology, not ignoring the more frightening aspects like "Men in Black" and "Sinister Abductions." **Exploring UFOs** by Jonathan Rutland (A Piccolo Explorer Book, 60p) is also full of colour, and in fact has more pictures than text. It is a bit more sober than Rickard's book, dealing mainly with physical craft and outer space travel, but UFO entities are mentioned too.

If some children might be distracted by so much vivid colour, there is the less frenetic book by Nigel Baguley,

(Continued on page 29)

THE UFO "GATE" THEORY

Dr. Bernard E. Finch

Dr. Finch is a medical practitioner and former Royal Air Force surgeon who has been associated with *Flying Saucer Review* since the far off days of Volume 1. While this "note" — his description — is very speculative it presents, in the barest form, some interesting ideas.

IT must be realised that the humanoids have a different atomic structure to terrestrials — the "frequency of vibration" of their sub-atomic particles must be different, and the spacing of their molecular structure must be larger — which could explain why some are able to walk through material objects, why some are of greater weight and are much taller, why some cannot breathe our air, and why others can walk on or through water and rocks.

All this points to an origin from a different dimension or universe which is in contact with our universe either close at hand, or far out in space beyond the galaxies.

It would appear there are fixed "gates" or points of entry in space where entry and exit from one dimension to another can be carried out. These "gates" open when in contact with a gravitational field, and thus enable the occupants of one dimension to enter another.

When the earth, for example, in its orbit round the sun, reaches one of these "gates," the latter "opens" and aliens can enter. They only stay open for a short time while the earth is passing through the "gate." As the earth rotates on its axis so the "gate" moves along latitudinally, varying with the tilt and movement of the earth round the sun.

Mathematically the sites of these "gates" could be calculated. The contact of the "gates" with the earth causes various phenomena to occur — hauntings,

poltergeist effects, telekinesis and so on, due possibly to the contact of another dimension with ours. These phenomena persist long after the earth has left the "gate" far behind.

Aliens who enter our dimension through the "gates" via their vehicles have a limited time here as the "gate" sweeps across the rotating earth. They have to wait for its arrival again and they probably leave through it on the "last time round." Otherwise, the "gate" is left behind in space and closes (until in contact with another gravitational field).

Perhaps some of the strange antics of the aliens is due to their waiting, or searching for the "gate's" location as it travels through and round the earth and off into space. Are the strange circles of stones found round the earth old "markers" of the passing "gate"? Again, do some aliens get left behind in their rush to "be on time" with the approaching "gate"?

The location of the gate could be, as well, below ground level as it sweeps through the earth.

This hypothesis would explain many observations of the antics of UFOs and their passengers, and also bring together the phenomena of hauntings, poltergeists and teleportations. The latter could be caused by objects of our dimension, such as cattle, people and so on, being caught up temporarily in the gate and dropping back again.

PHYSICAL ASSAULT BY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS AT LIVINGSTON — Part II

Martin Keatman & Andrew Collins

This is a report specially prepared for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review

IN Part I we related how forestry foreman Bob Taylor, who works for the Livingston Development Corporation Forestry Commission at Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland, claims to have encountered, on November 9, 1979, a domed object in a forest clearing. Two strange spheres with protruding "spikes" shot from the object and struck him, one on each side. He fell unconscious.

On-site investigations

Accompanied by the witness we visited the site of the alleged encounter during the late afternoon of Wednesday, November 14. We were unable to start any real investigations as the light was beginning to fade. The snow still lay heavily on the ground, and we knew that for the traces to be uncovered a complex removal operation would be required.

The following day, with the help of Bob Taylor, his son Walter and a friend, and two of the Forestry Commission employees, the whole area was systematically cleared from the centre outwards. Checks for radiation were carried out with a geiger counter; these proved negative. Precise measurements were taken as each of the indentations became visible, and a check for any magnetic anomalies was also made. This produced no result.

The snow had certainly acted as a protective covering for the marks, as those we could find were only slightly damaged. Our main disappointment was that the track depressions were almost unnoticeable due to trampling by sightseers. After more than two hours of arduous work with spades and trowels the site was clear, and photographs were taken. Soil and grass samples were obtained from various points of the site, notably from the indentations and the tracks. Control samples were also secured from a distance of some 10 metres away. These have since been sent for analysis at Leeds University. The results of this are pending. A survey of the entire area was conducted, but nothing conclusive was found of a mundane nature that may have been connected with the traces.

Site analysis and comments

The traces were almost exactly as described by both the police and the various employees of the Forestry Commission, except that we were not able to locate the two parallel lines of scuffed mud marks supposedly left by the dragging along of Bob Taylor's feet.

The tracks consisted of two parallel lines of rectangular depressions, 2.35 metres apart and 2.66 metres long. Both



Bob Taylor

tracks were composed of seven or eight of these depressions (it was impossible to note exactly how many, as some were not visible on removal of the snow) each having a length of about 40 cms and a width of 10 cms. They were about 18 cms apart. Their appearance could be likened to a depression made in soft grassy soil by a large piece of flat metal. The ground had not been pierced by the weight, although it had clearly been severely depressed and the soil dipped about one centimetre in the more prominent of the marks.

