

ANDEAN NIGHT OF THE SAUCERS—(Continued from page iii)

in the district, and he replied that many people had seen a big silvery saucer. The police in San Juan had received a report of such a sighting from a detachment near Jáchal. And when the travellers reached Iglesia, a little place 100 kilometres from Baños de Huaco, they found that people there had also seen the saucer. Again, on reaching San Juan, they found reports of still other sightings in the local newspapers.

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1973
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Case Histories

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CASE HISTORIES

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FEBRUARY 1973



WEIRD INCIDENT IN FINLAND

Reported in: "Encounter between Pudasjärvi
and Kipinä"

See page 5

A Close Encounter in North California ?

William Murphy

I WAS motivated to investigate a UFO sighting, which occurred three miles south-east of Anderson, California, on November 13, 1972, because of the patent "Blue Book" type of "explanations" put out by the radio and newspapers. While the explanation might be that the sighting was of a radio-sonde balloon, the account is strange enough to render that explanation highly questionable. Furthermore, the witnesses seem to be wholly reliable. They are Mr. and Mrs. Les Harris (aged about 40), their daughter Mary (aged 14), and Mr. Rex Pixley (aged 54), the brother of Mrs. Harris. Mr. Harris works in a lumber mill and part of his job entails estimating the size of logs.

After having dinner with his sister and brother-in-law and his niece Mary, Mr. Pixley went out with them at about 6.00 p.m. for his usual evening stroll before retiring to his trailer-home on the lot next to the Harris's rural home.

The arrival

Rex says that as he walked past his trailer he thought he heard an aeroplane in trouble low over the Sacramento River about a quarter of a mile away. When he turned to look back in that direction he saw what he first assumed to be a parachutist about to land on the edge of the Harris's one-storey house which was nearest to him, at that time about 40 feet away. However, the device did not descend, but hovered silently about a foot or two above the roof.

It appeared to be a black ball about 16 feet in diameter with a 10-foot rigid pipe protruding from the bottom. The pipe, or rod, was about 6 inches in diameter. At the end of this protrusion was a rectangular box about $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, with the $3\frac{1}{2}$ -foot dimension horizontal. The three later witnesses, incidentally, agree on all of the estimated dimensions except that of the "ball" part. They thought it was closer to 20 or 30

feet in diameter. After having seen its apparent size stepped off against trees, the house, and the trailer, and having heard Rex's description of what it seemed like when it was directly over him, I would have to speculate that the 20-foot estimate is the more accurate.

When first seen, the object was black or gun-metal blue-black and no lights were on it. It was darker than the dusky overcast sky and reflected some light from the Harris house windows.

The stay

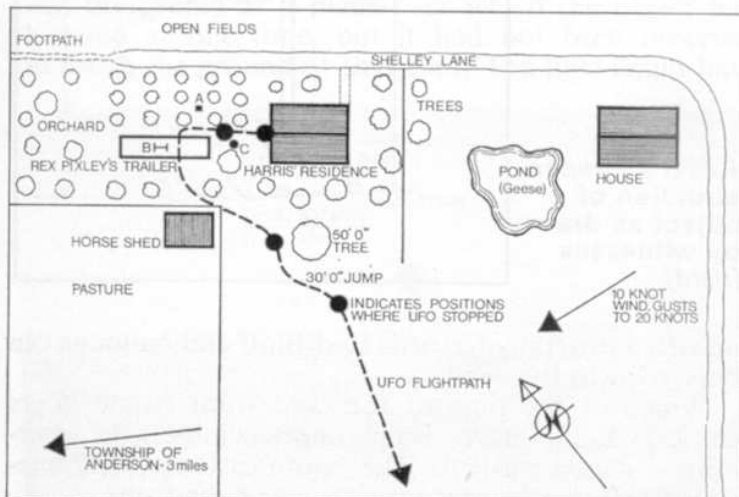
Mr. Pixley says he started back towards the object but retreated when, at the same time, it started towards him. It stopped for a few moments over a propane gas tank about 12 feet from its original position and stayed at the same height, the "box" about 15 feet from the ground and the top perhaps 45 feet up, or about the height of the larger shade tree that is behind the house. (A south-easterly wind was blowing at the time. Winds were gusting to over 20 knots according to the Federal Aviation Agency.)

The device then moved parallel to Rex's trailer, but turned 90° about mid-trailer and deftly manoeuvred its box between the tree branches and the TV antenna on the trailer. Rex had been standing a few feet from his trailer door, but darted and ducked away just as the thing made its opposite move over the trailer. Some time during this interval Rex saw two windows or lights on the ball as it revolved slowly, each slightly over one foot high and two or three feet wide, and separated by about a three-foot interval. The colour of the lights was a flickering orange-red with a suggestion of other colours interlaced.

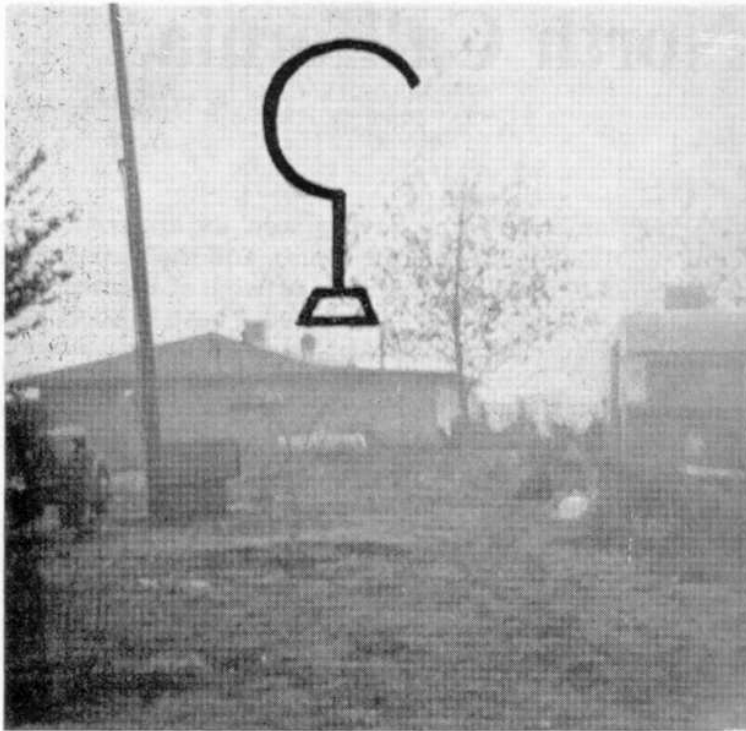
Rex then called to his sister, brother-in-law, and niece. Mrs. Harris came out first and saw it. Soon after that her daughter Mary saw it, and Mrs. Harris despatched Mary into the house to call the police. Mr. Harris was taking a shower and took time to dress before going out to view the excitement, and as a result arrived just shortly before the object's departure.

After crossing Mr. Pixley's trailer the thing moved back to the Harris's back yard, dangling its box between trees, the trailer and a horse shed on its way. At this time it was moving directly into the wind. It stopped beside a large shade tree for approximately six minutes, sometimes leaning slightly in various directions. Plucking up courage, Rex Pixley walked underneath it while it hovered there. At no time was it observed to touch the ground although the ball may have touched tree limbs which were waving in the wind. During the sighting the entire assemblage appeared to remain rigid.

When he stood under it, Rex could detect a "refrigerator" type of sound coming from the sphere. This sound, much amplified, was what Rex heard at the initial perception, and what all four heard at the departure of the object.



Key: A: Hole, B: TV antenna, C: Butane/Propane gas tank



The family dog was sick and being cared for in the house at the time, and was apparently unconcerned. None of the witnesses can remember what their horse did. The UFO had passed over the horse shed as it returned from the vicinity of the trailer, but the horse may have been in a distant part of the pasture. None can remember hearing noisy geese in an adjacent field, but they say they are so used to farm noises that they "tune them out." There was no effect on the electrical system of the house, including electric clocks.

The departure

As already indicated, Rex Pixley, when he stood about 20 feet directly below the device, could hear a noise like that of refrigerator coming from the ball portion. This noise increased markedly as the object jumped quickly about 100 feet, and the other three observers, who were 30 feet away, could hear it plainly. They described it as the sound of horses stampeding, a bevy of great birds flapping, or sheets on a clothes line in a strong wind.

The UFO stopped for a moment above the tallest trees and power lines, then headed south-west at a constant speed of perhaps 10 m.p.h. It moved across, slightly into the strong wind. It could be seen for about a quarter of a mile against the overcast sky which was slightly illuminated by the twilight and reflected lights from the nearby town. At about this distance it seemed to brush two tall cottonwood trees. Mrs. Harris called the neighbour who lived near the trees. He went out to look for it but saw nothing. However, he was able to corroborate the wind and weather information the others had observed.

A U.S. weatherman at Red Bluff said it sounded like one of their radio sonde balloons *except for the windows, the dimensions, the sounds, the "pipe," and the manoeuvring (!)*.

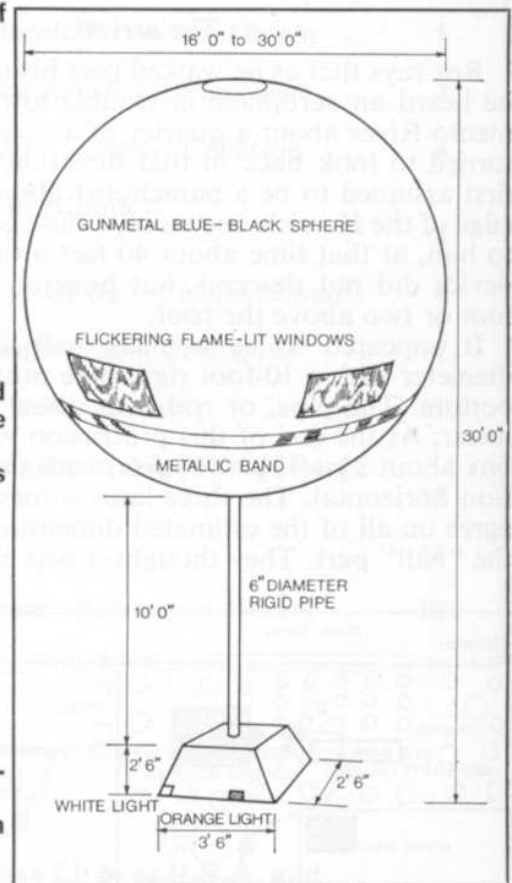
A balloon could have blown from Red Bluff to the Harris's yard that day (about 15 miles) but this thing



First sighting of object over house, behind or brushing the tree (above left)

Rex Pixley (above right) said the 'box' on the object was larger than this trunk

Artist's reconstruction of object as drawn by witnesses (right)



departed generally towards Red Bluff and balloons can only go with the wind.

