



FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

CASE HISTORIES

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1970

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Case Histories

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FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

FOUR SHILLINGS

CASE HISTORIES

SUPPLEMENT TWO/DECEMBER 1970



UFO and cirrus clouds
A NEW FILM

Muswell Hill UFO

responds to signal flashes

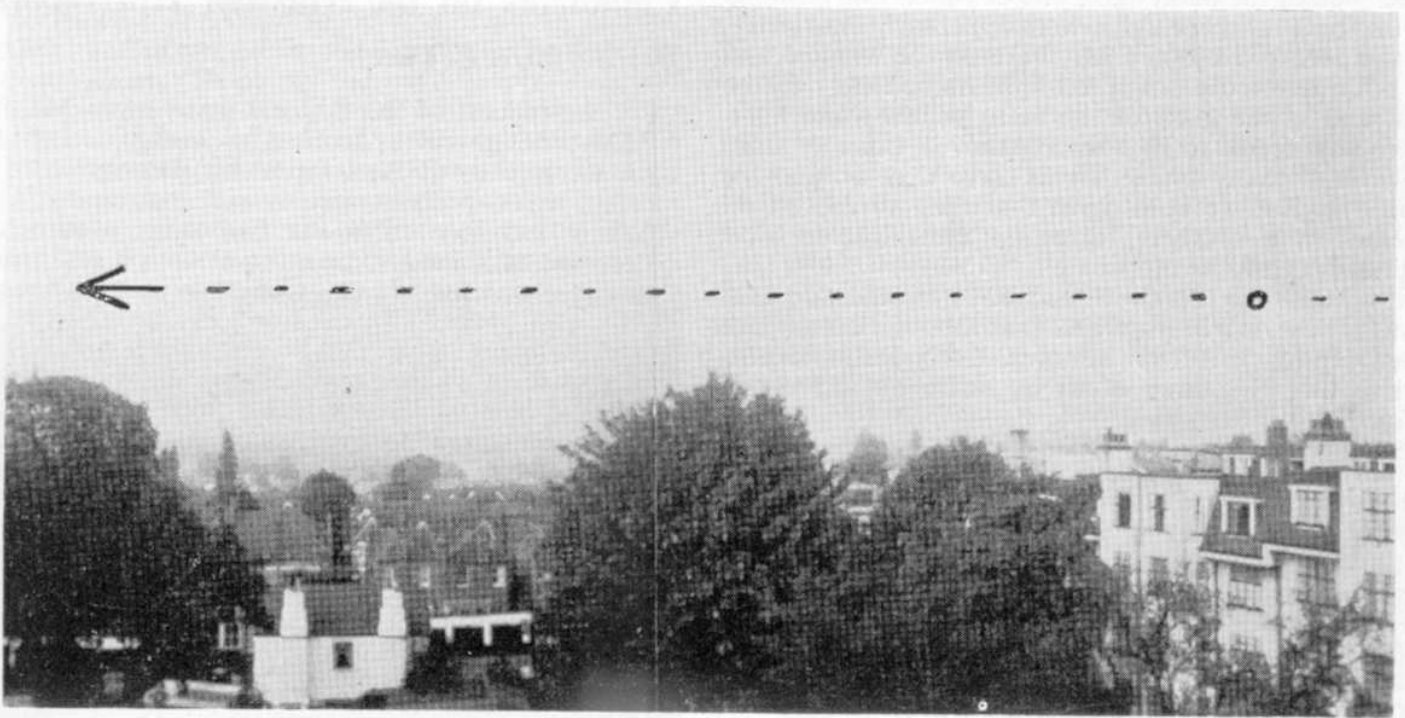
Paul Devereux

ON Sunday, September 20, 1970, I was one of three witnesses who sighted an unidentified flying object, and made what was possibly a "contact" with it in a somewhat unusual manner.

The incident took place at approximately 8.45 p.m., and it was a pleasantly warm evening following a hot day; most of the windows of our flat in Pages Hill, London N10, were still open. My wife, Jay, was in the bathroom when she had a premonition that she would see "something" if she looked out of the window.

aircraft passed almost overhead allowing us a comparison of navigation lights with this very much larger and brighter light). We felt compelled to somehow attract its attention. I suddenly remembered that I had an Aldis slide projector in the flat which I had borrowed for the weekend from the school where I teach.

In a frenzy of activity we heaved the Aldis onto the window-sill and plugged it in. The 750-Watt bulb threw out a strong beam of light which I turned in the direction of the travelling light, which was still progressing at a



Panoramic photograph from the flat, taken and marked by the author

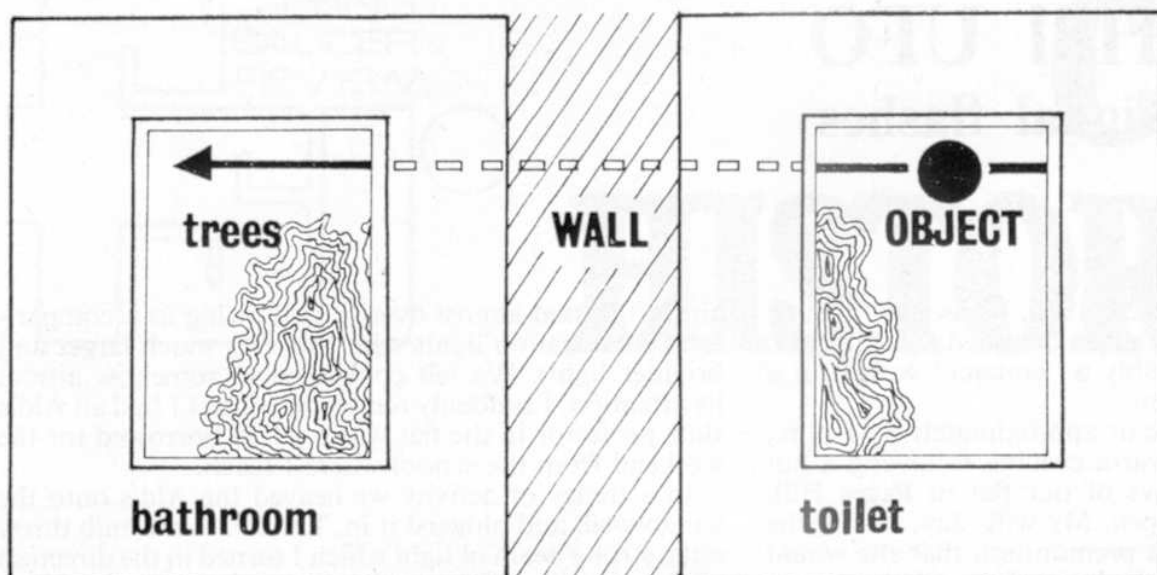
Our bathroom window has an unobstructed view to the north for a number of miles: our flat is on the third floor at the top of the block. At first my wife saw nothing, but after a few seconds an extremely bright yellow-white light appeared over the rooftops to her right (east). She called out to a friend, Mr. David Potts, and myself who were in another room. I rushed to the bathroom window while Mr. Potts peered out of the adjoining toilet window.

The large and seemingly silent light "glided" towards the west, but we all had the peculiar feeling that it was somehow almost imperceptibly undulating in its motion. We later agreed that the light may have been about a mile to the north of us (which would put it over the North Circular Road), but this has to be an extremely approximate estimate. The light progressed on its course and we could find no explanation for it (an

moderate speed to the west. As the light did not respond to our projector I put my hand over the lens a couple of times as a signal. No response.

By now the light was to our north-west, apparently over the Finchley area, and would soon be out of sight, so I flashed my hand rapidly over the projector lens. Suddenly the light commenced to flash at a similar frequency. Mr. Potts saw the light turn red at this point—I didn't, but the light could have been "bleached" by the projector's glare in my eyes. The light then stopped flashing and appeared to dim only to increase in brightness again as it moved in our direction (i.e. to the south-east). It then veered quite sharply to the south and disappeared behind the corner of the building.

Just before this Mr. Potts had run out of the flat and onto the stair landing to look out of the west-facing landing window. There he saw two small red lights on



Diagrammatic view
as seen through
windows

either side of the main light, one of which was flashing. At this time all three lights were apparently stationary. At this juncture I joined Mr. Potts at the window and we both detected a small red light immediately to the right and in the glare of the main yellow-white light. There now seems to be a discrepancy in our memories of just how many smaller lights there were around the main one. But we both agree that they all moved off together in a southerly direction until lost to view behind trees and rooftops.

In addition to the above account I should add that it was a clear, starlit night and that the total occurrence lasted for ten to fifteen minutes. I feel I should also declare that the three of us do share an interest in "ufology".

Comments on the Muswell Hill report

Dr. Bernard E. Finch

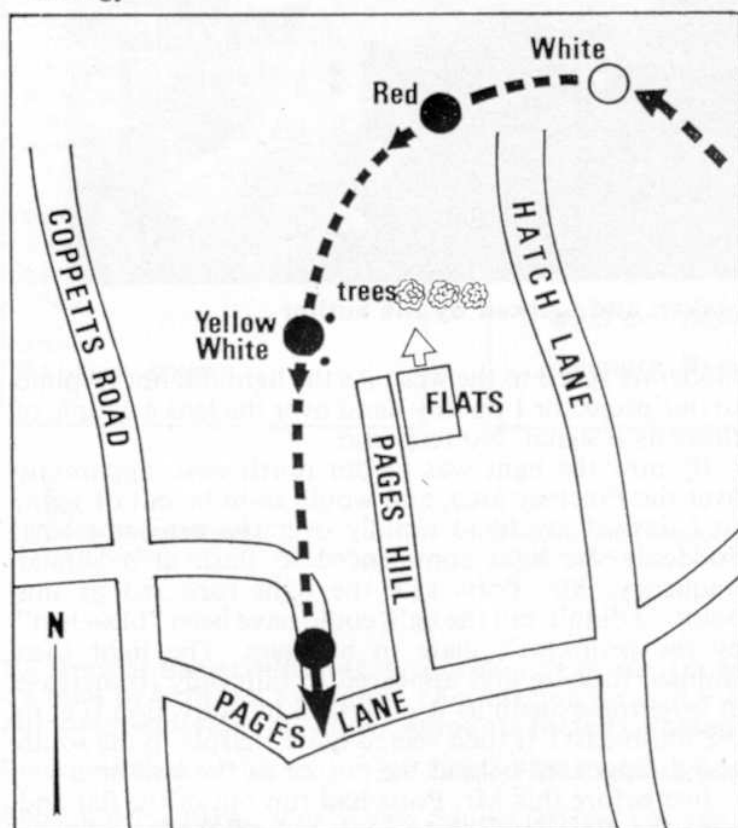
AT the request of the Editor I interviewed Mr. Paul Devereux a week or so after his written account had been received by FSR; I found his description of the incident was entirely consistent with that report.

