

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

ARGENTINA Entity Report

According to a report in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 97 (December 1968), quoting the French newspaper *L'Indépendant* of July 20, 1968, two little girls, aged 15 and 10 years respectively, daughters of a jockey living near La Plata, stated that on July 9, 1968, they "met a man from another world" who tried to engage them in conversation, as if desirous of transmitting a message to them.

They said the "visitor" was about 2 metres in height, with long red hair and blue eyes and wearing a one-piece overall and a sort of transparent green visor which emitted flashes of purple, orange, red and blue light.

The marks of four large fingers were found on the door of the house beside which the girls said the "extraterrestrial being" had appeared.

ENGLAND UFO formation over Greenhithe

The following very interesting private report has been received from Mr. Brian S. Slade, F.R.A.S., of Greenhithe, Kent:

"At 9.43 p.m. on October 5, 1969, I observed with the naked eye, directly over Greenhithe, some seven to ten vague fluorescent discs flying in a V-formation very rapidly from North to South. I heard no sound.

"At least six of them maintained the basic V-formation, while one or two discs at the rear section of the fork of the V were behaving in an erratic fashion, darting to and from across the rear of the 'V'.

"The movement of the discs was not unlike the behaviour of birds, except for their speed, their shape, and their fluorescence. The light emitted by them was similar to the glow observed in a thermionic valve when over-run or letting in air.

"The one or two erratic discs at the rear were like sparks from a bonfire as they fluttered around the back of the V-formation.

"It was a very extraordinary sight, quite unlike anything that I had ever seen previously, and I should be extremely interested to know whether any other witnesses saw them.

"The total duration of the sighting I estimate at 15-20 seconds. I had an 8in. reflector telescope readily available, but the movement of the objects was far too rapid for me even to have contemplated using it, and consequently it was a naked-eye observation only. I would say, at a guess, that the

height of the discs was no more than 300-400ft.

"Asking myself whether I might have been tricked by the image-retaining properties of the human eye, I have tried since to reproduce the conditions in every detail, but no repetition of the sighting resulted, or anything anywhere like it. My feelings at the time were of an *unbelievable dream-like sensation. There was also the strange feeling that I was only able to see what I was seeing because of a mistake on the part of someone.*"

Stourbridge landing?

The *Express & Star* of Monday, August 18, 1969, included the following unusual story:

"Ken Hughes is resigned to the fact that people will think he's mad. But he is convinced he saw a spaceship in Stourbridge last Friday [August 15].

"Twenty-one-year-old Mr. Hughes, of Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, saw the unidentified flying object at his place of work, Bateman's wood yard in Union Street.

"His story is supported, albeit rather reluctantly, by a workmate, Ralph Attwood (30), of High Street, Amblecote.

"It all happened on a quiet overcast morning. Ken was in Bateman's office when he saw the UFO come down on a high pile of wood about 50 yards away.

"It came down like a hovercraft, but there was no noise, or engine, or smoke, or anything. It hovered about six to nine inches above the pile of wood," he said. "Some doors slid open in it, but nothing came out. The doors had curved tops, but were quite small—about 5ft. high, I should say."

"The machine was steely grey in colour, and egg-shaped. Ken estimates that it was about 6-7ft. high, 4-5ft. wide, and about 12ft. long.

"It had a wide cushion round it.

"The machine took off and when it was about 20ft. up, it just disappeared, Ken said. 'I was really just horrified,' he added.

"Workmate Ralph came over to the window. 'I just saw the doors shut and that was it,' he said."

Credit: J. J. Hill of Brierley Hill.

Bolton triangle

From the Bolton, Lancashire, *Evening News* of August 26, 1969, comes the following story (date of sighting not quoted):

"Watched by a terrified woman and her 14-years-old daughter, a mysterious flying object hovered for 10 seconds

over the rooftops of Bolton and then disappeared in a flash of light.

"After the shock mother-of-five Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, Bolton, was too frightened to sleep. 'It scared me to death,' she said.

