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# FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1965

VOLUME II, No. 5

11th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

**IS VENUS INHABITED?**

*An enquiry by Professor Charles A. Maney*

**A SIGNIFICANT REPORT FROM FRANCE**

**UFO ACTIVITY ON AUSTRALIA'S COAST**

**HOW TO SELECT UFO REPORTS**

**ELECTRO-MAGNETIC EFFECTS OF UFOs**

**THE MEANING OF CONTACT**



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D.Ch, FBIS

# FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The bi-monthly Journal of SPACE  
INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

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## Opportunity

THE very heartiest congratulations are extended to all our American friends who are connected with the Mariner IV project—and that must mean pretty well all Americans, even if they have only given the project their moral support, and contributed towards it through the Revenue. For here was a breathtaking, overwhelming success, this propulsion of an Earth-originated object through the skies of Mars. Neither must we forget in our praises the scientists and engineers who by their energies and skills have fashioned the delicate electronic devices which have guided and commanded the probe, recorded important cosmic data, photographed the surface of the Red Planet, and sent both pictures and data whispering back over more than 100,000,000 miles of space after a journey of 300,000,000 miles.

At the time of writing, the first picture only has been seen in Britain, but reports are filtering through that the later and better photographs are showing beyond reasonable doubt that the surface of Mars is a barren place indeed, a wilderness of monstrous craters and arid deserts, with an atmosphere even thinner than hitherto imagined, and no canals or signs of life. Well, the probe took its pictures from a long way off, so its findings are far from final, but it has shown enough, it would seem, for us to agree that intelligent *native* life on the planet would appear to be an improbability. We have not made claims, in recent years at least, that saucers originate from Mars. Unlike the handful of less reliable people of whom we have heard, we are not in possession of first-hand knowledge on such matters gleaned from trips around the Solar system. We have not been offered a "ticket to ride" to Venus, as has the individual who was dug up and grafted on to the recent television (BBC 2) discussion between Gordon Creighton and Patrick Moore. So we accept the Mariner IV verdict without qualms.

Naturally this does not mean that there has never been life on Mars, and it does not mean that Mars is not being used as a base by extra-terrestrial entities from farther afield. Indeed we wonder if a kitten peeped out of the bag when the *News of the World* of July 18 carried a front-page piece in which it was stated that . . . "New pictures of Mars were puzzling American scientists last night. They appear to show a bleak landscape of canyons, sharp peaks and craters. But the 'shadows' which show up these features could not have been made by sunlight. When the spaceship Mariner IV took the pictures last Wednesday it was mid-day in Mars and the sun was almost directly overhead." That was very odd—as odd as the mystery surrounding the satellites of the planet which, as far as we have heard, remains unsolved.

This then is the latest, and one of the greatest achievements of scientists and technicians, and we applaud them. Our enduring wish is that more scientists would join *openly* in with us in the search for the truth about the strange objects invading our skies and the privacy of our terrain. Jacques Vallée, a scientist working with the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has shown in his book *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, how scientists can examine this subject without loss of face, or of respectability. We welcome them, and hope they will join those who already work with us (mostly "underground" because of the attitude of their colleagues), because we need their skill and knowledge when tackling an objective study of this serious problem. It could be that the "attitude" of revulsion of some is obedience to an unwritten law (or even written, somewhere, for all we know) that people who are foolish enough to indulge in ufology automatically condemn themselves to a degree of untouchability.

As much as many would like to deny it, the interest in our subject is a healthy one; it is manifest among people in all walks of life; it is growing, facts which are borne out by the amount of correspondence which floods into our office and threatens to overwhelm us. Scientists, and others, should take note of this, and let it help them overcome their fears.

At times we are criticised, which is only natural in a controversial subject. We welcome constructive criticism, and are not unduly alarmed even by the one or two isolated sharply-worded attacks which are aimed at us. One of our critics, a scientist who at least has the courage to come out into the open about flying saucers (see Mail Bag), goes so far as to say that we are anti-scientific; that we treat the subject in a religio-mystical way, and that our appearance is non-objective.

Emphatically we are not anti-scientific, although at times we reject the advice of scientists, or some who profess to be scientists, when they attempt to explain away reliably reported incidents without so much as examining the evidence. This could be due to emotional thinking, which is unscientific, it could be due to a refusal to accept anything which breaks the long-established rules, or it could be due to nothing more than a wilful desire to mislead "for their own good" a public gullible enough to believe anything so long as it is proclaimed by someone in "authority".

The second charge is rubbish.

The third charge, the assertion that this Review has a non-objective appearance, merely displays an unintelligent lack of understanding on the part of our critic of the functions of a journal such as this. It should be apparent that our task is to collect the evidence of UFO activity throughout the world and to present it to our readers, to keep our readers up-to-date with news and views published by other groups and journals, to examine every aspect of the subject, and to present the ideas and comment, some speculative, some controversial, of our own band of contributors. Our staff is so small, and committed to working in our spare time, that that is all we have time to do. The objective studies of the problem must needs be left to the research groups or to lone individuals, although we are always pleased to publish any significant results of those studies.

Which brings us back to the scientists. This is a great period of UFO activity, and it is great opportunity for objective study. We need all the help we can get, for we are sure that even the achievements with Mariner IV will pale into insignificance beside the truth of the flying saucers when the mystery has been unravelled. Let us not miss this opportunity.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

For the third time in two years we have been forced to change our address. We regret any inconvenience which may be caused by this, and request all readers, contributors and editors of journals to note that our editorial address is now:

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# The Gemini IV Photograph

**I**N a report which appeared in *The Times* of June 5, it was disclosed that:

"America's Gemini IV spaceship sighted another winged object hurtling along in space above the United States this evening. It could not be immediately identified, although one official said it might be another satellite and Major James McDivitt, the Gemini commander, reported that he had taken photographs of it."

One of the frames from Major McDivitt's film is reproduced on this page.

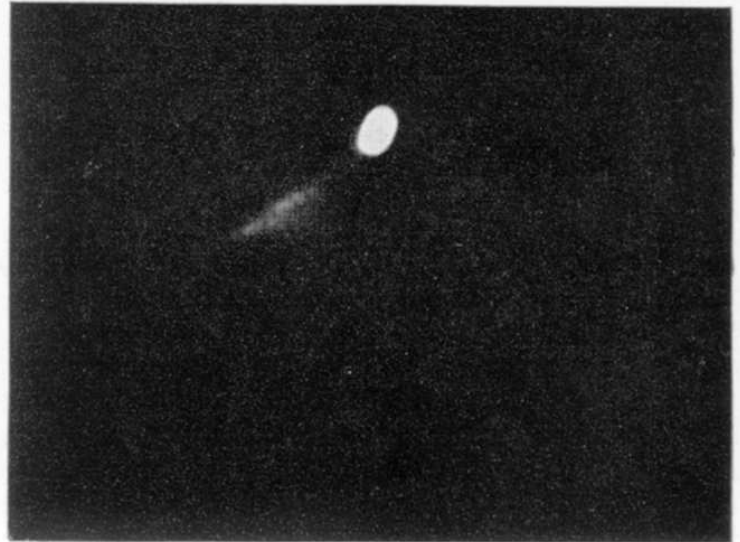
Later in the same report, we read that:

"Major McDivitt, when he reported the sighting of the other object in space during the twentieth orbit, said his attempts at photography had been complicated by the position of the sun. Several of America's satellites employ large booms extended outwards from the main body and there was speculation that the astronauts had seen one of these. In any case visibility is apparently good in space."

According to a report in the *Daily Mirror* of June 5: "The discovery started frantic efforts by U.S. Space experts to track the object, and to guess its origin. A top official said the paths of all orbiting objects were known, and none of them was on a collision course with Gemini IV."

Elsewhere we had heard speculative suggestions that the object was the Pegasus satellite. To the best of our knowledge, Pegasus is in an orbit hundreds of miles farther out into space than that occupied by Gemini. Again, the object shown in the photograph seems to bear absolutely no resemblance to Pegasus, or other satellites which are equipped with booms carrying solar "sails" and antennae. In fact we feel inclined to ask what

has happened to the arms which were reported to have been seen, and, as an afterthought, what is the wispy trail behind the photographed object?



This photograph which was taken from a strip of three issued by the United States Information Service, London, was loaned to the REVIEW by reader John D. Llewellyn. It is part of a 16 mm movie film exposed by Astronaut James McDivitt during the twentieth revolution of his four-day space flight with Astronaut Ed. White. Gemini IV was over Hawaii when the object was sighted (according to official caption), and 16 mm Eastman colour film was used at six frames per second. The camera had a 5 mm, 160° field of view lens.

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## The things they see . . .

**A**N item by Philip Brown which appeared in the *Daily Express* of June 28, following a report that six young American scientists have already been selected for a pioneer Moon landing, probably in 1970:

"A man's sight is far superior when he is in Space and weightless, American scientists are now convinced.

"Astronaut Edward White, who walked in space for 20 minutes, reported to doctors that when 100 miles up in space he could clearly see roads, the wakes of ships, and street lights on earth.

"All, he said, were in fine detail. Indeed, he could see things more clearly at a height of 100 miles than when flying at 40,000 ft.

"Astronaut Gordon Cooper, after his flight in May, 1963, made a similar report. But scientists were cautious. They feared that Cooper had suffered hallucinations.

"In every-day terms, the astronauts' claims are equivalent to reading small print of the *Daily Express* at about 100 ft."

# Things are hotting up in the Antarctic

By Dan Lloyd

READERS of the *Daily Express* must have wondered at the small news-item that appeared on the front page of that newspaper on July 7, 1965. It said: "British, Argentine and Chilean military and scientific personnel in the Antarctic yesterday watched an unidentified 'curious celestial body' for about 20 minutes. The Chilean Air Force said it was 'glowing with a white light'. The British station described it as zig-zagging and 'yellow changing to green'."

The *Express* was careful not to use the term "flying saucer". It called the "curious celestial body" a "Zig-zag mystery in the sky". Two days later, however, *Daily Mail* readers, running their eye down a column headed "The ghost riders fly in Antarctic", discovered a little more about the mystery. Chile's Defence Department was quoted as saying that "it is the second time in 18 days that the object has been reported". And one of the base commanders, while denying that it would be true to say that "all of us saw a flying saucer", commented: "However, it was something real, an object that moved at amazing speed, manoeuvred quickly and gave off a blue-green sheen. It also interfered with the electro-magnetic apparatus of an Argentine base which is facing ours." A Chilean corporal, the *Mail* story went on, had photographed the object, but the colour film could not be developed until the men were back on the mainland in eight months.

Here was something a bit more juicy. "Ghost rider" the weird object might be to the sub-editor of the *Mail*, but the discerning reader would have been forgiven for asking how "something real" could be described as a "ghost". What kind of "spirit" could "spook" electro-magnetic apparatus? If the *Mail* sub had been aware of the hundreds of reported instances of "weird aerial objects" interfering with car transmissions, TV, radio and similar electrical appliances, and of the countless number of occasions on which high-speed, highly-maneuvrable, glowing bodies had baffled the observer with their acrobatics, he would have paused before choosing such a spectral definition.

It was not long before we received more detailed information about the mystery. From reader Sara Maxwell came a cutting from *El Mercurio*, Val-

paraiso, Chile, datelined July 7, 1965, and from the REVIEW representative in Brazil, Nigel Rimes, we received a cutting from *O Estado de São Paulo*, date-lined July 8, 1965. When the tireless Gordon Creighton had translated them, a much clearer picture emerged of the strange happenings in the skies of Antarctica.

The story can best be told in the words of these two papers. *O Estado de São Paulo* began:

"For the first time in history, an official communiqué has been published by a government about the 'Flying Saucers'. It is a document from the Argentine Navy, based on the statements of a large number of Argentine, Chilean and British sailors stationed in the naval bases in Antarctica.

"The communiqué declares that the personnel of Deception Island naval base saw, at 19 hours 40 minutes on July 3, a flying object of lenticular shape, with a solid appearance and a colouring in which red and green prevailed, and, for a few moments, yellow. The machine was flying in a zig-zag and in a generally western direction, but it changed course several times and changed speed, having an inclination of about 45 degrees above the horizon. The craft also remained stationary, for about 20 minutes, at a height of approximately 5,000 metres, producing no sound.

"The communiqué states moreover that the prevailing meteorological conditions when the phenomenon was observed can be considered excellent for the region in question and the time of year. The sky was clear and quite a lot of stars were visible.

"The Secretariat of the Argentine Navy also states in its communiqué that the occurrence was witnessed by scientists of the three naval bases and that the facts described by these people agree completely. It is understood that the photographs taken by a photographer at one of these bases will be made public after they have been analysed by scientists."

*El Mercurio* takes up the story with this account by the Commandant of the Chilean Air Force's Antarctic Base, Don Mario Jhan Barrera:

"It is rash to say that we all saw a flying saucer, like those in Science Fiction. But nevertheless it was something real, an object travelling



at a staggering speed, that performed evolutions and gave off a bluish-green light and caused interference in the instruments of the Argentine Base lying on an island that is near to and right opposite our Base. This is the second time in less than a month that we have seen these celestial bodies. The first time was on 18th June, and then again this Saturday, at 1920 hours. It was on this latter occasion that the whole personnel of the Base saw the object, while they were engaged in the daily job of taking atmospheric measurements."

The following point was stressed by Commandant Barrera, which he considered to be of the utmost importance:

"Corporal Uladislao Durán Martínez quickly found his camera and took about ten pictures which, in view of his experience in that department, are perfect. And he not only took photos direct, but also through a theodolite and high-power binoculars, so as to get a more perfect view. Unfortunately we have no laboratory at the Base here for developing colour films, so we shall have to wait till next March when we are relieved. Only then shall we be able to make a more complete study of the matter."

When asked whether in his opinion the object he saw was a flying saucer, Commandant Barrera emphasised:

"It is very rash to give an opinion in the matter, but what we observed was no hallucination or collective psychosis. We are at this Base here for scientific tasks, and what we see we try to analyse from this point of view. But I can say that it was not a star, for it had a very rapid and continuous movement. As far as I am concerned it is a celestial object that I am unable to identify. That it could be an aircraft constructed on this Earth, I do not believe possible. I belong to the Air Force, and to my knowledge the machines built by man fall far below this, in respect to shape, speed, manoeuvrability in the air, etc."

Commandant Daniel Perisse of the Argentine Base backed up his Chilean colleague by declaring that the appearance of the discs was no hallucination or mirage seen by the personnel of the Deception Island Base. His description of the object's performance tallied exactly with that of Commandant Barrera.

The whole personnel of his base saw the object, except the radio-operator who was at his post. He was able to record on the "magneto-barometer" the magnetic tracks left by the craft, and Commandant Perisse stated that, as proof, he is relying

solely on these magnetic tapes, as he does not think the photographs taken will be of much value, owing to the great distance of the object and the small degree of light.

Whether the photographs will be of value or not, it is as well to bear in mind what happened in 1956 when NICAP asked the Chilean Government about the 1,200 ft. of colour film of UFOs taken in the Antarctic in the spring of 1950 by Commander Augusto Vars Ortega, of the Chilean Navy. The Chileans told Major Keyhoe that the film was classified and could not be made available. It will be interesting to see whether history repeats itself. Officialdom can be relied on to release nothing about UFOs unless they can be "explained away". Those magnetic tapes are going to take some explaining away.

However, an attempt to explain away the erratic behaviour of the electro-magnetic instruments has come from Stanley, in the Falkland Islands, headquarters of the British Antarctic Survey. Could Sir Vivian Fuchs have originated this cable, dated July 12, sent to the Scott Polar Institute, Cambridge?:

"Deception Island now report 'Argentine Base observed a moving coloured light on June 7, 20 and July 3. Chilean Base made similar observations on the latter two dates. Flickering red, green, yellow lights observed from British Base 2300Z July 2 due North. It had moved in two waves quickly from the West, then reversed along this course for a short distance before returning again to the North whence it remained stationary for about 20 mins.' Argentines report talking on radio July 4 to Stonington Horseshoe about coloured nacreous cloud seen on 2nd. At this time magnetic instrument was giving trouble and this info possibly passed on in general news natter. Listeners-in could have wrongly associated the two points. Instrument trouble resulted from accidental disturbance of variometer during normal midwinter adjustments and took two days to settle down."

It seems a remarkable coincidence that the "accidental disturbance of the variometer" should have coincided with the appearance of the UFO. Perhaps the recording of the magnetic tapes was also due to a faulty mechanism. Perhaps everyone in those Antarctic Bases had a simultaneous mental aberration. And perhaps the camera, if it reveals anything at all, will only do so because of a defect in the mechanism.

What price sanity?

# Is Venus inhabited?

By Charles A. Maney

**Dr. Maney, Emeritus Professor of Physics and Mathematics at The Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, U.S.A., makes a welcome return to the columns of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.**

VENUS has often been referred to as the twin planet to the earth. The two bodies differ very little in size; the earth has a mean diameter of 7,900 miles and the diameter of Venus measures 7,700 miles. Surface gravity on Venus is a little less than on the earth. A youngster weighing 100 pounds on the earth's surface would tip the scales at 86 pounds if transported to the surface of Venus. Both planets have an abundance of atmosphere. However, the Venus atmosphere is continually wholly blanketed with thick clouds, whereas the earth's atmosphere is usually only partly cloud-covered. This difference could be very significant; the daylight on Venus due to the dense cloud covering is probably not much brighter than daylight on the earth, even though Venus is somewhat closer to the sun.

Because of features resembling those of the earth, the planet Venus poses an intriguing question. What lies under that almost uniformly dense white blanket in the planet's upper atmosphere? In astronomical history Venus has not been accorded the same prominence as has been given the planet Mars, because Venus, unlike Mars, has no mysteriously varied and changing surface markings to challenge the scientific curiosity of interested observers. However, recent reliable scientific studies of the atmosphere of Venus by both Soviet and American astro-physicists have disclosed information about this planet which should now place it in the limelight of scientific and popular interest as never before in astronomical history.

The arguments pertaining to the nature of the planet Venus fall into three categories: (1) What may be deduced by consideration of certain simple laws of physics; (2) information by Soviet scientists on the content of the Venus atmosphere secured by spectroscopic analysis of the dark light of the planet; and (3) information secured recently at Johns Hopkins University by the eminent American astro-physicist Dr. John Strong and co-workers. This latter group succeeded in getting remarkably accurate data relative to the planet's upper atmosphere and cloud-covering through the

agency of a large telescope with instrumentation attached, hoisted 16 miles above the ground by a helium balloon.