When first seen from the bathroom window, the object was estimated to be at an elevation of 5° above the tops of a clump of trees. Completely silent, it moved slowly westwards and maintained the same altitude.

Mr. Devereux, aged 25 is an art teacher, and is therefore trained in making observations; he is also able to judge distances. His friend David Potts is aged 27.

It is important to remember that an aeroplane passed overhead during the sighting, which facilitated comparison, and enabled the witness to exclude any possible "aircraft" explanation.

This is one of the few cases where a response from the object has been reported, albeit only a flashing light, and it can therefore go on record as a classic case in which a response has been obtained.



Estimated path of the object

APOLOGIES

The Editor regrets the lateness of this second issue of FSR CASE HISTORIES, and apologises for any inconvenience which may have been experienced by readers.

The delays are due primarily to the backwash effect on our printers of the electricity workers' go-slow action in December; they have been aggravated by a succession of illnesses suffered by members of our tiny staff.

We well understand the impatience which some readers feel at these delays, but would ask them to remember that if it were not for the dedicated efforts of the voluntary workers of the FSR and FSR CASE HISTORIES teams there would not even be delayed journals for them to read.

Luminous object filmed near Newark

Trevor Whitaker

ON Tuesday, August 11, 1970, Mr. W. H. Huntington, a 56-year-old Company Director of 15 Coronation Road, Balby, Doncaster, Yorkshire, was returning from a three-and-a-half week's touring holiday on the European Continent in a Volkswagen Caravette, with his wife and step-daughter. Mr. Huntington owns a Sankyo 5-cm. Super 8-mm. cine camera and had filmed the loading of the hovercraft on which they had crossed the English Channel from Boulogne.

At approximately 8.00 p.m. he was driving north on the A1 trunk road between Grantham and Newark; it was dusk, with a deep red sunset to the left. They were some fifteen miles south of Newark when Mrs. Huntington caught sight of a golden-coloured object in the sky to the south-west. It looked to be at a height of at least 10,000ft., and about fifteen miles away in the direction of Nottingham. Stopping the vehicle on the hard shoulder of the road, they all got out to have a better look. The object appeared like a tongue of flame against the blue-black sky, moving slowly upwards at an angle of 45°. No stars or moon were visible.

Mr. Huntington had about half a film left in his camera. He filmed the object, first with the lens set at

wide angle, then operated the zoom lens to its maximum (5 to 1). Panning to the sunset, he then returned to the object, which had, by now, moved through some wispy cloud. He says he thought the object was the low sun shining on a short vapour-trail—otherwise he would have continued until the film ran out—but points out that it had a most uncommon appearance. The family had been watching the object for about five minutes when they got back into the vehicle. It was still visible when they started for home.

Nothing much was thought about the incident, or the object, until the processed film had been received from Kodak Ltd. and projected. They were surprised at the appearance of the object at maximum magnification. It was like an elongated, narrow, rocket exhaust, flame-coloured, and of almost constant length.

Mr. Huntington contacted the local newspaper, the *Doncaster Evening Post*, which published an article, together with a still photograph of the object, taken from the film, on the evening of Friday, September 11, 1970. The national editions of the *Yorkshire Post* of the following day carried a short mention of the film. These two items alerted the BUFORA investigators in the area and immediate contact was made with Mr. Huntington. Interviews and preliminary viewings of the film were carried out by T. Driver, J. M. Stear, T. Johnstone and J. M. Stokes.

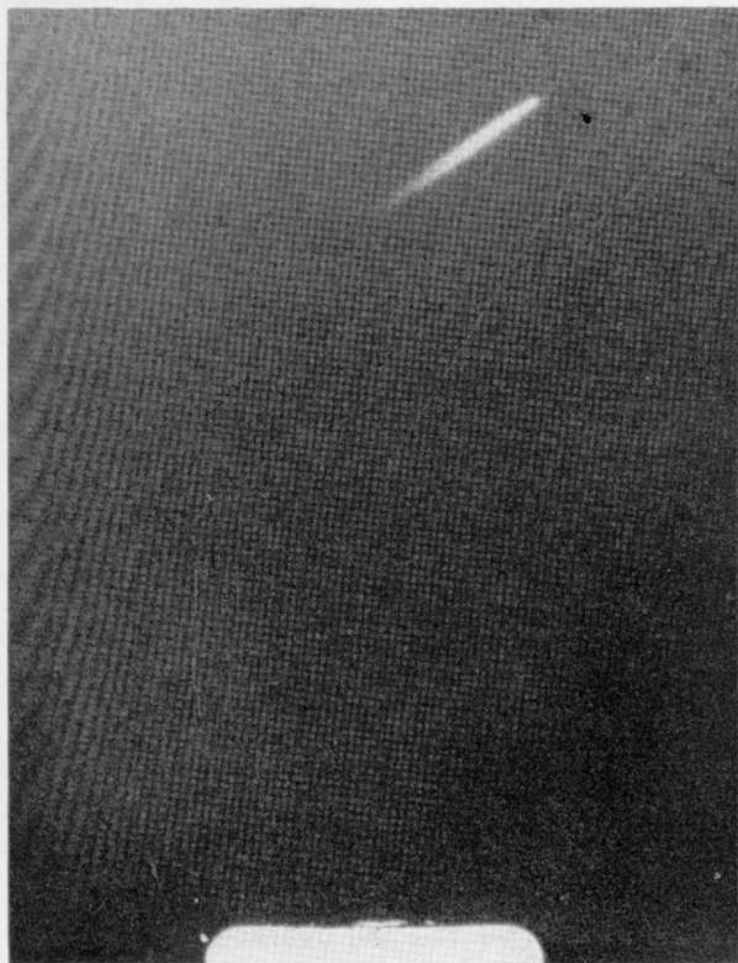
John Stear, who is Information Officer for the Halifax Branch of BUFORA, arranged for the film to be shown at a meeting of members on September 28, and at this meeting arrangements were made for Mr. Huntington to show his film at the General Meeting following the BUFORA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 3. Charles Bowen and Gordon Creighton attended this meeting, and the film was handed to them for arrangement for detailed examination and evaluation by a specialist.

On viewing the Huntington film

Charles Bowen

DURING the evening of October 3, 1970, in the company of Mr. Gordon Creighton (President), Captain Ivar Mackay (Chairman) and other officers and members of BUFORA who had kindly invited me to their meeting, I saw the film which Mr. W. H. Huntington had shot near Newark on August 11. Mr. Huntington described the incident, and projected the film several times for our benefit.

My immediate reaction was that we were probably watching a high-flying aircraft leaving a short vapour trail, but before the first showing had finished I had all but discarded that idea: the glowing sliver of light seemed to remain constant in length, and there were none of those globules of vapour which are usually seen to linger, separated, when a short trail breaks up



Enlarged print of object, showing section of perforation

Again, Mr. Huntington stated that he and his family heard no aircraft noise. (Mr. O. Fowler later showed a film taken during skywatching on Albury Down, near Guildford, and we all saw a fine example of an aircraft vapour trail.)

Gordon Creighton suggested that we might have been watching a phenomenon similar to that photographed at Cappelquin on December 26, 1965 (see FSR for March/April 1966), but on that occasion the witnesses saw, and aimed their camera at what appeared to be a small bullet-shaped object, and did not see the elongated pear-drop-shaped glow which also appeared on their film.

The object on Mr. Huntington's film did not look like an orbiting satellite, and to date there has been no confirmation that it was a decaying satellite or rocket shell, while it seemed to be too slow-moving for such an occurrence. One possibility that sprang to mind was that we were watching the firing of a rocket stage. If that were the case, then its very slow passage would suggest that it was at a tremendous altitude. It certainly seemed to be well above the wispy clouds, and Mr. Whitaker has told me—since his report was sent in—that he has ascertained that these clouds were not lower than 20,000ft. at the time of the filming.

The fact remains that Mr. Huntington, exhausted by a very long drive, was still sufficiently interested to stop his car to film what he and his family saw: it impressed him, and he could offer no suggestion as to what it was up there in the sky. A straightforward Yorkshire businessman, with all the solidity and reliability that one expects in such a person, he had never been interested in UFOs, yet he was sufficiently impressed by what he had seen to journey all the way down to London to show us his film.

Percy Hennell comments . . .

IN the photographic prints made from negatives taken from Mr. Huntington's 8-mm. colour film, readers will see that there is a gross enlargement of the grain structure of the film. In the first of the prints I have included a section of the perforation which gives an indication of the degree of the enlargement.

I do not see how the effects captured on the film could have been produced by any kind of trickery.

In the enlargements there seems to be a definite indication of the direction of the object, and the breaking up of what could be luminous gases at the "tail end" have a distinct similarity to those shown in the Cappelquin photograph of December 26, 1965. [See FSR for March/April, 1966.] It may be an accident of grain structure, but there seems to be some kind of wave effect at the "nose end" of the image. Having regard to the type of lens used on such a camera, I would think that the object must have been very large.



Gross enlargement of object

While FSR CASE HISTORIES helps keep the record of UFO reports, our "parent" journal

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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UFO flap at Pudäsjarvi, Finland

Matias Päätaalo

The following account has been condensed from the Finnish magazine **VIMANA** (No. 2 of 1970), and is based on translations into English made by the editors of that publication.

THERE has been something of a UFO "invasion" at Pudäsjarvi. Word of a great many sightings has spread throughout the district and intervals between sightings have varied from weeks to a couple of days.

Investigation of the sightings has been complicated by the fact that barium cloud rockets are used at the atmospheric research station at Kiruna, but it must be mentioned that many people in this district are aware of these tests and it has been observed that they produce an entirely different visual effect from those caused by the present UFO phenomena. First, a ball of changing colours appears in an expanding gas cloud. Next, the ball grows larger and fades so that the stars can be seen through the gas cloud. This sequence can last for some minutes.

However, of the reports received from Pudäsjarvi only one sighting could be ascribed to the Kiruna tests. Here follow details of some of the most recent incidents.

UFO in front of a car

On December 13, 1969, between 6.45 and 7.00 p.m., logger Heino Väärälä was driving with his wife and her brother towards Palovaara. They suddenly noticed a bright light soaring high in the sky which then seemed to descend quickly downwards in the same direction they were driving. After Väärälä had driven another half kilometre the strange light swooped directly in front of the car causing him to brake immediately. It looked like a shuttle or cone-shaped flame approximately 1.5 metres long and 0.5 metres wide at a height of less than 1.5 metres from the road surface. The centre was

dark and the top "glowing red". Moreover, from the bottom flame spurted towards the road rather like a retro-rocket in braking process.