The indentations left by the supposed "spikes" on the

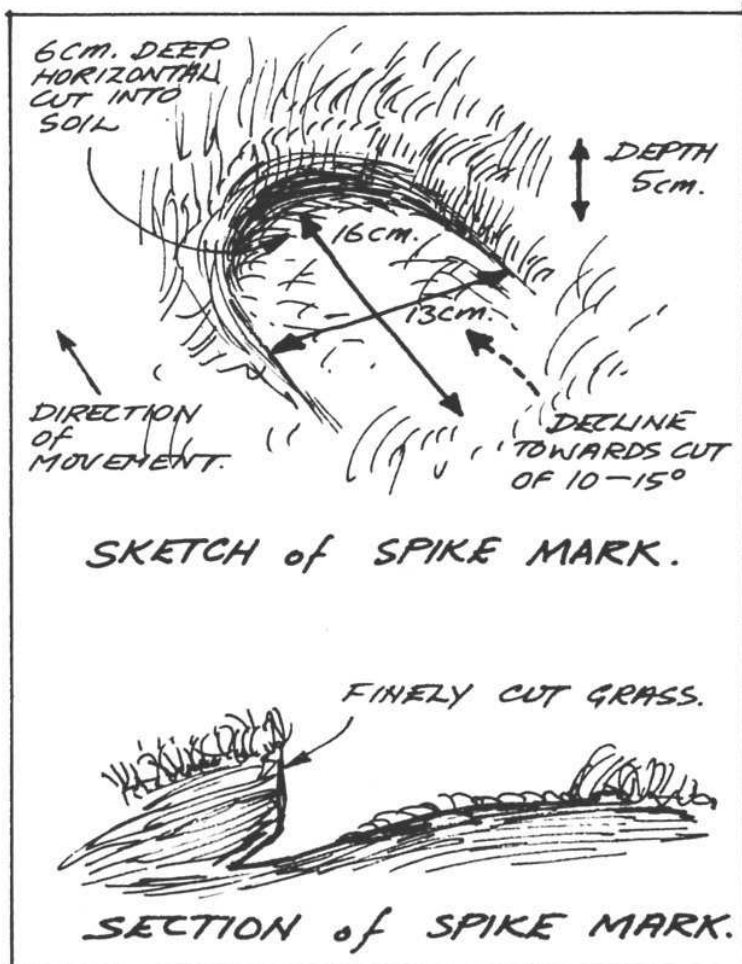


Figure 6.

spheres are extremely baffling. A number of these could plainly be seen between the two tracks, in lines round the rear and sides, and leading up to where the percipient allegedly came into contact with the spheres. Not all were uniform in depth and shape, a couple of strange marks were nearly twice the size of the rest. The distance between each also seemed to vary, with one line having a distance of 60 cms between the first and second, 91 cms between the second and third, and 76 cms between the third and fourth.

In general, however, they were all the same: a mark like that of a hoof cutting the grass and soil in a horseshoe shape, with a slope down towards the back of the mark. In some cases this was as deep as 7-9 cms. It was as if something had slit the soil under the hemisphere of the horseshoe as far back as 6 cms (see fig. 6). The total length of an indentation was around 16 cm, with a total width of about 13 cms.

If, temporarily, we ignore the percipient's account, we may consider the possible causes of both "tracks" and indentations. First, the tracks. The initial view would be that some kind of plant machinery had produced the depressions. The path that crosses from left to right, when viewing the site from the position where Bob was attacked, is approximately 2.50 metres wide. According to the Forestry Commission it is used occasionally for the movement of plant machinery. But it was confirmed that none had been along that path for at least two weeks prior to the encounter. Several months previously, however, the gas board had been laying pipes in the area but none of their machinery had been near the site.

Several of the forestry workers were approached and asked if the tracks they saw could have been left by any such machinery. Their answers were negative for the following reasons:—

- (1). Because the rectangular marks forming the tracks were too far apart. All such machinery have their "links" closer together.
- (2). The markings were in one place, suggesting a stationary object only. No further tracks were found anywhere else in the area.
- (3). The depressions were rectangular. Most mechanical plant links are the shape of an arrow-head.

The suggestion that a helicopter was the cause was also considered, but it appears that only two types of landing gear are used: large round floats or metal runners.

The hoof-like indentations were considered very carefully. Since our return from Scotland we have tried to reproduce the marks, attempting to ascertain the shape of the object which created them. Also the movements it made. Since, at first glance, the indentations looked as though the heel of a large boot had hit the ground with great force, we spent some time trying to re-create similar indentations. We found, however, that in no way could the grass and soil be so cleanly cut. Neither could the deep horizontal slit at the bottom of each mark be reproduced. Shovels and trowels were also tried without success.

We realised that the marks could not have been made by a spike as simple (a rounded, or a flat cylinder-like end)



One of the large track marks.

as that described by Bob Taylor. After careful consideration of the supposed sphere and "spikes," their angles of movement and the ground involved, we have concluded that the only object which could have made the marks would have required a 5 cm blade to be attached to it. This would have been similar to a low-angled dome cut in half, and would have had to plunge backwards into the soil then retract into the spike.

Police involvement and interviews

No fewer than seven policemen were at the site of Bob Taylor's encounter within hours of it occurring. Some may have been there for curiosity, but most, according to Mr. Drummond, were studying the marks, taking photographs, or making notes. A photographer obtained a set of site photographs.

As the experience had been reported to them as a "physical assault" it had to be treated as such. Constable F. 29 of the Livingston station drew the objects with Bob Taylor and took a statement. This was later typed at Bathgate, Livingston's head office, and the drawings were photocopied. All the clothes worn by Bob at the time, apart from his wellington boots, were removed in a plastic bag to the Edinburgh H.Q.