(1) Since Venus moves around the sun in an orbit between the paths of Mercury and the earth, comparisons of conditions affecting these two planets with those affecting Venus can be helpful in trying to analyze conditions on Venus.

The relative distances of the three planets nearest to the sun in astronomical units are Mercury .387 A.U., Venus .723 A.U. and the earth, 1.000 A.U. The inverse square law shows that the planet Mercury receives 3.5 times as much solar radiation per unit of planetary surface as does the planet Venus. Also, Venus receives very approximately twice as much radiation from the sun per unit area as does the earth. When we take into account the percentages of absorption and reflection of this radiant energy from the sun on the three planets, the situation becomes greatly modified. The reflecting power of radiation known as the albedo, for the planet Mercury is 6 per cent, about the same as for our moon. On the other hand, 59 per cent of the sun's heat and light striking the upper atmosphere of the planet Venus bounces off into space. We do not have any good figure for the earth's albedo, but it certainly is far less than that of Venus, a planet which is continually covered by a complete cloud layer.

Therefore we can state that although Venus receives twice as much radiation on its cloud surface as does the earth, much less than twice as much solar radiation gets below the outer atmosphere of Venus to reach the ground surface. Upon this basis of reasoning one might conclude that the surface of Venus could have temperatures comparable with those of the earth's surface. But, of course, the relatively larger quantity of carbon dioxide recognized as being present in the Venus atmosphere could conceivably trap the sun's heat to a greater degree than is the case on earth.

Now to look at this same question from comparison with the planet Mercury, much nearer to



the sun than Venus. Ninety-four per cent of solar radiation incident on Mercury is absorbed; only six per cent is thrown back into space. To be sure, as is the case on the moon, the Mercury surface readily radiates the energy received from the sun in long heat waves. But when one takes into account the fact that Mercury receives 3.5 times as much heat per unit area as does Venus, and that a much greater portion of the heat incident on Mercury is absorbed, one must conclude that the surface of Mercury is many times hotter than that of Venus. Astronomers are able to measure the ground surface temperature of Mercury with a fair degree of accuracy because of the absence of atmosphere on the planet. These measurements indicate a temperature close to 660° F.

Now according to the interpretation officially given to the data secured by Mariner 2, the surface temperature of Venus is 800° F. This figure can hardly with scientific justification be ascribed to the ground surface of the planet, a temperature higher than that of Mercury and not at all comparable with earth temperatures. One can hardly expect American scientists receiving liberal grants from the government for research, to question official figures. However, foreign scientists who are not under such obligation are more free to express their viewpoints.

Mr. V. A. Firsoff, the noted British authority on Venus, commenting on the American report of 800° F as the surface temperature of Venus secured by instrumentation on Mariner 2, remarked: "The probe was supposed to distinguish between atmospheric and surface temperatures by means of absorption by water vapour, which stops certain wavelengths of microwave radio emission and transmits others. The transmitted radiation would then relate to the surface. But if no water vapour were found this method could not work."

The instrumentation on Mariner 2 failed to indicate the presence of water vapour or carbon dioxide or any other identifiable substance in the Venus atmosphere. Neither did the instrumentation show any evidence of a magnetic field. The negative character of the findings and the actual scarcity of positive information, at its best debatable as to its meaning, indicates that the instrumentation of Mariner 2 accomplished little of scientific value.

Granting that from the standpoint of rocketry, the flight of Mariner 2 was a brilliant achievement, it does appear that from the standpoint of the acquisition of reliable, diverse, and significant data about the planet Venus, the project was of questionable value.

As a matter of fact, a considerable amount of information about the planet Venus has already

been secured in projects carried out in both the United States and in the Soviet Union. These projects, employing elaborate and sensitive earth-located instrumentation, have achieved spectacular results. As regards the planet Venus, it appears that earth-located instrumentation of a sensitive character under the immediate and continuous control of the scientists on the job, promises more and better results than those apparently obtainable by rockets shot out into space.

(2) Soviet studies of the planet Venus made at the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory by Professor V. K. Prokofiev, and at the Jilkovo Observatory in Leningrad by Dr. N. Kozyrev, have shed some important information about the Venutian atmosphere. The night glow or "ashen light" of Venus, produced by a dense flow of electrified solar particles, is at times of sufficient intensity to allow for spectroscopic study of the atmosphere. Lines of atomic oxygen and nitrogen have been identified as a result of these studies. Professor Prokofiev suggests that it is "possible that the oxygen of Venus's atmosphere is being formed, as on the earth, as a result of the life functions of plants." Professor V. A. Firsoff, Fellow of Britain's Royal Astronomical Society in commenting on the discoveries of these men, concludes that the resulting mean surface temperature of Venus would be only about 6° F. higher than that of the earth. It should be added that an American scientist, Gordon Newkirk, also secured spectrograms of the electrified night sky of Venus, and that his photographs along with those of Kozyrev's were subject to a detailed analysis by B. Warner at the University of London.

(3) The very recent studies of the planet Venus by Dr. John Strong, eminent American astrophysicist of Johns Hopkins University, represent a great achievement in astronomical spectroscopy. Dr. Strong secured very reliable data on features of the Venus atmosphere, through instruments attached to a large telescope of 12 inches aperture hoisted by a balloon to an altitude of 16 miles. Dr. Strong measured the quantity of water vapour above the clouds of Venus to within 5 per cent, a degree of accuracy remarkable in astronomical measurements of this character. Indeed, the actual amount of water vapour present in this portion of the Venus atmosphere corresponds closely to comparable levels in the earth's atmosphere!

A second and equally important recent finding by Dr. Strong using instrumentation attached to the same balloon telescope is that the upper clouds of Venus, like those of the earth, are made up of ice crystals, particles of frozen water.

Dr. Strong accepts the figures secured by Mariner 2 as registered data, but rejects their

interpretation as publicized by official sources. He regards the Mariner 2 figures as measurements of the temperature of the extreme upper atmosphere of Venus, which being rare and subject to intensive bombardment of high energy particles from the sun, could display a temperature of some 800° F. Experts on cloud physics are finding that even gently turbulent clouds give off radio waves.

Dr. Strong also doubts the theory that the carbon dioxide known to be present in the atmosphere of Venus in larger amounts than in the earth's atmosphere, is adequate to trap sunlight by a greenhouse effect to produce the very high temperature of 800 degrees Fahrenheit, attributed by official sources to the temperature of the planet's surface.

*Thus we find that America's scientific team, along with the Soviet astrophysicists who found atomic oxygen and nitrogen in the dark light of Venus, together present powerful evidence to the effect that the atmosphere of Venus is quite like that of its sister planet, the earth.*

And if such be the case, might we not speculate that conditions for the support of human life being as equally favourable on Venus as on the earth, that Venus is also inhabited by human beings not too unlike the people on earth? Continuing this speculation it also becomes obvious that perhaps we do not need to look to the distant stars for other life akin to human life, and a degree of scientific advancement superior to our own. It might well be that UFOs are space ships from our sister planet, Venus.

## A Record

**T**HIS issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW contains 36 pages—for the second time this year—and is packed from cover to cover with news, comment and important articles, both factual and speculative. It is, in our estimation, an ideal number to

show to your friends. The last issue to consist of 36 pages was that for May/June, 1965. Demand was so great that it went out of print before the next issue was published! That is a record in the history of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

### ADVERTISEMENT

#### THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

##### Saturday at 7 p.m.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| September 25th | REACTIONS OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS TO UFOs by Gordon Creighton, M.A., F.R.G.S.                                      |
| October 30th   | BRAINS TRUST—Panel of well-known experts—Chairman Dr. G. G. Doel.   |
| November 27th  | 6 p.m. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—Non-members admitted after 7.15 p.m. to series of short lectures and discussions. |
| <b>1966</b>    |   |
| January 29th   | LES EXTRATERRESTRES by Gavin Gibbons, M.A.  |
| February 26th  | THE NIGHT SKY, STARS AND SAUCERS by Norman T. Oliver.   |
| March 26th     | THE PROBLEMS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF EDITING THE REVIEW by Charles Bowen.   |
| April 30th     | CURRENT TRENDS IN UFO RESEARCH by John Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.  |
| May 21st       | SAUCERS IN ANTIQUITY by John Michell, B.A.  |
- Kensington Central Library, Camden Hill Road entrance, London, W.8 (High Street Kensington Underground Station). For full details of BUFORA and its journal, send a S.A.E. to the Publicity Officer, Mr. L. E. Beer, Flat 15, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.



# A significant report from France

By Charles Bowen

THE first report of a startling incident in France came from a colleague of mine, a young lady who hails from that country. She is Mlle. Huguette Perini, and up till July 6th of this year I had always regarded her as one who set no great store by the flying saucers. So when, with some display of excitement, she poured out a bizarre account of a landing which she had heard over the preceding week-end on the French Radio, my immediate reaction was that this must have been an extraordinary incident to have made such an impression on her.

I gathered that an "engin" had landed somewhere in France, an "engin" with legs like a spider, and a crew looking no bigger than boys of eight. And when a farmer discovered this strange machine, the crew took fright, got into their machine and flew it away, straight upwards at a phenomenal speed. Then, with her tale almost told, Mlle. Perini looked quizzically at me and added darkly that the authorities had said it was a helicopter from the army which was on manoeuvres nearby.

This all-too-familiar tailpiece did not surprise me: the incredible countered by the conventional. It seemed, on reflection, that the French are not lagging behind their American counterparts. They too possess helicopters with unconventional undercarriages which are capable of ascents at unbelievable speeds. Furthermore, they also contrive to man these craft with midgets or dwarfs. Which is surprising, for, as Gordon Creighton recently pointed out, the problems of recruiting sufficient numbers of dwarfs or midgets must be immense. Perhaps a morsel of comfort can be derived from the thought that our dear old-fashioned R.A.F. have a different policy. At least that is how it seemed when I watched one of their sea-rescue helicopters hovering off a south coast beach recently, for the normal-sized crew members sat dangling their long legs over the side as they waved to spectators down below. Or perhaps the R.A.F., which serves this Welfare State of ours with its Health Service, National Dried Milk and bigger, bonnier babies, has given up the unequal struggle of searching for tiny recruits!

## Newspaper reports

It was not long before reports came rolling in. In England the *Sunday Post* of July 4 had reported the incident, which had occurred at Valensole in the Basses-Alpes. Next, M. Claude Devismes sent me a cutting from the *Sud Ouest Dimanche* of Bordeaux (July 4), and M. Aimé Michel responded to my request with comment and an item from *Le Dauphine Libéré* (also July 4), and the promise of further details in August after an inquiry has been made. I also received an account from *Le Petit Dauphinois* of July 5, lent to Gordon Creighton for translation by Rev. Norman Crutwell. This account, sent from Digne by the newspaper's special representative Victor Nathan, runs as follows:

"The village of Valensole, located in the Basses-Alpes in the middle of an immense plateau of lavender, is in uproar . . . One of those mysterious objects that the Americans call UFOs is said to have landed on the plateau during the morning of the day before yesterday (Thursday, July 1).

"The rumour has spread like a powder-train, and already hundreds of people have been to see the spot where the landing is said to have taken place, manfully trampling flat the fields of lavender.

"How did this rumour spread, and what credence can one give to it?

"Going back to the beginning of it all, there is a resident of Valensole, a farmer, M. Maurice Masse, aged 41, married, with two grown-up children. He is a solid type, a serious fellow who is not generally given to talking nonsense.

"Last Thursday morning, then, he set out from his home in the Place du Marche at Valensole to go out to his property. It was about 5 a.m., and M. Masse wanted to take advantage of the freshness of the morning. He went to the Olivol area, a place about two kilometres to the north-west of Valensole and near the Oraison road. Arrived there, he set to work with his lavender plants. At about 5.45, he stopped for a moment to smoke a cigarette in the shade of a small hillock. He had been there for little more than a few minutes when he heard a strange sound, or rather a whistling, which puzzled him considerably. He thought the noise was due perhaps to some helicopter or other and that manoeuvres must be going on in the district. The first thought that came to him was: 'Well, he *might* have found some other place to land than in my lavender.' He walked round the hillock behind which he had been sheltering, and it was then that he beheld an absolutely astonishing, unexpected and somewhat terrifying sight.

## Like a Monstrous Spider

"M. Maurice Masse himself gave us an account of this strange spectacle, and not without some reticence on his part, it must be admitted, for he is obviously afraid of

creating difficulties for himself.

"This is the story he had to confirm before Commander Oliva, Chief of the Gendarmerie at Valensole. 'At a distance of about 30 metres from me, I saw a strange machine the shape of which vaguely recalled a rugby ball. Its size was approximately that of a Dauphine car, and it was of a dull colour. It was standing on four sort of metallic legs and a central support. It looked like a monstrous great spider. On the ground, there was a human being of the height and build of a child of about eight. He was wearing a one-piece suit, but no helmet, and his hands were bare. Inside the machine I could see another being. Suddenly the one who was down on the ground turned round and saw me, and he immediately jumped into the machine. A sliding door closed behind him, and the craft took off at a staggering speed, giving off no smoke or dust, and in a fraction of a second it was all over and the thing was out of sight.

"I didn't believe my eyes. But I can assure you, I wasn't dreaming, and I don't ever have visions. I give you my solemn word that this sight that I witnessed did in fact take place before my eyes."

#### Ground Hardened Like Cement

"In the company of the Valensole gendarmes, we went to the scene of the landing. There is no doubt whatever that something has happened there. At the place where the central support was, you can now see in the ground a hole 20 centimetres in diameter and about 50 centimetres deep. And radiating out from there are marks in the shape of an 'X', which would seem to confirm the description of the machine's four legs.

"But the strangest thing of all is that, all around the hole, the earth is as though petrified, hard as cement, whereas elsewhere it disintegrates and crumbles in your hand.

"'But immediately after the machine had gone,' says M. Masse, 'the ground there had the consistency of an almost liquid mud. And this is all the more strange, considering the fact that it has not rained here for a long time past.'"

#### Military appraisal

According to the account in *Le Dauphine Libéré*, the military authorities state that there have been large-scale manoeuvres in the district under the code name "Provence 65", and that the object seen by M. Masse was probably a helicopter of the light aviation command of the Army. It is suggested that the type could have been an "Alouette 2" or "Alouette 3".

Aimé Michel comments: "The police who made the first investigation state categorically that the shape of the marks [on the ground] show that they were made by no known type of machine, which is contrary to the explanation of the military authorities **who had not examined the marks.**"

#### Little men

This account from Valensole is truly significant for two reasons.

The first of these is the little "man" reported to have been seen outside his craft *without* a helmet. Three questions spring to mind. Firstly, could he be one of the entities actually visiting this planet? If so it would mean that they have overcome the difficulties of breathing in our atmosphere. Secondly, is he a product of breeding experiments by visiting entities? This brings to mind the story

of A. Villas Boas—"Adhemar"—and the so-called incident of interplanetary procreation described by Gordon Creighton in *The Most Amazing Case of All* in the January/February and March/April 1965 issues of the REVIEW. Thirdly, could he possibly be a "native" of Earth—and here I speculate wildly—from another time/space continuum?

#### Mystery craters

The second reason for the significance of M. Masse's story is that if it is true, then he witnessed an operation of the kind which could have caused the strange hole and marks in the middle of farmer Blanchard's field at Charlton, Wiltshire, in July 1963.

The late Waveney Girvan's account of the events at Charlton appeared in the September/October 1963 issue of the REVIEW—now out of print—where it was told how, after days of fruitless digging by the bomb disposal squad, and after the wide publicity given to "Dr." Randall's rather too fantastic flying saucer story, astronomer Patrick Moore told the world that it was all due to a meteorite. The culprit, weighing half a pound, which was displayed by Mr. Moore, was later demonstrated by the British Museum to be nothing more or less than a piece of ironstone such as is found liberally distributed in the subsoil of that part of the country.

An article by our geologist reader Alan W. Sharp appeared in a News Letter published recently by the Merseyside UFO Research Group in which he presented geological and artificial reasons for all the many types of crater discovered in recent years. Now I readily accept the fact that many of the "holes" for which fanciful explanations have been advanced can be explained quite easily as being the results of normal geological processes. The recent Berkshire "craters" (see the March/April 1965 number of the REVIEW) are good examples of this. However, I am not in agreement with Mr. Sharp on the matter of the Charlton crater, for he assumes that it is a swallow hole, or solution cavity, and that it "... exhibited a symmetrical pattern of surface indentations which accords well with drainage into a central cavity."

Now the thing that puzzled Waveney Girvan and myself on that occasion, even more than the central hole and perimeter indentations, was the complete disappearance of plants, both barley and potatoes, inside the approximately circular area bordered by the indentations. Indeed, no trace of them was found, even when public money was spent sinking a shaft in the search for a metallic object which gave "wild" readings on a detector. The preliminary military report indicated that

there were no burn or scorch marks, and that there was no trace of an explosion, yet the words of Farmer Blanchard, as recorded by Waveney Girvan, were: "There isn't a trace of the potatoes and barley which were growing where the crater is now. No stalks, no leaves, no roots. The thing was heavy enough to crush rocks to powder, yet it came down gently. We heard no crash, and

whatever power it uses produces no heat or noise . . ." (taken from the *Daily Sketch* of July 17, 1963).

A swallow hole of supernatural power? Or does the observed event at Valensole on July 1, 1965, give a clue to the nature of an unobserved incident which may have caused the crater at Charlton, Wiltshire, in mid-July, 1963?

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## Welcome

**T**HE EDITOR takes this opportunity to welcome all those new readers who have joined the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW subscription list as a result of either the splendid efforts made by many of our valued "old members", or the B.B.C.'s Light Programme radio broadcast in June, when Gordon Creighton answered listeners' questions. We know that they will derive much pleasure from reading the REVIEW, dedicated as it is to presenting and examining news and comment on all aspects of this perplexing, yet fascinating subject. We know too that many of you will be surprised to learn that there are so many strange yet reliably reported things happening in this world which governments, for reasons best known to themselves, wish to "soft pedal", or even suppress: things which many of Britain's National newspapers prefer to ignore.

Our new readers will gather that this is a vitally important subject, that we treat it seriously, and that it demands detailed scientific study. It is high time that more and more folk joined the ranks of our subscribers to keep abreast with the rapid developments in the UFO field, and to read absorbing articles by our band of contributors which includes many eminent and well-qualified writers on the subject.

