

THE 'SUPERIOR' TECHNOLOGY

Some Generalities

John A. Keel

“A SUPERIOR intelligence with an advanced technology” is busy keeping a benevolent watch over us, or so we have been told by assorted authorities for years. Actually, the marvellous “space ships” built by that “superior technology” seem to be made from spit and baling wire. Let’s take a look at the record.

Since 1897 (remember Captain Hooton?),¹ there have been scores of reports in which the witnesses claimed to have observed the UFO pilots busily making repairs on their craft. The damned things are always breaking down. In case after case, we have been told how the Ufonauts have climbed out of their machines to examine the undercarriage or to hammer away, twist bolts and effect repairs. The modern stories range from Signor Monguzzi’s controversial 1952 account to Eddie Laxton’s encounter on an early morning in March 1966.² In both of these reports, the human-sized Ufonaut dismounted to inspect the underside of his product of a “superior technology” with some kind of flashlight.

There have been so many of these “repair” incidents from Australia to South Africa that they constitute a pattern in themselves. It seems that the same action is carried out over and over again, in different places, and in front of different witnesses.

In addition, we have endless accounts of wobbling UFOs going out of control and even exploding. Charles Fort cited several. There were crashes and “repairs” in the Scandinavian flap of 1934. The things blew up repeatedly all over Europe during 1946. The first major UFO sighting of 1947, the weird Maury Island case, involved a doughnut-shaped object in trouble.

A trail of debris

Not only are the objects unstable and jerry-built, but they are constantly falling apart. Again and again they have left debris behind after landing. Usually this debris was in the form of an oil-like composition made up of silicon and alumina. All these wretched things have leaky hydraulic systems! They also manage to dump small pieces of aluminium and magnesium all over the landscape. Pieces always seem to be falling off them.³

A year ago, during a visit to New York’s Kennedy Airport, I purposefully visited the runway maintenance crew. I wanted to find out just how much oil and metal junk was collected from the runways of one of the busiest airports in the world. I was told that it was rare for a piece of metal to turn up on the runways. Occasionally a small part such as a bolt, would drop off of a small private plane. But if even a fuel tank cover fell off

a big airliner we would have a major disaster on our hands. Infrequently a hydraulic line will rupture and spew oil out. The plane is quickly grounded for repairs and the oil slick is cleaned up.

Conclusion: our clumsy, crude, inferior flying machines are far more efficient and reliable than the wonderful “space ships” of the flying saucer “people”.

If you want to speculate, you can find a number of explanations for these “repair reports”. This is a good way to make their descent and landing seem logical to the observer. In other words, the repairs are staged for the benefit of the witnesses. Or, the objects only land on our planet when they are in trouble. Or, a “space war” is going on, as some ufologists have suggested, and these accidents and UFO disasters are a result of the secret battle taking place in our sky.⁴

Repairs by mini-people

One of the most intriguing “repair” stories I have seen comes from Seattle, Washington, in the summer of 1965. The witness awoke around 3.0 a.m. to see a small football-shaped object fly into her window. She suffered akinesia and was unable to move or scream as tripod legs extended from the object and it landed neatly on her bedroom floor. Half-a-dozen tiny people climbed out and went to work making repairs on their craft. When they finished the job, they hopped back in and flew off into the night.⁵

This story is interesting for several reasons. I have been told of many “mini-people” encounters in the course of my investigations, but they are so seemingly absurd that none have been published. It is important that the witnesses nearly always suffer paralysis (akinesia) during these sightings. This same phenomenon is found in the many psychic accounts of bedroom visitants. Parapsychologists have long speculated that the entities somehow manage to materialise by utilising some form of energy radiating from the percipient. The more intelligent contactees speak of this as an “energy exchange”. It is so common that I have labelled it “kinetic vampirism” . . . feasting upon the motivating energy of the percipient, thus inducing temporary paralysis.

The young lady in Washington thought she was awake and was actually seeing the “mini-people”. Perhaps she was experiencing some form of hallucination. If you examine the vast “fairy” lore you will find many comparable incidents placed in the “fairy” frame of reference instead of the UFO frame.

A case of "kinetic vampirism"

Kinetic vampirism has not really been discussed in the readily available UFO literature, so I think we can take the following report seriously:

"On a warm June evening in 1962, Gregory Sciotti, then 18, woke up around 11.30 p.m. with the feeling that there was prowler in the house. He was alone in his home near Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania, for his mother worked on the night shift in a nearby factory.

"There was a light in the room," Mr. Sciotti wrote to me in 1967. "I quickly tried to get up and found it impossible to move. I tried to turn my head to see where the light was coming from. This I also found impossible. It seems as though the only control I had was over my eyelids. The feeling I had was something like when you're very tired you know, just too tired to move. Then I heard something on the steps just outside the door. Something like a heavy breathing sound. I heard it moving around. I tried to scream to find out if I was dreaming . . . but I couldn't do anything but move my eyelids. The light went out and it was like I was pushing on something heavy and it suddenly moved."