On Thursday, November 15, we interviewed Superintendent David Scott at Bathgate station; also Pc. F. 29, the constable primarily involved with the case. On Friday we were able to study the damaged trousers and other clothes with the civilian forensic scientist, Mr. Lester Knibb; this was at the Edinburgh H.Q.

Superintendent Scott was very helpful, providing us with photocopies of the original notes and drawings made by Pc. F. 29 in his notebook. We also obtained the original types statement of the incident. Mr. Scott stated that as far as the police were concerned the case was closed unless further evidence was forthcoming. One odd remark was that the photographs taken by the professional police photographer "did not show anything." Replying to our request to see them anyway, he said they had been sent to Edinburgh H.Q. This seems rather strange for photographs which show nothing. We asked if a report had been lodged with the Ministry of Defence, to which the answer was "no."

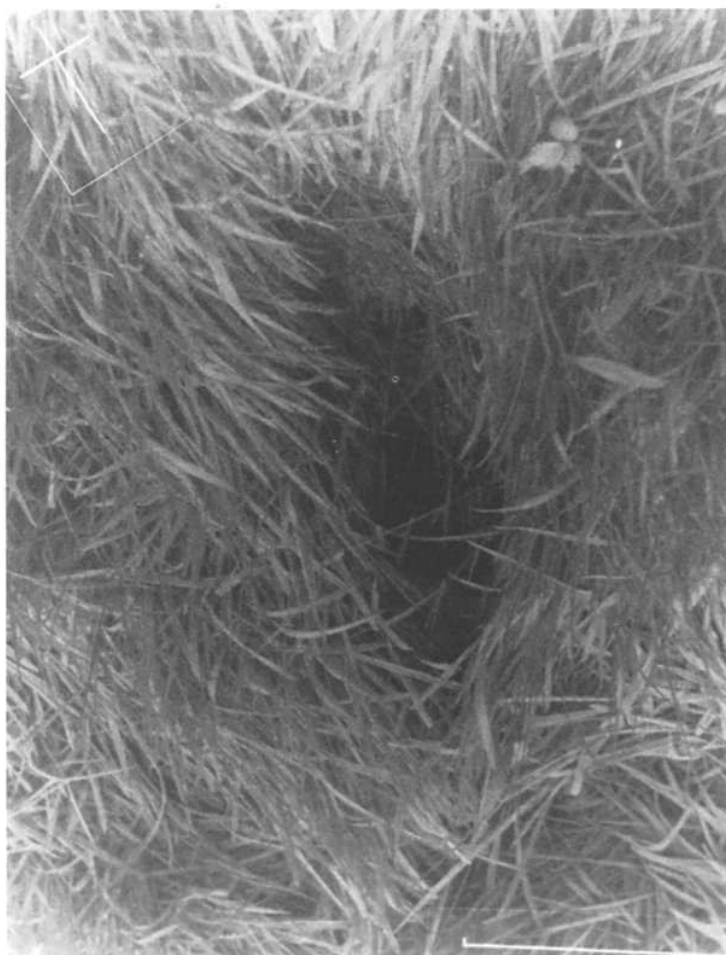
It was clear that Superintendent Scott believed the physical reality of Bob Taylor's experience, but he was not prepared to stretch this belief to "visitors from outer space." He suggested various hypothesis to explain away the traces, most of which did not link with the known facts. The most likely of these have already been considered and discussed.

Superintendent McDonald could add nothing further, but Pc. F. 29 was willing to co-operate and went through the sequence of events that occurred on the day of the encounter. The police had acted responsibly and swiftly on a case that most people would have considered unbelievable.

Forensic study of the damaged trousers

We were allowed to study the damaged pair of trousers and long johns at the Edinburgh H.Q. forensic laboratories, under the supervision and guidance of Mr. Lester Knibb.

The trousers, a standard police issue, are tailored to



One of the "Horseshoe-type" depressions.

stand considerable wear. When Bob Taylor left home on the morning concerned they were clean and undamaged. After the encounter they were torn on both thighs, and were covered in mud and a white powdery substance which was of immediate interest in the laboratory. This turned out to be maize starch, which is strange in itself, for Mrs. Taylor had not used starch on the trousers. Bob also said that he would not have passed through any fields, or maize, on his way home that day.

The tears on the trousers intrigued both the scientist and the authors, as it appeared that a considerable force would have been necessary to cause such damage.

On both sides the damage is in an area about 26 cms from the waistline on the outer thigh. The damage to the left leg corresponds to the mark on the percipient's thigh. When viewing the trousers, the damage on the left leg was seen to be a vertical tear 5 cm long, at the bottom of which is a horizontal tear (2.5 cms) to the right. Leading vertically upwards from the right-hand side of this is a 6.34 cms tear, of which the first 2.54 cms is straight and cleanly torn. This is opposed to the rest of the line, which is in a rougher state.

On the right-hand side the damage consists of a 2.61 angled tear 25° upwards from a left hand centre point. About midway along this is another small tear vertically upwards.

The police are accustomed to examining damaged apparel, and from studying the trousers Mr. Knibb's conclusions were very useful. They seem in many ways to support Bob Taylor's claims. The horizontal tear, and the

first 2.54 cms of each of the vertical tears, is more cleanly ripped than the rest. Because of this, plus the position and shape of the damage in general, it would appear that the trousers had been gripped by something with a possible width of 2.50 cms which then lifted, causing the horizontal tear then the two vertical tears either side.