Winds at the time of the cold front (some hours earlier) could have been unpredictable, or intermittently non-existent. The south-easterly wind prevailed before and after the passage of the front.

Just before mailing this report (which the observers have read and agreed is accurate) I consulted the local

Humanoids at Längelmävesi

Ilona Johansson-Paasonen

This account is taken from *Vimana*, the journal of the Finnish Interplanetarians Society, No. 3-4 of 1970, and has been edited from a translation provided by the publishers.

AT the end of August, 1945, I was staying at a sauna situated by the shore of Längelmävesi, which is in the parish of Kangasala. My friend, Mrs. K., was away on a trip. The events which I describe occurred, as I learned later, on what was a lovely summer's day—a morning when the lake was as smooth as glass.

I had awakened some time before five o'clock, and was lying with my head turned away from the window when I noticed, all around the room, a stream of light under the edge of the roof. I thought someone was walking in front of the sauna with a torch in hand and looking in through the window. As the curtains were drawn, I did not know, before looking at my watch, that it was already morning. Very seldom was there anyone on the move so early, and, being alone, I was somewhat afraid, for the nearest dwelling was one kilometre from the sauna.

However, curiosity overcame nervousness: I was

puzzled about the light, and I raised the curtain. There seemed no limit to my astonishment, and I received a great shock. From the Sahalahti shore, which lies at approximately 4 kilometres distance from the shore where the sauna is situated, a dazzling ball of fire, as bright as the sun, and about 10 metres in diameter, was approaching the sauna at a great speed.

Overcome by fear, I threw myself down on the floor, on my back, to wait for the "end," for I was sure that if that ball of fire maintained its course it would sweep the sauna to the ground. Rushing over the surface of the lake, the ball, when I first saw it, could surely have been no more than 200 to 300 metres from the sauna, for already it was obliterating everything from view, including the small islands.

Puzzled and vastly relieved when the expected crash did not happen, I stood up after a few minutes to take
(Continued on page 4)

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN NORTH CALIFORNIA—Continued from page 2

weather station at Red Bluff to recheck the time the front passed, etc. The weatherman in charge, after seeing the drawing and other data presented to him, said he could not see how it could have been any type of balloon he knew about. Federal Aviation Agency personnel in the adjacent office agreed. What is more, they put me on the trail of another recent local sighting!

The duration of the sighting was about 10 minutes. It took place at about 6.00 p.m. P.S.T. on Monday, November 13, 1972; sunset that day was at 5.15 p.m. P.S.T. As well as an overcast sky there was variable rain and visibility variable to about 1 mile.

* * * * *

A hole for which no one could find an explanation was discovered at a place over which the object had hovered at one time, but it had not been observed to touch the ground at that spot. The hole could have

been made by a shovel, but it was in a cared-for portion of the lawn. It was about 6 inches deep, with loose soil in the bottom, and firm sides, 6 × 8 inches in length forming a rectangle.

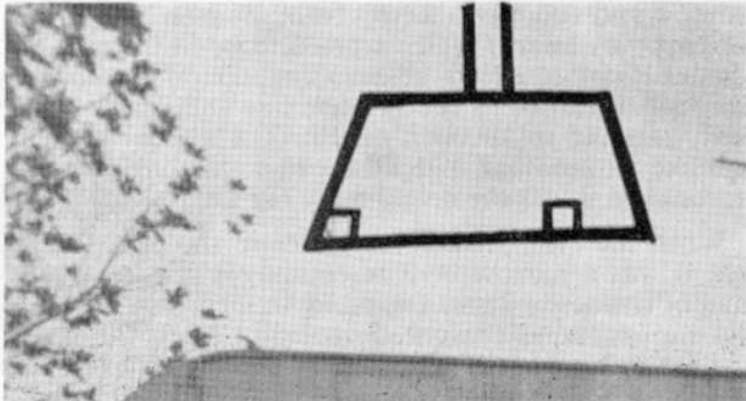
Editor's postscript: Mr. Murphy also sent a cutting from the Redding (Ca) *Record Searchlight* for November 15(?), 1972, which included a brief summary of the incident, and which closed with a note that the witnesses "... called sheriff's deputies, who determined the object must be a weather balloon.

"That conclusion was confirmed today by National Weather Service officials in San Francisco. 'It sounds like the radio sonde' ... one forecaster said."

Mr. Murphy italicised the words "sounds like" and asked how this could possibly be confirmation of the sheriff's deputies' guesswork.



Position last seen, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away, apparently brushing cottonwood trees (not to scale)



Box of object passed between tree and T.V. antenna on caravan

Alleged Landing in Richmond Park

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to the London suburban newspaper *Barnes & Mortlake Herald* of June 15, 1972, a Miss Shirley Devereux and her parents, of 38 Allbrook House, Danebury Avenue, Roehampton, London SW15, allegedly observed no less than seven UFOs touch down in the famous Richmond Park on the evening of Tuesday, June 13, 1972. We read in the report:

"Said Miss Devereux: 'I was looking out over Richmond Park when I saw the first one. That was at about 10.00 p.m. on Tuesday. It was a conglomeration of lights. It hovered above the Park, 30ft. above the ground, and then moved across the Park until it stopped near the Priory. Then it just disappeared.'"

She went on to say that between then and around 12.15 a.m., she saw a number of other lights, six conglomerations in all, converging on the spot where the first one had come down. "By this time," she explained, "I was watching through binoculars. The lights were so bright that my mother could see clearly with the naked eye. The lights were a brilliant orange. They seemed to go duller just before they landed. I could see a distinct flying saucer shape."

Miss Devereux said she reported the matter to the Police, the Richmond Park officials, and the London Planetarium.

Commenting, a Park official said that, so far as they knew, "nothing out of the ordinary had been reported

on that night" and no other eyewitnesses had come forward.

This is of course not the first claim of landings in parks and other enclosures quite near to London. An attempt was made to contact the Devereux family, and some communication was received from them by us, but it soon became obvious that the clamps were on, with a vengeance, and that these people, who a few days previously, had been so forthcoming in talking to the press, had been induced to prefer silence. Private enquiries made on our behalf through local Police channels indicate however that the Police did receive this report and that it is likely to have some substance. Allbrook House, which was inspected by one of the FSR team, is one of a series of very high modern tower-blocks of flats. The Devereuxs live on one of the top floors, and from their quarters certainly have an unsurpassable view over the adjacent park.

It is interesting to note that the World Round-up columns of FSR for September/October 1962 contain the following report of something similar allegedly observed over precisely the same area, and almost exactly on the same night of the month, ten years before:

UFO OVER RICHMOND PARK

The *Surrey Comet* in its June 13 [1972] issue reported as follows:

"A mysterious flying object was reported by a Ham
(Continued on page 13)

HUMANOIDS AT LÄNGELMÄVESI—(Continued from page 3)

another look at the phenomenon, but by then the ball of fire had disappeared. The beautiful scenery was visible once again, but I was surprised to see that at about 300 metres distance a dark log-like object, about two metres in length, was slowly gliding through the water and approaching the shore.

By that time my fear had left me, but I was still very surprised. I then noticed, just below the level of the window and about two metres from the pier, a strange-looking grey animal which seemed to be in the grip of terror. It appeared to be standing up on its claws. Suddenly it turned its head to one side and I saw sharp teeth grinning in an open mouth. The animal looked just like a round ball with all the hair standing on end. I presumed it was the neighbour's big Lapp dog.

When the "log" had come closer to the pier, I saw that it was a narrow boat resembling a canoe. A tall man of slender build was standing in the prow. He was wearing a greenish-coloured coverall. When the boat was just in front of the pier it swung round to the left, so I could see that in its aft another man was "steering" an engine which was inside a big glass bulb. I took a look at the dog and saw that it no longer seemed

frightened, and was running away. I heard neither any whirring of a motor, nor splashing of billows, but I observed quite a deep wake in the water.

At that time the Finnish press did not publish news on UFOs,* and people did not talk about them, so I was quite perplexed at what I saw. Feeling extremely weak I returned to bed, and so failed to observe what happened to the boat. Perhaps I would have seen the fireball returning to the sky. Perhaps I wouldn't have been shocked if I had known something of these things.

Since that time I have seen these so-called fireballs (UFOs) in the sky, but in the evenings instead, and they appeared to be as big as footballs.

* In September 1945 there were still a few years to pass before the beginning of the UFO era: the Scandinavian "Ghost Bomb" or "Ghost Rocket" scare occurred in the summer of the following year, and yet another year was to pass before Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting was to lead to the coining of the name "Flying Saucer" and the presenting to the world of a new topic for conversation and, eventually, what was considered to be the more "respectable" name, *Unidentified Flying Object* (UFO)—
EDITOR.

Encounter between Pudasjärvi and Kipinä

This report of an incident, which is stated to have taken place in 1967, has been kept on our files since 1969 when it was translated and submitted to *Flying Saucer Review* by ELIS W. GRAHN.

BETWEEN 3.30 and 4.30 a.m. on November 13, 1967, Mrs. Arja Achren and her brother Hannu Pelkonen were on their way by car from Kuusamo to Oulu. They were driving along the main road.