"Mrs. Unsworth and her daughter Carol were looking out of their back bedroom window at dusk when they saw the huge, triangular object. It was surrounded by flickering green lights with oval lights, one red and two green, burning at the corners.

"I couldn't judge how big it was, but it was certainly big. It was silent and it stopped over the chimneys as though it wanted someone to see it," said Mrs. Unsworth.

"There were no clouds. It didn't care whether it was seen or not. I won't ever forget the colours. If I hadn't been so frightened, I would have enjoyed watching it because it was very beautiful."

"After she and Carol spotted the object, Mrs. Unsworth said, they were both too frightened to speak. 'I shall never forget her face as long as I live,' she added.

"I tried to calm her but my heart was beating very fast. My legs turned to jelly and I could hardly walk downstairs."

"Mrs. Unsworth said that she did not want people to think that she was odd or strange. 'I don't want publicity. I just want to get it off my chest. We couldn't take our eyes off the object because of the flickering.

"It looked as if it might be coming in to land on the golf course near our house. I just thought, I hope it doesn't land on my shed. It certainly got a good look at us.

"It was as if it was taking close-ups. I wonder if it was trying to communicate. Ten seconds is a long time to watch something like that."

"A spokesman at Jodrell Bank said today that no other sightings had been reported to them.

"It doesn't sound like anything natural," he said. "I can't give any explanation off the cuff for what they saw. Unexplained sightings are quite common."

Credit: John Peers, Little Hulton.

Bolton again

A report in the Bolton *Evening News* of August 27, 1969, seemed to confirm Mrs. Unsworth's sighting (previous item), but as no date is given it is not clear whether the sighting was made on the same day:

"A second woman has sighted a

mysterious flying object in the sky over Morris Green. The object, spotted at dusk, fitted a description given to the *Evening News* yesterday by Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, Bolton.

"Today, housewife, Mrs. Sandra Kirkham, aged 23, of Normanby Street which is in the same district, said that she saw the object last week, before Mrs. Unsworth.

"I didn't mention it before because my husband laughed at me when I told him," said Mrs. Kirkham.

"It was dusk when I saw it, just the same, and it seemed very big. There were green lights flickering on and off all round it. Not as if someone was turning them on and off but faster. I couldn't pick out the shape because the object wasn't directly overhead.

"It was moving fast across the sky towards Westhoughton. It didn't seem to be moving in a level line but coming downwards. As Mrs. Unsworth said it seemed to be coming in to land."

"Mrs. Kirkham was just getting into the car outside her house when she caught sight of the UFO. She called to her husband to look but when he did the object had disappeared.

"He laughed his head off," she said. "I just couldn't believe it. I stood there and it just went out of sight. I don't know if it disappeared or if it just moved out of my view."

"Like Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Kirkham is convinced that what she saw could not have been an aeroplane."

Credit: **John Peers.**

Firemen sight "fireball"

Yet another undated report from the Bolton *Evening News*, this time the issue for August 28, 1969, of an incident over the Lancashire town:

"Three Bolton firemen told today how they saw a brilliant white object of 'tremendous size' about to crash-land on the town.

"But the object—which looked white hot and moved at a fantastic speed—veered off at the last minute, said Fireman James Hall.

"Fireman Hall, Sub-Officer Eric Dyer and Fireman Bruce Robinson were fighting a small fire on an estate near Raike Lane one night last week. Four other men who called the brigade also witnessed the strange sight . . . an oval shape with green and red lights.

"Fireman Hall added: 'It flashed across the sky and we thought it was going to crash land. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

"It moved so quickly that when it had gone it left me wondering if I really had seen anything. But all seven of us saw it. It was in view for about seven seconds and disappeared in the direction of Great Lever. We couldn't see

any details because it was travelling so fast.

"You get lots of excitement in this job so you learn to take things in your stride. It wasn't a plane or like anything I've ever seen or heard before. We reported it to the police but they hadn't had any other reports of sightings so we didn't bother any more." Credit: **John Peers.**

Bolton date?