So now, new readers (and old readers who have not

already done so), please tell your friends about the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and see to it that they too join our mailing list. It doesn't matter where they live: the REVIEW already goes to readers in many European countries (and under the Iron Curtain too), to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Malaysia, to the United States of America, South Africa, and to several countries in Central and South America. In all these places there is great scope for recruitment, and we are sure that new readers will find that price-wise the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW compares very favourably with other publications.

**Don't forget our promotion bonus scheme. Everybody is eligible to join. All readers, who by April 30, 1966, have introduced five new subscribers, will be entitled to one year's free subscription.**

Members who wish to participate in this scheme must send in the application and remittance for the new subscriber, and remind us to mark their index card accordingly.

We propose to reward those of you who manage to introduce, say, three or four new subscribers by the time the offer closes, so keep up the good work. The REVIEW is worth it, and we really do need many new subscribers so that we can maintain our price at its present level.

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## Late Extra

### A WARMINSTER PHOTOGRAPH

On Friday, September 10, the *Daily Mirror* published a photograph which a Mr. Gordon Faulkner claims to have taken of an unknown object which he saw in the sky over Warminster (an object in the class which the Press has seen fit to christen "Things").

Our thanks are due to the *Mirror* for sending us a full print of the photograph, and this we propose to reproduce in our November/December issue.



# UFO activity along the North-East coast of Australia

By Judith Magee

IT really is a shame that airline authorities, having discovered a way to make Trans-Australian Airways Viscount aircraft fly silently, have kept the news of this great step forward strictly to themselves. No doubt people all over the world who live in the vicinity of airports will breathe sighs of relief when they hear of this welcome advance in aeronautics, and will look forward hopefully to the day when the big pure-jet aircraft can also be silenced.

If, however, I am mistaken in my conclusions, and the shrill whine of the Viscount's turbo-prop engines is as noisy as ever, then the only alternative we in Australia can envisage is that the people who run the airlines must all be stone deaf. These are thoughts that occurred to me when I read in the June 3rd edition of the *Post* of Cairns, Queensland, that a passing T.A.A. Viscount had been offered as the explanation for a strange sighting in the Kuranda area of Northern Queensland on June 2nd.

## Spherical object seen to land

It seems that a Mr. D. Armstrong, who owns property on the Cairns road, two miles out of Kuranda, saw a strange spherical object with flashing lights land silently on a hillside located on the farm of his neighbour, Mr. R. G. F. Watson. Mr. Armstrong, whose attention to the phenomenon was first drawn by his two teenage sons at 8.00 p.m., is a former airman. He was quoted as having said that it was a weird experience, and that although he was not claiming that it was a thing from outer space, he would definitely recognize an aircraft if he saw one. When interviewed, Mr. Watson said: "Mr. Armstrong is a level-headed person, so I went out with a torch to have a look around the ground." His search was unavailing, and it was decided to conduct a daylight search next morning. The farmer said that a station wagon had been parked close to the hill, and light from the vehicle might have caused a reflection.

At the tail-end of the item a weather office spokesman was quoted as saying that no weather balloons had been released at the time of the sighting, though three had been released earlier in the day. The spokesman concluded that the sighting must have been the lights of a T.A.A. Viscount

which cut back from the sea, passing over the stretch of hill at Kuranda before landing at the north end of the runway. "There was particularly good visibility at the time, and refractions of light from the atmosphere could have created the strange illusion . . ." he added.

## Same object mistaken for the Moon

Although there was a report in the next edition of the *Cairns Post* that Mr. Armstrong had said that a further search of the supposed "landing" area had revealed nothing untoward, the matter did not end there. The same edition also carried a story reported by two ladies, Mrs. L. Wood, and her daughter Mrs. B. Modric, of Front Street, Mossman. They had 'phoned the Mossman police to tell of an unusual object which they had seen 'sitting on the edge of a mountain' north-west of Mossman at about 7.50 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2nd. Said Mrs. Modric: "My mother and I were driving along the road when quite unintentionally I looked across and saw what I first thought was the moon, sitting on the edge of the mountain. When I took a closer look, however, I saw it was not the moon. It was too light in colour, and other lights seemed to be flashing." The estimated distance of the object was about five or six miles away, and it disappeared after the women had travelled a further 200 yards.

When speaking to a newspaper reporter, Mrs. Modric said she had no idea what the thing could have been, but she was sure it was not a Viscount aircraft. She had hesitated to ring the police, and finally did so only to hear if there had been any other reports of the object. Apparently nobody else in Mossman had seen it.

## Another Moon description

There followed another report in the *Post* of June 5th. It seems that a Mrs. S. Mangano, of Cook Highway, Trinity Beach, had telephoned the newspaper office after reading the two earlier news items, and told how she had also seen the object between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2nd. The account continued:

"I was just putting the milk bottles out when I saw a white object over Black Mountain. At the time I thought it was the moon, even though it had disappeared by the time I got back to the house.



Map of Queensland

Actually I took no notice of what I had seen until I read other reports in the paper and realized it was not time for a full moon.

"Mrs. Mangano described the object as 'a real white, funny-looking thing.' There were no flashing lights, but it appeared darker on the outer edge than in the centre, which was almost white. It had been visible for less than a minute."

So the object was disc-shaped, luminous and silent. These descriptions can hardly be applied to an aircraft.

#### Further sensational sightings

This incident from the Cairns district of Northern Queensland followed soon after a number of sightings in other parts of the State. There was for instance, one near Mackay, on May 24 when Mr. Jim Tilse, commercial pilot and licensee of the Retreat Hotel, Eton Ridge, and two other men, told how a flying saucer type of machine "buzzed" the hotel, and remained nearby for 40 minutes. It appeared to be about 30 feet across, and had a bank of floodlights in front of it. It had a large black disc on top, and three legs protruding from the base. Strange scorch marks were found both on the ground and on nearby trees. An investigation is being conducted. Then, in the *Brisbane Courier Mail* of June 7, we learn that Mr. Basil Palassis, who was surf fishing on a northern New South Wales beach at

4.15 a.m. on June 6, saw a circular object dive through the clouds and disappear behind the coast ranges near Murwillumbah. Mr. Palassis, who runs a sports shop in Upper Mount Gravatt, said: "I noticed a glow behind the clouds, and suddenly the object dropped beneath cloud cover. It lit up the outlines of the clouds as it came through. Then it seemed to level out and swing off to the southwest. When it came to the coast range it rose to clear it and disappeared. From the way it moved I would say it had to be under control. . . . It was fairly big, but the whole thing was over so quickly, I don't have any idea just how big."

The *Brisbane Telegraph* of June 7 carried an account of yet another mystery object, seen at Kallangur by a Mrs. J. Masters. This device, which was round and bright orange in colour, was seen at about 7.30 p.m. on Friday June 4, resting on the old Gympie road. It appeared to be stationary, but by the time Mrs. Masters had called her husband it had disappeared.

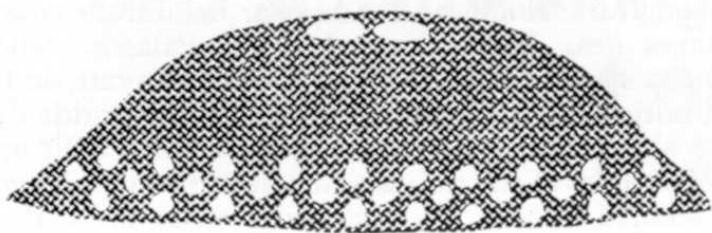
#### Easy infiltration

It doesn't take much of a study of this batch of reports to convince me that we may well be in for a deluge of beings travelling without passports. What a wonderful way to "drop" someone: my husband and I have been along that part of the New South Wales/Queensland coast, and believe me, an entity or entities could quite easily be put out of a machine and quickly become "one of us". We have many nationalities here now—some speak reasonable English, but with an accent. We do not often query an accent now if we are unable to place it—once upon a time we did, but there are too many accents now for a new one to cause even the raising of an eyebrow. No great problems would be posed for one of our "visitors" should he want to mingle with the mass in present-day Australia.

## The James Tilse report

OUR Australian article had already gone to press when we received further details of the Retreat Hotel incident from Mrs. Magee. Among them were a report signed by James William Tilse, and some rough sketches on which our artist's impressions are based. The accompanying drawing shows the object as seen at rest on (or near) the ground: our cover illustration depicts the object as seen on departure.

We note that Mr. Tilse, who is a Justice of the Peace as well as a hotel proprietor, was also a senior pilot (Licence No. 225) with T.A.A. (four years) and Queensland Airlines (two years). His co-witnesses were Mr. Judin, a guest at the hotel, and



Our artists impression based on a rough sketch

### The James Tilse report (continued)

a truck driver, Mr. Burgess.

It was Mr. Burgess who first saw the object when he went outside to move a vehicle just after midnight on the night of May 23–24. Mr. Judin was immediately called out, and shortly afterwards, Mr. Tilse followed. They could see what was described as a “well-defined machine, solid and metallic.” When questioned later, the three men gave varying estimates of the size of the object. Mr. Tilse estimated the diameter at about 30 feet, Mr. Judin was of the opinion that it was 20 feet, while Mr. Burgess was satisfied with a mere 6 feet. Otherwise their testimony did not differ greatly.

According to Mr. Tilse, the sky was practically cloudless, and the Moon was about 30° above the

horizon and some 20° to the left of the object. The Temperature was estimated at 80°F.

The machine, which had prominent banks of floodlights, was silent both whilst stationary, and whilst engaged in movements towards and away from the witnesses. After some 40 minutes, it departed swiftly until it appeared only as a small point of light. Messrs. Burgess and Judin claimed that as it moved off they heard a gentle buzzing, but at that moment they were closer to the machine than Mr. Tilse. At the instant of departure a bright light appeared on each of the three “legs” of the device. No electro-magnetic effects were observed: the hotel’s power is generated by a diesel unit and the lights were unaffected. No radio sets were working, and no car engines were running. The undersides of trees nearby were illuminated whilst the object was on or near the ground, and a circular ring impression was found two days later. The internal diameter of the ring was 20 feet, and it formed a perfect circle. The width of the ring itself was 3 feet 2 inches.

Mr. Tilse states that previous UFO reports had left him with the belief that some people had imaginations that were far too vivid, and he adds, drily, that the same is now thought of himself.

We understand that photographs were taken on high-speed Kodachrome, but that they have not yet been processed.

## APOLOGY

We are sorry to announce that we have not received the article in which Professor Avez was to examine Dr. Menzel’s statistical discourse in Part II of *Orthoteny—A Lost Cause* (see July/August issue of the REVIEW).

Our agent in France tells us that a rough draft had been prepared, and that this had been seen by a number of people including, we understand, Aimé Michel.

Should the promised article come to hand, it will be published at the earliest opportunity. Meanwhile, we can only apologise to our readers, and especially to Dr. Menzel, for having failed to produce what had promised to be an excellent contribution to the great debate.



# How to select significant UFO reports

By Jacques Vallee

**Author of Anatomy of a Phenomenon and one of our regular contributors, Jacques Vallée who was born and educated in France, now lives in the United States. He holds degrees in mathematics and astronomy, has done research work on artificial satellites, microwave and radar technology, and computing science, and is a consultant on the NASA "Mars Map" project.**

## "Good" and "Bad" UFO reports

ALL writers on the subject of the UFO Phenomenon agree on one point: many reports refer to misinterpreted conventional objects. Others are the result of hallucination. Others, of hoax and prank. But exactly how many reports are significant? How do you go about finding them? How do you set criteria that will allow you to differentiate between a report which is representative of the problem under study and one which is not? Clearly, such criteria should be available before the data are used in order to test hypotheses.

Yet very little information is found in the literature on exactly how to select your sample. It seems that every UFO student uses his own judgment to make the choice: there is no standard scale by which to weigh UFO information; the definition of the line between "good" and "bad" reports is left to the person who studies the report. Thus, it is not surprising that many cases held very highly by certain writers are completely disregarded by others. Most UFO studies thus generate confusion instead of clarification.

### The statistics

From the down-to-earth figures published by the local "UFO hobby club" to the most sophisticated, expensive surveys, statistics on UFOs are insufficient or biased. They do not describe selection effects, sources of information are not revealed and no reliability scale is given. The celebrated Project Bluebook Report (known as "Report 14") which sums up the U.S. Air Force investigations prior to 1952 is an extreme case: it considers all reports without rejecting even the most obvious misinterpretations. This view is tenable if one decides from the start that all reports *must* refer to conventional objects. But the claim that a novel phenomenon (if indeed some unknown cause is responsible for a certain percentage of the reports) can be extracted from the conventional effects through such an analysis is, in the view of this writer, untenable. We believe the scientific way to process these data is to divide the problem into two parts.

## Rejecting obvious errors

In the first part of our study, we consider *all the reports* generated by the public, from *all available sources* (rumour, newspapers, UFO publications, official files) and we study them one at a time, trying to explain them in terms of conventional objects. If we succeed, good. We file away the case for later statistical study, since it is of (minor) interest to keep track of exactly how many meteors, clouds or refuelling operations are mistaken as flying saucers. If we find absolutely no explanation for the case, we do not simply brand it "unidentified" and file it away with the others, because there we have an element *in the nucleus* of the phenomenon we are precisely trying to study, when others, being identified, have already lost their appeal to us.

But what about intermediate cases, when a conventional interpretation, although possible under extreme conditions, does not represent satisfactorily all the observed details? Such reports, as we well know, are numerous. If the UFO phenomenon is unconventional in nature, a certain percentage of these average cases is "signal", not "noise". But how can we extract it? How can we find its meaning and decipher the message it contains? This is our second problem.

### Analysis of the residue

When all identified cases have been thrown out we are left with only 10 per cent to maybe 40 per cent of our original sample, depending on the period, the country, the source we consider. This collection of remaining cases *must contain the UFO Phenomenon if it exists as an unconventional, objective agent in the generation of reports*. Then, by studying the properties of this sample, and by watching its reaction to certain bad treatments we might inflict upon it, like a chemist trying to determine the nature of a certain compound, we should be able to determine if it behaves like a collection of reports of mistaken conventional objects, or if it reacts in a completely unexpected way, thus demonstrating that indeed a novel phenomenon of unprecedented character has been

found. The same study will yield as a by-product the properties which characterize this new phenomenon, thus suggesting a body of meaningful hypotheses.

For this residue to be useful the "concentration" in non-significant cases must be low. We believe that efficient screening of such cases (that may have resisted our attempts at identification made in the first part of the study, possibly because of conflicting data or insufficient information) is effected by the coding procedure that we have used since 1961 in various digital computer applications. This we call "*Behavioral Classification System*" because it is based primarily on the reported behaviour of the flying objects described rather than on such details as the shape, speed, altitude, colour, which are more likely to be forgotten or distorted. (2, 3). If such a system is used, there is no ambiguity on what we call the UFO phenomenon: it is the set of reports that have been selected by the procedure we have just described. Its main appeal to the scientific mind is that the choice no longer depends on intuitive, subjective, personal ideas about which is a "good" or a "bad" report, but on a set of criteria that can be explicitly defined and, therefore, are liable to mechanization.

#### **An automated decision procedure**

To the individual researcher or student of UFOs, it is of interest to have a set of simple tests ready for use when a report comes in, to weigh its degree of significance. Certainly, if UFO groups and specialized magazines used such a system, we would not see so many exploding meteors described at length (even, sometimes, in the pages of this very REVIEW) as "mystery spacecraft with satellites", and we would not be similarly bothered with far-reaching pseudo-scientific hypotheses entirely based on a couple of obvious mistakes which should have been caught at a very early stage.

The result would be, I think, a definite gain in clarity in the serious study of UFOs and a more lasting attention on the part of many professional scientists, who are perfectly willing to believe that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe, but are discouraged from a study of UFO phenomena when they read in specialized magazines report after report of obvious atmospheric or man-made objects grossly mistaken as "spacecraft from other planets"! These serious readers will, with some reason, consider that their intelligence is insulted by such magazines. The number of artificial satellites that are mistaken every night and find a place in UFO reviews under the headline "mystery light" (when identification is such a straightforward operation) is certainly distressing.

But there is a third reason for introducing such a system of selection. It concerns the official

centres where UFO reports are processed in great number, such as the U.S. Air Force Foreign Technology Division in Dayton Ohio. There, a dozen or more reports arrive every week, most of them worthless in times of low UFO activity. They come from Air Force bases all over the world and describe at length the sightings. Transmission of such long messages is expensive; if the report is insignificant, the sending of a three- or four-page description of the report is merely a waste of money. Such a system as we describe here would eliminate these high processing costs: a series of about thirty tests, which can generally be answered by "yes" or "no", suffice to separate the reports which deserve further study from obvious mistakes. If such a system was used, manpower as well as transmission time would be saved. Investigators could spend all their time studying the significant cases, too often neglected or investigated too late because of delays in processing of the report. And production of up-to-date statistical analyses would not be an expensive operation, but a matter of routine.