Between Pudasjärvi and Kipinä they suddenly noticed a strange object hanging above the skyline. It was shaped like a helmet and, to start with, appeared to be motionless, but they soon realised that it was "flying" over the forest bordering the road, and approaching the car.

The object was shining with a bright white light. Travelling in the opposite direction it passed over the car, which meant that, coming out of the south, it was moving towards the North East. Mrs. Achren and her brother were quite astounded by what they saw, but they managed to stop the car to take a better look at the UFO. Their astonishment was increased still further when they saw that the object had stopped as well. The enormous white helmet shape had two dark marks of the same shape which, to the witnesses, seemed like openings. Whatever they were, they appeared quite clear in the middle of the bright light. By now quite alarmed, the witnesses drove off as quickly as they could, continuing in the same direction as before.

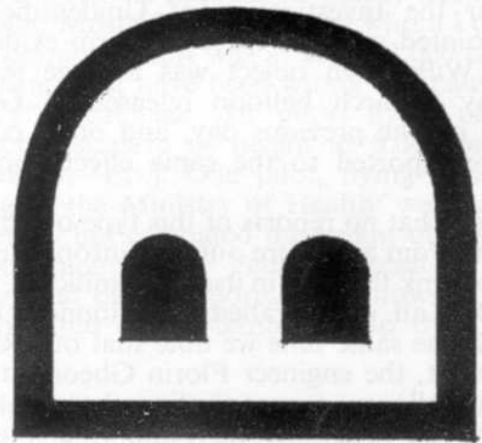
Mrs. Achren and Hannu Pelkonen had not travelled far before they realised that the object was following them. They saw the light grow brighter as the object started to rise, and then, with the brightening of the light, the dark openings suddenly disappeared. By now the object, moving over the trees, was keeping pace with the car. The witnesses thought they could hear a

strange noise from the car's engine, but whatever was the cause, it did not seem to affect the performance in any way. The speedometer was registering 110 km/H.

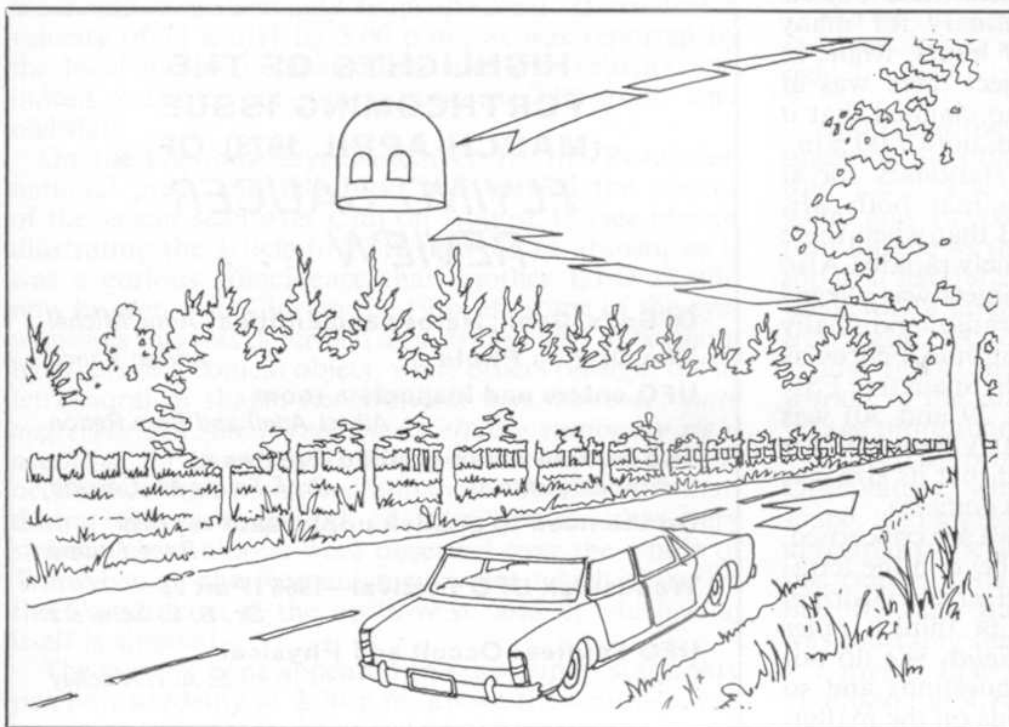
Before long the object either disappeared, or rose up quickly until it was out of sight.

* * * * *

Editor's comment: There is a paucity of real detail in this account, which is the main reason why we kept it on file for so long. However, the shape of the object, as described, is of interest, and it is felt that the report should go on record in case comparisons may be made. Again, it should be noted that a number of "flying" objects of unusual shape were reported in the same district during the 1970 flap (see *FSR Case Histories, Suppl. 2, December 1970*).



Above: Based on the witnesses' sketch—a bright helmet shape, with two dark marks which appeared like openings



Our cover drawing is our artist's impression of the strange scene in the small hours of a Finnish morning: reproduced here in outline to show the reported movements of the object

Geometrically Shaped Balloons, or UFOs?

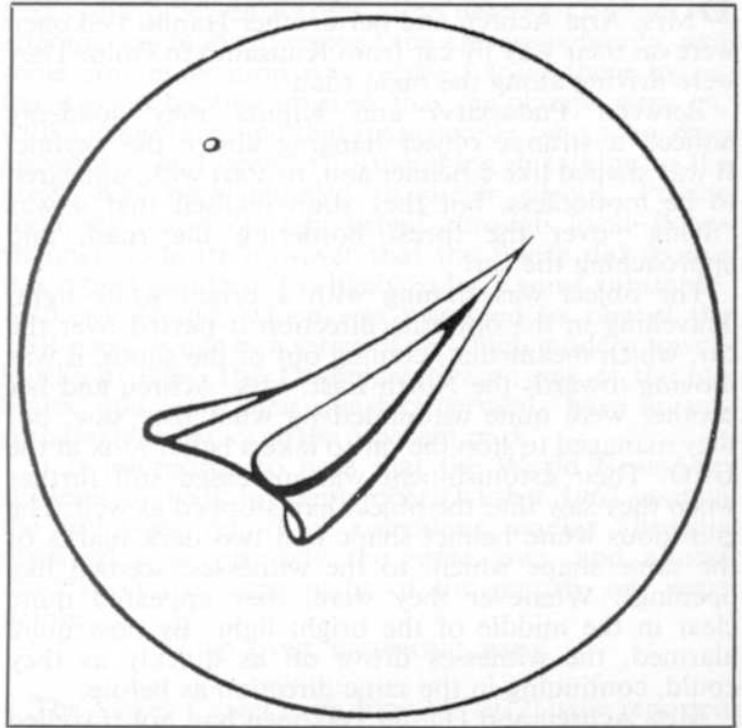
Charles Bowen

OVER the years since 1963, when in our issue for November/December (pages 26 and 29) we published photographs taken in the south-east of England on July 31 and August 1, 1963 respectively by R. Spier of Chatham, Kent, and Jan W. D. Willemstyn, FRAS, of Watford Heath, Herts, we have received a considerable number of reports of "Deltavolant" or triangular, or tetrahedral objects from various parts of the world, sometimes accompanied by photographs. A few of these we have published, but others we have preferred to ignore, in view of the great uncertainty prevailing about objects with these particular features or shape.

In the "Mail Bag" column of the issue of *Flying Saucer Review* for March/April 1966, Robin H. Sadler, one-time Hon. Secretary of the Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects pointed out that there was firm evidence that the Spier/Willemstyn object was a large tetrahedral cosmic ray research balloon released at Göttingen, Germany, on the previous day, and other correspondents have reported to the same effect about other cases.

We notice that no reports of this type of object seem to originate from anywhere outside Europe, and we are inclined to think that this in itself is significant, and may confirm that all are tetrahedral balloons released in Europe. At the same time we note that our Romanian correspondent, the engineer Florin Gheorghita (in the article that follows—a contribution that we have had on file for more than two years) and others, have been impressed by (1) the manner in which these objects remained apparently absolutely stationary for many hours (in the Romanian case for four hours, while, in the case of the Spier/Willemstyn object there was at least one witness in Hertfordshire who claimed that it was stationary overhead from 2.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m., and others who claimed that it was stationary for at least "several hours"). We note (2) that both Mr. Gheorghita, and others, have reported that when these objects depart finally they do so extremely rapidly. Also (3) that in one town in Romania the object was alleged to have affected reception of TV and radio, and finally (4) that the object reported by Fr. Antonio Felices as having been observed over Valladolid in Spain (see FSR for November/December 1965, pages 29 and 30) was registered by airfield instruments at Villanubla Air Base as being at about 76,000 feet, and that its size was computed as being about one square kilometre.

The problem is, of course, so far as we are concerned, merely of knowing whether, over and beyond the tetrahedral stratospheric research balloons of terrestrial origin there may not be, as Mr. Gheorghita thinks, *other tetrahedral objects of quite different origins*. We do not claim to know the answers to these questions and so shall continue not to make up our minds on the matter.



Sketch of the object over Valladolid on September 16, 1965, based on a watercolour by Father Felices who observed it through a telescope. Jet aircraft scrambled to investigate the object failed to get close enough to identify it.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FORTHCOMING ISSUE (MARCH-APRIL 1973) OF *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* . . .

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High Altitude Objects over Romania

Florin Gheorghiu

Translated from the French by Gordon Creighton

FOR the people of Cluj and vicinity the second part of 1968 was full of strange aerial sights. The reports of observations of peculiar objects in flight commenced in June and reached a peak with the photographs taken in August and September (see my first article, *Flying Saucer Over Cluj, Romania*, in FSR Vol. XV, No. 6 (November/December 1969)).

I received a whole series of very interesting reports about these cases, investigated many of them, and published them in various Romanian newspapers. By pure chance I was able, on four occasions, to observe UFOs performing spectacular evolutions and on each of these occasions I was accompanied by several fellow-witnesses. All this served to deepen my conviction regarding the great technical and scientific importance of the UFOs.