The passengers were fear-stricken but also curious, and the speed of the car had to be reduced to 20 kilometres/hour to avoid getting too near the object. A man walking on the road suddenly emerged in the headlights of the car. All three, the object, the car and the pedestrian, were keeping the same course. As the light was behind the walker, he was entirely unaware of the phenomenon, which, before reaching him, rose abruptly, flying in a curve to the left where it remained hidden by the forest. Up to this time the object had proceeded before the car for some 2.8 kilometres.

The witnesses were interviewed and their matching accounts indicated that the sighting was an authentic one. Measurements of radioactivity at the scene of the sighting did not reveal any abnormal count. Finally, it may be mentioned that the sighting took place during the dark part of the year.

A Pear-shaped column of light

At noon on January 8, 1970, less than twenty-four hours after the remarkable Imjärvi humanoid incident reported by Messrs. Heinonen and Viljo,* Mrs. Senni Rytinki was driving with her son to visit a neighbour. On reaching the highway she turned round to see whether there were any cars coming from the south. It was then she received the biggest shock of her life. In the middle of the road she saw a huge pear-shaped column of light reaching to the telephone poles, and either touching the ground or slightly above it. The light was blinding and everything turned black before her eyes. She turned swiftly to find other witnesses. Meanwhile the "bright pear" had moved to the roadside where the forest begins. Her son Pertti also saw the phenomenon. It seemed really weird because despite the fact that it was daylight, there were no features to indicate a solid object. However, the brightness might have camouflaged any such features.

According to the interviewer, Mr. Atte Särkelä, the distance between the "bright pear" and the nearest human dwelling was about 200 metres. When the witnesses stood closest to the phenomenon their



Fig. 1 Reproduced from *Vimana*

* See full account in FSR, Vol. 16, No. 5 (September/October 1970); additional notes in FSR, Vol. 16, No. 6 (November/December 1970), and preliminary accounts in FSR, Vol. 16, Nos. 3 and 4 (May/June and July/August 1970).

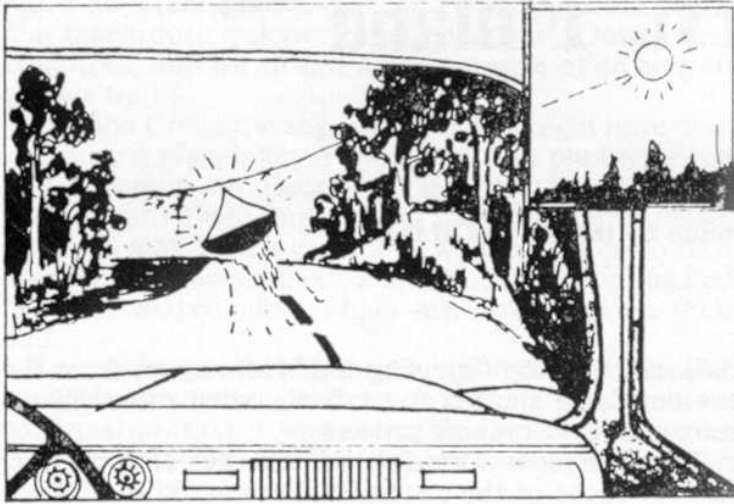


Fig. 2

distance from it was about 120-130 metres. The weather was cloudy and the temperature 7° - 8° below freezing point. The sighting lasted for more than five minutes.

A sighting on Särkivaara Mountain

On January 28, 1970, a UFO was sighted on Särkivaara Mountain. The case is almost identical to one which happened on September 8, 1969, at the same location.

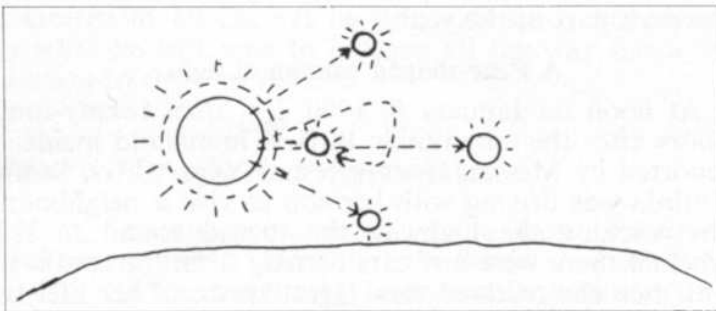


Fig. 3

At 1.40 a.m., Mr. Eetu Särkelä, a labourer, saw a bright ball of light on the mountain top. The ball was stationary and just sparkled for a while. Then, four small balls of light flung off from the larger one. The small balls vanished while descending to the ground. One of the small balls, however, the last to detach itself, made a loop somewhat farther away and returned close to the large ball which then began to diminish as its

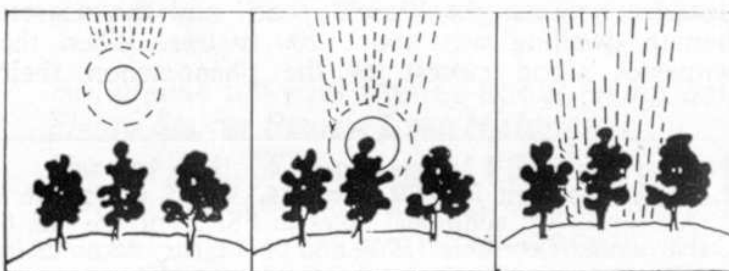


Fig. 4

brightness dimmed. After a while it departed into the East, rising up and finally disappearing into a black cloud. The spectacle was also witnessed by Eetu Särkelä's brother Valdo. That same evening, at 10.30 p.m., two ladies, Salme Ramstedt and Aune Valkonen, beheld a large red ball over Särkipäri Mountain; it was moving to and fro and heading upwards.

Hysteria in dogs

About 10 minutes before Mr. Eetu Särkelä made his sighting, at 1.30 a.m., the janitor's dog in the Pudasjärvi hospital raised a loud racket and started jumping up to window-sills using its claws. Three other dog owners reported similar hysteria in their animals.

A few days later, on the night of January 31, youths returning home from a dance saw an odd light phenomenon at Pärjäntie crossing. The report has not been checked up as yet, but the same night electricity was cut off at Sarakylä and Särkivaara. It has not been possible to prove this was caused by UFO phenomena, but as a point of interest, the dogs became "mad" also at this time; one of them was so hysterical its owner had to kill it.

Pikkukylä landing

Farmer Kalle Lasala of Pikkukylä, Naamagankylä, Pudasjärvi, was looking out of a window of his house on November 28, 1969, when he saw a bright ball of light descending "straight downwards". He awakened his daughter, Aino Toivainen, who also watched the ball which emitted a broad, intense beam of light vertically into the sky. As the ball descended, so the light beam grew in intensity.

The time was about 22.00 hrs. when the light ball appeared to land behind a ridge of ground. While the ball was either on the ground, or perhaps very close to it, light beams indicated its position, estimated by the witnesses to have been some 3 to 4 kilometres distant from their house.

Later, Mr. Timo Laine went by ski with forestry technician, Mr. Aapo Ahvenjärvi, to the site of the supposed landing. Beyond the ridge there are two woodland pools, one of which lies in the precise direction in which the witnesses saw the beams emitted from the descended light ball. Messrs. Laine and Ahvenjärvi saw an ice-free spot in the middle of the pool. Mr. Laine pondered the fact that this spot was of even, circular shape, but he did not pursue the matter. Previous to that date no ice-free spots had been discovered in that pool.

Conclusion

The periodic sequence of reports from the Pudasjärvi district is probably unique in Finland, and of interest is the apparent concentration of the phenomena on areas containing metallic ores.

Editor's Note

The four sketches which accompany this article are taken from *Vimana*, issue No. 2 of 1970.

The Landing at Franois—1

J. Tyrode

This enquiry was conducted in a district where the investigator is well known, respected and trusted as a schoolteacher, and consequently receives the ready cooperation of the authorities and the people involved in the incidents, which, in turn, leads to the discovery of many new cases. This account is taken from the April 1969 issue of *Lumières dans la Nuit*. Translated by John C. Hugill.

FRANOIS (Doubs) is a little village of less than 400 inhabitants (there are 700 in the parish), 7 km. west of Besançon on the D.108 road, between the R.N.67 to the north and the R.N.73 to the south.

Situated on a spur 300 m. high, it dominates the countryside; in the south-west quadrant a small valley curves in, 35 m. lower, a branch of which borders the village on the west.

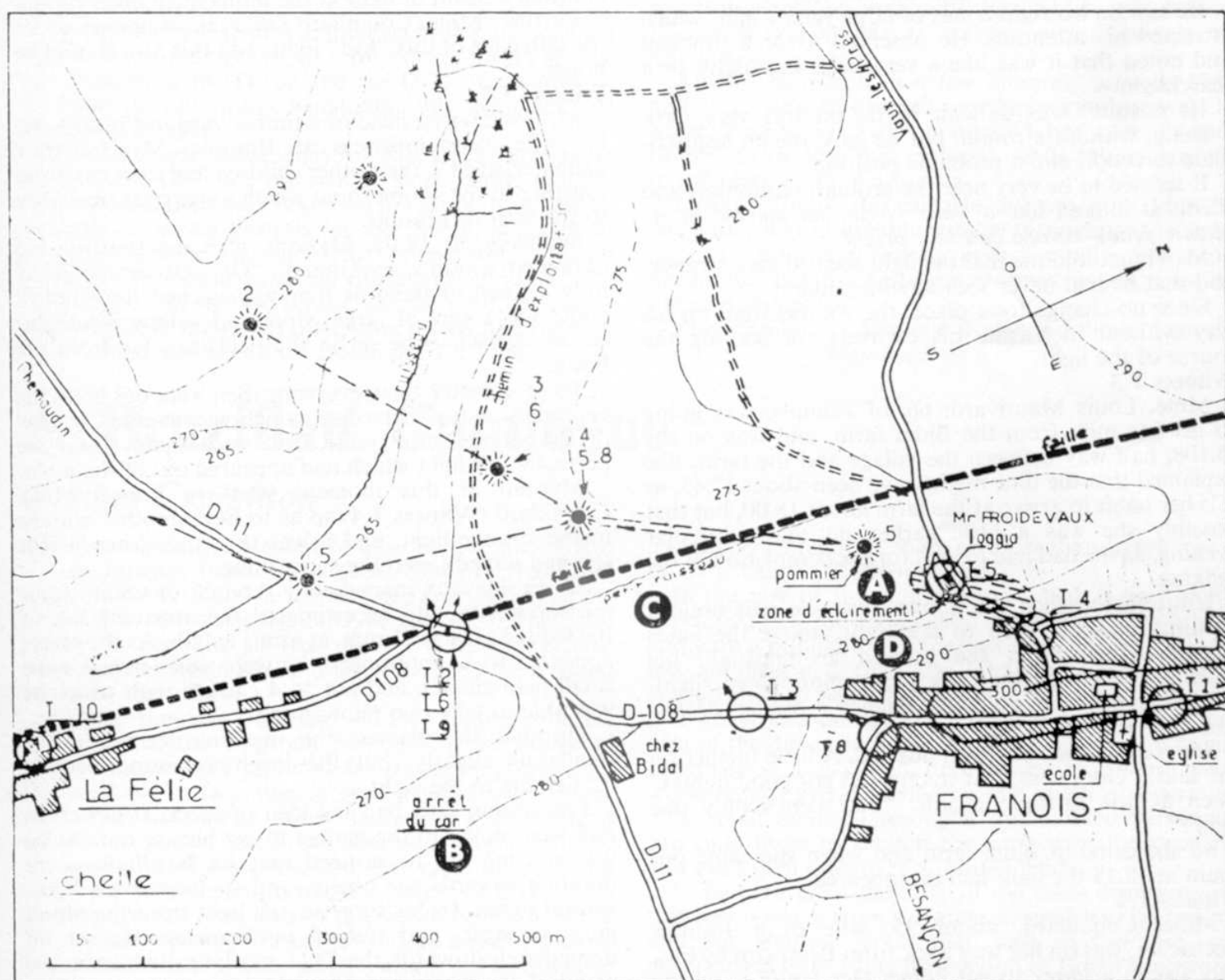
Down this branch, 100 m. from Franois, runs an