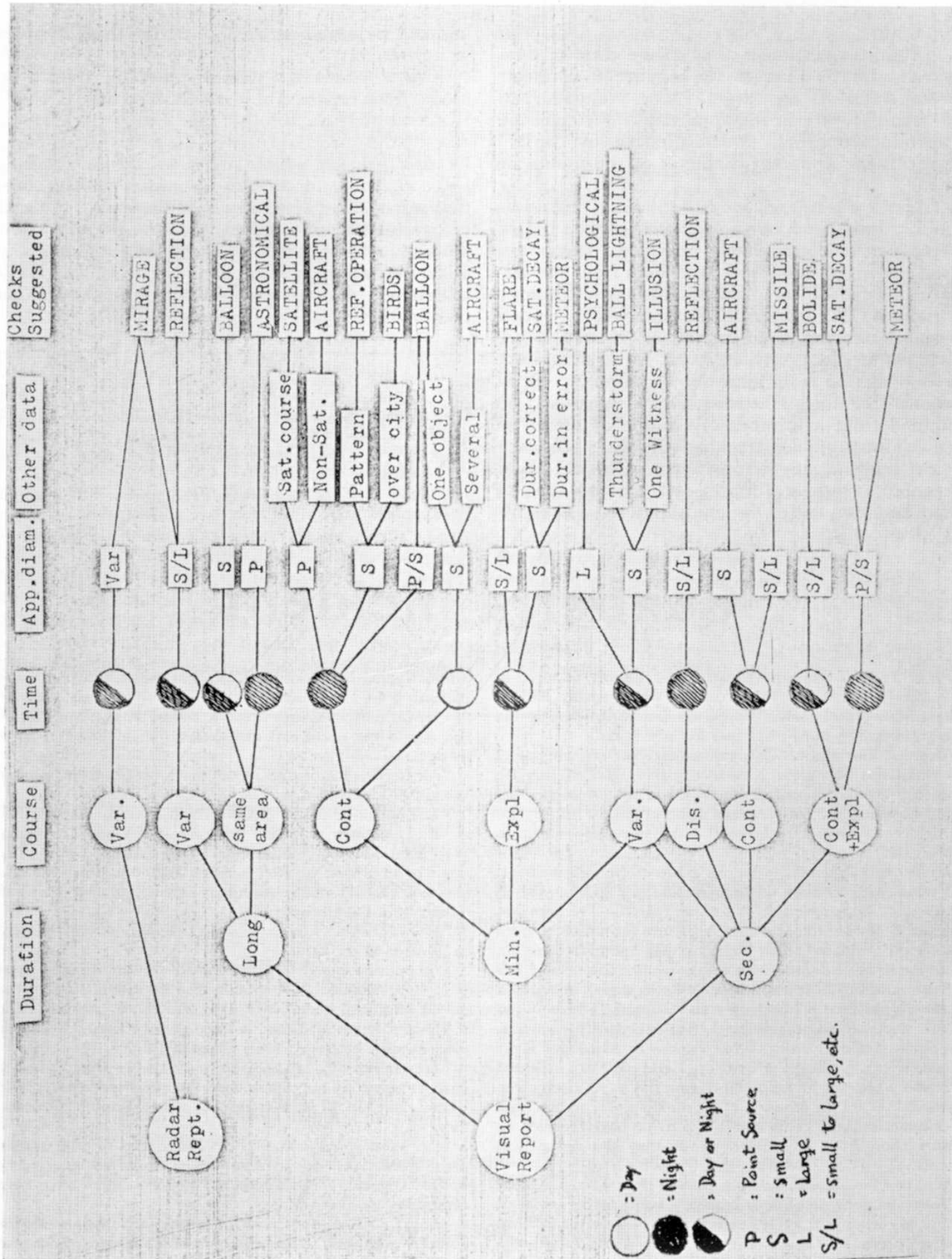
In time of crisis, when the investigating office is flooded under hundreds of reports, this system would quickly dispose of non-significant cases and present a clear picture of the unrolling of the wave.

#### **A series of simple tests**

On page 17 is a diagram which presumes the logical questions that must be asked when analyzing a UFO report. The suggested hypothesis is *not an explanation of the report*; it is only the indication of a conventional effect which is often found mistaken in reports of a given type, and should, therefore, be tested. For example, if an unusual formation of lights is seen flying above a city, at night, the objects having a small apparent diameter and a continuous course, we should make sure that these objects were not simply migrating birds, etc. In other words, we should justify each sighting we keep as representative of the UFO Phenomenon by stating why it *could not* refer to some conventional object. Our diagram is a guide for the identification of obvious mistakes which have no place in a catalogue of UFO sightings.

The first question asked is that of duration. It is the most critical of all. An object which is seen for a fraction of a second cannot be reliably described by the human eye, no matter the training or experience of the witness. We will classify the sightings in three categories: very short, where duration is expressed in seconds; short, when it is expressed in minutes; and long.

Next consider the course of the object: it can be continuous, variable, discontinuous, or the object may have been seen exploding: to all these cases will correspond different possible inter-





pretations.

The third question is that of the time of day, and the fourth that of the apparent diameter (S for small, L for large, P for point-source). By "small" we mean the apparent diameter of the head of a match held at arm's length, by "large" we mean the apparent diameter of the moon, or greater.

Under "other data" we have listed a few additional questions which should be answered before the case can be completely classified. In certain cases, the investigator will need help from specialists in the field of artificial satellites, meteorology or radar. UFO groups, if they do not have such specialists among their members, should either try to contact local civilian scientists, or should ask for information from local observatories or official stations. Satellites schedules, for example, can be obtained from a number of reliable amateurs as well as from official tracking-stations. Meteorological information—temperature inversion, wind directions at various altitudes, etc.—which is such an important element in the analysis of a UFO sight-

ing, can be obtained by phone from local airports or newspapers.

Such a system of systematic checking should be used *before* a reported object is labelled as a "UFO". It is true that no absolute rule can be used in all cases; the procedure we describe here *leaves the final estimate of the report to the investigator's judgment*, but it forces him to consider possibilities that might otherwise have been neglected, ignored or overlooked. We believe that the use of a standardized system of this type would eliminate many misunderstandings, simplify the work of UFO researchers and generally result in considerable clarification.

#### NOTES

- (1) Sanders, Jacqueline: *Project Bluebook special report: a feminine viewpoint*. The Saucerian Review, Jan. 1956, p. 34.
- (2) Vallée, J. *How to codify and classify UFO sightings*, FSR (Sept./Oct. 1963)
- (3) Vallée, J. *The analysis of UFO activity: a scientific approach to be published*.

## Canberra incident

THE Federal Capital of Australia, Canberra, featured in the UFO news on July 15, a day when nearby Tidbinbilla tracking station was playing an important part in the hook-up between Earth, Mariner IV and Mars.

The first hint of a UFO which we received on this side of the world was in a small item in the *Daily Mail* of July 16. This told how six air control officers saw a mysterious glowing object hovering at 5,000 ft. near Canberra airport on July 15. The object disappeared when a R.A.A.F. aircraft went up to investigate.

At first this appeared to be just a run-of-the-mill incident, but what really aroused our interest was a B.B.C. news item on the *Light Programme* at 5.30 p.m. on July 16. The item was devoted to news of the Mariner IV picture transmissions from the region of Mars, which were just beginning to come in, when the news reader suddenly mentioned the Canberra UFO and added that **while the object was in sight, reception of the signals from Mariner was affected**. The inclusion of this item, which was omitted from subsequent bulletins, was reported to the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* by Mr. Nigel Sagar a former R.A.F. officer, of Croxley, Herts. We are indebted to reader Sagar for his help. No reason has as yet been given by the B.B.C. for the omission of the startling information from later bulletins, both radio and TV, and we have received no confirmation from any other source that the report was correct.

Within a few days there came hotfoot from Mrs. J. Magee in Australia, a batch of news reports relating to the incident. There is certainly a lively interest in UFOs in the "Down Under" press. In *The Australian* of July 16 we read that:

"An unidentified flying object was sighted over Canberra

Airport yesterday morning. And that put it in a position to eavesdrop on Tidbinbilla.

"It was described as a metallic silvery object, hovering in the sky to the north-east at an elevation of between 20 to 30 degrees.

"Air traffic control staff in the main control tower spotted the visitor about 11 a.m.

"The officer-in-charge of Civil Aviation at the airport, Mr. A. B. Lindeman, saw it, too. So did Flight-Lieutenant Weston, the R.A.A.F. Base Operations Officer. But the first was an air-traffic controller, Mr. Tom Lindsey. He was scanning the sky to the north-east looking for a light aircraft due in from Bankstown.

"Mr. Lindeman said there were definitely no civil aircraft in the area at the time."

It should be noted that the control officers thought there must be a "reasonable" explanation, and sure enough, it was only a matter of hours before one was found. An old friend reared her beautiful head, as may be seen from a revealing piece carried by the Australian *Sun* of July 16:

"A mysterious glowing object seen in the sky from Canberra Airport yesterday may have been the reflection of the planet Venus, said Dr. B. E. Westerlund, of Mt. Stromlo Observatory.

"Dr. Westerlund said that in a haze and suitable atmosphere conditions, Venus could have appeared as a white opaque object. The shimmering noticed could have been caused by the haze lifting.

"Mr. T. Miller, another Mt. Stromlo astronomer, said the object was unlikely to be an illusion or a mirage as more than one trained observer had seen it.

"If the glowing spot had been a meteorological balloon it would not have stayed stationary.

" 'Heaven knows, it may even be an object from another planet,' he said."

Points far more worthy of note were gleaned from an undated clipping from the *Sun-Herald*. For example, Mr. Lindsay said the object was like a large yellow luminous balloon, rather like the Moon, but smaller. He said that from the position in which it was seen it was not Venus, and he went on to describe its departure with a snap of his fingers: "After nearly 40 minutes it was gone—just like that. It was like something rolling over with one side dark and one side

light, and then vanishing." He was quite adamant about it.

Mr. Paul Todd of the Meteorological Bureau (based in the control tower) told how the object looked like a steel disc revolving so that it caught the sunlight. Then when it lost the sunlight it would disappear completely. "But," said Mr. Paul, "the queer thing about it is that we were all looking into the sun as well."

Well, for once we have a first-hand account from trained and experienced sky observers, and not only do they know their Venus when they see it, but also, like us, they know that Venus doesn't do a "flip-over and away" when a fighter plane is scrambled.

## ITN Reports

With Warminster and its Phenomenon hot in the news, the Independent Television News Service featured flying saucers in their *ITN Reports* programme of September 1. After a brief visit to the Warminster public meeting, viewers saw the Fogl, Monguzzi and other photographs, and, far more important, the famous Utah and Montana movies. Then followed interviews with Francis Chichester, the Editor of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* and Gordon Creighton. For the opposition there was Astronomer Royal Woolley (of 'bilge' fame). Viewers were also given a brief introduction to orthoteny, supported by maps, including one of the World complete with Great Circle orthotenic lines, based on a map drawn by contributor Peter J. Kelly. All in all, a fair and seriously presented item which was broadcast by all ITA regions. Our thanks to David Nicholas and his team, and especially to reporter Alan Hankinson.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## To Adamski's Friends

IGAP-GB is a national association affiliated to George Adamski's INTERNATIONAL GET ACQUAINTED PROGRAM. Our aims are to study his teachings and to spread his story. Membership invited.

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# 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.

## Australian poser

Sir,—The simple and effective reasoning by Paul Norman of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society, in his article in the March/April number, reminded me how many open-minded people and practical investigators there are interested in our subject in Australia. Have any of them made research into legends of the Aborigines?

In a book review in Volume 7 No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1961) of "The Sky People" by Brinsley le Poer Trench, there are references to these legends, at least one of which is of people who came down from the sky in the distant past.

*The Times* of February 2nd, 1965, carried an article by an Adelaide correspondent entitled "Oil search brings life to Australian Desert", described a crossing of the Simpson Desert of Central Australia. After detailing evidence of Aborigine wanderings the article concludes: "Most curious of all, they saw on the clay pans of the north, long rows of gibbers, the characteristic stones of Australian deserts, which had been laid out in mysterious patterns, certainly long ago, perhaps in pre-historic times."

It would be good to learn from an Australian reader more about gibbers (hard or soft "g"? ) and what they were set up to mark, if that is known? —John M. Lade, Yaldham Manor Farm, Kemsing, Kent.

## Roanoke Radiation

Sir,—In the article "Opposition Flap 1965" (May/June, 1965), there is a report of radioactivity found after the landing at Roanoke, Virginia. Investigators found that when they stood round their Geiger counter, the reading fell, and from this they concluded that the "radiation was of the alpha type, and not of the more dangerous gamma type".

I would like to point out that this conclusion is unlikely to be correct, since alpha particles have a range of only an inch or two in air, and can be completely stopped by something as insubstantial as a piece of paper. Thus, alpha radiation would be unlikely to get as far as the measuring instrument, and would be completely stopped by the walls of the Geiger tube itself, into which any particle must go if it is to be registered by the meter. Note that Sgt. Moody's Geiger counter was named a 'Beta, Gamma Survey Meter', thus indicating the type of radiation it would normally detect.—P. K. Haythornthwaite, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

## The Ark of the Israelites

Sir,—May I comment on Dr. Finch's interesting views on the Ark of the Covenant? (Vol. 11/3, p. 18). He is obviously on the right lines in ascribing some practical properties to this symbolic structure, but after reading his article one might imagine that the Ark was no more than a box of tricks.

Nowhere does he say that it contained the original Commandments of God written on tablets of stone. It was of course faithful adherence to God's word of love and obedience, in heart and mind, which gained victory, even if the Ark did have some "supernatural" power. And whatever evidence is there for saying that Aaron's rod was an insulated stick with a spherical conductor? Surely there is nothing in the Bible to suggest such a thing. In fact it produced almond blossom as a sure sign that God keeps his promises.

Lastly, no one has ever known the full meaning of God's sacred name Yahweh: I AM. But it certainly does

not mean "to destroy" which gives a totally wrong impression.

In spite of the criticisms I agree that Moses may have been in contact with "space beings".—Rev. Eric Inglesby, 11 Haroldsleigh Avenue, Crownhill, Plymouth.

## Soviet Astronauts

Sir,—Gordon Creighton in his article "Astronauts forced down by UFOs?" (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW May-June) omitted two other odd facts which seem to indicate that something strange was seen by the crew of Voskhod 1.

Firstly, the chief designer of Russia's spaceships quoted to Komarov just before the order for re-entry was given—"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." This would be a very odd thing to say in the usual circumstances but it does fit neatly into the theory that something "out of this world" was seen by the cosmonauts.

Secondly, after the cosmonauts' press conference in Moscow, Academician Keldysh was asked: "What is the maximum duration in orbit of Voskhod having regard to the health of the cosmonauts?" His answer is very interesting—"Unlimited. But just as on Earth there are storms and typhoons, so in space comparable manifestations of nature are possible." What did he mean by this? I know of nothing in space that could give effects comparable to "storms and typhoons" and similar "manifestations of nature." However, these effects would be given if the report that Voskhod 1 "was repeatedly overtaken by extremely fast flying discs which struck the craft shattering blows with their magnetic fields" was true.—R. A. Jahn, 9 Hertford Road, Kettering, Northants.



## Contacts

Sir,—Many thanks for the excellent copy of the REVIEW received yesterday. Reading through this my wife and I agree it is the most interesting copy we have received to date.

There are three points I would like to raise concerning this issue.

1. Jerome Clark in his article on p. 22 refers to the "inspirational value" of contacts of the "evangelical type", but goes on to prefer the "ominous tone" of Padrick's meeting. I do not query anything in this article, only the apparent trend to prefer the more ominous, frightening contacts. Why should "evangelical" contacts be more suspect? Surely by their very nature one's reaction to them must be subjective rather than objective? Personally I feel both types of contact occur, and are equally valid. But how many people prefer help and advice, to fear of the unknown?

2. Referring to the land flare problem I would like to mention an illustration in Bryant Reeve's "Flying Saucer Pilgrimage". In a cross-section of a saucer by Van Tassel the power source (I think, as have not copy to hand) which is emphasised, is identical to the spindle on the cover of the Sept/Oct. 1964 REVIEW. Now although lens flare obviously accounts for numerous cases, this seems to back up the actual sightings of this shape. Since UFOs often seem able to dematerialise is it not possible that in these cases they are being seen part way through the process?

3. Lastly, I wrote to the *Observer* to defend the REVIEW (see Stop Press) after I read the article "Is Somebody Calling". No correspondence appeared (surprisingly I thought) on the subject, and I wondered how many others had unpublished letters?—David W. Hicks, Bridge House, Longhope, Glos.

## On Dr. Menzel

Sir,—During Dr. Menzel's visit to Argentina in May, 1964, he made some declarations about UFOs which appeared in the newspaper, *La Prensa*, and he also made some statements in a lecture in the School of Law. Among other things he said:

"In 1952 I was called by the Air Force of my country (U.S.A.) to study different elements and information given by pilots about strange flying objects that up to that date were known as flying saucers."

Undoubtedly at that time he was called for the Project Blue Book so that he might explain with his theories the UFOs which were considered unexplainable; all the secret files of the mentioned force were put at his disposal, but contrary to what he seemed to insinuate *he did not accept the appointment*; what better opportunity would be offered to him to prove the value of his theory?

In another part of his lecture Dr. Menzel said that the persons who say they have seen flying saucers are "subjects with psychotic antecedents" and that he "did not doubt the hunger for publicity some of those persons had". Not taking into account the superficiality of said statement, it would be convenient to ask whether he thinks that among those psychotics he counts the world-wide-known astronomers who have seen them: Clyde Tombaugh, co-discoverer of Pluto, F. W. Potter, F. Dewwing and Small, members of the Norwich Astronomical Society; Dr. Harold Percy Wilkins, director British Society of Astronomy; C. Duncan Fletcher, Vice-President of the Astronomy Association of Kenya, Lincoln La Paz, Director of the Institute of Meteorites of New Mexico, etc.

While mentioning another happening, namely the presence of several UFOs over the city of Washington, D.C., on the early morning of July 20th, 1952, a presence that lasted five hours, Dr. Menzel said: "After a night of panic, it was proved that the register in the radars was due to a natural phenomenon, not new at all, which scientists call *temperature inversion*." For that phenomenon to take place an inversion of at least 10°F. is needed to register it in radar screens, according to the statements of the chief radar operator Barnes. That night it was proved that the inversion was only 1°. Anyway these phenomena are perfectly well-known by expert radar operators, who can easily distinguish in their screens if the objects are real or due to alterations caused by the above-mentioned phenomenon.

Dr. Menzel holds to his theory like a shipwrecked man to his life belt and therefore does not hesitate to make statements that are inexact and capricious. This is very serious when done by a scientist.

When a theory, however ingenious, clearly contradicts the facts

as they have been observed, it undoubtedly lacks basis, and this is the case of the theory upheld by Dr. Menzel.—Casimiro A. Schang, Zabala 1762—Buenos Aires (26) Rep. Argentina.

## Alien Entities and Abductions

Sir,—Regarding Mr. G. Creightons' article, "The Most Amazing Case of All" (Part 2) appearing in Vol. 11 (No. 2) of the REVIEW, I would like you to pass on to him my reaction to the final paragraph on page 8 regarding Quislings. All speculation is a little wild until proven correct, or false; but rather than accuse the 5·5 beings of Quisling activities, could we not temporarily assume that they may be the offspring of cross-breedings between UFO people and the large numbers of disappeared persons from earth over the past half-century?

As to the facial characteristics of the beings, one must not lose sight of the farm wife's testimony regarding the Ranton sighting in Gavin Gibbon's book, where she said she looked at the two faces in the Saucer's dome for about two minutes and that the features were all in the lower half of the face. This could point to something different from mere offspring of cross-breeding! (See also descriptions of the little men's faces in the Petare affair, *Platillos Voladores Sobre Venezuela*.)