The Cluj photos of August 18, and my detailed account of the analysis of them, showing as they did the close approach of a UFO to the ground, had aroused great interest, and this interest swelled to lively discussion when, on September 19, 1968, another UFO was seen stationary over Cluj by thousands of the town's inhabitants, for a period of several hours. There were subsequently also lively discussions in the capital, Bucharest, where the photographs were shown before various specialists.

I. The incident of September 19, 1968

At Cluj the morning of September 19 was a typical fine one, as is characteristic of the Romanian autumn, with a friendly sun shining in a blue sky flecked with white clouds. At about noon the wind began to blow more and more strongly from the west. It reached a velocity of 73 km/H by 3.00 p.m., as was reported by the local meteorological office, and this velocity was indeed exceeded at times between 3.00 p.m. and nightfall.

On the previous day, September 18, the Romanian national press and television had carried the photos of the saucer seen over Cluj on August 18 (see photos illustrating the article in FSR referred to above), so it was a curious coincidence that another UFO should now be seen over Cluj on the 19th. By some of the eye-witnesses this was described as a strange sort of balloon, by others as a conical object, while others thought it was tetrahedral in shape. *Its behaviour was, however, quite unprecedented, for it remained virtually stationary right overhead for four hours.* The peculiar nature of the occurrence was moreover enhanced by the fact that, during the same period of four hours, other very strange aerial objects were observed over the whole of Transylvania, the Romanian province which abuts on the Carpathians in the north-west, and in which Cluj itself is situated.

The mystery cone appeared and took up its stationary position suddenly at 2.30 p.m. above the south-central

part of Cluj. But it had apparently already been seen some 15 minutes earlier, as I was told by witnesses M. Radu (a 31-year-old technical worker) and Z. Martou (a 57-year-old civil servant). Said the latter: "I was returning home from work at 3.15 p.m. when I saw a big triangular balloon travelling westwards rapidly. I was struck by the fact that, despite the strong wind, the object was travelling so fast *against the wind.*"

Having taken up its stationary position overhead, tens of thousands of people were able to observe it between then and 7.15 p.m., when a thick belt of cloud came up quickly and hid it from view, covering the whole sky.

During the afternoon, however, the object stood out clearly against the blue sky. The upper part of it was of a transparent white colour, evidently plastic, which shone in the rays of the sun. When first seen, its observable dimensions gave the impression that it was at no very great height. Most of the passers-by whom I questioned gave the opinion that it was at about 2,000 metres, but this estimate must have been wrong and caused by the "balloon's" great size. Air pilots flying on the line from Bucharest gave its height as 8,000 metres [just over 26,000ft.—ED.]. One pilot, flying in a machine belonging to the Ministry of Health, went up to over 3,000 metres, but estimated the height of the object at over 9,000 metres. Dr. Peligrad, head of the local meteorological office, reported as follows in an article which appeared on September 26 in the Cluj paper *Tribuna*:

"The shining cone-shaped object seen over Cluj was not a radio-sonde balloon. At the altitude of 8,000-9,000m. (at which it was estimated to be) the wind velocity was between 72 and 86 km. per hour, predominantly from the WSW. In such conditions, a balloon would soon have been out of sight."

Another witness, engineer-surveyor S. Muresan, who observed the object by theodolite for almost one hour, told me: "The cone-shaped object was at between 9,000 and 10,000 metres. Its plastic upper portion or roof looked as though not fully inflated, as though the top of it had fallen in. In the object itself, near the base, there was a large yellow-coloured body which had its own light." A few days later I received a completely similar report in a letter from G. Narodot, a technical worker in the survey service, who was at the time in a village more than 25 km. from Cluj.

University professor G. Chisu, of the Astronomical Observatory, who watched the object through a telescope, told a press reporter: "Seen through the glass, it appeared to be a quarter the size of the full Moon. In the centre it had a convex part which shone more brightly than the plastic upper portion—which itself was reflecting the sun's rays."

I myself first learnt of the presence of the strange "balloon" at 4.10 p.m., when I began to receive phone

calls about it. At 4.40 p.m. I was asked by a member of a TV unit who were filming the object to go to the nearby Central Square. The director of the film unit put various questions to me, my replies—pertaining to three clearly visible features—being as follows:

- (a) the object definitely had a plastic upper part;
- (b) although stationary, it showed nevertheless perceptible oscillations, probably due to atmospheric movements;
- (c) there was visible inside it a sort of sequence of changing orange-yellowish lights, which, paradoxically, were to be seen in the part of the object turned away from the sun, i.e., in the part that was in the shade.

That evening, I again met a member of the TV film unit in the town, and he told me he had been to the Observatory and, viewing the object through the telescope, he had been able to see that the plastic top part was moving and was indented by the force of the wind striking against it.

The end of the sighting came quickly at about 7.15 p.m., when the cloud front moved over and the crowd of watchers began to break up. However, some residents of the south-eastern district of Cluj, over which area the cloud cover appeared some few minutes later than over the rest, had a final view of the last stage which was quite curious and rather like the beginning. Here, for example, is the written statement that I received from a 58-year-old economist, P. Gheorghe:

“There is an electricity power line running across over my garden. Anxious to go on observing the oscillations of the luminous balloon, I positioned myself so as to be able to see it between two cables of the power line. When the mass of clouds arrived, the luminous body moved away at high speed towards the west, that is to say *against the wind*, which was blowing the cloud mass along from west to east. I was able to observe this very well by lining it up against the power cables . . .”

II. Associated Phenomena

The afternoon of September 19 brought surprises to the other towns and indeed to the villages right throughout Transylvania. At about 6.00 p.m., unidentified luminous objects appeared, and became more or less stationary in the sky. Then, after various curious changes of colour, they moved off, always towards the East. It is possible that, while the “balloon” was stationary over Cluj there were just one or two others flying about. To my great regret, I have been unable to carry out a full investigation of these other sightings.

The magazine *Cutezotorii*, issue No. 55 of 1968 (published in Bucharest) reported that there were sightings at this time over the towns of Blaj, Medias, Sighisoara, Dumraveni, Fagaras, and Brasov.

I went to Sighisoara (150 km. to the south-east of Cluj) two days later (September 21) and questioned numerous residents of the place. Here, for example, is the statement made to me by the 58-year-old lady, Professor T. Mihalovici:

“I think it would have been about 6.10 p.m., when the neighbours told me something luminous had appeared in the sky. And I saw, towards the NW, at an angle of 60° a luminous body stationary in the air. It looked like a very, very big star. After about ten minutes, it turned a dark red colour, and then blue. Then it vanished rapidly towards the North-East.”

The same (or perhaps another, but similar) flying object was seen over the north-eastern part of Transylvania at about 6.30 p.m. Reporting this, the German-language paper *Neuer Weg*, issue No. 6033 of 1968 (published in Bucharest) said that residents of a whole series of villages (Ocnita, Orosfaia, Archiub, Galatii Bistritei), as well as of the town of Bistrita, saw a “real flying saucer” moving slowly through the sky. *While over the town of Bistrita, it caused interference to TV reception, and to reception of the local amateur radio station YO5-TZ.*

A. Suciu, a resident of the village of Ocnita, was one of those who sent me letters. He wrote:

“Observing the thing with binoculars, I could see that it was a flying machine shaped like a saucer. It was stationary right overhead. Above it, I could see a sort of luminous trail which was moving to both right and left. On its lower portion the object had what seemed as it were a luminous spindle.”

Let us now return to the “balloon” seen over Cluj.

III. A Comparative Analysis

A powerful impression had already been produced the previous day, September 18, by the photos of the clearly defined “Flying Saucer” seen near Cluj exactly one month before. At first the new sighting, this time of a cone-shaped object with what seemed to be a plastic top, did not cause me to formulate any very firm conclusions, since I did not yet have the convincing data that I was able to gather later. All that I did therefore was to publish two articles, merely outlining the important features of the case. These articles were in *Faalia* No. 6860 of 1968 and *Magazin* No. 584 of 1968, both of which publications appear in Bucharest. In Bucharest too various specialists attended at the analysis of the colour film made by the TV team, but no conclusions were reached. (This was reported in the Bucharest newspaper *Contemporanul* of November 1, 1968.)

Later however, after I had received the various letters and statements mentioned above, I received two photographs which had been taken with a telescopic lens, and from them I was enabled at last to arrive at some rather interesting conclusions. But first of all, in order to provide a firm basis for discussion, let me recall certain of the more recent and therefore better-known similar cases:

On April 7, 1967, the inhabitants of the Bulgarian town of Stara Zagora watched for a long time a large triangular flying object which finally vanished at high speed. And on November 21, 1967, the inhabitants of the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, observed an even more interesting sight. (See Photograph No. 1.) Here is the text of the report about it which appeared in the Romanian daily paper *Romania Libera* of November

tain its position being observable by eyewitnesses. In these circumstances, can we imagine that it may perhaps have been a balloon employed for scientific studies? (*Some days later, I learnt that no large balloon had been launched by any European country during the period in question.*)

From approximate but clear calculations (see Fig. 1) it emerges that the object had a minimum base diameter of 69 metres. What could so large a body contain? What was the lower convex portion which reflected the rays of the sun more brightly? One report which reached me a few days later stated that it had been established by means of radar that there was a large metal object inside it, which might well account for the effect of yellow lights observed inside it.