From the letters column of the Bolton *Evening News* of August 29, 1969:

"Today's *Evening News* (August 26) report of a UFO seen by Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, does not mention the day of the sighting. I suspect it was the same UFO seen by myself and others at 8.25 p.m. last Wednesday [August 20] hovering over the Croal Valley.

"The object was exactly as seen by Mrs. Unsworth except no lights were seen at the corners. When last seen the object was heading for Morris Green at a fast speed."

Credit: **S. K. Moe, Farnworth.**

East Riding triangle

From the *Hull Daily Mail*, Yorkshire, of November 11, 1969, we learn how:

"A mystery object flew low across a lonely East Riding road in front of a couple in a car last night. In the shape of a triangle of white light, the object moved silently across their path.

"When they stopped the car the 'saucer' wheeled round and moved towards them, descending all the time.

"As the couple turned their car round to report the sighting to Withernsea police, they got the impression that the object landed in a field.

"Miss Lesley Mason (19), of South View, Hollym, was driving the car, in which her boy friend, Mr. John Steel (20), of Park Avenue, Withernsea, was a passenger, along the Holmpton-Patrington Road late last night.

"John said this afternoon that police told them the object had already been seen once by a policeman.

"And Chief Inspector W. P. Barraclough, of Withernsea, said police were investigating the report of an Unidentified Flying Object. They had already established that no planes were in the area."

Chelmsford UFO

The following account is taken from the *Essex Chronicle* for November 14, 1969:

"Hairdresser Vivienne Elliott had just said goodnight to her boy friend on Sunday [November 9] when she saw a mysterious flying object which, she says, flashed red as it passed over her head.

"Seventeen-year-old Vivienne, of Taylor Avenue, Chelmsford, said she saw the object at about 11 p.m.

"I rushed indoors and told my mother, who came out to have a look immediately," she added. "The object looked like some kind of craft. At first I thought it was two big stars, but then I saw it was moving slowly and was lit by a slight glow.

"When it was overhead it looked as though it had two large headlights and some kind of red flashing light attached to it."

Credit: **D. R. Parry of Basildon.**

MOROCCO Fire dousing UFO!

From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 97 (December 1968) comes this report from Sidi-Bennour, dated June 21, 1968:

"This whole region is experiencing a tremendous heat-wave, and these have been sixteen fires in the space of a month.

"We learn that one of these fires, the cause of which has not yet been established, was in a field of wheat, 14 hectares in area, belonging to Si Abbès Mesnaoui of the Mesnaoua group of the southern Ouled Bouzerara clan. It is reported that a luminous object resembling a shooting-star suddenly landed in the field of wheat and very rapidly extinguished the fire, flying off again afterwards. The luminous object was circular.

"The foregoing was reported by a writer signing himself as "Miftah" in *Le Petit Marocain* (French-language newspaper in Morocco) of June 22, 1968."

Commenting upon this report, a LDLN reader, M. Jean Fontaine, has this to say:

"This sighting can be readily explained by the effect that a magnetic field—in this case the magnetic field of the UFO—has on fire. In fact, if you put a lighted candle within the field of a powerful electromagnet, it will be seen that the flame is repelled by reason of the water-vapour and carbonic gas (diamagnetic bodies) resulting from the combustion. Furthermore, the oxygen in the air is attracted by a magnetic field. These two effects consequently will tend to extinguish the fire."

NEW ZEALAND Napier hovering UFO

From the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of November 1, 1969, comes the following strange report:

"A 20-year-old Napier resident, awakened by a 'fantastic noise', looked from his bedroom window to see a 'flying saucer' hovering near the Marine Parade early yesterday morning.

"Mr. Bob Strahl, insurance clerk, of 169 Wellesley Road, said today he was awakened about 3.30 a.m. 'I heard this terrific noise. It sounded like a jet on full throttle about to take off.'