On page 20 of Volume 11 (No. 2), lines 15–17, Paul Norman says: "A G-field would tend to hold mist vapour, smoke and dust to its surface." Now please read, in the same issue, p. 15 (r.h. column, lines 28–32)—also l.h. column, line 67—and refer back to the Baez-abduction of Rivileno in August 1962 when he was surrounded by a cloud. Does not all this point in the same direction?—Dr. P. M. H. Edwards, 4297 Gordon Head Road, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

## Orthotenic Lines

Sir,—There have been many references in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to the Po di Gnocca (Rovigo)—Southend orthotenic line discovered by Aimé Michel in the late 1950s. In his book "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery" (p.p. 14 and 181) we find that the line originated from five sightings, i.e., Southend, Calia, Aire-sur-la-Lys, Niffer/Kembs and Po di

Gnocca. However, on plotting these positions on a gnomonic chart I have recently drawn, I found Po di Gnocca was some considerable distance from a line which passed through the other four points. The village is, in fact, about 23 miles north of the line at its nearest point.

I have recently corresponded with Aimé Michel, and he has confirmed that the village is not on the line, and mentioned that several Italian readers of his book had already spotted the same mistake.

I therefore suggest the line should be referred to as the Southend-Niffer/Kembs line in the future to avoid any possible confusion.

On page 32 of the July/August 1964 edition of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, P. K. Haythornthwaite has given details for extending this line. It seems to me he has based the line on the geographical positions of Southend and Rovigo, in which case the figures ought to be revised.

May I now point out to Mr. P. J. Kelly and yourself (see p. 7 May/June issue this year) that this line, which extends northwards to Chester and Londonderry, does not cross BAVIC at right angles. Confusion has obviously arisen from Michel's suggested Southend-Barra line, which does appear to cross at a 90° angle. (See also correspondence from P. E. Morris (July/August 1963 issue, p. 18) and Mr. D. C. Jones (Sept./Oct. 1963 issue, p. 24).)

One final comment. One hears so much about orthoteny, but it appears to me that very little progress has been made in this direction, especially in the U.K., since Michel made his discoveries 7 or 8 years ago. I trust that a serious investigation on a large scale is being carried out by a UFO group somewhere in this country.—Barrie Pottage, 43 Kent Road, Luton, Beds.

### Spot near the Moon—1

Sir,—Having read the short item in the May/June World Round-Up

by Dr. Bernard E. Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., F.B.I.S., entitled "Spot near the Moon puzzles F.S.R. personality", I wish to add the following which happened on Wednesday, February 17th, 1965; Time 22.40 to 23.10 hours.

Three of us were waiting for a taxi and during the half hour we noticed the most unusual light on the right hand side of the moon. We could not believe our eyes because this light moved up to the top of the Moon and stayed there for a few minutes, before moving down and then away from the Moon. It then returned close to the Moon (being the 4th position).

The following day, Thursday, February 18th, a report appeared in the *Daily Mail* stating that several people had phoned Jodrell Bank asking what the brilliant light at the side of the Moon was. The reply was that it was the planet Mars.

I phoned the *Daily Mail* and said I did not agree with the statement put out by Jodrell Bank because I have never known Mars move up and down and sideways as it did on that evening . . .

In closing I wish to add that several of my colleagues both in the Regulars and in the Special Constabulary of Manchester City Police have seen many strange celestial objects.

I trust that what I have mentioned may be of use to others in their space research.—Frank Borrowes, S.C. Sgt., 'A' Division, Manchester City Police.

### Spot near the Moon—2

*The following is an extract from a letter from a Liverpool geologist.*

Sir,—In the current (May/June) issue of the *REVIEW*, an item appears under the heading "Spot near Moon puzzles F.S.R. personality". Enclosed please find a cutting from the *Echo* of February 12th . . . You will see the sighting of February 17th predicted.

The object was, in fact, Mars and I, too, observed it with interest!

I must say it is coming to something when an F.B.I.S., the *Guardian* and the Meteorological people at Bracknell all fail to identify the "Red Planet"! Of course, Dr. Finch's diagram is highly misleading.

Both the Moon and Mars were "near" to the star  $\beta$  Virginis and relative to this Mars, in the short observing period, would appear stationary, whereas the Moon would appear to move to the LEFT, not to the right as indicated by Dr. Finch.

Hence the Moon would appear to move to the LEFT also relative to Mars. The arrow only depicts the apparent E-W movement of the night sky caused by the Earth's rotation.—A. W. Sharp, B.Sc., B.Eng., F.R.A.S., F.G.S., 35 Radstock Road, Liverpool 6.

[Point to Mr. Sharp. My apologies to our readers, and to Dr. Bernard Finch, for misinterpreting the diagram which accompanied his letter about the spot near the Moon, and permitting our artist's (my daughter) sketch to appear unchecked. Mr. Sharp was advised accordingly, and Dr. Finch was asked if he would like to comment.—EDITOR.]

### Dr. Finch replies

Sir,—I was very pleased to read of Mr. Sharp's explanation of the "spot" near the moon on 18th February as the planet Mars, and I congratulate him accordingly.

Usually the planet Venus is blamed for this type of sighting (or weather balloons), so at least it is refreshing to have the planet Mars now blamed.

However, the diagram in my letter is misleading. I had already identified Mars as a separate object. So, either there are two planets Mars, Mr. Sharp is right, and the *Guardian* and the meteorologists are wrong, or perhaps Mr. Sharp might have been too hasty in his conclusions.

This is not the first time that a UFO  
(continued on page 23)

## PERSONAL COLUMN

[Rate: first three lines 5/-, extra lines (or part) 5/-each]

PRIVATE OPERATOR needs funds to seek U.F.O. book, film and lecture material in N/S America.—M. R. Rae, Higher Longford, Near Tavistock, Devon.

BUFORA—Anyone willing to investigate local landings or sightings please write to Mr. Stephenson, British U.F.O. Research Association, 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Surrey.

has been identified as a recognized celestial body and it would be interesting to know whether or not Mr. Sharp has ever seen a UFO in the same arc of the sky as a predicted planetary sighting?—Bernard E. Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Ch., F.B.I.S., 851 Finchley Road, London, N.W.11

### One Man's Meat . . .

Sir,—I really don't see why you should take the responsibility for Dr. Finch's shortcomings, or why the "buck" should be passed to your poor daughter, who evidently did her best with somewhat unpromising material.

Perhaps you will appreciate now why I deplore your constant anti-scientific attitude?

After all a modicum of astronomical and geological knowledge would enable you to answer the Mars and Crater matters yourself and is, I feel, almost a necessity for a serious UFO observer. . . .

I feel that you think I am conducting a Menzel-type vendetta. This is emphatically not so. I am genuinely interested in the UFO business, but as an objective, scientific problem, not as a sort of mystical, semi-religious matter.

As for the matter of satellites, I

notice that many reports come from our local "rag" and I think the least you can do is to include identifications from the same source, when they are sent to you.

I also think that we could get a lot more subscribers to the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* if it did not present such an anti-objective appearance. . . .—Alan W. Sharp, 35 Radstock Road, Liverpool 6.

[We had already published letters identifying certain Liverpool and other "sightings", and a table of satellite orbits (see March/April edition of the *REVIEW*). —EDITOR.]

## Dawn of a New Wave or Flap Finale ?

WHAT was the elongated luminous object which on the evening of Saturday, June 19, was reported from all over England as it traversed the country on a line (with a few reservations) from N.N.E. to S.S.W.? A selection of reports will be found in our World Round-Up feature on page 00.

Opinion, as always, was divided. The Ministry of Defence (Air) popped in a speculative suggestion that it was a Russian satellite (possibly Cosmos 68, launched June 15) burning up on re-entry, but the descriptions do not seem to tally with the display usually associated with such an event. The public, not knowing any more than we do what the object was, plumped for the "Flying Train" description: many were not averse to the idea that it was a UFO. Some saucer researchers, less cautious than others, averred that it was one of the familiar cigar-shaped UFOs, but the style of transit is not absolutely in accord with the means of appearance and disappearance usually recorded where this particular species is concerned.

If the so-called "Flying Train" was one of the cigar-shaped objects, then it was not out of place at the time, for several such objects have been witnessed and reported in the last three months.

### Warminster again

The first such instance was the one reported at Warminster. The last (July/August) issue of the *Review* carried the story of this important sighting by the wife and children of the vicar of Heytesbury of a vertical cigar-shaped object on June 3rd. This incident was the startling climax of a week in which a Mr. David Holton had forecast such an apparition after making a careful study of strange noises and vibrations which had been disturbing the neighbourhood for some months.

We now learn from the *Daily Mirror* of July 8th, that Mr. and Mrs. H. Horlock of Cromwell Gardens, Warminster, saw a glow in the southern sky at about 9 p.m. on June 7th. While they watched, the glow sharpened into focus, and the observers saw that it was caused by an object which appeared like two red-hot poker glowing brightly one on top of the other, high up in the sky. This object was observed for more than ten minutes. It was also reported by a Mr. C. Hampton and a Mr. M. Fraser, from other parts of the town.

Whilst the Warminster police carefully refused to believe anything that they themselves had not seen, readers will be glad to learn that the Army's Southern Command say that the incident had nothing to do with them.

### Pietermaritzburg object

Meanwhile, things had been happening in Natal, South Africa. According to the *Natal Daily News* of July 6th (we are grateful to our representative, Philipp Human, for sending us this item):

"The unidentified flying object which baffled veteran pilots over Pietermaritzburg's Oribi aerodrome last night was seen earlier in the Edendale Valley.

"Mrs. J. G. Joubert of Lopham Road said this morning that her servant had pointed it out at 5.45 p.m. 'It was a dead-black oblong hanging motionless in the western sky, silhouetted against the sunset. We watched it for five minutes before it moved down the Edendale Valley, past the Alcan factory, and drifted down out of sight.'

"And this was the locality in which it was first seen by four pilots in a light plane approaching Oribi Aerodrome **three hours later.**

"The alarm was given by Mr. Tony Wills, and thinking the cigar-shaped glow warned of another aircraft's approach, the pilot, Mr. Oliver Tennant, swerved off course. On their second approach they were again deterred by the object which moved off ahead of them in the direction of Richmond. Their third attempt to land was also hampered by the UFO . . . they decided to investigate.

"As the aircraft approached the UFO, Mr. Tennant tried to silhouette it against the moon as it was otherwise impossible to gauge its size or speed. But this was not very successful and the men were only able to gain the impression of a triangular object.

"There were definitely flames,' said Mr. Tennant this morning. 'A sort of orange glow like that of a blow torch.' He said this discounted the possibility it might have been some kind of kite or balloon. Its movements too were unrelated.

"They began to circle the UFO but it suddenly shot up vertically at a high speed. Even climbing after it at the near-



stalling rate of 600 ft. a minute failed to close the gap, and the fliers saw the UFO streak across the sky and disappear over the escarpment at World's View. Watchers on the ground reported that the UFO made no sound."

#### Electromagnetic effects

The next items of interest were the strange occurrences reported in both Portugal and the Azores on July 11. We received reports on these incidents not only from British newspapers, but from places as far afield as Australia and South Africa. We have chosen an account which appeared in the *Cape Times* of July 12:

"Flying saucers" turned up at the four corners of Portugal at the week-end, stopping electromagnetic clocks, and leaving weathermen and other spectators gaping.

"The first mysterious flying object was seen in Motosinhos, near the northern city of Oporto, by Mr. Manuel Fernandes and his wife.

"Mr. Fernandes, an employee of the Fisherman's Union, said: 'The strange object at first sight looked like a flattened balloon but then, as we both watched, it looked like a plate turned over.

"The thing was very luminous, and had orange colouring and was nearly red at times. And at times green rays shot out from a side.

"The saucer stopped at rather high altitude, near the coast, for about three minutes. Then with an incredible velocity, it sped towards the north."

"A similar type of interference stopped the electromagnetic clocks of the Villa do Porto weather bureau in the Portuguese Azores archipelago.—(Sapa-A.P.)."

And from the *Daily Express* also of July 12, we learned that: "Azores, Sunday.—The Azores weather bureau said today that its electromagnetic clocks stopped for 45 minutes after a 'white cylindrical object' was seen in the sky yesterday. It was also seen over Portugal."

#### Heralds of a wave of UFO activity?

This small selection from the reports that had arrived by the end of July show that our old friend the cigar-shaped object is very active, with a few electrical side-effects for good measure.

Now the points where the great cloud cigars were witnessed in France in the autumn of 1954, were shown by Aimé Michel to be 'star centres' from which many of the now famous orthotonic lines irradiated. Anyone who has read Michel's *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* will recall that the appearance of these giant objects heralded great waves of UFO activity over France and neighbouring countries. It was the cigars that propagated the saucers which flew over practically every centimetre of France.

Now this new rash of cigar-shaped objects could mean that we are at the start of a great new UFO wave. On the other hand, it could mean that the 'Opposition' wave of 1965 is receding and that the 'visitors' are departing. Finally, it could mean that the activities have merely switched away from North America where they were so much in evidence from the Spring of 1964 until the Spring of 1965, and that other parts of the world are to receive attention. Currently these would appear to be Australasia, South Africa, Antarctica and South America, with Great Britain and France thrown in for good measure.

## Curiosity overtakes the public at Warminster\*

*a report from Lionel Beer*

A MEETING called by Mr. Emlyn Rees, chairman of Warminster U.D.C. on Friday evening at 7.30 p.m., 27th August, 1965, was attended by 250-300 people from all over the West Country (e.g., Exeter, Southampton, Bristol) and even from London, who crowded into the town hall. Many more had to be turned away. About three dozen pressmen were present and the scene was dominated by an I.T.N. camera crew, complete with portable arc lights. They came to hear a public debate on the mysterious sounds and UFOs, which appear to have centered their manifestations around Warminster and the neighbouring village to the south of Crockerton, during August.

Mr. Rees chaired the meeting and the speakers were Dr. Geoffrey Doel, chairman of BUFORA, who introduced Dr. John Cleary-Baker, editor of BUFORA JOURNAL, and finally, the Reverend Lewis Inge. Dr. Cleary-Baker gave a summary of the UFO enigma and ended his talk by urging the local people to form a "Listening Post". He also suggested that UFOs were alien craft of a higher intelligence than ourselves.

Rev. Inge echoed the remarks of the other speakers by saying that the public had nothing to fear from the UFOs. They must have wondered why so much emphasis was being placed on these repeated "nothing to fear" exhortations. Rev. Inge told us that he has an international observation post within 10 miles of Warminster, which has its H.Q. at Geneva. He is

also chairman of the Salisbury Plain Astronomical Society, and reports all UFO and satellite observations to the appropriate authorities, including the satellite tracking centre at Slough. Many of the things his post sees are classified and may well be connected with military experiments on Salisbury Plain.

The debate revealed that police and military authorities received about 500 calls on August 16th, reporting a silvery object in the sky. A Mrs. Attwell told us how she had been very frightened by a strange sound accompanied by the appearance of a "Brilliant star". She could not understand why it had not also awakened her neighbours.

A local reporter in the Press gallery, said he knew of 49 witnesses to the sounds, which are rumoured to kill animals and birds, and also affect humans. . . .

The usual attempts were made to ridicule witnesses and one black suited young man, claiming to be from one of the Ministries, tried to sell us the story that rising methane, when igniting, created the same image as cigar-shaped UFOs.

The meeting ended inconclusively at 10 p.m. and about the only thing which it usefully achieved, was that people learnt about the existence of BUFORA, and that UFO research was treated seriously.

\*Curiosity aroused, no doubt, by Gordon Creighton's letters, on behalf of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, published in the local Warminster Journal.—EDITOR]

# Book Review

By Gordon Creighton

*Anatomy of a Phenomenon. Unidentified Objects in Space—A Scientific Appraisal.* By Jacques Vallée. Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, 210 pages, with sketches, 2 tables and 5 illustrations, \$4.95.

**D**URING the last fifteen years we must have seen not far short of a hundred books, in various languages, on the UFO problem. And how many of any real value? A dozen at the most.

What we have been waiting for, all this time, was a careful scientific piece of work, by a recognized scientist, something that the critics would not find it easy to shoot down. Well, here it is. Jacques Vallée, who holds degrees in mathematics and astronomy, has done research in the fields of artificial satellites, microwave, radar technology, and computing science. He has been a research assistant at MacDonal Observatory, and is a consultant on NASA's "Mars Map" project. He has been granted access to the general files of the United States Air Force on the UFO Problem. My advice to readers is to buy this book. They will not regret it.

The whole field is covered, carefully, precisely, analytically, and the book is worth buying just for the bibliography alone. Never have we seen a better exposition of the dilemma in which our scientists find themselves, and never have we seen it more clearly demonstrated that these gentlemen are not approaching the UFO problem with their heads at all, but with their *emotions*.

Readers of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* already know Jacques Vallée as an ultra-cautious, scrupulous, conservative investigator. What a surprise is in store for them, then, when they find that in this book he gives detailed accounts of two positively staggering "contact" cases, one of which occurred in 1897 in Kansas, and the other at Kelly-Hopkinsville, Kentucky, in 1955. I will not spoil the book for you by quoting either case here, but I do want to emphasize that the evidence for both cases is quite overwhelming and that the authority for the Kansas case of 1897 comes from no less an authority than—Dr. J. Allen Hynek himself, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University, principal investigator of all UFO landing cases on behalf of the United States Air Force!

I have sometimes wondered whether some of the contact cases that have been published in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* were not a bit too much to swallow.

I shall never feel like that again, for both these cases described by Jacques Vallée are far more fantastic than anything that the *REVIEW* has printed.

Do not fail to get this book, then, if you want to read the most scientific and at the same time the most deeply philosophical discussion of the UFO problem that has yet appeared.

As regards Mr. Vallée's treatment of ourselves, the Editor and I note with much gratification the numerous references to *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* in his bibliography, and his conclusion that, while very few UFO groups have produced any literature that rises above a "generally hideous level, the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* of Great Britain . . . is the only periodical that a student of UFO problems must consult regularly."

On one small point Mr. Vallée chides us for disagreeing with him, and that is on our willingness to publish alleged contacts with the so-called "Venusian" type of "handsome" or "noble" visitors (i.e., such cases as those of Adamski, Siragusa, Guimaraes, etc.). But to this we reply that we do not see (at least not yet) any reason why these should be rejected when midgets and monstrosities are being accepted, and we will go so far as to suggest that Mr. Vallée may have decided upon the number of categories and "Types" *before he had examined all the evidence*. We predict that he will eventually have to make room in his system for a handsome "Venusian" type (we are not saying of course that these have anything to do with Venus)—and for a "giant" type as well. But time will tell.