important geological fault which comes from Serre-les-Sapins, by way of La Félie Grandfontaine, Thoraise, crosses the Doubs, and continues towards Arc-et-Senans.

On Tuesday, December 12, 1968, this little valley saw events which were witnessed by a large number of people (the reader should refer to the map).

Witness T.1

Shortly before 18.00 hours, without being more exact



A — apple tree; B — car stopped; C — small stream; D — zone which was illuminated.

Map reproduced from *Lumières dans la Nuit*

Mme. Feuvrier, about 65, mother of the secretary at the Franois Town Hall, was in the village, on the pavement in front of the town hall.

Her attention was caught by a 'star' which, she declared, was brighter than Venus. It was very high in the sky (about 80° according to my estimate, made on the spot), in the direction of Chemaudin, towards the south-east.

She noticed this light (which was stationary) because of its abnormal size and exceptional brightness. She thought to herself: "Now what can that machine be up there?"

I noted that Mme. Feuvrier, being mountain bred is accustomed to observing the sky, and further that on this dark evening, a cloudy sky hid all the stars from view.

This sighting will serve as a prelude to the series of events which follows:

Witness T.2

Paul Vinnet, 20, was walking from Franois to La Félie, and at about 17.40 hours he was at the junction of the D.11 and D.108, near the bus stop.

He saw on his right a sort of large yellow light which attracted his attention. He observed it for a moment and noted that it was like a very large headlight, or a searchlight.

Its position was difficult to fix on this very dark evening, without a moon, but he gave me an approximate direction and a probable position.

It seemed to be very near the ground, motionless and silent. It looked like a white circle, surrounded by an intense yellow corona and very bright.

M. Vinnet told me that the light seemed very strange, and that he had never seen anything like it.

Since no change took place, the witness went on his way without increasing his curiosity, or seeking the source of the light.

Witness T.3

Mme. Louis Maurivard, 66, of Franois, was going to get her milk from the Bidal farm, and was on the D.108, half way between the village and the farm. She explained that the time might have been about 17.45, as it is her habit to arrive at the farm about 18.00, but that possibly she was a little earlier on that particular evening, as she had had to wait for the completion of the milking.

Until she reached the above spot, she had noticed nothing unusual. Then to her right, above the fields towards Chemaudin, she noticed an unusual "big headlight" piercing the dark night, motionless, silent. She thought "*that must be Baulieu's tractor broken down.*"

She went on her way, still puzzled. A little further on she said: "Goodness, that tractor has got good lights!" Then a little further on still: "but there's only one light?"

So she came to Bidal farm and when she came out again at 18.15 the light had disappeared.

Witness T.4

Mme. Coquillard, about 35, wife of a Franois electrician, was on her way back from Besançon by bus, and was in a hurry to get home. Her house is on the western edge of the village, looking over the valley referred to above. She reached the last bend before her

house between 17.45 and 17.55, she said, and was astonished at seeing a "big lamp" which she had never seen before.

It was towards her neighbour's property, which she knew well, to the left of their house, just behind the branches of a plum tree, a few metres from the house. M. and Mme. Froidevaux lived here, with their family, and there had never been a light behind their plum tree.

The light shed by this "lamp" was so bright that despite the very dark night, *she could clearly distinguish the pebbles on the road*, as she remarked to her daughter. She compared it to the light of a mercury vapour lamp, and it had on her the same sort of effect as the lighting in a thriller movie. *The light was cold, dismal and gloomy.*

When I placed myself at Mme. Coquillard's point of vantage, looking along her line of sight, I estimated that the machine must have been at ground level, in position 4.

It will be seen from the plan that the witness indicated a limited area of illumination. She was alone in noting this, which leads one to think that the machine was emitting a beam of light at the moment of observation.

Further, Mme. Coquillard *felt* a moral unease under the influence of this "sad" light, and this also should be noted.

Witness T.5

M. Froidevaux, head of a timber yard in Franois, 35, his wife, schoolmistress at Franois, Myriam their daughter, aged 9, their other children and their cat, were together in the sitting room which looks over the valley to the west of Franois.

Suddenly, at 18.04, Myriam, glancing towards the darkened window, exclaimed: "*Oh look at the funny light!*" Each of them as they approached the window could see a sort of large white and yellow headlight, which seemed to be set in the fields not far from the house.

To get a better view, everyone then went out on to the verandah, a real belvedere which commanded a view of the whole countryside, and once there could see perfectly this light which had appeared out of the night.

Myriam at this moment went to phone Mme. Coquillard (Witness T.4) so as to have another witness to the strange light, and it was thus they learned that she had already seen the same thing.

M. Froidevaux immediately thought of taking some measurements, and he estimated the apparent size of the lighted area as 15 mm. at arm's length. As the object appeared to be motionless, he went and fetched some small field-glasses, and a 4 × 4 camera with which he was able to take two photographs.

Through the glasses, the machine seemed to be oscillating slightly, but the brightness soon became intolerable to the sight.

Froidevaux then had the idea of seeing it closer to, and went down to the garage to get his car out. As he was starting up, he noticed that his headlights were pointing towards the object, and so flashed his lights several times. To his surprise, the light from the object grew stronger, and trebled in diameter. He set off immediately towards the D.11 road, and while on the way lost the machine from sight for a moment. When he got to the spot, it had completely disappeared.

During this time, his wife stayed on the verandah to

watch the machine with Myriam, 9, Laurence, 7, and Jean-Philippe, 5½.

As her husband flashed his lights, her feeling was so strong that she could not stop herself crying out: "*It's coming down on top of us.*"

From the verandah she had the impression very clearly that the machine was gliding over the ground towards them. Happily it stopped about 80 m. away, at a line of apple trees, and then resumed its earlier position, with the same diameter and brightness. Like her husband, she had seen it grow larger and brighter, and in addition had this impression of movement. She was then able quietly to watch the progress of events with her little family.

As soon as it resumed its position, the machine seemed to rise above the ground, since beneath the machine itself, the terrain was illuminated by a clearly visible halo. Then it slowly moved away towards La Félie, still illuminating the ground beneath it, seeming to follow a horizontal path until it finally disappeared from view but not, it seems, before giving place to another incident.

By day, I found that, from the verandah, one can get a good view of the D.108, as it runs down from Franois, the junction of the D.108 and the D.11, the hamlet of La Félie, the hill up to Chemaudin, only the lower part being out of sight.

Better to understand what follows, let us refer again to the map. The road follows the slope of the ground, with here and there embankments to reduce the gradient. Actually, it leaves Franois on the 300 m. contour, to pass through the bottom of the valley, and climb up again to Chemaudin at about the 280 m. contour.

At night, one can no longer see the road, especially on a very dark night, but many cars traced its path with their lighted headlamps on December 12, 1968.

From the verandah our watchers saw simultaneously these car lights a little bigger than a pocket torch, and this strange light, much bigger than a full moon, moving from right to left towards the road. I do not know how many motorists may have seen this light, none having so far reported it. Our witnesses, however, were able to say that the machine was below the line of sight of cars passing the 270-265 m. contours, which would set its approximate height at 270-275 m. This comment, added to the other indications given of its direction, enables us to pinpoint the machine accurately enough.

As may be imagined, our witnesses were missing nothing of this illuminated show, and were awaiting the moment when the machine would cross the road. At that instant, a car came from the direction of Chemaudin, and was held in the halo of light from the machine. It was not travelling fast, but at this moment it slowed, almost stopped, and the children cried: "*Look, it's stopped it on the road!*"

However, the object rapidly disappeared, and the car, accelerating, went on its way. Our spectators saw only something reddish and indistinct, which two seconds later was a pinpoint as it sped away towards the horizon.

All this happened in a few minutes, between 18.04 and 18.15, and was pieced together very objectively by Mme. Froidevaux, who compared her own observations with those of her children, while taking care not to influence them in any way.

I nearly forgot the cat! He did not move, but his behaviour was noticeably strange throughout the sighting. He was very upset, crying continuously and miaowing, but his agitation stopped as soon as the object disappeared.

The Froidevaux family's evidence follows logically
(continued on page 15)

A Brazilian Catalogue

Gordon Creighton

WE are greatly indebted to Dr. W. Buhler of Rio de Janeiro, from whose SBDEV Bulletin No. 72-73 (January/April 1970) I have translated an excellent report on the Brazilian scene during 1968 and 1969. There are some 140 cases in all (see chart). Where they have already appeared in *Flying Saucer Review* I have added a note to that effect.

Despite the great labours of Dr. Buhler and his colleagues of the Brazilian Society for the Study of Flying Saucers, this report is far from comprehensive, and we have in fact already seen a good many other items from Brazil that do not figure in it at all. It must never be forgotten that Brazil is actually larger than the United States of America, and that great areas of the country are covered with tropical jungle or with scrub. Nobody has the least idea of the real dimensions of the UFO phenomenon in Brazil (or indeed anywhere else). Both Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Dr. James McDonald have recently expressed the view that even in the U.S.A., with its highly articulate public and its most sophisticated and advanced news media, it is quite probable that only

a small percentage—perhaps no more than 10 per cent—of UFO cases ever get reported.