"Looking out of the window, he saw a large fluorescent light. 'It was saucer-shaped and was hovering over the stretch of green near the Hastings street railway crossing,' he said.

"The object, which measured about 20ft. across, hovered about 50ft. from the ground.

"Mr. Strahl said the object was in view for about 10 seconds before it 'suddenly whisked away at tremendous speed' towards the sea.

"It was bright enough to photograph so I will keep my camera handy in future. If I hear that sound again I will know what it is,' he said.

"Following his sighting, he had inquired if neighbours had heard the jet-like sound, but without success."

Credit: **Harold H. Fulton** of Palmerston North.

Airfield low level UFO

From the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 30, 1969, we learn how:

"An unidentified flying object, which he estimated at 60ft. long, was sighted low over the Waipukurau aerodrome at 3.10 a.m. today by a Central Hawke's Bay Security Services patrol officer.

"The officer, Mr. J. F. Cudby, 33, of Mount Herbert Road, Waipukurau, told the police this morning that the circular metal object was only 300ft. away and about 60ft. above the aerodrome.

"It remained in sight long enough for him to traverse it three times with a searchlight attached to his patrol van, and then moved off at high speed.

"Mr. Cudby was making a routine check at the Central Hawke's Bay Aero Club's clubhouse when lights reflected in a glass door attracted his attention.

"He turned and saw the large aerial object, and then ran to his van, which was only about 20ft. away.

"At the same time, his patrol dog became unusually excited.

"After the object moved off, Mr. Cudby moved over to the area where he had seen it. He found that the grass, wet with dew elsewhere, was hot and dry below where the object had been.

"When he stepped out the dry area he estimated it to be 60ft. long.

"He said the object had appeared to him to be about 12ft. high.

"When the object was first seen, Mr. Cudby said he was conscious of a dull, swishing sound coming from it. As it moved away, the sound increased to a high whine.

"Although it seemed much longer, Mr. Cudby said he thought the whole

episode would have only lasted a minute or so."

Credit: **Harold H. Fulton.**

Confirmation of Waipukurau report

The Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 31, 1969, carried the following interesting account:

"A Christchurch man, Mr. S. T. Grant, who was travelling through Hawke's Bay to Gisborne, also reported yesterday seeing an object while travelling down Pukeora Hill towards Waipukurau.

"This was at about the same time as the sighting by Mr. Cudby.

"Mr. Grant's report placed the object in exactly the same area as that mentioned by Mr. Cudby. Neither was aware the other had reported it.

"I had often read of UFOs and was always sceptical about them,' said Mr. Grant. 'Then I realised with a kind of sick shock that I was looking at one.'

"He said the object appeared to be circular, and was stationary about 100ft. above the ground when he first saw it. Then it gradually gained height, and abruptly took off southward.

SHEEP DISTURBED

"One other Waipukurau resident, who did not wish to be named, has also reported an unusual happening at the same time.

"His home is about half a mile in a direct line from the aerodrome. He was awakened just after 3 a.m. for no apparent reason, and on going outside found the sheep on his property disturbed.

"The thought of an unidentified flying object did not occur to him at the time, he said, but the sheep were highly excited for some reason which he could not explain.

STICKS TO STORY

"Mr. Cudby said this morning that while many had expressed disbelief since his report was published, there had been some people who have commended him for not being afraid to speak up.

"He said he could understand the reluctance of most people to believe in the existence of anything like this without proof. 'I was the same until yesterday morning,' he said.

"Reflecting again on the incident, which lasted only a minute or two, he was unshaken in his description of what he saw.

"He added that at the time his seven-year-old patrol dog had refused to obey him—something that had never happened before."

Credit: **H. H. Fulton.**

Radioactivity at alleged landing spot

The following, one of several accounts of the discovery of mysterious

"circles" in New Zealand, is taken from the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 6, 1969:

"Manuka from a mysterious circle of bleached scrub found at Ngatea in the Waikato last month is radioactive and has been cooked instantaneously from the inside outwards.