Finally, we feel constrained to say that we are very unhappy about Mr. Vallée's treatment of our friends in the French group (GEPA) who, he says, have "all too often neglected significant information and turned to pseudoscience and back-yard nuclear physics." We must say that this is not at all the impression that we have gained from the excellent bulletins of our Paris friends, and we feel sure that there must be some element of personal friction involved for Jacques Vallée to have expressed such an opinion.

This is all, we feel, that can conceivably be said on the negative side. Otherwise, we cannot praise this book enough, and since it is impossible to do justice to it in a review, we can only conclude with the advice that you buy it without delay!

# Electro-magnetic effects of UFOs

*By Paul Norman*

**It is felt that this account, taken from a paper read by the author at the Ballarat Astronomical Society's 1965 conference, will be of considerable interest to readers. The immobilising both of A. Villa Boas' (Adhemar's) tractor and the Córdoba motorcyclist's machine (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 11, No. 1), the stopping of gunsmith Burn's car (Vol. 11, No. 3), and Ronald Wildman's experience at Ivinghoe (Vol. 8, No. 2) spring readily to mind. Mr. Norman is publicity officer of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society in Australia.**

HAVING been employed in the electric power field for many years, I find that electro-magnetic effect is one of the most interesting characteristics of UFOs.

During October and November of 1957 waves of unidentified flying objects which appeared in our skies became so spectacular that they made newspaper headlines around the world. The most astounding feature of these sightings was that in case after case their appearance was associated with electro-magnetic phenomena. Within a three-week period we know of at least 35 cases in several countries where cases of interference with radio and television sets, dimmed headlights and stalled motor car engines, power and light failures, were reported.

A typical, and more recent, example of this interference with TV sets occurred near Wonthaggi, Victoria, on September 19, 1963, when at least 60 witnesses observed a mystery object manoeuvring over South Dudley. At first the object hovered in mid-air, then changed position at fantastic speed and silently, and finally, moving slowly out to sea, disappeared in an easterly direction. During the 25 minutes that the object was overhead there were many, and varied, malfunctions of TV sets in the area. Some sets displayed white screens, some grey screens, some two pictures in one, and in many cases the picture was lost altogether. After the UFO disappeared, TV sets resumed normal operation.

To most people this was a lone, isolated phenomenon, easily forgotten. To UFO researchers around the world, however, it was another small piece to be fitted into an increasingly intriguing jigsaw puzzle.

Among many incidents of this nature, a few are quoted here from NICAP's *The UFO Evidence*:— May 1, 1954. Tokyo, Japan: TV pictures distorted as UFO passed overhead.

November 4, 1957. Toronto, Canada: TV interference, with viewers being called out by neighbours to see UFO.

November 5, 1957. Ringwood, Illinois, USA:

UFO passes over a car which was returning to town. TV sets in the town were dimmed, and finally sound and picture lost during the same period.

November 10, 1957. Hammond, Indiana, USA: Loud beeping caused radio interference as police chased UFO. There was a TV blackout in the city, and motorists reported radio failures.

Much of the radio interference has been noticed by law enforcement officers. Police switchboards normally, and logically, are the first to be swamped with calls during concentrations of sightings, since there is no established procedure for citizens to follow when they see a UFO. Indeed there have been numerous cases in which the police, when responding to people's reports, have not only seen the objects themselves, but have experienced radio interference when the objects were in the vicinity. Nor must we forget those important examples of interference such as motor car failures, which are sometimes experienced when UFOs pass near highways. In such cases the UFO is usually very close to the car.

One such example which occurred on November 4, 1957, made headlines in many countries' newspapers. In this case at least ten cars stalled when a UFO made a low pass over the highway. In the U.S. Air Force explanation of this incident we were expected to accept the coincidental conclusions that the object was a mirage, and that the car failures were due to ignition systems that suddenly became wet! No doubt an excellent explanation if the cars had been fording a river.

King of the orthodox scoffers was Dr. Donald Menzel of Harvard University. According to him, the object was a mirage, and the cause of the cars' failures were carburettors flooded by nervous feet. The chain of coincidence necessary to produce such a number of car failures at one time would be even more incredible than the facts, and anyway, the cars re-started immediately after the object sped away at about 2,000 m.p.h. Take your pick: the wet ignition, the nervous feet, or the electro-magnetic explanation. This is only one of dozens



of known cases. I will recall some others:—  
On June, 25, 1957. Baltimore, Maryland, USA: Car radio stopped playing, and street lights went out as a formation of seven white discs with red rims passed over.

August 14, 1957, Near Joinville, Brazil: Airliner cabin lights went out and engine spluttered during UFO sighting.

November 3, 1957. Itapu Fort, Brazil: Electrical system failed, and sentries received minor burns as a UFO approached and hovered.

November 14, 1957. Tamoroa, Illinois, USA: Power failed for ten minutes in a four-mile area, just after a hovering UFO appeared.

November 15, 1957. Cachoeira, Brazil: Several motor car engines failed as drivers attempted to approach the vicinity where a UFO was hovering low above the ground.

November 25, 1957. Mogi Mirim, Brazil: All city lights failed as three UFOs passed overhead.

November 14, 1954. Forli, Italy: Conventional engined tractor and Diesel tractor driving side by side. The conventional tractor with ignition system stalled, whilst the Diesel tractor continued working as UFO passed close overhead.

There are also some cases recorded where house lights pulsed in synchronism with pulsating UFOs, and others where people suffered electric shock, minor burns and irritations as well as headache due to highly charged surrounding area when UFOs were very close.

This electro-magnetic effect also offers a solution to the mystery of small craters associated with landings of the craft such as at Socorro, and other landings in America and England. This could be due to the approach of two bodies with different potential and polarity, and the resulting electrical discharge.

As we know, Einstein's famous Unified Field Theory indicates that electricity, magnetism and gravity are all manifestations of one force. An artificially created gravitational field, by means of electro-magnetism, can explain the effects associated with UFOs, or flying saucers, including the silence. For instance, the G-field explanation accounts for the reason why the craft can withstand the friction which would normally be caused by such fantastic speeds through the atmosphere which have been observed visually, and simultaneously checked by radar. As we know from our physics, if an object moves rapidly through molecules of air, the friction causes a positive charge to be formed on the surface of the object. By an elementary law of electricity, we know too that like poles repel and unlike poles attract. Thus, by inducing a positive charge within the machine when it is moving rapidly

through the atmosphere, the molecules would be repelled, tending to produce a narrow band of vacuum around the hull. This would reduce the friction effect almost to nil.

By a simple law of sound, we know that if there were any noise associated with the object, the sound would not pass through the vacuum—although a low humming noise is sometimes heard when UFOs are low, and moving slowly or hovering. In addition, a G-field would drag surrounding air along, so there would be no turbulence, and this factor would further reduce friction, and account for the silence.

There have been cases of electro-magnetic effect which have startled radar-men in widely dispersed radar systems, when UFOs have made a low pass, as in an incident in early 1959. On that occasion three objects streaked across Middle Tennessee just above tree top level. As these mystery machines flew between two radar stations located about 30 miles apart, the radar screens were blacked out simultaneously.

If these objects were stars, then they were stars that passed below an airliner which was circling an airfield to land. If they were meteors, then one of them was a meteor which hovered in mid-air for half a minute. Furthermore, they were not fungus glowing from the under-belly of ducks, unless of course they were supersonic ducks. They certainly weren't helicopters, because they were too silent so to be classified. Intelligence officers realize that interference with radar is not caused by Canadian geese as some "experts" have suggested, because on December 24, 1959, when it is customary to be on holiday, the Inspector General of the U.S. Air Force found it necessary to issue an urgent directive to his Commands, and I quote: "Unidentified Flying Objects, treated lightly by the Press, and referred to as *flying saucers*, are serious business and

On May 3, 1964, an incident occurred which sent officials of the U.S. State Department scurrying to rush out reports to the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Army and the Navy. The incident was investigated by the Scientific Attaché of the American Embassy at Canberra, Dr. Paul Siple, and two NASA engineers. The Embassy reported the incident to Washington in Aerogram A-894, a copy of which is in NICAP files. The secrecy lid clamped down fast, but here are the facts: just before daylight, near Canberra, a large white glowing object travelled across the sky in a north-easterly direction. It was wobbling, and appeared to the observers to be out of control. A smaller UFO, showing a faint red light, hovered nearby. The large white UFO suddenly moved very quickly in a straight line for about four seconds, and

appeared to collide with the smaller object. The impact seemed to cause both objects to bounce. There was no explosion.

No longer wobbling, the large UFO turned away, and moved slowly from its smaller companion before accelerating, and sweeping away at a high speed. It is conceivable that these actions appeared strange, and even mysterious to ground observers, especially if it was their first encounter with a UFO. Many in Australia have already read about this incident in the March 3, 1965, issue of

*Everybody's*. Now I can offer an explanation.

Those among us who have studied the evidence of the UFO and have reached the conclusion that they have surrounding protective fields, realize that the "bounce" seen over Canberra was due to a collision, not of the craft themselves, but of their G-fields. Having also studied the electro-magnetic effects of UFOs, we offer the suggestion that on May 3, 1964, the observers near Canberra, Australia, witnessed a re-charging operation between two space-craft from another world.

# The meaning of Contact

*By Jerome Clark*

IT may be superfluous to say that the UFO mystery is confusing, but it is true nonetheless.<sup>1</sup> Some of this confusion no doubt results from censorship of various kinds, and also from fear on the part of ridicule-wary witnesses to come forward with potentially significant reports. But this certainly does not explain it all, for, judging from its antics, officialdom—which presumably knows a great deal more about our subject than it cares to admit—is every bit as baffled as we are.

The most basic cause of the apparent incomprehensibility of the flying saucer enigma, I believe—and again I hope that I am not stating the obvious—is the UFOs themselves. To be brief and to the point, *it appears that the beings who pilot the machines are performing their operations in deliberate secrecy—evidently they do not want us to know the nature of their mission on Earth, and consequently they are going to some lengths to mislead us.*

Fantastic? Perhaps—yet a conclusion one must inevitably draw from even a most superficial examination of the mass of UFO data recorded from earliest times to the present. And, I hasten to add, this same conclusion can be reached without resort to such disputed matters as Al Bender's purported silencing. The validity of our assertion is proven by the actions of the UFOs themselves.

It is well known, for example, that the vast majority of sightings take place during the early morning hours, apparently so that the craft can carry on relatively unobserved and undisturbed. Moreover—and quite significantly—landings, the most revealing of all UFO incidents, occur usually in the most secluded spots, away from prying eyes. It may not be mere coincidence that South America, a continent of vast unexplored jungles,

has such a large proportion of fantastic saucer encounters, quite often involving occupants stumbled upon by unsuspecting wayfarers on abandoned roads, or in similarly untravelled areas. One wonders how many completely unnoticed landings have been executed in this part of the world.

But the problem does not end here.

The "ufonauts" probably wish that their activities could be carried on undetected, but this, of course, is impossible. Transient and fleeting as they may be, the flying saucers have been noted and worried about by virtually every major national government in the world; and we are told that these same agencies are spending large amounts of money in feverish attempts to solve the enigma. Is it not possible—probable, even—that the UFO beings, in taking cognizance of this concern about them, might therefore put a false cover over their activities so as to keep officialdom or anyone else from coming close to the truth?

Seen in this light, the much-maligned contact claims become a kind of tool with a two-fold purpose: to discourage legitimate inquiry into the saucer field by making it look ridiculous, and to instil false ideas into the minds of those who do go on to investigate the subject.<sup>2</sup>

If it is true that the real story is being kept from us—and I can hardly see how this is to be doubted—it scarcely follows that the ufonauts would unhesitatingly reveal everything about themselves in the course of conversations with "contactees"; but it *does* follow that they would impart patently phony information concerning their identity, their origin, and their purpose. And this is precisely what has happened.

We do know that contact is always carefully planned; ostensibly, certain persons—or types of persons—are picked beforehand. It should be emphasized that *contactees are hardly ever particularly educated individuals*—the kind of people, in other words, not likely to question what they are told; in fact, if it must be said, they are “gullible.”

With this in mind, let us examine an American contact incident which, though little known, may prove to be one of the most significant on record:

A newspaper reporter named House writes that he was driving near Lake Huron in Wisconsin when he stopped at a service station to have his car filled. The proprietor offered him a cup of coffee and engaged him in conversation, saying that a UFO had been landing regularly on a small island about a hundred yards off shore, and that he had talked with its occupants.

“They look like you or me,” he explained; they “speak good English, although in a ‘sing-song’ manner. They are tall, strong, and live for hundreds of years, much advanced in technology, and keep equipment in their aircraft which would amaze an earth scientist by its perfection and material—however, I am not permitted to reveal what these instruments are.”

The contactee stated that the particular crew with whom he conversed were from the planet Venus; they “have friends on earth whom they visit with and who have been picked by a method known only to them. Sceptics are avoided.”<sup>3</sup>

The beings were here to promote “everlasting peace”, and had not made their objectives known to more than a few people, the witness was informed. The craft contained approximately 25 occupants, but the man had spoken with only one of them.

The contactee’s wife and son, when queried by House, confirmed that they had seen the craft land on the island and disgorge men in “shining clothes”, on a number of occasions. House cross-examined the boy, who appeared quite intelligent and sincere, and was unable to break his story.

Examining the claim, noted ufologist Coral Lorenzen speculated that “if a race of beings meant to take over the world, would it not be efficient and logical to contact gullible (the opposite, incidentally, of ‘sceptical’) peace-loving people, convincing them of good intentions, limit their knowledge of anything which might benefit them technologically (such as instruments) and use them as a pipeline of information as well as a first step toward actual infiltration? . . . Could it be that some people have actually contacted real spacemen and are unknowing dupes and traitors to their own race.”<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Lorenzen’s observations are interesting

and, I believe, correct in part. We rather doubt, however, that the ufonaut’s purpose is necessarily invasion—the evidence for hostility on their part is at best equivocal, although admittedly there have been more than a few instances in which human beings have been wantonly killed or injured by UFOs; still, these constitute only a very small proportion of all known saucer cases. Furthermore, as we pointed out earlier in these pages, ufonauts were lying about their identity as far back as 1897.<sup>5</sup>

Also, it is questionable whether these beings use contactees “as a pipeline of information”. We have already noted that most of those who allege communication are certainly not learned people, and we might add that in the typical claim it is the *contactors*, not the contactees, who monopolize the conversation.

But we do believe, with Mrs. Lorenzen, that communication is effected either to mislead or falsely to reassure human beings. Exactly *why* this is done, we do not know; but it is *being* done, quite obviously.

This accepted, the UFO picture becomes at once more clear and more confusing. Indeed, following our reasoning, even the interplanetary-saucer theory comes under new scrutiny, for is it not at least a little odd that the ufonauts themselves have seemingly gone out of their way to confirm our own guesses as to their origin and purpose? What of 1897, when they were thought to be American aeronauts, and they identified themselves as such during contact? What of 1917, when, in the presence of three deeply religious peasant girls at Fatima, they claimed that they were divine entities? *Why are they inevitably what they are suspected to be?*

I have not meant to suggest here any new theories concerning the nature of the UFOs themselves. I do feel, however, that we know much less about them than we think we do. I submit that the contact claims should be re-examined in the light of our conclusions, but that they should be neither over-estimated nor under-estimated. That contact has actually occurred is hard to deny; that, on the other hand, the often inane “messages” of the ufonauts concerning themselves bear any resemblance to the facts of the situation is equally hard to accept.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>One is reminded of the late Sir Winston Churchill’s famous remark concerning the Soviet Union—“a riddle within a mystery within an enigma”—which is probably even more applicable to the UFO problem.

<sup>2</sup>By “contact claims” we wish to make it clear that we are not alluding to the extremely fanciful yarns of such professional claimants as Adamski, Bethurum, Van Tassel, *et al.* It should be apparent by now to readers of the REVIEW that a great gap separates these and the evidently authentic reports of Gary Wilcox, Mario Zuccala, “Adhemar”, and many others.

<sup>3</sup>The Green Bay, Wisconsin, *Press-Gazette*, June 26, 1959.

<sup>4</sup>*A.P.R.O. Bulletin*, September, 1961.

<sup>5</sup>See “A Contact Claim” in the January/February, 1965 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.



# Sense and Speculation

By Wade Wellman

IT has seemed to me for some while that too many writers in the UFO field have a tendency to make long parades of logical possibilities—varying hypotheses which cannot be validated or confuted by any existing evidence. This in fact is a strong objection to the publication of unsubstantiated contact claims. I can see no reason to print these stories when it is impossible to pass judgment on them. Reading most of these accounts, an intelligent person can do no better than say “Maybe, maybe not,” and turn to other subjects. And indeed most of the alleged encounters make incredibly dull reading. When I read Adamski’s *Inside the Space Ships*, back in high school, it struck me as not only unconvincing but boring, and before the end I was yawning aloud with sheer ennui. One can hardly think that the real facts of the saucer mystery are as utterly insipid as most contact claimants would have us believe. And, to speak plainly, I simply won’t credit any story in which the claimant furnishes nothing distinctly extraterrestrial—even an intellectual idea would be good evidence, if it were something hitherto unknown upon the earth. Unless the corroborative testimony is overwhelming, all of these stories go into my wastebasket on principle. Let us ignore the constantly repeated and almost unvarying tales of alien beings that look and act as we do, who spend their time mouthing platitudes of terrestrial wisdom, and speak English with a perfect British or American idiom. Such stories have no use except, perhaps, to cure insomnia.

Why, after all, should we spend time trying to analyze these claims? Even if some of them are true, they lack proof and we gain nothing by speculation on them. However, this ignores the fact that contact stories of another type—the conservative, unembellished claims with less sensational appeal—have, in some cases, been supported by adequate evidence to persuade any jury. I cannot bring myself to doubt the cases reported by Major Donald E. Keyhoe in chapter 16 of his *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. We must not suspect that a group of uneducated Venezuelan peasants, among whom there is not the slightest evidence of collusion, could ever have invented a series of reports which so clearly and consistently describe creatures from a planet of strong gravity. (To avoid repeating an already published analysis, I may be permitted to refer the readers to an article of mine

in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March/April, 1962.) These Venezuela stories are so consistent and so perfectly logical that on this basis alone they are entitled to belief. Moreover, some of the cases reported by Aimé Michel in his second book have good internal evidence, if not corroboration.