In the case of Brazil, a country which is very highly developed in some regions and scarcely at all in others, and with a population in the vast hinterlands that is far less sophisticated than the inhabitants of the great coastal cities, it seems highly improbable that even their own governmental agencies can have more than a faint idea of the dimensions of the UFO phenomenon at any given period. It is certain that, however keen and hard-working, any private civilian group in Brazil, operating with small financial resources and limited personnel, can only hope to scratch the surface of the problem and even then only over a limited field.

In fact the great majority of the cases dealt with in this report come from the areas around Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo—areas that, vast as they are, are nevertheless only a tiny proportion of Brazil's territory. And what is particularly striking is the astonishing number of reports that emanate from one small town—Lins, in the State of São Paulo.

Brazilian cases in 1968 and 1969 — 1

Dr Walter Buhler

THIS opening part of my collection of Brazilian UFO cases takes the reader through to the middle of August, 1968. The period begins quietly enough, slowly working up to a 'peak'—small by comparison with what follows—in which the first 'occupant' cases occur.

1. January 18, 1968.

A triangular object was seen over the Federal District of Brasília by two federal deputies.

Correio da Manhã, Rio de Janeiro, January 19, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968.

2. January 26, 1968.

A dark object with a light blue luminous halo around it was seen at night with the aid of binoculars ($\times 75$) moving in various directions in the sky over Botafogo, near Rio de Janeiro, State of Guanabara. On the first occasion it was observed for ten minutes; on the second occasion for four minutes; and on the third occasion for a few seconds only.

Diário de Notícias, Rio de Janeiro, January 28, 1968.

3. February 1968 (precise date omitted).

An enormous "flying saucer" was seen, at a height of some 300 metres, at Canoas, state of Rio Grande do Sul (R.G.S.).

Report from GIPOVNI, UFO investigation group in Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

4. February 5, 1968.

At 10.05 p.m. a hat-shaped UFO was seen, stationary in the air, over Alegria in the state of R.G.S.

Report from GIPOVNI.

5. February 20, 1968.

At 8.40 p.m. a luminous object was seen moving across the sky from north to east, over Salvador do Sul (state of R.G.S.).

Diário da Noite, Rio, February 23, 1968.

6. March, 1968 (precise date not given).

At Canoas, R.G.S., at 11.00 p.m., a large red luminous ball was seen travelling slowly, at 45° from the horizon.

Report from GIPOVNI, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968.

7. March, 1968 (precise date not given).

At 11.00 p.m. a Brazilian Air Force machine, identity no. 2077, was followed for forty minutes by a luminous red object which flew around the aircraft in circles. Near Gravataí, R.G.S.

Diário de Notícias, Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S., March 21, 1968.

8. May 17, 1968. Caconde, state of São Paulo.

Senhor Caetano Sérgio dos Santos found a mysterious "space-object" outside the door of his house and carried it inside. During the night the object took off, making a hole in the roof of the house.

Notícias Populares, São Paulo, May 25, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 66/68, January/June 1969: Reported in full by Dr. Buhler as *The Mysterious Caconde Case*, in FSR for July/August 1969.

9. May 7, 1968. Canoas, R.G.S.

"Flashing" saucer seen disappearing behind trees at 7.00 p.m.

Report from GIPOVNI.

10. May 30, 1968. Canoas, R.G.S.

Between 4.05 and 5.00 p.m. an object was seen, of rounded flattened appearance, dark grey in colour, making a noise "like an electric generator switching on and off".

GIPOVNI report.

11. May 31, 1968. Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S.

An object seen stationary in the air, but changing colour and size, "as though pulsating". It then moved away rapidly and vanished.

GIPOVNI report.

12. May 31, 1968. Morro Azul, state of Rio de Janeiro.

At an estimated distance of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ km. an object was seen, at night, of the apparent size of the Moon, and consisting of numerous green and blue lights.

SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December, 1968.

13. First week of June, 1968. Niterói, state of Rio de Janeiro.

At 10.05 p.m. pupils of the Pequeno Príncipe College observed an orange-coloured, balloon-shaped object executing complicated movements in the air. It approached to a distance of some 100 metres from them, and at the height of the second storey of a building. From a small orifice in it were ejected two metallic strips which were subsequently picked up. In its lower part it had small dark windows which lit up when it moved. The upper portion was lit up and had two antennae.

O Fluminense, Niterói, June 5, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968, p. 31.

14. June, 1968 (precise date not given). Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S.

An object was seen at midnight, travelling rapidly at a great height.

GIPOVNI report.

15. June 4, 1968. Bay of Guanabara, state of Guanabara.

At 6.05 p.m. passengers aboard the Rio de Janeiro-Niterói ferryboat observed, at an estimated height of some 600 m., a very bright round saucer, flattened at the edges, the under portion being of a red colour.

O Fluminense, Niterói, June 5, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968, p. 31.

16. June 8, 1968. Rio de Janeiro, state of Guanabara.

At 9.30 p.m., at a height of some 300 m. above the Morro (hill) de Santa Teresa, a small luminous object was seen which suddenly reversed course.

SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968, p. 52.

17. June 25, 1968. Guajará, Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S.

On this and following days, between 6.05 p.m. and 7.00 p.m., a globe-shaped luminous object was seen. Its movement through the sky was irregular, with changes of colour from red to orange, and from time to time it became stationary. When in rapid movement through the atmosphere it produced a sound.

GIPOVNI report.

18. June 25, 1968. Canoas, R.G.S.

At 7.30 p.m. a blue circular object passed over silently at great height.

GIPOVNI report.

19. June 25-27-28, 1968. Florianópolis, state of Santa Catarina.

A circular UFO, of the dimensions of a Boeing aircraft, was seen at 9.40 a.m. on these days and was observed for 40 minutes. On the 27th there were two objects, flying side by side.

Correio do Povo, Pôrto Alegre, July 3, 1968.

20. **July 1, 1968.** Botucatu, state of São Paulo.
Another Landing in Front of a Hospital. Saucer lands and takes off again.

Correio de Botucatu, July 7, 1968, SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65 (May/June 1968), p. 52, and No. 66/68 (January/June 1969), p. 81.

[A full report on this case was given by Mr. Nigel Rimes in his article *Landing At Botucatu*, in FSR for November/December 1968.]

21. **Early July, 1968** (precise date not given). Princesa, R.G.S.

A luminous object was seen over the city. Shape could not be seen exactly.

Correio do Povo, Pôrto Alegre, July 9, 1968.

22. **Early July, 1968** (precise date not given). Pereiro, state of Ceará, N.E. Brazil.

The local populace in Pereiro and São Miguel in an uproar owing to earthquake shocks and sightings of luminous globes and flying saucers over the Serra dos Macacos (range of hills).

Correio do Ceará, July 8, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 62/65, May/December 1968.

[For a full report see *UFOs and Earthquakes*, by Gordon Creighton, in FSR for November/December 1968.]

23. **July 23, 1968.** Baurú, state of São Paulo.

At 1.00 o'clock in the early morning a night watchman at the São Paulo Central Electricity Plant (CESP) at Urubupungá was attacked by a Space sonde within the grounds and was paralyzed by three flying saucer beings which then escaped in a dark coloured object the size of a cart standing on end.

Notícias Populares, São Paulo, October 3, 1968; *O Dia*, Rio de Janeiro, October 30, 1968; and SBEDV Bulletin No. 66/68, January/June 1969, p. 76.

24. **July 26, 1968.** Canoas and Pôrto Alegre, R.G.S.

Between 7.00 p.m. and 7.05 p.m. "a star came down out of the sky, leaving a trail that was broken twice." The object was finally the apparent size of the Moon. It put out a smaller object, which followed it at a short distance behind.

GIPOVNI report.

25. **July 26, 1968.** Canoas, R.G.S.

Between 10.00 and 10.05 p.m. was seen a white rectangular object the light on which went out as it descended. It then rose again and then descended vertically, leaving a trail behind it. The light then went out and was not seen again.

GIPOVNI report.

26. **July 27, 1968.** São Paulo.

At night, from the rua 28 de Janeiro in the São Paulo suburb of Vila Nova Cachoeirinha, there was seen, stationary in the sky, beneath the clouds, a light which was at times white and at times reddish. Suddenly it descended. Then it rose up again, now with a second light, which was yellow.

Notícias Populares, São Paulo, July 30, 1968.

27. **July 28, 1968.** Canaguã, R.G.S.

Between 7.00 and 7.05 p.m. two stationary objects were seen in opposite quarters of the sky and at 30° to the horizon. Every twenty seconds, and synchronized, their colour changed, first from green to red, and then to blue.

GIPOVNI report.

28. **July 29, 1968.** Canoas, R.G.S.

Between 6.05 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. observers on the ground watched a white object moving along in front of an aeroplane. Later the object moved away on a different course.

GIPOVNI report.

29. **August 5, 1968.** Lins, state of São Paulo.

At 6.45 a.m., at No. 1026, Avenida 13 de Mayo, in the suburb of Junqueira, Lins, a lady named Dona Itália Gallo remarked to her husband, Sr. Aurélio Gallo: "Look . . . what a funny aeroplane." It was circular in shape, and had a "shiny, glassy" glitter all round it. In the middle (of the underpart?) it had a yellow opaque ring, with a grid pattern, and it had two spurs (antennae?), one on each side. It was making a rocking movement as it flew along and emitting "a slight throbbing sound like a muffled snore."

(See accompanying sketch, done from Sr. Gallo's description by the UFO investigators Jorge Genari and Augusto Massaya Katsuda, engineer, of Araçatuba, both of them members of the CIPONIA UFO Investigation Group in São Paulo under the presidency of Professor Flavio Pereira.) *O Jornal*, Rio de Janeiro, September 18, 1968, and *Diário da Noite*, São Paulo, August 27, 1968.

[Brief mention of this case was made in the article *Confrontation at Lins*, by Gordon Creighton, in FSR for January/February 1969, and there is a fuller account in Nigel Rimes' *The Clemente Ferreira Sanatorium UFO*, on pp. 25-26 of FSR for July/August 1969. A copy of the sketch accompanied Mr. Rimes' article, but we were then under the impression that Senhor Gallo himself had done the drawing and it was attributed to him. As we now see, this sketch of what appears to be a unique type of UFO was in fact the work of Messrs. Genari and Katsuda of Araçatuba.]

30. **First half of August, 1968.** Urubici, state of Santa Catarina, S. Brazil.