On the right-hand side a similarly clean rip appears on the right upright tear and the side of the angled tear, thus suggesting a similar gripping motion. His deduction from this was that the gripping motion caused the initial tear, which, followed by an upward lift, caused the rest to rip.

Because the damage on either side was different, no symmetrical movement of either the percipient or the exterior force can be clearly defined. We can merely say that an upward lift seemingly occurred on both sides, this following an initial grip by a presumably sharp object of approximate width (and possibly height) of 2.60 cms. This resulted in an initial clean cut rip followed by a rough tear along the weakest point.

The percipient's claim that he was (a) "tugged" on his trousers before loss of consciousness and (b) that he was dragged a short distance (by the appearance of the drag marks at the site), would quite adequately correspond to these findings.

Witness details

Bob Taylor is a straightforward, down-to-earth man; a typical Scotsman if ever there was one. His lack of interest in the subject (and apparent nonchalant reaction to the encounter) have meant that his bizarre story has been accepted by nearly all who come into contact with him. The experience has left him unmoved, and he has treated it in so "matter of fact" a way that it is as if such a thing took place every day. He is a typical father figure, having brought up five well-educated children. His family, from what we have seen, are warm and pleasant folk.

Bob has been involved in manual work of one sort or another throughout his life, the last fifteen years of which he has spent at Livingston with the LDC Forestry Commission. He is a responsible man and very well respected by all who know him. Character references from all disinterested parties cite Bob as a man not prone to fantasy, certainly not the sort of person to fabricate a story of such a complex encounter.

His stable occupation and happy family situation suggest that he would not gain by being party to a hoax for any purpose.

He is psychologically stable, the only problem in his life being a period of kidney complaints some years ago.

He has not had any previous UFO or paranormal experiences, and he possesses few of the usual psychical traits. The only point of interest in this area is that Bob, his son and daughter (Anne and Walter who were present during our stay), possess a number of physiological and psychological traits normally present with hereditary physics — psygenics.* Of the three it is the daughter who

has the most, and has herself experienced a few low key paranormal events. Of these the most prominent seems to have been a large black car with tinted windows, which followed her as she was driving home one night. It eventually cruised past their house before disappearing round the corner.

Both Anne and Walter believed that UFOs could exist before their father's encounter. They are certain of it now.

Medical considerations

As described, the percipient suffered from intense thirst after the incident, and this lasted for two days. It is known that shock symptoms often include an intense thirst, although never for more than a few hours. So it seems the reason could be something other than, or additional to, shock.

The apparent loss of the use of the legs can only be described as a type of flaccid paralysis. The speech problem also seemed to stem from the loss of use of lower facial muscles. Yet it is interesting to note that both affected areas were normally functional within 35 minutes of that episode, which is highly unusual for normal cases of temporary paralysis. Whether the effects stemmed directly from the contact with the witness we do not know, but certainly neither trauma nor shock can result in paralysis of the nature noted.

The possibility of apoplexy being the cause of both the paralysis and unconsciousness must be considered. This is a stroke brought about by a blood clot entering the brain, resulting in unconsciousness and varying degrees of paralysis. The fact that apoplexy mostly occurs in people over 40 and has similar effects, may at first suggest a logical explanation for the experience. Unfortunately, the paralysis in this instance will almost certainly last for a couple of days, and the patient would not feel physically well within three hours of the stroke. It does not explain the percipient's visual account of the phenomena, or the physical traces.

For some five days after the incident Mr. Taylor lost his appetite, as did his dog Lara. Often this is due to what is known as nervous debility, stemming from worry or nerves. This could indeed be the case with both the percipient and the dog, although he showed no notable signs of being at all worried about the experience; in fact quite the opposite. It is well-known for dogs to act out of context in times when their master is in a nervous or worried state, so we must consider the possibility that Mr. Taylor was subconsciously worried about the encounter. It was not until we had been with him for a day that his normal appetite returned.

* * * * *

This report will be concluded in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.

* * * * *

*[The meaning of this word is ~~not~~ to be found in my 1972 Concise Oxford Dictionary, and is not known to me. Perhaps the authors — or a reader — can help — EDITOR]

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MYSTERY OBJECT OVER THE MOON

Gordon Barraclough & John Parker

**These two investigators work for the Lancashire and Cumbria Investigation group NLUFOIG, and Gordon Barraclough is also a UFOIN representative.
June 11, 1978 Lancaster, Lancashire. 20.00 BST MED Level A**

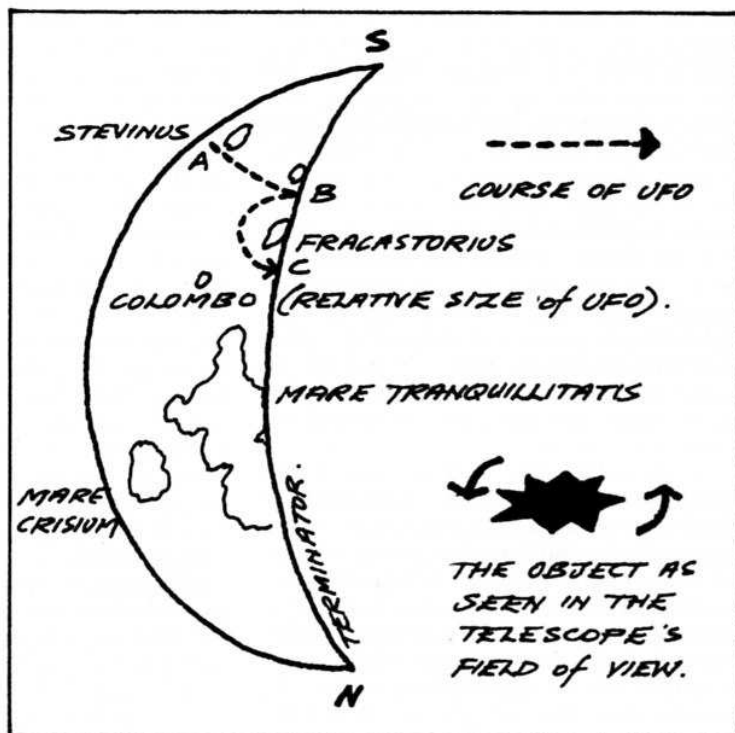
DAVID STORY is aged 16 and a member of the Junior Astronomical Society. While he only contacted us more than a year after his sighting — following a letter of ours which he saw in a local newspaper — he had realised that he had seen something unusual, and made notes about it the same night. The following, it is suggested, is therefore a reasonably accurate record of what transpired.