"A leading horticulturist who has tested the manuka said today he knew of 'no earthly source of energy' which could produce this effect.

"The 42ft. diameter circle was discovered by Mr. B. G. O'Neil in manuka on his 50-acre Ngatea farm. It contained three V-shaped grooves in the ground, forming a perfect triangle.

"The manuka was bleached dry but showed no visible signs of burning.

"A horticultural consultant, Mr. John Stuart-Menzies, of Te Puna, said today he had subjected manuka from the circle to a geiger-counter test and found it to be radioactive.

"Every ounce of moisture in the plants had been instantaneously vaporised and they were bone-dry and brittle, he said.

"This is most unusual in manuka, which normally takes a long time to dry out. Some kind of short-wave, high-frequency radiation has cooked the material from the inside outwards,' said Mr. Stuart-Menzies.

"The effects appear to have been instantaneous. The energy received has reduced the pith to black carbon, without the outside showing any signs of burning. The cells in the medullary rays were burst by the sudden vaporisation of cell sap.'

"Mr. Stuart-Menzies said he knew of 'no earthly source of energy which could have produced these effects. A meteorite or lightning could not do this, and it has been too sudden for combustion.

"Some outside object appears to have landed on the spot, and in taking off emitted the energy which cooked the plants,' Mr. Stuart-Menzies said.

"He said the process appeared to have been similar to that employed in the infra-red cooking of meals, but on an enormous scale."

Credit: **H. H. Fulton.**

SOUTH AFRICA

Object with seven searchlights

Now, an older case report omitted from an earlier FSR due to pressure on space.

From the Johannesburg *Sunday Express* of November 12, 1967, we learn that:—

"Naval Intelligence units from Maritime Headquarters in Cape Town are investigating reports of flying objects off the South African coast. The investigations follow the arrival in Cape Town this week of the Thesen Line coaster 'Pondo', from Walvis Bay.

"Following reports of extensive UFO sightings in Britain, a similar object was seen flying off the Cape coast by the second officer of the 'Pondo', Mr. Douglas Moore, at 4 a.m. one day this week. Mr Moore, an immigrant to South Africa, has been at sea for 18 years . . .

"The object, which remained in view for one-and-a-half hours, was seen by other crew members of the 'Pondo'. It had a 'glowing white aura' about it and seven distinct searchlights could be seen shining from it.

"The UFO remained on the port bow during the entire period it was visible, although it changed altitude several times. Even when it went behind cloud, its lights could be seen shining dimly through it.

"Shortly after 5 a.m. the ship reported the incident to Cape Town Maritime Radio. At first it was thought there might be an aircraft in distress in the area, but Maritime Headquarters said there were no aircraft in the vicinity of the ship. The air force was preparing to send an aircraft to investigate when the object disappeared.

"Intelligence officers questioned Mr. Moore about the sighting. His description has prompted the belief that the object was similar to those seen recently in Britain. 'The one I saw and those spotted in England all had seven lights,' Mr. Moore said." (a reference to a 'flying cross' report).

Credit: **Philipp J. Human.**

LIBYA Desert UFO

Reader **D. M. Barnes** sent this personal report from Tripoli:

Location: Dahra Camp, Libyan desert, 29° 29' N., 17° 55' E.—December 21, 1968.

On the evening of the above date I paused to admire the sunset, the 2-day-old moon setting and the planet Venus high in the south-west. The time was about 1840 hrs. Local. (1640 GMT.) The whole western sky was very lovely but otherwise quite normal.

About half an hour later, when darkness had fallen, I again had occasion to go outside and was amazed to see what at first sight appeared to be a very bright star or planet in the west, but where I at once realised no such object could be (see diagram). This object had not been apparent half an hour earlier. It appeared as Venus might look shining through a layer of thin altostratus or through light mist; the bright nucleus was surrounded by a nimbus or corona of fainter light about the apparent diameter of the full moon. The time by my watch was 1915 hrs.