At the Vila De Brida, at a place called Baiano, various witnesses, including some soldiers, watched for more than one hour two brilliant objects manoeuvring slowly overhead and at times becoming stationary, each object emitting a beam of light like a truck headlamp. One of the objects came close to the witnesses and produced a panic among them by suddenly emitting twenty beams of light. The second luminous object, rectangular in shape (approximately 1 m. × 3 m.) remained further away, its beam of light varying (i.e. in colour?).

Correio do Povo, August 16, 1968.

LUMIÈRES DANS LA NUIT

For those of you who read French, this excellent journal on UFOs and peripheral topics is obtainable from:

R. Veillith, "Les Pins",
43-Le Chambon-sur-Lignon,
France

The January/February 1971 issue of
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will include . . .

THE AVEYRON ENQUIRY—3 by F. Lagarde
(auto-chase, auto-stop, saucer, occupants)

A LANDING NEAR LAKE ANTEN?
by S.-Q. Fredrickson

THE AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909—2
by Carl Grove

MUZIO'S CONTACTS by Nigel Rimes

Also, a research article by Dr. David Saunders, and new details about **Spring Heel Jack** by Roger Sandell.

Luminous rain in a Warsaw alley

Jan Olszewski

This article was submitted to us by Kazimierz Zaleski by way of Stefan Chorvat. Friends of Mr. Chorvat kindly translated it from the Polish.

ON April 22, 1963, I was just getting ready for bed at about 11.00 p.m.; I happened to be standing near the wall directly opposite the window with my back turned towards it. The light had already been turned off in the room which I occupied with my family, and the curtains were drawn as my wife was already asleep. Our flat is situated on the ground floor of the house numbered 11 in an alley leading into Smolna Street, Warsaw.

Suddenly, I heard a very distinct and singularly pleasant female voice calling me twice, as if some invisible person were speaking into my ear in a lowered voice, and in a tone denoting haste: "Look, look!" Simultaneously I realised that, as quickly as possible, I should look out of the window into the street.

At the same time, I heard a sound from the street through the window, which sounded exactly like the sound one hears when a gas, formed from fermenting liquid and shut in a tightly-closed bottle, is about to make the stopper explode. Simultaneously and in spite of the curtains the darkness in the room was replaced by what seemed a sudden intensely brilliant moonlight.

I rushed to the window and quickly moved the curtains aside. A strange and uncanny sight met my eyes. The rain was pouring down, which might at that time of year have appeared completely natural but for the fact that the trickles of ordinary rain were intermingled with trickles of "luminous rain", the content of which was not water but light, and which created a brightness resembling brilliant moonlight.

That was not all however, for a third, startling, element appeared: at the same time, a fiery hail was falling and hailstones approaching the size of hazelnuts reminded one not so much of small balls of ice, but, by their shape and colour, but rather of small spheres of molten iron or steel, such as are sometimes seen during welding operations. They thickly covered the surface of the road and pavement, and whilst falling made a drumming sound on the window-panes nearby.

I had hoped that after "cooling-off" I would be able to pick up the hailstones and keep them as some kind of unusual exhibit, but although these "hailstones", after falling to earth, still retained their form of fiery iron spheres—only changing just as iron or steel does from a fiery colour to red and finally into graphite grey—to my great astonishment and intense disappointment, after taking on this graphite grey colour, they immediately disintegrated and vanished without leaving any remains or traces whatsoever.

I pushed the curtains aside completely and awakened my wife, so that she should also be able to admire this astonishing spectacle.

Into the rushing sound of the downpour and the

drumming of the fiery hailstones against the windows there intruded every few tens of seconds a characteristic mildly explosive "Poof" or "Pop" sound, and then the luminous downpour always increased and the fiery hailstones fell more plentifully onto the surface of the street.

In addition one could hear from time to time distinct crackling sounds and a kind of hissing, which rather resembled the sounds one hears during a short-circuiting in electric cables such as those of tramway and trolleybus grids.

These strange phenomena lasted about one hour, and were all the clearer to us as the street lamp situated just by the window of our flat, as well as the street lamp situated on the opposite side of the street, were not lit. Unfortunately I cannot remember if these lamps went out at the moment when the downpour connected with these strange apparitions began, or if they were not lit at all that night. Clearly both these alternatives are probable and possible.

On the following morning, in the early hours, I could already hear the conversation of two inhabitants of neighbouring houses: "Well, that was quite a firework display, wasn't it?" Therefore other inhabitants of our alley had also observed these mysterious and inexplicable phenomena. I should add that I have seen similar phenomena subsequently, although they were not as effective. They consisted mainly of luminous trickles, which were occasionally accompanied by the characteristic "Poof" sounds, and invariably by the crackling sounds recalling a short-circuit in electric cables, which possibly denote that these phenomena have an electrical origin. Similar phenomena have been observed by my wife. Could it be that our ordinary little alley has some specific "electrical" properties?

Comments on the "Luminous Rain" report

Mr. Zaleski, whose letter was datelined Warsaw, July, 1970, adds that the author/witness, an office worker, aged 40, is known to him personally. This same observer is the owner of a small house in the vicinity of Konskie, where he says he observed UFO manifestations on several occasions at night.

The phenomenon described by Mr. Olszewski would appear to be entirely of a Fortean, or Poltergeist nature: there is no mention that a UFO was seen, and no hint that the presence of one was even suspected. However, Poltergeist phenomena are frequently associated with UFO manifestations, and what is of interest here is that, according to Mr. Zaleski, the witness seems to see UFOs as a matter of course. The way I read the story,

he would also appear to be clairvoyant, or ciiraudient, or both.

In my article *UFO seen from East Ham*, in FSR for March/April 1970, it was suggested that people who possess a degree of clairvoyance could be the ones most likely to be "selected" for UFO experiences. Maybe

they (and, maybe, deep-trance hypnotic subjects) are the *only* ones who see UFOs.

Perhaps a sympathetic and careful investigation and study in depth of Mr. Olszewski should be conducted by competent researchers: I only wish it were possible for him to meet Mr. C. Maxwell Cade!

CHARLES BOWEN.

Pulsating object at Falkenberg

Sven-Olof Fredrickson

DURING the night between February 27 and 28, 1970, at 00.15-02.45, some 10 to 15 persons sighted a bright light in the southern sky south of Falkenberg, on the west coast of Sweden. It was good weather, but very cold (-15° to -20° Celsius). The Moon was near the horizon in the south-east.

The main witness was Mikael Fernström, 15 years of age, who together with another boy caught sight of the light at 00.15. What drew their attention to it was the brightness of the light and the way it moved. They each described it as being self-luminous, not transparent, and sharply delineated. It was at about 40° above the horizon. The light was pulsating a little, and grew in brightness when accelerating. At turning points it seemed to stop for a few seconds.

After looking at it for quite a time, Mikael went home, only to find that his father had also seen the light when he had been travelling from Varberg to Falkenberg shortly before. Together with Mrs. Fernström they looked at the light from a balcony on the first floor. After fetching a pair of 7×50 binoculars they saw not only a light but also an object. Mikael Fernström describes it as in Fig. 2, and his father, Allan Fernström, as in Fig. 3. There are discrepancies but these might be due to the circumstances (a) they became very excited, and all three wanted to look at it as much as possible, and (b) the father says he only saw it from the side, while Mikael says he saw it in different positions. They watched it through the glasses for some 20-30 minutes. They estimated its size as $1/5$ - $1/6$ that of the Moon,

and its brightness to about magnitude -10 (compare Venus -4 and the Moon -12). At about 02.45 hrs. they went into the house because of the cold. The object was at that time still standing (and moving) in the sky towards the south.

During the evening of the day before, between 19.30 to 22.00 hrs., there were heavy disturbances on the television belonging to the Fernströms. Perhaps this has nothing to do with the sighting, but I think it should be mentioned.

Mikael Fernström is very interested in astronomy and knows quite a lot about it.

This case report has been based on letter contact with six witnesses, and personal contact with three; it was then prepared by GICOFF. After that I have summarized it and translated into English.

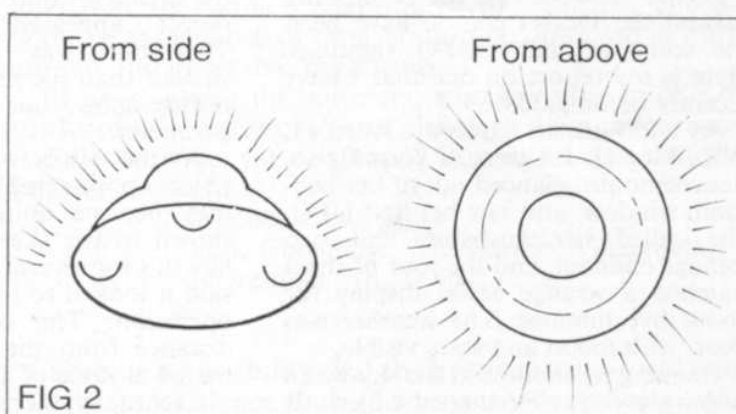
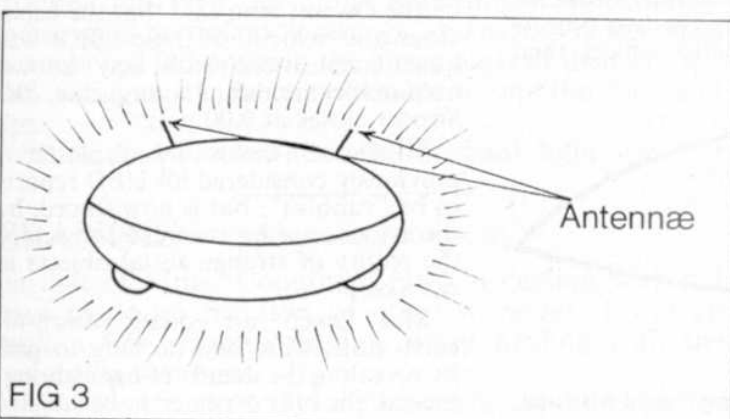
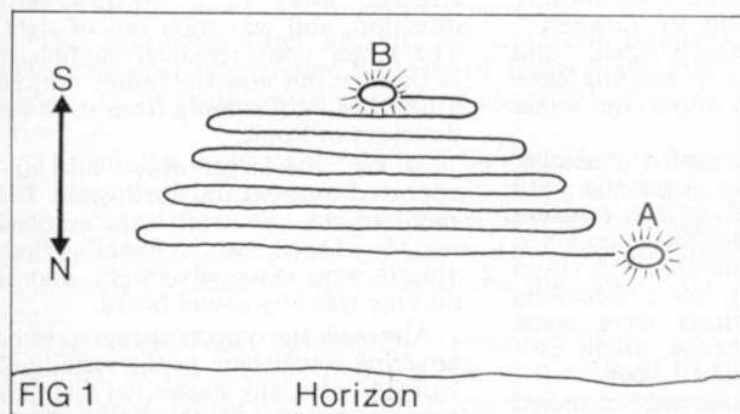