He ran down the stairs, badly frightened, grabbed a rifle and loaded it, and called for his dog Teddy, a Collie, who, he knew, was somewhere in the house. But Teddy was gone. He searched the grounds around the house with a flashlight. He had another dog which was kept tied in the yard. That animal was also gone.

The next night, he continued, he was sitting in his car in the driveway, talking with a girlfriend, when a strange object rose up from the woods behind the house. Four windows were visible on a dark oval shape as it passed between the moon and the young couple. It was not an airplane, he declared, and no trace was ever found of the missing dogs.

In psychic literature, tales of nocturnal akinesia are almost unlimited. For example, in his book, *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle tells how it happened to him. He was, he said, "acutely awake, but utterly unable to move" as he heard someone walk over to him and whisper: "Doyle, I come to tell you that I am sorry". After a moment, his paralysis left him and he turned to stare into the empty darkness.

Young Sciotti's alleged experience falls into this uneasy category. He was immobilised while his two dogs were removed forever. The next night he saw a UFO.

Akinesis, UFOs and Fairy Legends

When we are able to examine the experiences of UFO percipients in greater depth we may find that akinesis is not an effect of a UFO apparition but is, instead, a contributing cause. The "mini-people" in that Seattle bedroom may have materialised by utilising the energy from the witness herself. The "little men" in M. Masse's lavender patch may have "used" him in somewhat the same way.

The "fairies" of Ireland used to paralyse folk and distorted reality in all kinds of "magical" ways. Whole villages have been involved in celebrated, well-documented "fairy" incidents. The "Trolls" of Scandinavia and the elves of Germany's Black Forest may have been part of the same package, along with the "Stick Indians" and the legendary "Tricksters" of the North American Indians.

As Meade Layne and Allen Greenfield⁶ have postulated, perhaps from time-to-time our planet is over-run with these characters, not from outer space, but some fantastic world beyond the range of our limited senses.

Fantastic games?

This means that many of our coveted UFO sightings are, in fact, merely induced hallucinations and distortions of reality. That "superior technology" may be a fantasy and those endless "repairs" are merely part of the game that is being played with us.

Another part of the game involves artifacts. The "fairy" lore is filled with anecdotes about people who tried to capture "fairies" or proof of their existence, only to suffer in the end. In UFO lore, we have many game-like repetitions of the artifact factor. Antonio Villas Boas tried unsuccessfully to steal an instrument from the "space ship". Betty Hill was given a book, briefly, but the "Captain" took it away from her again. Carroll Watts in Texas tried to swipe an instrument in much the same manner as Villas Boas, but it was taken away from him, too.⁷ There are many lesser known cases. A Long Island contactee whose story lurks in my files, far too sensational ever to be published, tried to steal an object while aboard a saucer, only to have it taken away from him at the last minute. This was in early 1967 before either the Hill story or Villas Boas case was well known to American Ufologists.

So we have defined two of their games: the "repair" tactic and the "stolen artifact" game. Perhaps many of the water incidents belong in this category. After all, "fairies" were often found by streams, pailing water. In April 1897, several contacts took place near wells and streams while the Ufonauts replenished their water supplies. Why would they land on inhabited farms and draw water when they could have done it completely unnoticed in isolated streams and lakes? Need we spell out the answer? They wanted to be observed. Why do they land on highways to inspect their landing gear? Why not land, instead, on remote hilltops and deserts? It is possible that they even chose to land on that Italian mountain in 1952 because they saw Signor Monguzzi flourishing his Kodak.

Their broken-down "spaceships" will undoubtedly continue to land in front of isolated witnesses while repairs are effected. They will pose for more photographs and we, of course, will decide that the photographers are hoaxsters and money-grabbing publicity seekers. We have been crying for "evidence" for twenty years, yet we have rejected nearly all the evidence they have handed to us on a silver platter. Adamski and Watts took photos which were just too good to be true. Therefore they were obviously trying to trick us. Aluminium, magnesium and silicon have turned up at UFO sites by the pound . . . but no self-respecting "superior technology" would use such ordinary materials.

It is my contention that a good part of all this has been planned and skilfully executed, not by random practical jokers but by the UFO source itself. The problem has been our methods for evaluating these events. If we wish hard enough and long enough, one of these things is really apt to land on the White House lawn. While the President and his staff watch, a little

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WHERE THERE'S SMOKE . . .