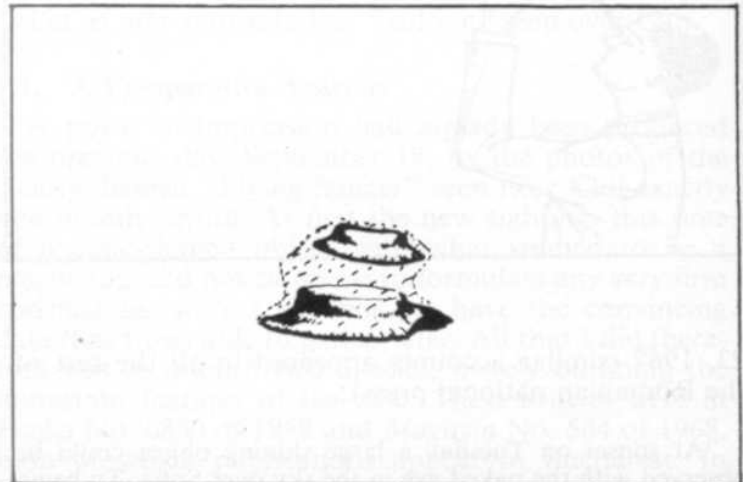
A clarification of the whole matter seems however to be provided by two photographs—possibly the only good ones out of all the several hundreds taken (but without telescopic lenses) on the afternoon in question (Photographs 2 and 3). Any kind of hoax in these photographs is ruled out by the fact that they only portray what tens of thousands of people were able to observe by various media in the sky above their city. The quality of these photographs is due to the fact that the man who took them was the reporter-photographer R. Wagner of the local paper *Faalia*. One aspect of the matter and one which is not without its humorous quality, is that Wagner is a well-known opponent of the idea of UFOs. He viewed the photos merely with disdain, and it was his Editorial Department which sent them to me for study.

IV. The Analysis of the Photographs

This second series of Cluj photos throws light on fresh aspects of the technical and scientific complexity of those remarkable flying craft, the UFOs. Thus, in photo No. 2 the axial "bulge" of the base of the cone can be seen clearly, brightly lit up by the sunshine. The same sort of appended feature, which must definitely have been quite large, was reported as present on the other object that was seen at 6.30 p.m. over the village of Ocnita. Was it the same constructional or functional detail in both cases? I would point out that a similar detail is also to be seen on the two flying objects photo-

graphed during the summer of 1954 at Taormina, Sicily (see photograph reproduced in Frank Edwards' *Flying Saucers, Serious Business*). What functional purpose could these "bulges" serve?

The other photograph (Photo No. 3) shows a different position for the cone, which has rocked. The photo has undergone greater enlargement (as is to be observed from the background granulation) and this adds to its documentary importance. This photo may possibly be unique in the world inasmuch as its details show the mysterious contents of the flying cones or pyramids. The transparent cover, the brilliant reflection from the metallic surfaces inside and, no doubt, the object's own light, enable us to see that in fact there are two separate things contained inside the plastic. Thus, in the lower part of the object, the actual outline of a "saucer" can be detected (see Figure 2). And the upper portion contains another thing, which is flat. Does this plastic cover cloak some actual manoeuvre, like a refuelling in flight, or some difficult technical repair job? Or does it perhaps conceal a flying "tandem" which only splits up at certain times, and travels the rest of the time in a plastic cone or pyramid? In view of the great size of the lower saucer (the base of the cone being at least 69 metres wide), and in view of the change in the shape of the cone as observed from below, it seems



The interpretation of the photograph no. 3

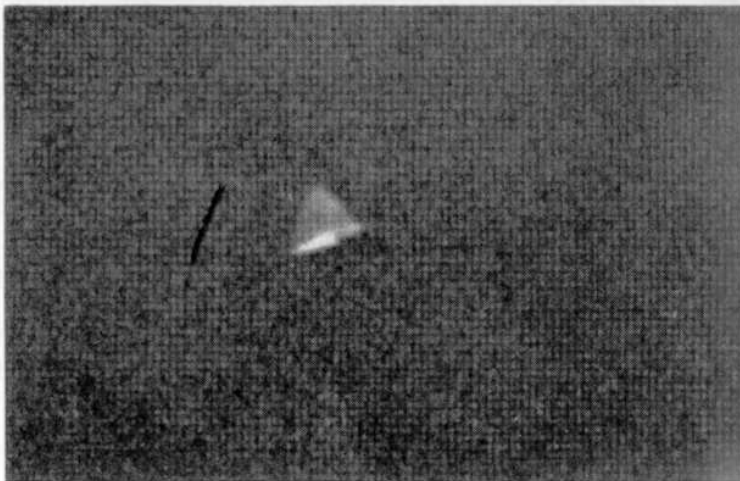


Photo 2. The flying cone which was over Cluj, Romania for 4 hours

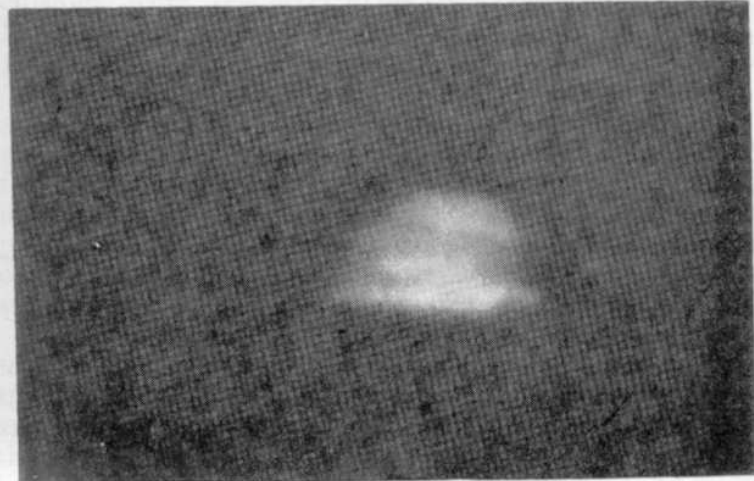


Photo 3. With its form modified the strange 'balloon' photographed at Cluj in 19/9/68 reveals that it conceals two UFOs

Report from Ljubljana, Slovenia

Milos Krmelj

THE members of NLP* Drustwo SOLT are mostly students in the high schools and technical colleges of Ljubljana, capital of our Federal Republic of Slovenia. Our task is no easy one, for there is an average of only approximately one UFO report per newspaper per year in Yugoslavia, and such publicity is invariably accompanied by complete ridicule. Our aim is to combat this ridicule to the best of our ability, and to provide a thorough record of the UFO scene not only in our own Republic of Slovenia but, insofar as we can, in the other Republics of Yugoslavia.

The following cases are from the period 1969-1972.

Case No. 1: Moste, near Ljubljana

This episode dates from 1969 or 1970. Unfortunately neither of the two eyewitnesses recalls the date or the year. The time was about 10.00 p.m. on a summer's evening, when the two brothers Janez and Anton Gorsic (both known to me personally) observed an unusual sky phenomenon. They were accompanied by two other witnesses at the time, but these other two I have not yet succeeded in seeing.

The first thing observed was a light in the sky, and then a ball-shaped UFO with a trail (or, as one of the eyewitnesses described it, a *tail*). The colour of the ball was a vivid white, and the trail or tail bluish-violet to one witness, but apparently bright yellow to the other. The whole sighting lasted about one minute. The UFO seemed to be noiseless. No smell or other effects were observed. The white ball travelled in a slight parabola,

The author of this report—which has been edited by Gordon Creighton—lives in Ljubljana, in the Yugoslav Federal Republic of Slovenia. He is a student of biology and chemistry and has already contributed an article, *UFO Landing Reports in Yugoslavia (FSR Case Hist. 12)*. He informs us that besides being a subscriber to FSR he is the Yugoslavian representative for both APRO and NICAP. With a few friends, he has recently established (March 1972) the NLP Drustwo SOLT (UFO Investigation Society of Students in National Technical Colleges), and the cases dealt with in his article have all been the subject of direct enquiry by him and his co-workers. Mr. Krmelj tells us that the job of investigating such matters in Yugoslavia is by no means easy, for his is the only serious investigative body in the whole country, so far as he knows, and the normal way in which the Yugoslav newspapers deal with UFO reports is to give them the ridicule-treatment familiar to us from the accounts of our other correspondents in all parts of the world.

We wish the young Slovenes all success in their valiant endeavour.

EDITOR.

and the place where they saw it was Moste, on the outskirts of Ljubljana.

Anton, the younger of the brothers, is a student of Engineering in the Ljubljana Technical College. He had

* **Note by Gordon Creighton:** NLP = abbreviation of Slovenian for *UFO*.

(Continued on page 12)

HIGH ALTITUDE OBJECTS OVER ROMANIA—(Continued from page 10)

to me that this theory of temporary coupling is more probably correct.

This new piece of photographic documentation from Cluj thus constitutes important proof that the plastic which "disguises" the external aspect of the UFOs is inherent in the construction of these marvellous craft and serves a precise functional purpose for the occupants, though what this purpose is still remains an enigma. More detailed sightings may throw light on this in due course.

Now I also want to draw attention to a further interesting detail, namely that the rim of the large lower saucer seems, on the right-hand side of the photo, to be segmented. But we are wont to regard this rim as *continuous* around all saucer-shaped flying objects. What has happened then in this case? I want to draw special attention to this point, because I was in fact greatly intrigued by a similar detail in the series of three photos taken of the UFO near Cluj on August 18, 1968, as shown in my article in FSR for November/December 1969. Can it be that there is in fact a portion of the saucer rim which is withdrawn into the interior of the object during certain functional manoeuvres? And do

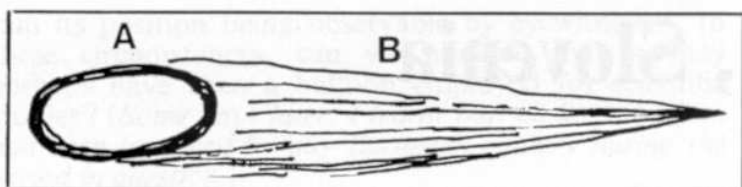
these manoeuvres perhaps explain the inversion of the shadow in the second photo of August 18th?

I am drawing special attention to this point, and to all these related questions, in the hope that they will receive more study in future, so that we may perhaps arrive at a clarification of the important technical problems involved in the operation of the UFOs.

V. General Considerations

The wave of flying objects seen over Europe in the summer and autumn of 1968 clearly extended to Romania too. The numerous investigations which I made into sightings in the Cluj area during that period culminated in the excellent photographs taken on August 18, and were then augmented by the remarkable documentation secured on September 19.