Fig. 1 How the light moved

Fig. 2 How Mikael Fernström described the object

Fig. 3 Allan Fernström saw the object from the side. The antennae did not look solid; more like whirls going up from the object

The Somme, forty years after

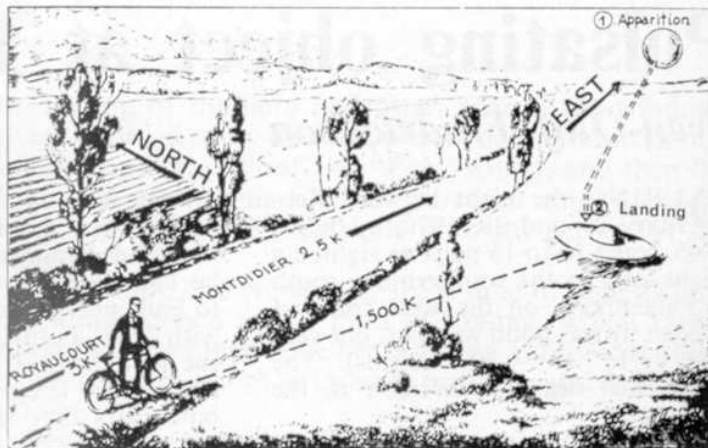
From the April, 1969, issue of *Lumières dans la Nuit*. Translation by John C. Hugill.

EVIDENCE of a hitherto unknown landing case has been collected at Montdidier, Somme, by M. Soula.

One evening in July, 1956, at about 20.30 hrs. a Monsieur Seret made an unusual sighting. Here is his account:

"I was on my way from Royaucourt to Montdidier. I had cycled about 3 kilometres when suddenly I saw, coming from the east, at low altitude and speed, a yellowish-orange circular object which suddenly came down vertically, and settled, without any apparent braking, in a field about 1½ kilometres away. I was stupefied, because until then I had not believed in such things, and got off my bike to watch it for a few moments. As it rested on the ground, I saw it had a dome on top (see sketch). Everything had happened without a sound.

"Shortly afterwards, I became uneasy, and mounted my bike to turn away—300 metres from the spot I turned back again, but saw nothing more."



Drawing by Jean-Louis Boncoeur

Strange aerial display near Bournemouth

Leslie Harris

BOURNEMOUTH, the Hampshire and the Dorset coasts, have been the scene of many UFO sightings. Here is my report on one that I have recently investigated.

At 1.15 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, 1970, Mrs. H. J. Owen, of West Howe, Bournemouth, glanced out of her bedroom window, and saw her first UFO. She called her husband, and two teenage children, and the four of them watched a strange aerial display for about five minutes. The weather was clear, with moon and stars visible.

Hanging motionless in the sky was a large, glowing, disc-shaped object. It was orange in colour, with a white perimeter. The family had barely recovered from the surprise of witness-

ing such a phenomenon, when another object "appeared out of nowhere". This one was cigar-shaped, and smaller than the first. It had the same orange glow, but without the white perimeter.

As the family watched, the smaller object approached the larger one, until they became united in the position shown in the sketch. They remained like this for several minutes. Mr. Owen said it looked to him like a re-fuelling operation. The objects were some distance from the house, at an estimated altitude of about 1,000ft.

Eventually, the smaller object veered off, and at this time a thin streak of white light connecting the two objects was visible. The smaller object then

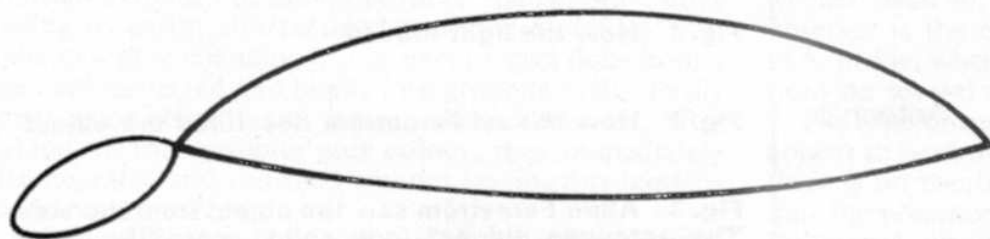
streaked away in a north-westerly direction, and was soon out of sight. The larger craft remained stationary in the sky, but now the family noticed a beam of light shining from it, in the direction of Poole.

At last, the larger object also disappeared towards the north-west. The speed of the two craft was described by Mr. Owen as "colossal". Both objects were extremely bright, and at no time was any sound heard.

Although the objects appeared to be hovering somewhere in the vicinity of Hurn Airport, any suggestion that they were aircraft was emphatically refuted by the Owens, who said that the behaviour and velocity of these UFOs was quite inconsistent with any known man-made aircraft. In any case, the airport closes at 9.00 p.m.

Mr. Owen, a down-to-earth plasterer, previously considered all UFO reports to be "rubbish", but is now forced, by the evidence of his own eyes, to accept the reality of strange aerial objects in our skies.

Mrs. Owen, an equally down-to-earth housewife, had nothing to gain by revealing the details of her sighting; indeed, she fully expected to be laughed at by all and sundry.



Sketch indicates position of the objects during "refuelling" and should not be taken as an exact replica of the objects' shapes.

UFO and radiation damage in 1887?

Curious phenomenon in Venezuela

N. M. H. Turner

WHILE engaged on some private research, I came across an intriguing letter in a back number of the *Scientific American*. I consider it to be of great significance, not only because of the sequence of events contained in the account, but also because of the apparent standing of the investigator, and the fact that the incident occurred sufficiently far back in time for the usual "explanations" to be invalid. There is a possibility that this may turn out to be one of the earliest and best authenticated accounts of radiation damage caused by a flying saucer.

My knowledge of the physiological effects of high intensity ionising radiation is not great, but I do recall that blistering, followed by peeling of the skin, and hair loss, are common features. However, having received my training in the field of electrical engineering, I should be extremely surprised if the effects mentioned were due to lightning of any kind.

The rest of the information contained in the report is familiar to all those who are interested in the UFO enigma—a bright light, a humming noise, peculiar smell, smoke or mist—all are here. What a pity Dr. Condon didn't see this one

From *Scientific American*, December 18, 1886, p. 389:

"To the Editor of the *Scientific American*.

"The following brief account of a recent strange meteorological occurrence may be of interest to your readers as an addition to the list of electrical eccentricities.

"During the night of the 24th of October last, which was rainy and tempestuous, a family of nine persons, sleeping in a hut a few leagues from Maracaibo, were awakened by a loud humming noise and a vivid, dazzling light, which brilliantly illuminated the interior of the house.

"The occupants, completely terror stricken, and believing, as they relate, that the end of the world had come, threw themselves on their knees and commenced to pray, but their devotions were almost immediately interrupted by violent vomitings, and extensive swellings commenced to appear in the upper parts of their bodies, this being particularly noticeable about the face and lips.

"It is to be noted that the brilliant light was not

accompanied by a sensation of heat, although there was a smoky appearance and a peculiar smell.

"The next morning the swellings had subsided, leaving upon the face and body large black areas. No special pain was felt until the ninth day, when the skin peeled off, and these blotches were transformed into virulent raw sores.

"The hair of the head fell off upon the side which happened to be underneath when the phenomenon occurred, the same side of the body being, in all nine cases, the more seriously injured.

"The remarkable part of the occurrence is that the house was uninjured, all doors and windows being closed at the time.

"No trace of lightning could afterward be observed in any part of the building, and all the sufferers unite in saying that there was no detonation, but only the loud humming already mentioned.

"Another curious attendant circumstance is that the trees around the house showed no sign of injury until the ninth day, when they suddenly withered, almost simultaneously with the development of the sores upon the bodies of the occupants of the house.

"This is perhaps a mere coincidence, but it is remarkable that the same susceptibility to electrical effects, with the same lapse of time, should be observed in both animal and vegetable organisms.

"I have visited the sufferers, who are now in one of the hospitals of this city; and although their appearance is truly horrible, yet it is hoped that in no case will the injuries prove fatal,

Warner Cowgill,
U.S. Consulate, Maracaibo, Venezuela,
November 7th, 1886."

* * * * *

There is a possibility that the hospital mentioned may still be in existence and, if so, records relating to the patients might be available. Local newspapers, if there were any in that part of South America in 1886, may also give further details.

Perhaps this incident could provide some interesting detective work for one of South American correspondents.

FRANCOIS (continued from p. 9)

on that of Mme. Coquillard, and in dealing with it I have made no mention of other witnesses. I will go back a few minutes in time when dealing with the remaining witnesses.

[The record of M. Tyrode's painstaking investigation will be concluded in our next issue—EDITOR.]

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED!

Readers at home, or overseas:
Your carefully prepared reports of your own or, preferably, of other people's experiences, will be welcomed.

Readers' Reports

Droning circular UFO

Sir,—Mrs. Carter, of 52 Calvin Road, Winton, Bournemouth, was most surprised when her 13-year-old daughter, Jane, ran in early one evening, breathless with excitement at the mysterious phenomenon which she and her friend, Carol Elverd, had just witnessed.

It was about 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29. The two girls were arriving home from a cycle ride, when their attention was drawn by a sudden loud droning sound. Glancing up, Jane caught sight of a huge circular object. In great excitement she grabbed her friend's arm, and together they ran to the rear of Jane's house for a better view.

The object was travelling at great speed in an easterly direction, at an elevation of about 30°. It was silver in colour with an orange periphery, and was perfectly round. The noise it made was similar to an engine, yet with an "unearthly, bubbly" tone.

As the two friends watched, this immense and startling phenomenon disappeared behind some trees. When it reappeared it was orange all over, like a huge fireball. As it sped away out of sight, the loud noise stopped as suddenly as it had begun.

The weather that evening was cold and clear. Altogether the sighting had lasted for about half a minute.

Jane was so impressed by her experience, that she sent the details of her sighting to the local paper. Her letter appeared four days later in the correspondence columns, under the heading: "Another UFO?"