Accepting these stories, and on principle discounting all claims which depend on the uncorroborated testimony of the claimant and which have no persuasive internal evidence, I submit the following:

Two or more races are participating in the scrutiny of our planet. The conservative stories recounted by Keyhoe and Michel certainly demonstrate—if we accept them, as I think we must—that not all of the alien spaceships emanate from the same world. The beings reported by Michel were so different from those in the Venezuela cases that they must have evolved upon a very different sort of planet—or on several different planets. Further, with the support of virtually all scientific opinion, I contend that native intelligence on Mars or Venus is highly improbable, and may safely be counted impossible on any other planet of our Solar System (except, of course, the Earth). Which means that all of the visiting races come from outside the Solar System, and that they are studying not only the Earth but all the planets which attend this particular star. I cannot believe that their study is Earth-centred, or that man is the principal object of their terrestrial study.

For we humans, the highest race of this insignificant planet, must eventually recognize the clear fact that our galaxy teems with living civilizations, many of them so far advanced that they could only regard us as inferior animals. The effortless ease with which the UFOs have penetrated our Solar System means simply that our visitors have no more difficulty with interplanetary or interstellar flight than we have with travel between cities and towns. Human scientists often speak of the problems inherent in flight between the stars, but surely these problems are forgotten history on many other worlds. And the infinitely superior technology of the alien watchers not only points to a superior species, but also to the reason why they haven’t made contact with us. It is foolish to suggest that a race so far advanced would have any wish to communicate with humanity. Their

interest in us may best be compared to the interest men would take in the various animal species of a jungle which, for any reason, we might be studying or exploring.

Nor is it mere speculation to say that there must be innumerable races which look upon us as we look upon the beasts of the Earth. Our galaxy, itself only one galaxy (though a large one) among billions, contains perhaps 200 billion stars, assembled in such a huge aggregate that a beam of light requires about 150,000 years to cross its greatest extent. And within this galaxy the individual stars form smaller assemblages of so many varied types that classification and cataloguing are still incomplete. Our Sun, about two thirds of the way from the galactic centre, stands in relation to its closest neighbouring star as two twelve-inch globes would stand if separated by 5,500 miles. Every modern theory of star formation holds that planetary development is a normal occurrence, and biochemists agree that life develops wherever conditions are suitable. Since any planetary system should have at least one planet located so as to receive enough light and heat to sustain a biological population, we must infer that our galaxy has billions of inhabited worlds. And, since many of these worlds are much older than the Earth, life on such planets will have gone as far beyond man as we have gone beyond the earliest terrestrial mammals.

The existence of many such races is, to my mind, an incontestable fact; and the ease with which our visitors cross space must be taken to show that we are in such company. Their mechanisms, if we could capture any for examination, would probably be as incomprehensible to us as a helicopter is to a monkey. We must not expect mass contact, nor should we fear destruction when we travel to the Moon and planets (where UFO bases doubtlessly exist). If we do not annoy them, the strangers are not likely to harm us, unless perhaps they take a few specimens for closer study—and it would seem, from certain remarkable disappearances of aircraft, that some human beings have already served that purpose. The watchers from above are witness to a fascinating spectacle, that of a native race breaking away from the clutches of a planet. In a way, it is the same interest we might feel if, on another planet, we saw the first amphibians scrambling on to the land. But we must not equate our

emotions or reasoning with the reasoning and emotions of our visitors. Indeed these concepts are probably as invalid, when applied to them, as the instincts of the earliest terrestrial animals when applied to us. On the ladder of evolution, these things have their day, and disappear.

This is not conjecture, but straightforward logic. And it should settle the question posed by Antonio Ribera in the issue for November/December, 1964. *Of course* the UFOs can travel under water. Some have been seen landing on firm ground, with metallic legs projecting. If one thing is obvious, it is that the vastly superior technology of another world can turn out vehicles capable of effortless locomotion on land, under water, in the air, and in outer space. They evidently run by means of principles which we have never imagined, let alone proposed or developed. This we must take for granted: Ribera's cases prove a point which requires no proof at all. The ordinary "saucer" types should be expected to travel as easily in one medium as in another. Effectively, this planet belongs to them more than to us; they can explore it and use it however they please, which we cannot; and the only reason they have not taken it from us is that such action is not necessary for their purposes. Perhaps, indeed, they have long since "taken it over", so to speak, without our knowledge—for their doings might not attract our notice, any more than deer in a forest take notice of the occasional passing of an automobile.

Modern science has given us a tremendous knowledge of the cosmos (tremendous though incipient), and, with it, has brought us the inescapable conviction that human affairs are of no significance in the total complex of the metagalaxy. Nor is this offered as a pessimistic outlook. Nothing that we do upon this earth has ultimate meaning in the cosmic scheme, but it can still have the deepest meaning to ourselves; and what we have learned should keep us from being grieved at our failures and frustrations. Nor should we be fearful of what our visitors may do. Whatever they do with us, if indeed they do anything, will be no more than what superior life forms have done to inferior ones through all eternity. And the physical universe, in the comforting theory of Fred Hoyle, is eternal. Man has not yet entered the universe, but when he does, he will prove a worthy citizen.

**Don't forget . . .  
tell you friends about the  
Flying Saucer Review**

# Professor Hermann Oberth revisits Barcelona

By Antonio Ribera

SPECIALLY invited by the 'Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios' as a guest of honour, to assist at the First Astronautical Week held in Barcelona, in which participated all the astronomical and astronautical societies of this city, Professor Hermann Oberth, the 'Father of Astronautics', arrived at the Barcelona airport on Monday, 3rd May, 1965, on a Lufthansa airliner from Frankfurt. On the reception committee were members from the Boards of 'Sociedad Astronómica de España y América', 'Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios' (Professor Oberth is its honorary president), 'Sociedad Astronómica Aster', 'Agrupación Astronáutica Española', etc. With Professor Oberth came Dr. Markstaller, President of the German 'Hermann Oberth Gesellschaft' and son-in-law of the 'Father of Astronautics'. Waiting for the two scientists were two TV and radio crews and some newspapermen.

The writer was also there, and knew that the UFOs would be 'taboo' during the Spanish Astronautical Week, a censorship on this theme having been imposed by the official scientists who mainly formed the boards of the above associations. They knew, of course, that Professor Oberth was a 'believer' and this put them in an embarrassing position, since for the most part they were 'against' the saucers. Accordingly, Señor Mateu Sancho, a noted scientific writer well-known for his debunking of UFOs in the Barcelona weekly *Destino*, was officially given the task of 'brainwashing' the reporters waiting there for Professor Oberth. His aim was to silence all possible references to UFOs. They would spoil the Astronautical Week. That had to be purely 'terrestrial'. Watched with special care by Señor Mateu Sancho was a reporter from the important local paper 'El Noticiero Universal'. But I was there, too, and observed Señor Mateu Sancho at work on the reporter.

Professor Oberth was led to an adjoining room, in the airport itself, after being ceremoniously introduced to the Board of Governors of every scientific body present. The interviews began. During an orthodox interview conducted by the reporters of 'Radio Barcelona', I went close to the 'El Noticiero Universal' man, when nobody was looking that way. The reporter was busy consulting the notes on his pad, which contained all the questions suggested to him by Mateu Sancho. I whispered in his ear: "Professor Oberth believes in flying saucers." Then I went discreetly away. The reporter opened his eyes wide, and scribbled nervously under the Mateu Sancho questions: PLATILLOS! (Saucers!).

When his turn came, he took a seat in front of Professor Oberth and, disregarding all the questions he had noted down, he put the scientist this straightforward one: "Professor Oberth, what have you to tell us about flying saucers? Are they real?" A deadly silence fell upon everybody. A look of consternation appeared on the faces of the Presidents and members of the scientific societies. You could have heard a pin drop. Amid that deathlike silence, Professor Oberth, imperturbable, answered: "We must consider real a fact of which we possess eight thousand certain sightings. I cannot

say if they are or are not interplanetary vehicles, but nobody can doubt any more their existence. The U.S. Air Force knows they are real and have all these sightings classified."

The next day, under big heading: "PLATILLOS: UN HECHO DEL QUE SE TIENEN 8.000 INFORMACIONES CIERTAS Y QUE DEBE CONSIDERARSE COMO REAL", 'El Noticiero Universal' published the interview of their reporter with Professor Oberth. The cat was out of the bag.

This was the cue for other newspapers. From that day on, all the interviews with Professor Oberth followed the same pattern: "What can you tell us about flying saucers, Professor Oberth?", followed by orthodox questions about Astronautics, 'suggested' by the Spanish colleagues of the 'Father of Astronautics'.

It seems, however, that some Spanish scientists put pressure on Professor Oberth, since after two or three days his public declarations were more guarded and less explicit. However my friends Eugenio Danyans de la Cinna and Federico Garcia took him aside, during a symposium celebrated in the American Institute of Barcelona, and placed in front of him some avowals of his made previously (some at Wiesbaden in 1960). He didn't recant. On the contrary, he agreed that he had said that the stars Epsilon Eridani and Tau Ceti could be a probable place of origin for the UFOs. "In the case of Tau Ceti," he added, "we are certain that there exists a planetary Ceti," he added, "we are certain that there exists a planetary body around this star. The luminosity of this body is 0.4 times that of Earth, and it is possible that it is the abode of a very advanced civilization." (Published in 'El Correo Catalan' of 8/5/65, page 27). He also said that he did call the visitors from Outside 'Uranids', but this doesn't mean that he believes in their existence. Danyans showed him the report of NICAP—"The UFO Evidence"—and Professor Oberth said that Major Keyhoe was the man who studied this matter most seriously and that he took him as the most reliable source of information. He also said that he will publish a book about UFOs in two or three years time. Summing up, he added that, in the present state of our knowledge, the best theory is that put forward by Major Keyhoe: the saucers are interplanetary ships coming from outer space. The other theories put forward explain away some of the phenomena, but not all. The only theory which takes into account most aspects of the phenomena and explains them is the interplanetary one. So, this is the most scientific so far.

*Note:* This was the second visit that Professor Hermann Oberth has paid to Barcelona. He was in the capital of the once independent Catalonia three years ago, in May, 1962, on the occasion of the II Congress of Aeronautical and Space Medicine (See the REVIEW, September/October, 1962, page 15). He delivered then his famous lecture of 45 minutes on UFOs, answering a question made to him at the end of his address on 'Man and Space Flight' at the Barcelona University.



# World round-up

*of news and comment  
about recent sightings*

## ENGLAND

### The flying train

This incident was first reported by the REVIEW in the STOP PRESS column of the July/August issue. The following letter gives some greater detail:

Sir,—I expect you are aware of the Bristol and Weston - super - Mare "sightings" reports, and also I believe at Exeter, which have been reported by both Radio and Television, at any rate in the West.

Following this I had a report of a sighting by a young man by the name of Bunce of 15 Abbotsbury Street, The Grove, Portland, who, returning home last Saturday evening about 10.45 a.m. from visiting his girl friend, saw an object moving fairly fast from North to South traversing his field of vision in about 8 seconds. His description was as follows. Three bright lights yellowish white in colour equally spaced and with an orange coloured trail. It was estimated at about an inclination of 60 degrees and covering one foot at arm's length. There was a clear starlit sky, no moon, very little wind, and no noise at all from the object.

I interviewed this lad myself and am inclined to believe his story as he had little previous knowledge of our subject.—F. E. Marshall, 8 Reap Lane, Weston, Portland.

From the *Exeter Express & Echo* of June 21:

"A large, rocket-shaped mystery object, with orange flames shooting out of its tail, has been seen over Exeter.

"It was reported today by a 22-year-old architectural assistant, Mr. Michael Clark, of 30 Milton Road, Exeter. He saw the object on Saturday evening when talking to a friend, Mr. J. Pickard, of Chaucer Avenue.

"Mr. Clark said: 'It was visible for about ten seconds, and appeared to be climbing. It went behind a bank of cloud, and disappeared. It was the

most vivid orange I have ever seen in my life.'"

From the *Devizes Wiltshire Gazette* of June 24:

"... Mr. Frederick C. Mizen, the clerk to the Marlborough police, of Ellsworth, Salisbury Road, was driving home along the A361 Devizes road when his wife spotted the object.

"I had a look and realized it was something unusual so I stopped the car,' Mr. Mizen said.

"It was long, very large, and shaped like an eel. It seemed to be illuminated the whole length and was definitely not an aircraft."

"It was heading from the direction of Yatesbury towards Netheravon. We watched it for five minutes before it disappeared into cloud. It made no sound."

From the *Bath & Wilts Chronicle* of June 21:

"Two Bath people are talking about a mysterious 'brilliant white object' which they saw flying over Bath Race Course on Saturday night.

"One, Mr. Ron Wakefield (50), a railwayman, of 91, Southlands, Weston, said he saw it as he was going to bed at 10.30.

"As he opened the bedroom window, the cigar-shaped object came into sight over Lansdown flying at 4,000 to 5,000 feet. 'I watched it for about seven seconds. It was shining like a sparkler. It was a wonderful sight. It looked like a lit-up train, but it was going much faster.'

"Mr. D. White, of 35, Freeview Road, Twerton, also sighted the object—'a line of lights travelling across the sky,' accompanied by the glow associated with space craft."

"Mr. White continued: 'The lights, about six, travelled across Bath from Lansdown to Odd Down and were in view for about 10 seconds. They travelled on too straight a course for shooting stars, and there were too many of them and in too straight a line to be an aircraft. They were moving at an incredible speed, too.'"

Could this also have been the so-called "flying train" which was reported in *The Surrey Comet* (Kingston-on-Thames) on June 23?:

"While taking his dog for a walk in London Road, Ewell, at 10.35 p.m. on Saturday night, Mr. J. B. Hawkins, of 3 Rutherwyke Close, Stoneleigh, saw a silver-grey flying object come out of the light western sky travelling towards the east.

"Mr. Hawkins described it as a very long, pencil-slim, cigar-shaped object, with four evenly spaced lights along its length. It also had a visible trail behind it and made no noise, said Mr. Hawkins. He said that it was visible for about three seconds, half-way between the upper and lower cloud formations. Its speed was comparable to a low-flying aircraft breaking the sound barrier, said Mr. Hawkins, who is a chartered mechanical engineer and served his apprenticeship in the aircraft industry.

"On telephoning the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Hawkins discovered that he was not the only person to see the object. The Ministry had received many reports from people having seen it. Mr. Hawkins was told it could possibly be one of the stages of the Russian rocket, Cosmos 68, which was launched on June 15.

"Mr. Hawkins told the *Surrey Comet*: 'I personally feel doubtful about this explanation, because of its height. It should have burned itself out before I saw it.'"

A letter signed "Trained" of Bradford, 4, appeared in the *Telegraph and Argus* of that city (July 6 edition). We append an extract:

"I am surprised that no one has written in to describe the missile that passed over Bradford on Saturday, June 19, at 10.50 p.m. . . .

"It first came to my view as a white light. It made no sound whatever and did not appear to be very high as it passed overhead."

(Credit: Miss S. M. Heseltine, and others.)

Again, from the Grimsby *Evening Telegraph* of July 29:

"An odd experience came the way of Mr. Maurice Barrick, a member of Immingham Parish Council, recently. He is an engine driver, and he and his fireman, Mr. Dod Holmes, also of Immingham, arrived at Cleethorpes station with the London train at about 10.30 in the evening.

"And up in the sky they saw—what I suppose we can only call a 'phenomenon,' for they have no idea what it was except that it looked rather like a lighted train, moving in a south-westerly direction until it vanished into clouds."

(Credit: Barrie Pottage.)

### Headmaster's report

From the *Nottingham Weekly Guardian* of July 24:

"Seen in the sky late at night over Long Eaton and West Bridgford . . . three mysterious objects.

"A former R.A.F. pilot described the objects as 'saucers'. He was Mr. W. L. Freitag, headmaster of Angela House School, West Bridgford, who lives at 9 Fox Road. While exercising his dogs at 11.20 he saw the three lights travelling from the north-west to the north-east. 'I saw them for about two minutes and there was no noise at all. They cruised majestically overhead before they disappeared,' he said.

"A few minutes earlier, two young men at Long Eaton on their way home saw the lights. One of them, Mr. A. Sheldrick (19), of 15 Florence Avenue, Long Eaton, gave an almost identical description of the passage of the mystery objects.

"Like Mr. Freitag, he described how they were silent and how one of them seemed to glow brightly and then dimly."

### New barley field crater

From the *Colchester Gazette* of June 1, we gather that:

"Until Army bomb experts visit Rockingham's Farm, Layer Marney, the mystery of the crater in the barley field will remain unsolved.

"The sudden appearance of the crater, about 5 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in., was reported to the police by the farmer, Mr. J. W. Black. He found it in a field of young barley, with the crops around the crater flattened.

"A puzzling feature of the crater is three 3-inch holes, arranged in a triangular shape near one side of it, that extend 3 feet into the ground.

"The police are unable to offer any clue as to what had caused the hole, but among the theories advanced so far is that it was caused by a meteorite or some object dropping from an aircraft.

"The Army bomb disposal squad yesterday dug down 6 ft. but found nothing. A spokesman said that the crater might have been caused by some natural gas explosion under the earth."

(Credit to A. Haughey of Colchester, Essex.)

### Pencil-shaped object

From Nigel Stephenson we learn that at Luton a local UFO investigation group reported on July 16 that a pencil-shaped object was seen flying in the sky. It was luminous, and suddenly reversed direction while in flight.

### Flashing object hovers

It is reported that at 10.30 p.m. on July 11, a large UFO was observed over Thornton Heath, Surrey, for 15 minutes. It was a glowing ball, very white in colour, and larger than the apparent size of the Moon. Every half minute or so it emitted flashes which were strong enough to light up a darkened room. It finally vanished behind trees (and landed?).

(Credit for this report: Nigel Stephenson.)

## AUSTRALIA

### Object over bomber base

From the *New Zealand Herald* of July 28, we learn that: "Australian Air Force and meteorology officers have been puzzled by a mysterious bright light which has been seen over Australia's biggest bomber base, at Amberley, central Queensland.

"Eight people from a western suburb of Ipswich, a nearby town, have reported seeing the light on several evenings recently. They all placed it as being directly above the main control complex of the Amberley airbase, home of 82 Canberra bombers.

"One eyewitness, Miss Irene Barclay, aged 21, said she had seen the light in about the same position four times in the last three weeks.

"The light, about half the size of a full moon, had changed from yellow to green and then to blue and disappeared after about five minutes.

"The public relations officer at the base, Sq. Ldr. B. Land, said Canberras were on night training missions about the time of the sightings, but no reports had been made of the light.