David was observing the Moon through his small telescope. This has a 40 mm lens and was set on a magnification of 50 times. He first sighted the object near the crater Stevinus. It seemed to be stationary at first, but then started to move slowly eastwards towards the Moon's terminator (it was in quarter phase — see diagram). This motion took 25 seconds before the object was lost to view when it entered the shadow.

The object itself was estimated as being of a similar size to the nearby crater Colombo — although this is of course a meaningless factor without knowing anything about the actual distance from the telescope of the object under observation. It was black in colour (which is why it could not be seen against the Moon's night side) and looked rather like a cog-wheel, although irregular in outline. It was seemingly rotating in an anti-clockwise direction about twice a second.

David removed his eyes from the telescope and looked up but could see nothing. He also took the opportunity to wipe his eyes in case there was something in them which was causing him to see an illusory object. He found nothing. He then returned to the telescope, but at first did not see the object again.

After a period which must have been about 20 seconds over-all since he had last seen the object, it reappeared more or less in the position where it had vanished. It was now moving southwards on a curving path, and at a similar speed to that previously. It then curved to the east and was lost again in the terminator below the crater Fracastorius. It had been in view again for about 25 seconds, making the total duration of the observation



about 1 minute 10 seconds. Despite David's watching for some time after this the object was not seen again.

David is convinced that there was nothing within the optics of the telescope that could account for what he observed. This is the only strange thing he has seen during his three years of interest in astronomy, and he possesses an open mind on the question of UFOs. In this instance, however, he believes that he saw the shadow of an object that was very close to the Moon's surface (and if this were so — as is highly unlikely — it would have been a huge object several miles in diameter). The sighting is of interest, however, and compares with some of the early astronomical observations from the latter part of the nineteenth century when mysterious objects were seen in the vicinity of either the Moon's or the Sun's disc.

FSR BOOKSHELF *(Continued from page 24)*

The U.F.O. Story (Harrap 'Reporters' series, 65p). The illustrations are black and white photographs, and these give the book a more factual feel. The author describes several cases in simple language, and deals with close encounters of the first, second and third kinds. Unfortunately, his ending is a negative one and will tend to leave the young reader doubting the factuality of UFOs.

The fourth offering is for older children and so has much more text than the other three: Brian Ball's **A Young Person's Guide to UFOs** — subtitled rather superfluously, as if he could not decide which title to use:

"A UFO Spotters' Guide" (Dragon Books, 60p). In fact neither title accurately describes the book. It is a history of ufology from Kenneth Arnold onwards, omitting all entity sighting reports (except Father Gill's, and that is 'explained' as defective vision — the "waving entities" were Father Gill's eyelashes!). The 1897 Hamilton calf-napping case, now known to be a hoax, is dragged in, the plots of several fictional UFO films are described, but we are not told much about what UFOs might be. We are left to assume that they are of extra-terrestrial origin (if they exist at all). We owe it to children to tell them the truth, and it is irresponsible to present them with such an inaccurate account of ufology.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

A "Dapple Gray" factor

Dear Mr. Bowen, — May I refer to Mr. M. H. Martin's letter which was published in *Flying Saucer Review*, Volume 25, No. 6. It's just as well your reader wrote his astute observation concerning *The Jesus Factor*. At the time of John Hodges' second regression, as he woke from the session, he mentioned to me that he had read *The Jesus Factor* some time before and was puzzled as to the similarity of the "atom bomb" information brought out in his second session with the book. What puzzled him even more was that he was confident in his own mind that the grey entities had imparted the information to him. The fact that it correlated with *The Jesus Factor* did not make it invalid to him.

Your reader may well be right. John Hodges may have well unconsciously used this information (which was in his unconscious mind at that point) as part of his hypnotic "recall." Situations akin to this occur commonly in hypnosis. The process is termed "confabulation." This term does not mean that the subject consciously lies or embellishes; rather, it means that the subject unconsciously reaches into the recesses of his own mind to fill in gaps in his hypnotically-relived story.

It is my fault that I did not point out in the article that *The Jesus Factor* material was remembered by John Hodges immediately following his regression session. The case was so very complicated and lengthy (aren't they all!) that I simply slipped up and forgot.

Sincerely Yours,
Ann Druffel,
257 Sycamore Glen,
Pasadena,
California 91105
U.S.A.
March 8, 1980.