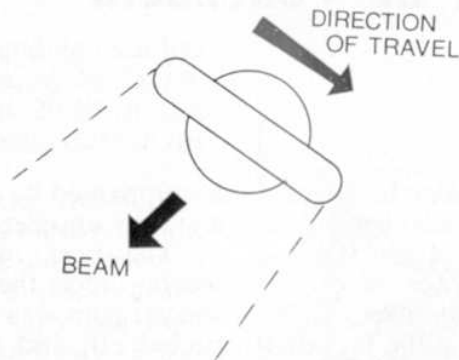
Leslie Harris,

Cosmic Research Group, Bournemouth,
120, River Way, Christchurch, Hants.

UFO sighting near Kilmarnock

Sir,—On the advice of a subscriber to your magazine I am writing to inform you of a recent experience I had and which I think may be of interest to you.

At approximately 1.30 a.m. on the morning of June 27, 1970, my friend and I were driving home on the road to Galston, a small town situated in the Irvine Valley, five miles east of Kilmarnock. At this time we were approximately 2 miles from the town when I saw from the passenger's seat of the car in which we were travelling, away to our left an orange sparkle through a clump of trees. At this point there is a main line grid of electricity pylons which stretch across the road and on past the clump of trees; I there-



fore assumed that it was an electrical fault causing the sparkle.

At a short distance farther on we were in a position to see past the trees and it was then that I observed a bright orange, saucer-shaped object descending from the sky at an angle of approximately 30° and it could be seen, very clearly, to be projecting a wide beam of light in a downward direction.

Now dropping to an altitude of about 500ft., and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away, it retained this height and started moving in a line parallel to ours but moving at a far greater speed until we saw it levelling off over the town of Galston.

When we arrived in Galston, the buildings obscured our view, but on reaching the other side of the town we observed the object continuing its travel up the valley and gradually getting more and more blurred until it disappeared.

The sky at this time was very overcast and it is possible the object was merging into the clouds.

Prior to this experience I was rather dubious about the existence of UFOs and on first spotting it I was rather doubtful that it could have been one, but with further study, my friend and I decided that it could not be anything else, and to say the least it scared us.

Gordon McKinnon,

4 Park Road, Galston, Ayrshire.

Northampton reporters' reports

Sir,—Several unusual objects were reported over Northampton in three days at the end of October.

Ball of fire

On October 29 Mr. Bruce Belton of 27 Quantock Close was travelling to work in the north of the town with three colleagues when they saw "a ball of fire" overhead.

Mr. Belton, who reported the sighting to the *Northampton Chronicle and Echo* the same day, said the object emitted a small trail and seemed to be

travelling parallel to the Earth's surface.

"It went across the sky, roughly from south to north, very quickly. If it was any distance away it must have been travelling at a tremendous speed. The object emitted a steady glow and made no sound so far as the witnesses could tell.

Northampton police said they had had no similar sighting reported to them, and the U.S. Air Force base, Upper Heyford, knew nothing of the object, but discounted the theory that it may have been a weather balloon. The time of the sighting (7.30 a.m.) was too early for balloon launches.

No doubt prompted by this account, on Friday, October 30, Mr. Ronald Dartnell of 92 Southampton Road, Northampton, contacted the local paper and gave details of another sighting to reporter Tony Freeman. The story appeared the following night under the headline "More Mystery objects sighted."

Bright objects in overcast sky

Mr. Dartnell, according to the account, saw his object the day before the Belton sighting (of October 28). He was at work outside when, at about 3.45 p.m., he saw a spherical object to the south of the town. The sky was dull and overcast and the object "shone out like a torch." He saw it clearly and said it was a faint golden colour with "little rays of light at the edges like a child might draw the Sun."

Mr. Dartnell had the object in view for about a minute as it crossed the sky before disappearing behind some buildings. He called some workmates, but by the time they had arrived the object had gone. However, a minute or two later another similar object appeared from the south-west. It was at about the same altitude and going in the same direction as the first object.

A few minutes later a third, identical, object appeared. They all looked "like tennis balls seen at a distance."

A landing?

On November 3 a further sighting was reported to the *Chronicle and Echo*.

Mr. S. G. Lilford of 31 Farm Close, Wootton, Northampton, described how, on Tuesday, October 27, he... just happened to glance out of the window to see if it was raining when he saw a large circular object flying low over the village.

The object was seen at 3.15 p.m. As he watched it Mr. Lilford saw it emit a puff of blue smoke, like exhaust gases, from its edge. Having given off

the puff of smoke the object which was travelling in a south-west to east direction suddenly changed course and dropped vertically.

It was difficult to judge its size, but he thought it to be the apparent size of a football. It had on it, in the shape of a square, four pale, circular lights "the colour of a nightlight." Between the lights, apparently connecting them, was a "distinct cross shape."

The object moved without a sound and on a definite course, and, although it was hard for the witness to judge the distance he thought that after disappearing behind some houses it may have landed. No corroborative accounts—and certainly none of an apparent landing—have so far come in.

Mr. Lilford is familiar with balloons and aircraft: "I saw plenty of them during the war."

The Northants UFO Research Group (NUFORG) is at present investigating the sightings in more detail—especially the last one, in an effort to determine whether there was any possibility of it having landed.

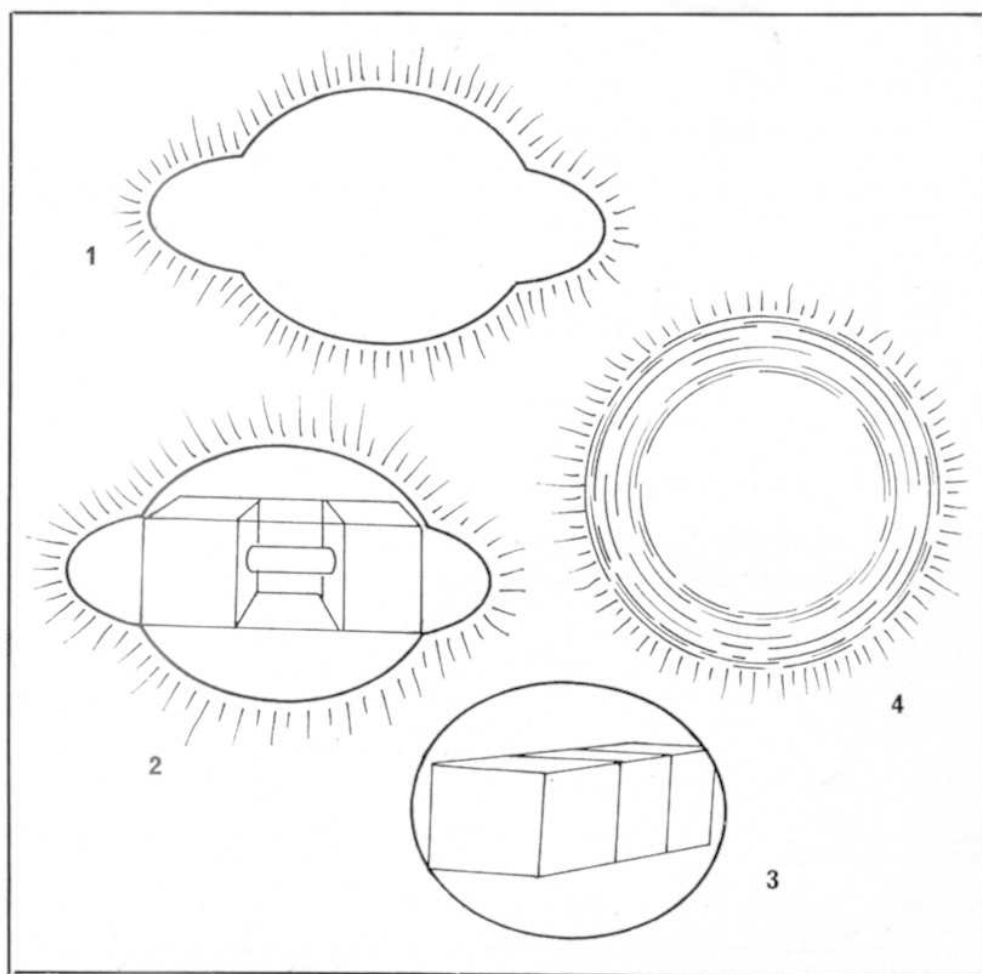
The first sighting might possibly be identified as a piece of space debris re-entering the atmosphere. A week before the sighting by Mr. Belton, I and my girl friend Kathy Bennett saw an identical object to the north of Towcester.

David Abbott,
108, Ridgeway, Northampton.

The "friendly" UFO over Dartford

Sir,—In 1967 (I cannot remember which month) my wife Della and I were returning home to Westhill Drive, Dartford, Kent. We had reached West Dartford in the early hours of the morning when, to our amazement, we saw, about 100-200ft. above us, a red glowing ball of light. This appeared to pulse with an irregular beat as the red glow altered its brilliance. When it first altered in brightness a black object became visible through the enveloping light. In shape it appeared like a box kite, although this was seen only briefly, for very soon afterwards a further change in brightness obscured it. Following this a second outline re-emerged, but now it was a cigar or saucer shape.

At the time of sighting the object I was in the Dartford Road only about 200 yards from the turning off the main road where I live. I immediately stopped the car. The "ball of light" also stopped, hovering above us, off centre and to the right above the houses. After a few minutes had passed my



The successive shapes as described by the witnesses

wife and I started pinching and slapping each other to make sure we were not dreaming! We got back into the car and drove on at about 10-20 m.p.h. As we moved forward, so did the object.

I stopped at our turning and once again the ball of light stopped and remained hovering above us. It hovered, it seemed, for as long as I wanted it to, because as soon as I got into the car again and turned left into Westhill Drive, this object also turned left and started travelling in the same direction. I stopped my car again and once more got out to observe the object for a while. All the time the red ball of light was active, beating out light rays in differing strengths.

Our direction changed once more for the final 100 yards of our journey, but still our "friendly" ball of light was with us at the same height above the houses, only now it was alongside of us. My wife and I were now rather frightened, but I was determined to get a look at the object through binoculars and, if possible, to get a photograph of it. I ran from the car into my house, up the stairs to the back room, grabbed the binoculars and looked out of the bedroom window. I saw the object veer round the house where it remained

hovering for about two minutes. It then soared up into the sky like a rocket and disappeared.

A. J. White, Westhill Drive, Dartford, Kent.

(Thanks too to Stephen Hall who brought this report to our notice.)

* * * * *

[On a sighting report form (completed on October 4, 1970, which was sent in with his account) Mr. White estimated the size of the object as covering the area of a dinner plate held at arm's length. This is, of course, incredibly large.—EDITOR.]

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(Pt. 2 in following issue)

1969

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(UFOs in Stone Age cave drawings?)

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UFO PHOTOGRAPHS: *Antonio Ribera*

July-August
THE KUALA LUMPUR UFO: *Gordon Creighton*
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May-June
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