"A spokesman for the bureau of meteorology said it was not a cloud, or a satellite, nor was it atmospheric electricity." (Credit to Ray Holden of Epsom, Auckland, N.Z.)

### UFO leaves rainbow

From the London *Evening News* of July 26 (early editions only) we learned how:

"A farmer at Harvey, 100 miles south of Perth, Western Australia, claims he saw a 'vertical' rainbow after an unidentified flying object flew over his land.

"Mr. Lyall Jones, 56, said he saw a glowing red and orange object low in the sky for about seven minutes. The rainbow lasted for five minutes after the object disappeared."

*Dr. Bernard Finch had an interesting comment to make:*

"Obviously the object had just given off a vapour or produced condensation of some sort (i.e., water vapour from the air).

"Couldn't temperature be lowered due to the fact that the object contained liquid helium, i.e., works on a process of superconductivity?"

### UFOs active in Western Australia

The following item is taken from the Perth *Daily News* of June 9:

"A Subiaco man today reported having sighted mysterious 'dazzling lights' in the sky about 2 a.m. today.

"His story comes hard on the heels of a report from a Geraldton couple that they had seen a mysterious object in a paddock between Morawa and Mingenew.

"And a Roleystone couple said today that they had sighted a 'column of lights' while travelling along the Dongara-Mingenew road on May 22.

"Said Subiaco man C. Dessauer, of Bagot Road: 'I couldn't sleep, and was on the verandah about 2 a.m. It was a clear night. I suddenly saw a dazzling green light low on the horizon. I walked about two feet to my left. Then a dazzling red light appeared to the north-west.

"I watched the light for about 30 seconds or a minute—it appeared to be stationary. I ran inside for my field glasses and groped about in the dark—I didn't want to waken my wife—and by the time I'd got the glasses, I heard a very loud swishing sound go over the house."

"Mr. Dessauer said he wears a hearing-aid during the day, but was not wearing it at that time. 'I've heard jet and propeller-driven aircraft with and without a hearing-aid—and this wasn't a jet. I'm quite definite about it.'

"By the time he got out to the verandah again, the lights had vanished."

(Mrs. Judith M. Magee, to whom we are obliged for sending this clipping, points out that she and her colleagues believe that the object witnessed by Mr. Dessauer is similar to that seen by Mr. Jim Tilse at Mackay, Queensland, and described in her article on page 13. In fact, Mrs. Magee suggests that it could even be the same object.—Editor.)

### Sky explosion

From the *Advertiser* of Adelaide South Australia (June 16), we learn that "A mysterious explosion in the south-western sky at about 5.40 p.m. yesterday was reported by many Adelaide people. It was reported to have occurred at about 42° elevation.

"The *Advertiser* switchboard, the 5AD newsroom, police H.Q., Adelaide airport and the Bureau of Meteorology all received enquiries.

"All those who saw the explosion agreed that it appeared to be over the sea. Some said they thought it was the result of a mid-air collision, while others said it was an exploding object.

"A Weapons Research Establishment spokesman said from Woomera last night that he knew nothing about it.

"One person who viewed the event clearly from the Parafield area said he saw a blue-white object with a short tail travelling steeply towards the ground in the western sky, and moving slightly south at the same time. He saw it for about a second until it exploded with a brilliant flash. He said the explosion resembled that of an anti-aircraft shell.

"Another person who saw the explosion said that what appeared to be 'debris' fell after the flash."

(Credit: Mrs. Judith M. Magee.)

### Daylight saucer sighting at Wandin

We here reproduce extracts from an account which appeared in the *Express* of Lilydale, Victoria, on June 3. The story was given a lavish 3-column spread, including a comment by Mr. Peter Norris, president of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society. We read how:

"Two farmhands had a clear view of a flying saucer, or a similar object, at Wandin on Tuesday last week. . . .

"Mr. Jacobs, a married man who has lived in Wandin for many years, and 17-year-old Don Barnes, were pruning fruit trees in Mr. John Burgi's orchard off Victoria Road at Wandin North when they made the sighting at about 3 p.m.

"The day was fine and clear and from their position, on high ground overlooking the Yarra Valley, they both had an unobstructed view of the surrounding countryside, with the mountains some thirty miles distant.

"Giving his version of the incident, Mr. Jacobs said yesterday he was climbing a ladder to continue pruning a tree when he looked across the valley towards Mount Toolebewong and saw a penny-shaped object travelling in a southerly direction, and at tremendous speed, just below the level of the range. . . .

"His companion, who was also standing on a ladder, looked in the same direction and saw 'the thing'.

"It was about twelve miles away at the time, and for a moment disappeared behind some trees. Then it re-appeared and we clearly saw that it was shaped more like a 12-gallon oil drum," Mr. Jacobs said. From the position we were in we could not help but see it, and I am convinced it was not an aeroplane as it was travelling too fast."

"When we first saw it, the 'saucer' was a darkish colour, but when out of view behind the trees it apparently banked, as it re-appeared in a matter of seconds and seemed to have changed shape and turned to a dull grey. . . ."

"Confirming Mr. Jacobs's story, Don Barnes said the object was travelling at great speed from north to south. It flew past the western slopes of Ben Cairn and followed the line of the Yarra Valley in the direction of Warburton before disappearing from sight."

(Credit: Mrs. J. M. Magee)

### NEW GUINEA

#### Report from

#### Rev. Norman Cruttwell

On May 24th, Mr. Norman Braidwood, Mrs. Stephens, and Miss Beverley Hodge and many Papuans observed a UFO at Menapi, S.E. Papua.

"We were at Compline when we heard the whisper 'satellite' from some of the Mission boys, who were trying to look out of the church door. It was first noticed at about 8.20 p.m.

"After Compline, Norman Braidwood and Mrs. Stephens and I climbed up the first flat part of the hill. It was in the West, in the direction of Gaiawanaki, quite low in the sky, and bigger than two stars. It was just like a 'Tilley lamp' in the sky, as others have described UFOs.

"The sky was clear except for a few clouds high up among the stars. The light changed from amber to green to red continually, as it moved up and down and from side to side periodically, but returned to approximately the same position in the sky after each move.

"At 8.53 p.m. it started to look fainter and looked as if it was receding westward, away from us, yet remained at about the same height in the sky. It seemed to move away fairly quickly. By 8.55 we couldn't see it."

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Puzzle for tracking station

From the *Cape Times* of June 8:

"The Smithsonian Institute Astrophysical Observation station at Olifantsfontein, near Pretoria, closed down last night so that investigation could be made of a mystery object travelling across the sky in the Western Cape and the Transvaal. The Institute had received a spate of inquiries about the object.

"Mrs. Cynthia Citron said last night that her husband, employed at the tracking station, was travelling in the Eastern Transvaal trying to unravel the mystery. He had taken the unusual step of closing down the station to do this.

"The South African Broadcasting Corporation in Johannesburg said last night it had been deluged with telephone inquiries about the mystery object. Mrs. Citron said she and her husband had also received many telephone inquiries. Pretoria police reported that people claimed to have



seen an unidentified object flying in the direction of Durban.

"A lecturer from Wellington (Cape), Mr. O. Fourie, said he had seen a reddish-coloured object with a bright tail for seven minutes before it disappeared over Du Toit's Kloof about 8.30 last night.

(Credit: Philipp Human.)

## SPAIN

### Ribadesella saucer

The following item, date-lined Oviedo, May 20, has been translated by Gordon Creighton from *Arriba*:

"For the second time, this time over the seaside town of Ribadesella, a strange flying object has appeared which may be one of the celebrated flying saucers. It was first discovered in the early hours of today, by a group of fishermen on the mole. It was round and gave off a metallic gleam. It remained completely stationary for two hours in the air above Ribadesella, and later vanished as if it had turned to smoke in the air. The fishermen are discussing the object, all kinds of comment being heard, and nobody doubts that it is a spacecraft. . . .

"A week ago, at B arcena de Quir os, near the Pajares mountain massif, inhabitants saw another similar object, and they even declared that it had dropped down on to the ground, but though they searched for hours they were unable to find it."

(Credit: Fr. Antonio Felices of Valladolid.)

### High flyer

From the *Paris-Jour* of July 10/11, we learn that the inhabitants of Huelva, Spain, watched a luminous silvery object flying at a high altitude on July 9. It moved slowly beyond the horizon.

[*Satellite?*—Editor]

(Credit: Mme Saunier.)

## TUNISIA

### A new variety?

The *Paris-Jour* of July 8 told of an unidentified luminous object which was observed at an altitude of 5,000 metres (estimated), flying over Tunis. It was in sight for almost an hour, was seen by many people, and according to Air Control it was neither a radio-sonde nor an artificial satellite. Observed through a theodolite, it was shaped like a haricot bean. It disappeared towards the West.

(Credit: Mme. Saunier of Courseulles-sur-Mer.)

## CYPRUS

### Object leaves fiery trail

According to *Paris-Jour* of July 14, four people witnessed a circular luminous object near Nicosia. No date was given, but the incident occurred early in July. The object halted for several seconds over the coast, then vanished out to sea leaving behind a trail of fire. One of the witnesses declared that he had seen a similar object at the same place on a number of occasions.

(Credit: Mme. Saunier.)

## FRANCE

### Valensole incident forerunner?

From the *Parisien Libere* of July 5 we learn how a sailor of Port St. Louis du Rhone, M. Roger Cattola, aged 32, was aboard his boat *L'Anne-Marie* on the River Rhone, when at about 3 a.m. on the morning of July 1, the sky was suddenly illuminated by a green light of great intensity.

(Credit: Mme. Saunier.)

## U.S.A.

### Midwest UFO flap

From the *Californian Oakland Tribune* of August 2:

"Authorities in portions of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas were deluged last night and early today by reports of unidentified flying objects.

"The Sedgwick County sheriff's office at Wichita, Kan., said the Weather Bureau tracked 'several of them at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 feet.'

"The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Tinker Air Force Base here was tracking as many as four of the unidentified flying objects on its radar screen at one time, estimating their altitude at about 22,000 feet. A Tinker spokesman refused to confirm or deny the radar observations. The reported sightings this evening will be investigated by Air Force personnel,' said information officer Lt. John Walmsley.

"Reports of the UFOs poured in from Pecos, Monahans, Odessa, Midland, Fort Worth, Canyon and Dalhart, Tex., Hobbs, Carlsbad and Artesia, N.M., Chickasha, Shawnee, Cushing, Buymon and Chandler, Okla., and from Oxford, Belle Plaine, Winfield, Caldwell, Mulvane and Wichita, Kan.

"The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said police officers in three different

patrol cars reported watching the objects fly in a diamond-shaped formation for about 30 minutes in the Shawnee area. The patrol said the officers described the objects as changing in colour from red to white to blue-green.

"A dispatcher for the Sedgwick County Kansas sheriff's office said: 'I was a disbeliever, but I saw something up there tonight and so did other observers at the Weather Bureau and the Air Force base (McConnell).'

"At 3.40 a.m. the Wichita Weather Bureau said it had tracked one of the objects south and west of Wellington. The bureau said it first showed up on their radar at an altitude of about 22,000 feet and had descended to 4,000 feet.

"Descriptions phoned to police and other authorities included: 'They were red and exploded in a shower of sparks and at other times fluttered like a 'eaf' in the clear sky.

"Deputy Sheriff Dan Carter of Canyon, Tex., said he 'thought at first a plane had exploded in the air.' The object 'appeared to go south,' he said, 'then disintegrated in all colours'."

(Credit: Mrs. A. Cuadra of Orinda, California.)

## URUGUAY

### Beach landing

We have received dozens of reports of all recent sightings from sources the world over. Those from South America have proved no exception to the rule, and we reproduce here an item from Scotland's *Dundee Courier* of July 19:

"Reports of a flying saucer landing yesterday highlighted a rush of sightings of unidentified objects over Latin America.

"A youth saw a four-legged object touch down for two minutes in broad daylight on Saturday on a beach just across the River Plate in Uruguay, according to the reports.

"He was quoted in Buenos Aires as saying the object shot skywards in a blinding flash after a tug hooted a siren.

"One of several Uruguayans who claimed to have seen the object on Honda Beach said it had a circular centre, with a flattened oval extension on each side.

"The description by the Uruguayan tallied with a photograph

published in Buenos Aires, claimed to have been taken as an unidentified object hovered over a gas plant in the southern city of Bahia Blanca. (Credit to John Ogilby of Inshewan.)

### ARGENTINA Bahia Blanca incident— Van Allen Belt theory

The Bahia Blanca incident alluded to in the Uruguayan account was given more detailed treatment in the Australian newspaper *The Herald* of July 17 (AAP story):

"Sightings were reported from widely separated parts of Argentina.

"A leading astronomer who examined pictures of a strange flying object, taken by a professional photographer, said it was 'not a known heavenly body, or a man-made satellite.'

"Newspapers published pictures taken by a Press photographer in Bahia Blanca, about 275 miles south of here, of a bright object he sighted on Wednesday. Mr. Enrique Ferraz, director of the Bahia Blanca Observa-

tory, said the object was not a known planet, star, satellite or aircraft.

"The object was obviously giving off its own light and became clear on film with an exposure setting much shorter than that needed to photograph the bright planet, Venus, he said.

"The fact that such objects are usually sighted near the north and south poles may be linked to the Van Allen radiation belt that girds the earth. Objects from space might approach the earth through the polar areas with a minimum of risk, Ferraz said.

"The photographed object was sighted by several hundred people, who said it gave off a blinding light. The sighting was verified by a police inspector and members of his force."

(Credit: Mrs. J. Magee.)

### Contact claim

From a Sapa-Reuter report in the *Natal Mercury* (S. Africa) of August 2, we see that the Argentinian magazine *Atlantida* of August 1 quoted shop-

keeper Felipe Martinez as saying that a 39-inch tall flying saucer pilot told him his people would make full contact with mankind on December 3. Martinez claims that he has twice talked to a flying saucer 'man', first at Monte Grande (Buenos Aires Province) in April, and at Gualaguay, Entre Rios Province, in June."

[*Hoax by an Earthman, hoax of an Earthman, or the truth?*—EDITOR]

### Roof-top vigil

A heavily headlined piece in the *Daily Sketch*, after dealing with the Uruguayan beach landing and the Bahia Blanca photograph reported above, (July 19), goes on to say:

"Meanwhile, new reports of flying objects over Buenos Aires during the night were received at newspaper offices.

"Photographers spent last night camped on rooftops in the city with high-speed film and telescopic lens.

"A Roman Catholic review, com-

(Concluded on page iv of cover)

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# Stop Press

## Mystery blast in the sky

From the London *Evening Standard* of August 2:

"A mystery object which seemed to explode in the sky off Bournemouth early today set off wide inquiries by police and coastguards. The object was said to be bluish white. At Selsey, the lifeboat was launched after reports that flares had been seen off Chichester Harbour. Nothing was found."

## 18 saucers . . .

From the *Natal Mercury* (S. Africa) of August 4: Curitiba, Wednesday—"A squadron of 18 flying saucers was spotted by five people in the northern part of Brazil's Parana State. . . . The objects were described as silvery, with a greenish light shining from the top." (Sapa-Reuter).

## New landing

From the London *Evening News* of August 6: Caracas, Venezuela,

"Three strange beings from outer space landed on a farm labourer's corn patch here but took off hurriedly when approached. The farm worker told reporters of a 'mysterious round object' that whipped the three beings back into space, leaving a 40-yard scorch mark in the corn.

"Chilean newspapers reported that three air force pilots were among dozens of witnesses who reported an 'invasion' of unidentified flying objects above Santiago."—Reuter.

## World Round-Up (continued from page iii)

menting on the recent strange sightings in Latin America, said if there had been visitors from other worlds one could be glad that they did not appear to harbour sinister intentions."

## TAILPIECE - ENGLAND

### Latest symptom—a smell?

While the good people of Warminster are preoccupied with their noise, certain Liverpoolians have been troubled by an all-pervading smell reminiscent of phenomena recorded by Charles Fort. From the *Liverpool Echo* of June 26, we learn that:

"Families living in the Wavertree, Knotty Ash and Dovecot areas of Liverpool were roused from their sleep during the night by—a bad smell. A number telephoned the *Echo*. The smell was variously described as 'horrible', 'rotten', 'shocking', 'ghastly', 'awful' . . .

"We rang the Public Health Inspector's office. An official said: 'We have had no reports of the smell' . . .

"The Police: 'Several people have rung us reporting a bad smell. We have been making inquiries, but cannot trace the origin.'

"Finally we rang Professor Andrew Semple, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool. He said: 'I have heard nothing about it.' He thought it possible that the smell might have been carried by the wind from some chemical works at Widnes or the oil refineries at Stanlow. . . .

"Mr. R. P. Flynn, of 20 Charles Berington Road, Wavertree, said he was awakened about 5.30 a.m. by the smell. 'It was like a very strong sulphur smell. The house was full of it. The smell also woke my wife and six-year-old son Simon.'

"And when Mr. Flynn, a master plumber, got to his business in Woolton Road at 9 o'clock this morning, that smell was there, too. 'The building was full of it. I had to open all doors and windows to clear it. Again it was a sulphurish smell.'

"Mr. R. W. Purslow, of 22 Pilch

Bank Road, Knotty Ash, said he was awakened about 6 a.m. by 'a most horrible smell as though from a vast quantity of ash or cinders soaked in water, or some choking chemical outfall.'"

We feel that readers may be wondering why we have bothered ourselves with Liverpool's uninvited odours. If that is so, maybe the next item, taken from the June 29 edition of the *Liverpool Echo*, will solve that particular problem, and at the same time provide ufologists with a little more food for thought:

"Sir,—I read about the horrible smell the people complained about in the Knotty Ash and Wavertree areas. My husband was up about that time and while waiting for the kettle to boil he opened the back kitchen door. He saw a big white ball in the sky and all of a sudden it seemed to open out and spread in the sky. Then it vanished from sight.—(Mrs.) E. Allton, 15 Geneva Road, Liverpool 6.

(Credit: Kenneth Taylor).

## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE . . .

THE SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE by Gordon Creighton

UFOs & THE FOURTH DIMENSION by Luis Schönherr

DELTA VOLANTS by W. H. Watson

MORE ABOUT UFOs & THE SEA by Antonio Ribera

MYTHS, LEGENDS & UFOs by Luciecs Farish

Also—A strange new contact claim from Central America, Recent activity in the Lake District, and, we hope, a new article by Aimé Michel.