Dyfed dates

Dear Sir, — In his letter in FSR Vol. 25, No. 4, Mr. Gerald L. Wilkinson quite rightly draws our attention to the discrepancies in certain of the dates in relation to the ufological events which occurred at Ripperston Farm, as given by myself and author (*The Uninvited*) Clive Harold.

The date I have given in relation to the Stack Rocks incident (FSR Vol. 23, No. 6 — page 7) is correct, as are the names of the members of the Coombes family who were present and witnessed the whole thing.

It will be appreciated, of course, that by the very nature of things, a certain amount of time must inevitably occur between the actual incident itself, and the news of the event reaching me, but since I live in the area, and indeed, only a matter of some five or six miles from the focal point of the whole of the 1977 "flap" — Ripperston Farm — I was invariably there, armed with tape recorder and the requisite writing material, within minutes.

Whilst, therefore, I was able to acquire the report when the details were still fresh in the minds of the witnesses, I can only assume that Mr. Harold was less fortunate, since inevitably dates and events can become more than a little confused when one has to refer back over a period of weeks, or even months, without having noted them down. On more than one occasion I found that the exact verification of specific dates became a process of elimination when interviewing witnesses at this particular period, and this was by no means confined to Billy and Pauline Coombes.

However, since more often than not I was able to be at the "scene of the crime" within a relatively short time, the details given in my overall investigations are completely accurate.

Yours sincerely,
R. Jones Pugh
St. Brides View,
Roch,
Haverfordwest,
Pembrokeshire.
March 7, 1980.

On the Paraphysical Intelligence, and Parallel Universes

Dear Mr. Bowen, — Two articles in FSR 25/3 have particularly attracted my attention: "The UFO/Bigfoot Connection" by Janet & Colin Bord, and "Signpost to a Parallel Universe" by Hilary Evans.

The first article can just as well be entitled "The UFO/Bigfoot/Virgin Mary/Men-in-Black Connection" because these four phenomena, and many others, are merely different manifestations of one and the same immaterial entity: the *Paraphysical Intelligence* emanating from the Immaterial Universe of which our material universe is just a minor facet. So it does not matter whether they are seen together or separately.

The *Paraphysical Intelligence* is neither

God nor the Devil. It is strictly neutral, Good and Evil being purely human concepts and non-existent in Nature. Man invented them because he needs them, and then he drew an arbitrary line of demarcation between what he calls Good and Evil in terms of his anthropocentric and anthropomorphic conception of Nature. No wonder that among ourselves there has never been any agreement on the definition of Good and Evil. According to the Bible, God created man in His own image. In reality, *it is man who created God in his own image* and endowed Him with all sorts of human attributes. Why should God be masculine, for instance? Why should God need sex?

As for the second article, I cannot subscribe to Mr. Evans' theory that the UFOs may come from a parallel universe. Parallel universes are neither superior nor inferior but *equal* to our universe. For example, the anti-universe composed of antimatter is simply the exact opposite of our material universe composed of matter, but it is neither superior nor inferior to ours. By its very nature, the UFO phenomenon must originate from a superior universe such as the Immaterial Universe suggested above.

Sincerely yours,
Julian H. Kaneko
18, rue Le Corbusier,
CH-1208 Geneva,
Switzerland.
November 12, 1979

A few words on instant debunkers

Dear Mr. Bowen, — I must agree with Dr. Hynek's comments regarding Sir Bernard Lovell (FSR Vol. 25, No. 2 — World round-up), as I well remember a statement made by Sir Bernard to the effect that "UFOs do not exist." This revelation was communicated to the listening millions on BBC radio way back, I think, 1973 (the exact date is in my files in the U.K.). It was not explained how this conclusion was arrived at, and I would be the first to allow anyone his or her own opinion. However, in a subject as complex as the one with which we are concerned, a great deal of investigation and report-studying is essential before that opinion is worth the paper it is written on. Doubtless Sir Bernard's work in his own sphere of radio astronomy is, to say the least, excellent, but I do wish that he, and

others I could mention, would not volunteer opinions on subjects of which they are in ignorance.

Regarding the enclosed extract from the *Sunday Express*, of which no doubt you will be reporting in due course,* it seems to me yet another example of ludicrous behaviour on the part of "Them". By

this I mean that, instead of becoming involved with an unsuspecting forestry worker, "They" could, by making an application 6 months in advance (in triplicate), and on payment of a small fee, have scratched the thighs of the great P. Moore himself.

As always, my best wishes to yourself and your team.

As-salaam' alaykum,
D. J. Hampton,
Riyadh
Saudi Arabia
February 22, 1980.

[* *The Livingston case, dealt with in this and the last two issues of FSR — EDITOR*]

World round-up

England

Could this turn out to be another 'abduction' claim?

From the *Sunday Express* of March 1, 1980, we learn how,—

"When van driver Ian Berry turned up at his home at four o'clock in the afternoon looking 'shattered' his wife Julie asked where he had been.

"The trouble was, her 27-year-old husband didn't know.

"And now police are trying to piece together Ian's lost hours after his furniture van was discovered piled up against a tree near Petworth, Sussex at five o'clock that morning.

"But that is not the only thing strange about the case, Ian, from Farnborough, Hants, is still wondering how he managed to get home — 30 miles from the scene of the crash.

Mrs. Berry, 25, said: 'All he has been able to tell me is he remembers seeing bright lights and later hearing dogs barking. But otherwise his mind is a complete blank.'

"At Petworth a police spokesman said they received a 999 call from a man who heard the crash. He added: 'The van had ploughed headlong into a tree. It's a wonder anyone got out of it alive.'