Venus and the Moon were both clearly visible in the south-west;

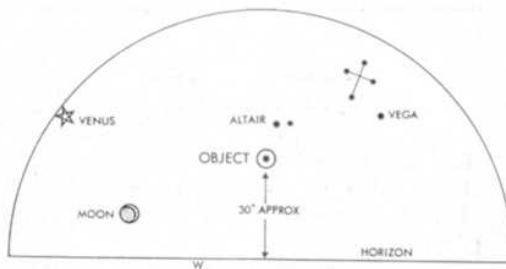
Jupiter is presently a morning star but, in any case, this thing was well north of the ecliptic. The night was cold, intensely clear and with no trace of cloud or mist, such as might produce the nimbus effect. The clarity of the atmosphere is borne out by the fact that earthlight was plainly visible although the moon was so close to the horizon—in fact, a typical desert night. The nearest familiar celestial object to the "UFO" was the star Altair, about 10° above.

I called several other people to look at the phenomenon, including an aircraft pilot and a geologist. All agreed that it was something that they had never seen before and for which they could offer no explanation. We took a sight on it by means of two convenient posts about ten feet apart but no movement was discernible. As we watched, it was apparent that the nucleus was fading but the nimbus was not. After about ten minutes the nucleus had vanished completely, leaving the corona as a lambent misty patch of light, still motionless. This in turn faded slowly and within about half an hour had gone. Moreover, during the entire period the object did not alter its apparent size. The only real motion which would not be evident would be in line of sight.

Immediately following the sighting I made notes and a diagram, on which this report is based.

Weather conditions were as follows: Sky—cloudless, Visibility—unlimited, Temperature—44°F., Wind—westerly at 10 m.p.h., Barometer—30.15in.

The above meteorological data is included for the record as proof of unusually good seeing conditions.



CHILE Athlete "paralysed"

O Estado de São Paulo of December 19, 1968, carried the following item—

"A young sportsman from Parral, Chile, was paralysed by a small flying saucer which was flashing brilliant yellow and luminous green lights. He couldn't move at all. The youth, Domingo Antonio Castillo, said that after this hostile act, which occurred on a desert road, he found that his clothes had become 'unsewn' in various places, 'as if the threads had been burnt.'"

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

PERU Pneumatic tyre type UFOs

In the *Diario da Noite* for November 12, 1968, it is reported that—

"Three flying saucers were seen last Friday night flying over Urcos in the department of Cuzco, south-east Peru. Country folk who saw them said they flew over three villages, hovering over each for some time. Finally they climbed away vertically at enormous speed and vanished. One of the witnesses said they had the appearance of pneumatic tyres and that their interiors were brilliantly lit. The country people say they have often seen similar objects. They light fires to drive the saucers away: they fear an invasion from outer-space."

Low-hovering UFO

The *Diario da Noite* of December 13, 1968, tells how—

"Cesar Seminario, customs inspector, and Carlos Moreno Ramirez, law student, both in separate districts of Lima, claim to have seen a flying saucer. Seminario swears that in the early hours of last Monday, on being awoken by the desperate barking and whining of his two dogs, he saw an object which was round at the base, and oval on top, floating in space about 100 metres above the ground. The object was giving off a red and a violet light from one of the openings in the lower part. He observed the object for about two minutes, and it then suddenly went off and disappeared at high speed towards the sea."*

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

* This case is alluded to by Aimé Michel on p.16 of *UFO Percipients*.

NICARAGUA Six saucers

O Estado de São Paulo reported on December 12, 1968, that—

"A formation of six flying saucers hovered for a time over the Nicaraguan town of Matagalpa, 120 kilometres from Managua. A large number of people of 'recognised sobriety' said that the flotilla appeared over the town at 3.30 [not stated whether a.m. or p.m.] last Tuesday and, after flying over the town, disappeared, heading North."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

UFOLOG

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