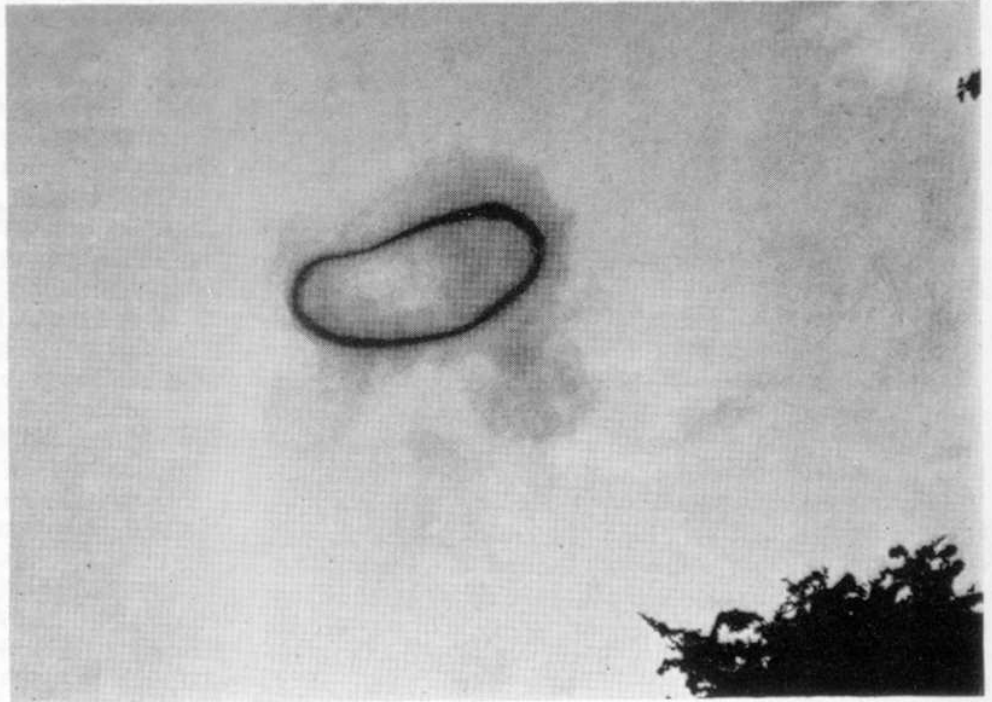
John D. Llewellyn

ON Wednesday, June 18, 1969, Mr. Carl Robbins observed and photographed a thick ring of black smoke which he described as being 50ft. above the ground and about 50ft. across. "It looked like a thick rubber band moving from West to East with a rolling motion. At three points on the ring I had the impression that it was burning away similarly to a fuse, with smoke whirling and dispersing at these points." There were many witnesses to this phenomenon which appeared soon after 9.0 p.m. over the streets of Bordesley Green, a suburb of Birmingham, England.

On August 3, 1965, at 11.30 a.m.—witness's estimate, although the time was later shown to have been 12.38 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time—Mr. Rex Heflin stated that he observed and photographed an aerial object while working as a highway inspector for Orange County Highways Department, California, U.S.A. In photograph No. 4 of the Heflin set, a similar black ring appears which Heflin states was the smoke-like vapour which remained where the UFO was last seen.

The photographs of the Bordesley Green rings appear to be identical to that in Heflin's No. 4 photograph. A report of the Heflin photographs was published in the January/February 1968 issue of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*. The author was Ralph Rankow, formerly photographic consultant to NICAP of Washington, D.C. The sighting remains controversial after a number of expert evaluations, the latest of which was that by John R. Gray in *FSR* for March/April 1969.

The *Birmingham Post* of June 19, 1969, published two photographs which, we were told, were taken within a few minutes of each other. A report of the incident was also carried, in which an official of



Picture 1. Bordesley Green, Birmingham, 9.10 p.m., June 18, 1969.

Copyright: Carl Robbins

Birmingham Meteorological Office was quoted as saying he could think of no natural reason for the rings. Dr. John Fremlin, Professor of Applied Radioactivity at Birmingham University, mentioned "pranks" and said: "I can't imagine it was a natural phenomenon." It had been suggested that a fire was the cause, but a spokesman for Birmingham Fire Service said the Service had not dealt with any fires in the Bordesley Green area.

On June 20 the *Birmingham Post* published a letter from a Miss Rebecca Harvey of Bordesley Green, explaining that the smoke ring was caused by children who had thrown a petrol or paraffin can on to one of the fires of a refuse tip: "There was an explosion," she wrote, "and a big mushroom of smoke and bright flame. As the smoke went

higher, it developed into a thick black ring."

Another witness was reported in the *Birmingham Post* as thinking the smoke ring came from a nearby factory, but on June 21 a letter in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* gave a somewhat different report. The writer was Mr. Arnold W. Ashby, of Ward End, who told how: "The smoke ring that appeared in the sky was observed from my garden as descending from a great height at a fairly rapid rate. It had a diameter increasing from about 2ft. to a mile and a half as it finally dispersed. It disappeared at about 500ft. in the form of black smoke similar to that emitted from diesel-engined vehicles. The movement of the ring was from West to East in a continuous descent."

I obtained a report of how he