"A dog-handler was called out but the driver could not be found and all the hospitals in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire were alerted to find him.

"Mr. Berry had been taking a load of furniture from Aldershot to Littlehampton.

"According to Mrs. Berry her husband telephoned her at about three o'clock in the afternoon. At that point he was at Farnham, Surrey, about six miles from his home.'

"An hour later he walked in 'looking shattered.'

"Mrs. Berry said: 'I put him straight to bed. His hands were cut and he's got quite a bump on his head, but otherwise he seems all right.' "

Credit: **D. H. Taylor** of London W14

France

An alleged CE IV

The following item under the signature of **Ian Murray** and datelined Paris, November 27 [1979], appeared in the columns of *The Times* of November 28, 1979,—

"The most wanted man in France today is M. Frank Fontaine, aged 19, married, father of a six-month-old baby, and respected resident of Saint-Ouen l'Aumône to the west of Paris.

"His photograph and description have been circulated to every police station in the country and an intensive search for him is being carried out round the area where he was last seen.

"As far as the police are concerned M. Fontaine has done nothing wrong, he is simply missing. Normally they would not be conducting so thorough a search for someone of sound mind who disappeared only a short while ago. But the mystery surrounding M. Fontaine's disappearance is such that the police are extremely anxious to solve it quickly.

"He was reported missing at 4.30 yesterday morning by two of his friends, M. Jean-Pierre Prevot and M. Saloman N'diaye, both of them, according to police, sober young men with a good background.

"The story they told police, however, sounded somewhat less than sober and seemed to come from a very shady background indeed. It was a story that both men nevertheless stuck to when questioned separately or together and one on which they were in agreement in every detail.

"At 4 o'clock that morning, they said, they were loading M. Prevot's shooting brake outside his apartment in Cergy-Pontoise (Val-d'Oise) with clothes to take to the market at Gisors where M. N'diaye has a stall. Suddenly they all noticed a bright light in the sky, falling quickly towards the ground.

"Thinking it might be an aircraft crashing M. Prevot and M. N'diaye say

of news and comment about recent sightings

they ran inside to find a camera, while M. Fontaine said he would follow the light in the car.

"Moments later, when the two came out again, they say they saw the car about 200yds away. It was surrounded by a halo of light accompanied by three or four brighter lights.

"As they watched, they say, they saw the bright lights merge and then trail upwards and disappear. Cautiously they approached the car and found its door open, lights on and engine running. M. Fontaine had disappeared.

"Police have interrogated both the witnesses of this close encounter for hours since then and can only say that they are perfectly reasonable people who clearly had never regarded stories of flying saucers as anything but science fiction.

"The car has been checked in vain with a radiation counter. Radar bases have confirmed seeing nothing abnormal on their screens. The area round the car has been searched with a fine-tooth comb.

"Police, however, are keeping their feet firmly on the ground over the matter.

"He could have gone off for a perfectly simple reason, either by foot or by hitch-hiking. Actually there is no other explanation possible', they say.

"We are looking for someone who has disappeared mysteriously, that is all. As far as the little green men are concerned, we will deal with them later.' "

Credit: **Terence Collins**

[Well, that is the story, for what it is worth, but some readers have enquired why we have not hastened to publish a full investigation. The truth of the matter is that even before we had time to prepare for publication our *World Round-up* news comment in FSR Vol. 25, No. 6, we learned that M. Frank Fontaine had returned from captivity and that there was talk of a book. We also detected a note of unease about the case from some French researchers — EDITOR].

"Abducted" man returns

Here is the text of an item which appeared, under the signature of Marceau Petit, in *France-Soir* on December 3, 1979 (translation from the French by Gordon Creighton).—

"He is back. He has 'descended' once more on to the Earth. Franck Fontaine, aged 19, the man who vanished at Cergy-Pontoise, was found again, on Monday morning, in the house of his friend Jean-Pierre Prévost, 25, living on the Boulevard de la Justice-Mauve in the northern sector of the new township of Cergy.

"He returned as mysteriously as he went.

"Says Jean-Pierre Prévost: 'At 4.30 this morning, there was a ring on the door-bell of my house. I opened the door, and Franck was standing there before me, in the doorway. Without speaking a word, I made him come in.'

"In his interview with the Gendarmes, Franck Fontaine has been quite unable to explain what happened to him. He says: 'I am totally disorientated as regards the past week. I was no longer here on Earth. When I awoke this morning, I found myself at the same spot where I had seen the UFO a week ago. But I had no

knowledge of where I had been.'

"Young Franck did not appear to be tired at all. His face showed no growth of beard. Quite to the contrary — **he looked thoroughly fresh and at ease. Perhaps a bit too much so for a lad who has just returned from a long journey.** He was still wearing the same clothes that he had on when he disappeared. His 'absence' is said to have lasted precisely one week, to the very hour. It was at 4.30 a.m. on November 26 that he vanished, and it was at 4.30 a.m. this Monday morning that he returned to Cergy-Pontoise. And on both occasions the authorities learned about it more than three hours later.

"So, altogether a thoroughly strange affair, which the Gendarmes are now going to attempt to clarify, for it looks very much like a hoax. But, for the moment, as even the investigating authorities admit, all the witnesses 'seem to be acting in good faith.'

"Jean-Pierre Prévost, and Salomon N'Diaye, Franck's two companions, have been interrogated several times and have never diverged from their initial declarations.