It is my earnest hope that the effort I have made in analysing these cases may constitute a small Romanian contribution towards the immense task confronting us in the technical problem of the UFOs. As Dr. James McDonald showed, in case after case, the problem of the UFOs still remains the greatest scientific problem of our times, and for all peoples.



previously heard tales of "flying saucers" but never took them seriously.

He provided this sketch. Janez also provided a sketch differing in no details.

Case No. 2: Siska, near Ljubljana

This occurred in October 1971 in Siska, my own suburb on the outskirts of Ljubljana. The two witnesses, a young man and his girl-friend, both known to me personally, wish to remain anonymous. For close to half-an-hour they observed an object which they describe as "apparently larger than the Moon." They then went indoors and when they came out again, on to the fourth-floor balcony, some ten or fifteen minutes later, the UFO had vanished.

In their opinion, it was at a distance of about 1 kilometre from them, and at a height of some 50 metres from the ground and no more than 10 metres above the top of a tall building. They noticed no sound or other effects. Their first thought on seeing the thing was that it must be a balloon, but when they perceived how absolutely stationary it was and how it *glowed*, they were convinced that it could not be a balloon or any natural phenomenon with which they were familiar.

Case No. 3: Uskovice

This took place at 1.00 a.m. one night in mid-October of 1971, at Uskovice, above Bohinj, in Slovenia. There were at least seven eyewitnesses, of whom I have managed to question one, Andrej Pedicek, a student of Physics, and the object was under observation by them



for a period estimated at from ten to twenty minutes.

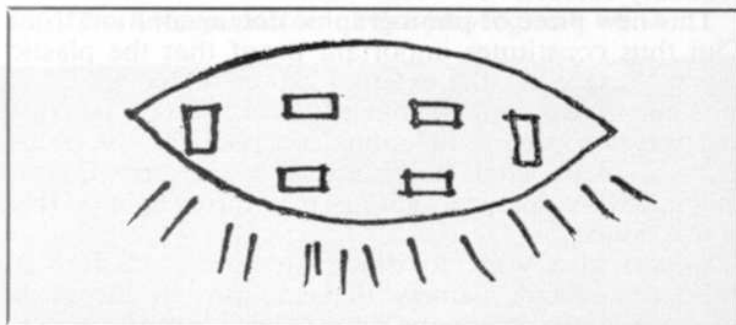
At first their attention was drawn to a bright spot in the sky, varying between orange and reddish-orange in colour. Then it began to move, at times erratically. All the witnesses agreed that the light seemed to be attached to some three-dimensional body. The whole party became terrified when at one point the object came very close to them.

There was snow on the ground at the time. The UFO lit up the snow-covered hillsides, which appeared to glow under it. It flew to and fro between two mountains called Komna and Vogel. No sound or smell or other effect was noticed. Finally the object seemed to become smaller and smaller and disappeared over the horizon, still flying very low. Pressed by me for a description of the shape of the object, Pedicek could only say that it was a strange light, but that it seemed to be three-dimensional.

Case No. 4: Podpec, near Ljubljana

This took place at 11.00 p.m. one night in the autumn of 1971 at the small village of Podpec, some ten miles from Ljubljana. There were three witnesses, Dusan Sinkovec, aged 15; Pavel Pristavec, aged 17; and Srecko Pristavec, aged 40.

I interviewed two of them. They said they had been in a car at the time, and at first thought they were merely observing an aircraft. Then however they perceived that it was oval or lens-shaped, of a glowing red colour, was performing a spiral movement, and did not have the navigation lights required on an aircraft. Then their transistor radio was blanketed out with static just as the UFO made a sweep in their direction. The three occupants were seized with panic and felt breathless. As the UFO came closer they could see that its colour was now yellow, but when it arrived right above the car and took up a stationary position there, it became orange-red. They estimated its length at between 7 to 10 feet, or roughly the size of a small passenger car such as the *Fiat 750*. After hovering briefly above the car, the UFO flew off again in the direction from which it had come. They estimated the duration of the experience at some 15 seconds or so.



(In either July or August of 1971 there seems to have been another sighting in the same area. It was at around 8.00 p.m., and there were 20 eyewitnesses. The UFO, an orange-red object, also lens-shaped, seemed to be about a kilometre from them and was flying on a level course. The sighting lasted about a minute.

Two of the people who saw the UFO were Darko Sinkovec and his brother Dusan. I questioned them and felt that they were telling the truth. At a school near the village of Podpec there was a good deal of talk

among the children about a weird glowing mass seen flying about there, and also about a strange fire seen in the forest on the hills some 5 km. above the school. As I once spent six months as a teacher at Podpec myself I plan to go back there and make further enquiries.)

Case No. 5: Sphere over Visnja Gora

The time was 6.30 to 7.00 p.m. on January 26, 1972. At Visnja Gora, some 20 miles from Ljubljana, two eye-witnesses, Miss Franciska Slapnicar and Mr. Anton Omahen, observed something which the former describes as "a ball with some squarish additions," while the latter says that to him it appeared to be merely perfectly spherical. The object was in sight for several minutes, moving very slowly through the sky. As they watched, it suddenly performed a "jumping movement," and the sky at once became filled with light resembling the light emitted in arc-welding, and they smelt what seemed to be sulphur.

I interviewed both the witnesses. Miss Slapnicar says she was terribly frightened, and literally shaking. She had never seen such a sight in her life. Mr. Omahen, giving further details, said that the very weird, perfectly round ball—which is how he saw it—was white and yet had a certain reddish glow about it. In his estimate it was about 2-3 km. from them, and its apparent size was half the size of the Moon. (When I asked if he had ever in his life seen anything similar he said yes. He said that in the summer, three years ago, at about 5.00 a.m. one morning when it was already daylight, he was working in the fields when he saw a similar round white object.)

Both witnesses emphasised that they had noticed the sulphurous smell, and said that the UFO lit up half the valley beneath it.

When I asked Miss Slapnicar whether she too had ever seen anything similar before, she said that she had in fact seen a spherical object last year, but at a much greater distance. It had remained stationary for some time and then vanished suddenly. She was uncertain of

the date of that sighting, but in July 1972 she saw another "strange object" flying about over the same region. This object was elongated, of an orange-red hue, and carried many lights. She was not certain whether it had emitted any noise, owing to the nearness of a very busy and noisy highway. The time was 9.00 p.m. and the object was high in the sky. Its lights were in a straight line along what appeared to be the outline of an oblong body. The lights, she said, were of an orange-red.

I checked with the airport authorities to find out if any special aircraft corridor passes over Visnja Gora. The answer was in the negative, though they added that of course they could not express an opinion as regards the possible movements of military aircraft.

At 1.00 a.m. on August 1 or 2 of 1972, in the same general area near Visnja Gora, Mr. Anton Zajec states that he saw a "strange light," which illuminated the whole neighbourhood.

Case No. 6: Triangular UFO over Bosnia-Herzegovina

According to a report dated February 7, 1972, from Sarajevo, much excitement had been caused by a triangular unidentified flying object observed, over Bosnia-Herzegovina, at between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m. a few days before. At the Sarajevo Airport, where the thing was picked up on the radar, they said it was travelling at a speed of 1 km. per minute and that it was of the size of a small aircraft. But when a Yugoslav Airlines (JAT) Convair made an approach towards it, the object at once accelerated and vanished at a tremendous speed. Quoted in the newspaper *Delo* of February 8, 1972, the rocket engineer Enver Dupanovic commented: "If it is correct that the UFO was travelling, as reported, at a height of 3,000 metres, then there is no possibility whatsoever that this could have been either a satellite or a commercial balloon."

One wonders what precisely a rocket engineer was doing in an airport control room or in a flight-control tower?

ALLEGED LANDING IN RICHMOND PARK—(Continued from page 4)

resident to have been seen descending over Richmond Park in the early hours of Saturday. Mrs. Joan J. Kinneir, of 10, Ham Farm Road, spotted it from her window. She told the *Surrey Comet* yesterday, 'I saw a bright, flaming object, falling steeply, and quickly disappearing behind the landscape. It made no sound.'

"Mrs. Kinneir said it seemed close to the earth, not distant, as in the case of a shooting star. The object was yellow, and a great deal bigger than a shooting star. The object came and went in less than two seconds. It appeared to fall into Richmond Park, but there was no sound of anything falling.

"A spokesman for the Air Ministry told the *Surrey Comet* that there was usually a reasonable explanation for such phenomena. Regular reports were received concerning unidentifiable flying objects, and further investigations had to be made before any decision could be reached."

We would certainly agree that, on the face of it, this 1962 report might very well have concerned the fall of a

meteorite. In addition to the two main meteor-showers which regularly hit the earth with their peaks at August 12 (the *Perseids*) and December 12 (the *Geminids*), the radar investigations inaugurated at Jodrell Bank in 1946 revealed that there is in fact a great summer shower of meteors which lasts all the time from May until August and reaches its maximum in the middle of June, i.e., right at the time of both these "UFO" reports of 1962 and 1972.

However, it may be thought that the Devereux story may well involve something more than meteoritic material, in which case the previous fall of "something" in Richmond Park might acquire importance. It must be borne in mind that the Royal Park of Richmond, a very extensive tract of open country studded with trees, near to London, is closed to the public during the hours of darkness. Such an area might therefore offer remarkable scope for "unusual" happenings or phenomena, and might provide cover for landings by any number of UFOs.

Preliminary Catalogue of Type 1 cases in Argentina—Part 2

Prof. Oscar A. Uriondo

As explained in the introductory note to Part 1 of this catalogue, sub-classifications have been made in Dr. Jacques Vallée's sub-divisions of Type 1 UFO reports.

The initial figure given for each case refers to the serial order of the event within the class to which it belongs, while the figure in parentheses denotes the chronological position of the case within the total context of all the classes.

Part 1 contained the first 28 cases of the sub-class A-1 of Class A ("Any visibly abnormal body or phenomenon observed at not more than ten metres from the ground").

Sub-class A-1 (continued): Visibly abnormal body or phenomenon situated on the ground

29. (92). 1967, July 10; Santa Clara del Mar (Buenos Aires). Night.

Two motorists driving to Mar del Plata observed a cigar-shaped object on the ground, at a distance of 400 metres from the road. It resembled a railway passenger coach, with window-like rectangles emitting a vivid light. Later it rose and vanished towards the Sierra de los Padres range.

La Razón, Buenos Aires, July 11, 1967.

30. (99). 1967, November 5; Centeno (Santa Fe). 03.40 hrs. A dairyfarm manager, Sr. Carlos Spini, and an employee, were dazzled by a bluish luminous object which landed at a distance of some 600 metres from them and, after remaining stationary there for a few minutes, took off again and disappeared at high speed. It left an oval mark measuring 4 metres \times 6 metres. The grass at the spot was dry, dehydrated, and flattened, chiefly so at the centre of the mark and less at the periphery. It seemed to have been caused by pressure from a convex surface.

Communicated by the Centro de Estudios Físicos, Santa Fe; *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, November 19, 1967; *La Nación*, Buenos Aires, November 20, 1967. Roberto A. Ferrari: "Possible Landings At Centeno, Argentina," in *FSR Case Histories* No. 6, August 1971.

31. (102). 1967, mid-November. Centeno (Santa Fe).

Stepping out of his country house, Señor Aranzadi found, 70 metres from the dwelling, an egg-shaped mark measuring 6 metres \times 4 metres, and another mark, circular and 1 metre in diameter, at a distance of some 70 cms. from the first. He declared that no such marks had been there the day before. He had not heard or seen anything strange during the night.

Communicated by the Centro de Estudios Físicos of Santa Fe.

32. (105). 1968, January 23; Termas de Copahue (Neuquén). 00.45 hrs.

A mysterious object that flew over the hot springs (termas) and then landed on a nearby crest was seen by a group of people (which included several Army men). The object remained there for three hours, and then flew off silently and at great speed. At the landing site it was found that the

shrubby was burnt over an area 180 metres in diameter.

La Voz del Interior, Córdoba, February 9 and 17, 1968; *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, February 8, 1968; *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 93, March-April 1968.

33. (108). 1968, March; Concepción del Uruguay (Entre Ríos).

Several people, including an Army officer, had set out from Colón by car, and after travelling for a few minutes they saw a luminous object beside the road. When they had got to a distance of some 700 metres from it, they established that it was a UFO with flashing lights. It at once took off, made a right-angle turn, and took up position above the car.

Boletín de OVNIS, Asociación Observadora de los Astros, Rosario, No. 4, 1968.

34. (112). 1968, June 11; El Trébol (Santa Fe). 19.30 hrs.

Four electricians travelling in a van saw a powerful orange light above a railway track. Flying low it then moved away to a field nearby, made a 90° turn, and went down behind a dense mountain area.

Los Principios, Córdoba, June 19, 1968; *Clarín* and *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, both of June 18, 1968.

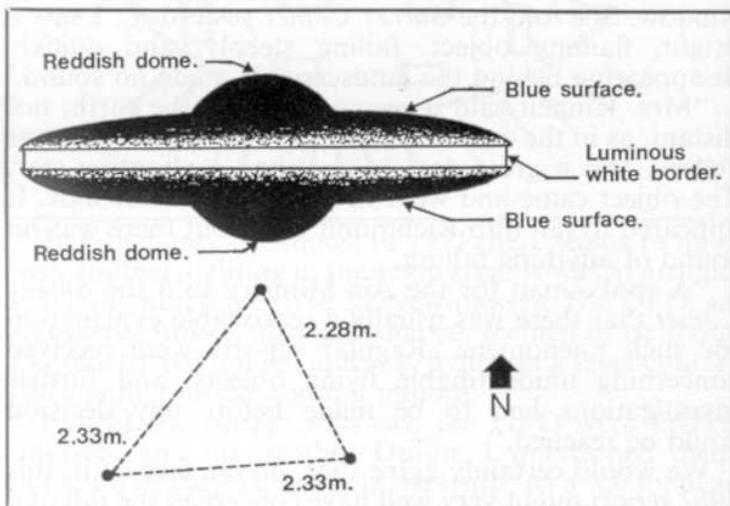
35. (139). 1968, July 29; National Highway No. 2, near La Atalaya (Buenos Aires). 03.15 hrs.

Sr. Néstor Norberto Notario, journalist, was travelling by car with his wife, a female cousin of the wife, and a businessman. Soon after leaving La Atalaya, at around Kilometre 273 or 274, they saw, at a distance of some 500 metres, an enormous object—comparable in size to a railway wagon—shaped like a "washbasin upside down," from the under part of which came a brightness resembling the arc in electrical welding. It flew low across the road, slowly and completely silently, at which moment the engine and lights of the car failed. When the UFO landed, at a spot some 250 metres from them, the car lights came on again spontaneously. The mysterious object remained there for 45 minutes and several motorists stopped to observe the sight.

La Capital, Mar del Plata, July 30, 1968.

36. (140). 1968, August 10; La Criolla (Santa Fe). 20.00 hrs.

Sr. Angel Peirotti was at home, resting, when he heard a



loud electrical explosion in his radio receiver, and the house was filled with light. When he went outside he observed, standing on the ground nearby, a disc-shaped object with two reddish cupolas, one above and one below. Around its edge was a luminous band of changing colours. It rose quickly into the air and disappeared. It left marks in the soil, seemingly from a tripod.

Espacio, AOA No. 2, 1st Fourth Months, 1969.

37. (141). 1968, August 24; Luis A. Sauce (Córdoba). 22.30 hrs.

Returning to Luis A. Sauce by motorcycle, Angel Mina and Ernesto Salomón observed, at a point some 16 km. from the town, a red light—"with prolongations like supports"—moving slowly through the sky. The strange light vanished among the trees, but 800 metres further on two cone-shaped objects appeared. These performed weird capers and even touched the ground several times. Each time they came together they produced an extremely vivid flash. The area over which they were manoeuvring became blanketed in mist, despite the fact that the atmosphere all round about was clear.

La Voz de San Justo, San Francisco, September 4, 1968.

38. (148). 1968, October. Correa (Santa Fe).

On the morning of October 14, Antonio Domingo Damiani, an agricultural worker, discovered a paralysed calf, 1,600 metres to the north of his house. Beside the animal there was a large circular mark. During the afternoon he and his brother Humberto found nine more perfect circles in the grass, their diameters ranging from 5 metres to 12 metres. Around the edge of each of them were growing gigantic mushrooms, of a kind unknown in that place. In other adjacent fields a total of over 25 further rings were also found. The father-in-law of Humberto claimed that two months previously he had seen strange lights in the area. A neighbour named Pertusatti said that, fifteen days previously, he had seen an intensely bright light in the same area. The son of a police officer also said that some weeks earlier he had seen a vivid glow in that area.

Review *Gente*, Buenos Aires, No. 171, October 31, 1968, p. 60; review *2001*, Buenos Aires, November 1968, pp. 4-9.

39. (151). 1968, November; Necochea (Buenos Aires).

On November 8, as a civilian pilot named Carlos Alberto Martínez was landing his light plane at the Necochea Aero Club, he noticed in the field, to the side of the runway, an enormous whitish-coloured circle. After getting out of his plane he went over to the spot and found that the circle consisted of eight gigantic mushrooms. The subsequent investigation by civilian and military experts resulted in the discovery that the soil at the spot was totally calcined to a depth of 60 cms. and over an area 6 metres wide.

La Razón, Buenos Aires, November 9, 1968; John Livingstone-Learmouth: *Mushrooms At Alleged UFO Landing Sites*, in *FSR*, May/June 1969.

40. (152). 1968, November 14; Coronel Vidal (Buenos Aires). Night.

Local residents found strange circles, eight metres in diameter, impressed into the grass, with enormous mushrooms around their edges. The grass had acquired a distinctly different colouring and the soil seemed calcined. Some hours previously flashes of light had been seen in the area.

La Razón, Buenos Aires, November 14, 1968.

41. (153). 1968, November; near Tandil (Buenos Aires).

On November 25, on a farm owned by Sra. Mabel de Berkovsky and situated 10 km. from Tandil, a burnt grass ring 8 metres wide was found, with 14 mushrooms around the periphery. In addition, a branch and a cattle bone found together with the mushrooms showed signs of having experienced radiations of intense heat.

El Eco de Tandil, Tandil (Buenos Aires).

42. (154). 1969, January 1; Villa Ernestina, Lomas de Zamora (Buenos Aires). 20.35 hrs.

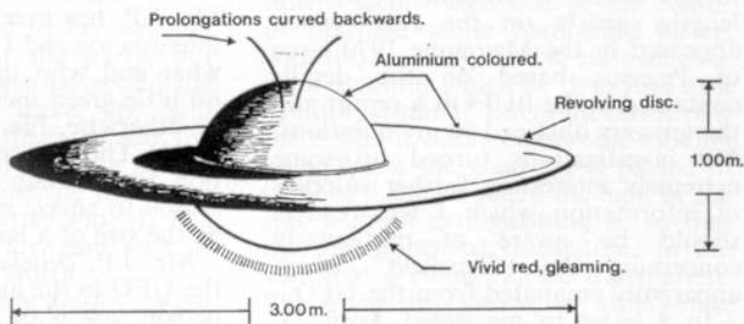
Two young people, Félix Maidana and Irma Tolosa, saw a flying object land behind the abutments of the Villa Ernestina spa. The object had a metallic gleam, and was described as "lentil-shaped," with a protuberance on the upper part. It was said to have been 2 metres high and 3 metres in diameter. It remained there, stationary, at a distance of 10 metres from the witnesses, for a few moments, and then rose rapidly and vanished in the sky.

La Crónica, Buenos Aires, January 6, 1969.

43. (157). 1969, June 12; Monte de Henrich, Olavarría (Buenos Aires). 18.00 hrs.