"They say: 'We had scarcely got out on to the road, to load up the car — we were going to the market at Gisors —

when we saw, all three of us, a long streak of opaque white light, with a *frayed* sort of effect at both ends and with whiter lights, like headlights, passing through it. These lights were coming down out of the sky at an oblique angle, over the power plant. We watched for three or four minutes, trying to make out what it could be. Then Franck shouted 'I'm going to have a look, I want to know what it is.'

"Jean-Pierre and Salomon went back into the house to look for a camera. When they returned to the spot, they found their car parked athwart the road and 200 metres further along.

"They said: **'It seemed to be bathed in a halo resembling a thick mist, and in the middle of the mist there were three or four small spheres moving about. Franck had disappeared.'**

"That was just a week ago. To the very day. Now that he's back, is Franck going to be able to explain his mysterious trip?

"Specialists from GEPAN, the study group specialising in paranormal phenomena, are expected to arrive at the Cergy-Pontoise Gendarmerie HQ."

Credit: Jonathan M. Caplan

FIGHTER PILOT'S SIGHTING OVER EGYPT

David Apps

Our contributor investigated this report for UFOIN on his introduction to the network. It was originally supplied to *Flying Saucer Review* by the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau. Data: September 11 1962 32° 30' N, 27° 30' E. (EGYPT) 16.00 European Time MED.

THE witness of this sighting was Capt. K. R., at present a captain in British Airways, but at the time an officer of the Royal Air Force. For obvious reasons, therefore, he has requested anonymity, although his name and address are on file at FSR.

His task that day was to lead a squadron of *Javelin* delta-wing fighters. These were travelling in four flights of four, with a fifteen minute interval between each flight. They were travelling from El Adem (Tobruk) in Libya, to Nicosia in Cyprus, on a training exercise. Speed was approximately Mach 0.8 (600 mph) and altitude 40,000 feet. The course was bearing 070 degrees.

Capt. K.R. had suffered a partial power loss. It was nothing serious, but for safety he had to descend to 32,000 feet. At this height he could watch the three other aircraft under his supervision as they travelled line abreast overhead leaving clear vapour trails. The sky was blue and cloudless.

Suddenly he caught sight of a bright white light which

was behind the three *Javelins* and travelling parallel with them. It was, however, moving much faster. He was able to see it in sharp focus against the vapour trails, and note that it was just a white light, the apparent size of a match head, which showed no sign of wings or other protruberances. It was, in fact, just like an aircraft at great height reflecting the sunlight. However, the speed (at least Mach 2, or greater) indicated to the Captain that if it were an aircraft then it was some extremely fast new vehicle under test.

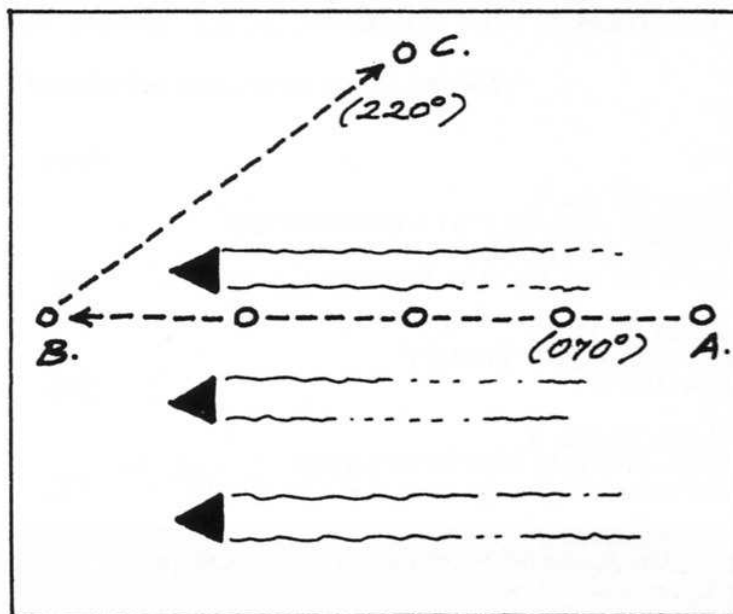
Capt. K.R. moved his head from side to side to rule out the possibility that he was only observing a reflection from an aircraft canopy. This movement proved to his satisfaction that he was watching a real object in the sky, and above the *Javelins*. He then noted that his navigator was watching the object as well.

The object continued on a parallel course until it had got in front of the *Javelins*. It then made an instantaneous stop, coupled with a similar instantaneous turn across 150

degrees, so that it was now moving on a bearing of 220 degrees and passing quickly out of sight to the rear of all the aircraft. The suddenness of these dramatic movements finally convinced both Air Force men that they were not watching any kind of conventional aircraft. Such motions were impossible in the context under which they were observed. He estimates that he was watching the mysterious object for about two minutes, before it was lost from view.

On landing he went to the crew room with the intention of reporting the incident. Before he had the opportunity of doing so his commanding officer came in. He had been leading the four *Javelins* immediately behind Capt. K.R. and, without knowing anything about his sighting, reported precisely the same incident. His navigator also had seen the object. RAF intelligence were then contacted and statements were taken from all four witnesses, but no further investigation ensued. The incident was apparently forgotten.

This is the only really strange thing that Capt. K.R. has seen in all his years of flying, and he is at a loss to provide an explanation. He is an impeccable witness, who even all these years after the sighting is able to recall the details with great precision.



The view as Capt. K.R. looked at the *Javelins*.

Key: A. Object sighted.

B. Object stops and makes 150° turn.

C. Object last seen.

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