Señora Edith Etchepane de Vigo, her ten-year-old daughter and a neighbour named Delfino, observed three red lights at a distance of 1,500 metres on Monte de Henrich. The lights took off and came towards the place where the eye-witnesses were. They were flying at a height of 15 metres, and then suddenly vanished "as though by magic." Later a fourth light was seen, which was larger than the others and seemed to be spinning on its own axis. It finally went straight up and vanished from sight.

Report received from S. von Wurmb, engineer.



44. (162). 1971, January 8; La Picada, near Taffí Viejo (Tucumán). Mid-day.

Andrés Antonio López, manager of a farm, was picking lemons with the help of his fifteen-year-old nephew Mario Antonio Lobo when they suddenly heard a noise like the whistling of the wind. They saw an object shaped like two dishes joined together at the rims. The under part of it was red while the upper portion, from which two antennae were sticking out backwards, was of a shining aluminium colour. It was smooth, had no windows or doors, and was about 3 metres in diameter and 1 metre high. It stopped at a distance of 30 metres from them, rocking to and fro in the air, and then went down behind a stand of maize. When they approached it, the UFO started to emit a loud whistle and shot off in the direction of a ravine known as la Quebrada de los Caínzo, and vanished among the trees. At the spot where it had hovered they found a two-year-old lemon tree that was dried out right down to its roots.

La Razón, Buenos Aires, January 18, 1971; review *2001*, Buenos Aires, No. 31, February 1971, p. 26.

45. (164). 1971, June 11; Cuesta de las Vacas (San Juan). 10.00 hrs.

A San Juan Province policeman, Julio César Urbano, and two other people who were travelling with him in a truck, saw a strange aerial object, silvery in colour, shaped like a lens and 5 metres in diameter, which landed gently a few metres from the highway.

La Razón, Buenos Aires, June 11, 1971; *La Nación*, Buenos Aires, June 12, 1971.

Readers' Reports

The alleged landing at Winkleigh

Dear Sir,—I am prompted to write following the letter from Mr. Richard Farrow in the eighth issue of *FSR Case Histories* concerning the alleged UFO landing at Winkleigh, Devon.

The BUFORA report referred to came into my hands in 1970 when I was editor of *Pegasus*, journal of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. It was passed to me for perusal by Omar Fowler, at that time BUFORA national investigations co-ordinator. He discovered it while cataloguing the reports in BUFORA's files.

I was particularly interested in the case and wrote to the witness for further details. I subsequently wrote a lengthy article on the case—which appeared in the May/June 1970 issue of *Pegasus*—based on the details contained in the BUFORA report and the answers obtained to my questions. My investigations turned up some extremely interesting further snippets of information which I feel readers should be aware of—particularly concerning the “forcefield” which apparently emanated from the UFO.

In a letter to me dated April 23, 1970, tanker driver Mr. J.P. (he wishes to remain anonymous, although I have his full name, address, and other biographical details) wrote saying that the forcefield “seemed to completely surround the object, and on trying to walk towards it, the feeling was like walking into an invisible air cushion resisting your movement. You could actually lean on it.”

After the UFO had taken off, Mr. J.P. was “able to walk with no difficulty to where it had been. The only indication of its presence was a black powder circle, approximately 50ft. in diameter. This black circle was very

faint and fine. It looked like burnt carbon. Naturally, I didn't touch to find out.”

Continued Mr. J.P. in the letter: “My personal feelings were one of intense relief at its departure. Mentally it felt as if a weight had been lifted from me, but physically I felt no pain, shock, tingling, loss of memory, or any other ill effect.”

On the day of the sighting Mr. J.P. was driving a milk tanker from Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, to Torrington, Devon. He went on to say in his letter that when he set out on the journey his watch had been correct. But when he arrived at the Torrington factory, “my watch was 20 minutes slow.”

The May 1957 UFO is the only one Mr. J.P. has ever seen. “This subject interests me and I only wish one knew what and who they are. There were no little green men or sign of human, or otherwise, life. Please, I am not a crank. The silence of its flying operation for a thing so large has never ceased to amaze me, as it appeared to be the size of a large submarine.”

Mr. J.P. believes many people saw the UFO in the air. At least one other person saw it on the runway. Apparently this other witness, like Mr. J.P., doesn't want any publicity either, and is reluctant to come forward. It was Mr. J.P.'s wife who suggested her husband should tell BUFORA of the sighting. “My wife rather forced the issue,” said the Somerset man.

After receiving the letter, I compiled a special questionnaire and sent it to Mr. J.P. He very kindly filled it in. Most of the questions concerned small points not mentioned in his original report. Mr. J.P. estimates the UFO was 150 yards from his lorry when he first saw it. In answer to another question, he says he was some 90

yards from the UFO when he came up against the forcefield, whereas in the BUFORA report he gives the figure 200 yards. This is the only discrepancy I have come across. But I don't think we should let this worry us too much. Indeed, it is very fortunate Mr. J.P. manages to remember so many of the details.

Mr. J.P. also said in his letter that at the time of the sighting the aerodrome was not used for anything. Now there is a saw-mill, a fuel dump for a farmers' depot, and a go-cart track.

Mr. J.P., who is married and lives in Yeovil, Somerset, says in the original BUFORA report form, completed on November 21, 1966, that the UFO was visible for “ten to fifteen minutes.” When accelerating away, the object moved in front of trees and a low hill, establishing without a doubt that it was definitely a physical thing. The UFO made no sound at any time while under observation.

Mr. J.P. said the metallic fluorescent blue UFO was “almost submarine-shaped, apart from the tail fins.” The edges of the UFO were sharply defined. He adds that when he first saw the object he was looking in a SW direction. When it moved off, it headed NW. The sky was clear at the time of the sighting, 4.50 a.m. one May morning. It was dry with a warm, light breeze.

Winkleigh, where the UFO was seen, is a small Devon village straddling the B3220 road. It is 23 miles from Exeter and approximately nine miles, as the crow flies, to Okehampton, where the “flying crosses” of 1967 were seen.

Ron Toft,
14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green,
Camberley, Surrey.

We rely on our readers' recommendations, so . . .

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At the same time **WE NEED YOUR REPORTS:** don't hesitate to write up, and submit, the details of any experience of your own, or of a friend or acquaintance; if you learn from a newspaper of an interesting incident in your neighbourhood try to arrange an interview with the witness(es) and send us a fully detailed report. Please remember to write on one side only of the paper and, if possible, to provide diagrams and sketches.

Andean Night of the Flying Saucers

This recent account, taken from the newspaper *Córdoba* (issue of December 31, 1972), published in the Argentinian city of the same name, has been translated, and submitted by our correspondent JANE THOMAS.

FOUR men from Córdoba, touring in the San Juan area of the Andes—due west of Córdoba—where there are rich deposits of uranium, have reported seeing a number of flying saucers. Señor Marcello Aballay, with companions named Martino, Larchner and Vignoli, saw the first one at 11.00 p.m. on December 23. They were at a place known as Baños de Huaco.

To start with, they observed a powerful fluorescent-white type of triangular light, 100 metres high, upon a rocky mountain face. It lit up the surroundings, showing everything more clearly even than daylight. A few minutes later, while they were still arguing as to whether the light they had seen could be man-made or natural, they saw a similar light towards the south, near where the road to Jáchal runs, at a height of some 300 metres or so. They heard a piercing cry, which sounded like a woman's, and instilled a certain degree of unease and fear in them.

This second light was visible a long time, and was clearly no automobile light.

The party prepared their blankets and bedding to sleep that night in an old abandoned inn. Sr. Aballay, who is a mining expert by profession—he was once a mica miner, and had his own mine at Cerro del Valle in the San Juan district—was lying on the earthen floor at a spot facing towards the West. Suddenly he felt a physical

state of malaise, seemingly due to waves of intense heat. This finally brought him wide awake, and, looking out, he was amazed to see small lights moving eastwards along the ravine towards where they were. These lights were coming at great speed, and in a zig-zag fashion, and seemed to be emitted from small round objects of the apparent size of a one-peso coin.

One of the lights passed by them at a distance of only one metre. Despite its high speed, instead of striking the wall of the inn, it zoomed upwards suddenly and vanished. Although there were a great number of these lights, not one of them hit the wall of the inn, or the adjacent trees.

Sr. Aballay jumped to his feet and called to the rest of the party, but seemingly none of them possessed the physical energy to wake up. Still shouting to arouse them to see the spectacle, he looked towards the South, and saw a saucer which he estimated to be about 6 or 8 metres wide. It was flying slowly, in an arrogant sort of fashion, towards the North.

By now his companions were staggering about, on their feet, all of them watching it in amazement until it disappeared over the crests. It was by then 5.00 a.m., and they tried to get some more sleep. Suddenly Vignoli gave the alarm, and pointed out three more saucers flying rapidly from SW to NE on precisely the same trajectory as the first one. The hindmost of these was

smaller than the other two. Suddenly they saw it perform a lateral swoop, accelerate, and pass the others at a fantastic speed, and then vanish over the horizon. Three minutes later another came over, flying high and fast, from South to North.

Sr. Aballay described the sight of these objects as a marvellous spectacle, far beyond anything man has achieved. He said also that they noted that the edges of the smaller discs were of a different colour from the central nucleus, and he likened this to the actual colour of radioactive minerals. He described it as an "uranian grass-green," quite different from the first saucer seen, which was of the colour of polished white hammered silver, with tiny, scarcely visible stars all over it, of a colour which he described as a "yellowish-pink." But at the centre of it there was a dark, embryonic-looking area. When the great UFO passed in front of a star, it veiled the light of the star without extinguishing it, so that the disc appeared transparent in the way that a cloud can be transparent. But when the central, or embryonic, part of the object passed in front of the star, then the light of the star was blotted out.

Not long afterwards, the four travellers met a local policeman riding his bicycle along one of the deserted roads. They asked him whether there had been any reports of flying saucers

(Continued on page iv)

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