

UFOs FOUGHT FOR CHARLEMAGNE!

By Dr Raymond Drake

In a recent issue (FSR 33/4) we gave Dr Jacques Vallée's extremely interesting article on Archbishop Agobard of Lyons and his pronouncements upon folk who claimed to have been taken up in the "space-ships" of the "Magonians" in the 9th century A.D. The following equally interesting contribution from Dr Raymond Drake has arrived on our desk most opportunely and deals, as our readers will see, with events alleged to have happened even earlier — some 64 years before the Agobard affair. — EDITOR

FSR 33/4 (December 1988) contained "Sanctus Agobardus, Ora Pro Nobis", a fascinating article by Dr Jacques Vallée, and I venture to think that the erudite readers will be equally interested in my own article, "UFOs Fought For Charlemagne!", wherein I have translated the Latin text of the ANNALES LAURISSENSES about UFOs over Sigiburg in A.D. 776. You may well feel, as I do, that this little known 'sighting' merits resurrection for the enlightenment of students today.

On rare occasions, students of "Spacemen" find their frustrating research suddenly thrilled by a startling discovery which illuminates the past wondrously, and supports the belief that "Extraterrestrials" may have influenced Earth throughout all of its history. Some years ago I was perusing Migne's "Patrologiae", a ponderous volume in curious Latin, comprising several chronicles from eighth and ninth century France — a work not generally known.

The Emperor Charlemagne (742-814) had created The Holy Roman Empire, which included the future France, Germany, Italy and Austria, and his many subjects were constantly rebelling. The most troublesome proved to be the Saxons, ancestors of the modern East Germans. After reading in 'Tomus CIV' the account of Agobard, Archbishop of Lyons, and his episode in A.D. 840 in relation with "Aerial Spirits", I skimmed to and fro a few more pages, and chanced upon the "ANNALES LAURISSENSES" ("ANNALS OF LAURENCE"), for the year A.D. 776. And suddenly the turgid Latin resolved into a most exciting tale of "Spacemen" beyond my wildest dreams. This, my English translation of it, may well be the only one in existence. So, for the enlightenment of the "students of our subject", the "ANNALS OF LAURENCE" are now resurrected from obscurity, providing a classic sighting of "Spaceships" twelve centuries ago:-

DCCLXXVI (A.D. 776)

"Then our Lord, Charles the King (Charlemagne), went forth into Italy to assault the land around Foruli. Hrodgaudus was killed, and our abovementioned King Charles celebrated Easter with the citizens of Tarvisium. The citizens captured at Foruli, with the citizens left behind at Tarvisium who had rebelled, he distributed them all among the French, and when prosperity and victory had been achieved again, he returned to France. Then a messenger arrived, announcing that the Saxons had rebelled and had massacred all their hostages, and had broken their solemn oaths. They had vanquished the castle at Aeresburg by evil and sinister ingenuity, thereupon persuading the French to leave, so that when Aeresburg had been abandoned by the French, the Saxons destroyed its walls and fortifications. Advancing from there, they sought to do likewise at Sigiburg.

The French, however, with the aid of God, opposed them courageously, so that they in no way prevailed. But as to overcoming the garrison within the fortress, they (the Saxons), were unable to destroy them as they

had destroyed the others in the other castle, so they began to prepare their forces and their catapults, to capture it by valour. But, God willing, the stone-firing *ballista* which they had set up did more damage to themselves than to those living in the fortress.

Now when the Saxons perceived it was not going in their favour, they began to erect scaffolding, from which they could boldly storm the castle itself. But God is good as well as just. He overcame their valour. And on the same day they prepared an assault against the Christians, who lived within the castle. Then the *Glory of God* appeared in a manifestation above the church within the fortress. Those watching outside in that place, of whom many are still living to this very day, said that they 'beheld the likeness of two large shields, reddish in colour, in motion flaming above the church'. (*Et dicunt vidisse instar duorum scutorum colore rubeo flammantes et agitantes super ipsam ecclesiam*), and when the pagans who were outside saw this sign, they were at once thrown into confusion and terrified with great fear and they began to flee from the castle.

The whole multitude in panic were driven to take to headlong flight; some killed others indiscriminately, glancing back in panic they hurled their spears, which they carried on their shoulders, at those fleeing before them; others were struck by blows among themselves, and by the divine retribution judged down upon them. How the goodness of God for the deliverance of the Christians had worked for them, none could relate, but the more the Saxons became terrified with their increasing fear, so much the more were the Christians comforted, and they praised the omnipotence of the Lord, who had graciously extended His power over His servants.

And as the Saxons took flight from there, the French harried them, slaying them as far as the River Lippy. The castle was saved, and the French returned victorious. And when our Lord, King Charles, came to Worms and heard of all these events, he called a meeting of the people, with public acclaim. Then, after the Council had met, with the aid of God, and by swiftness and great enterprise, he suddenly stormed the Saxon stronghold and defences. The terrified Saxons all assembled at the place where the Lippy rises, and, coming from all parts, they surrendered their country in a pledge given by all present, and they solemnly swore to become Christians and to submit to the laws of our Lord, Charles the King, and of the French.

Then our Lord, King Charles, together with the French, rebuilt the castle of Aeresburg and another castle (Lipstadt) over the Lippy; there the Saxons had gathered with their wives and innumerable children. The multitude was baptised, and they gave hostages, which our Lord, King Charles, demanded from them. When the building of the abovementioned fortresses was complete, they were handed over to the French troops stationed there as garrisons.

Our Lord, the King, returned to France, and celebrated Christmas at Nimwegen".

(MIGNE. "PATROLOGIAE", Tom. CIV, Saeculum IX. "ANNALES LAURISSENSES", page 404).

MAIL BAG

The Knowles Family's Nightmare on the Nullarbor

Dear Gordon, — We appreciate your publication (FSR 33/4) of our further reports concerning the Knowles family's experience. We are receiving so many requests for details that we are unable to cope. The case is still under investigation, with new information still coming to light, not only about this incident but other experiences coinciding with the Nullarbor encounter, and activity occurring at other times as well.

Perhaps those people who are seriously interested in this subject are subscribers to your publication, and additional information will be given wider coverage if published in FSR. Within a few days I will post another article titled, ON THE UFO TRAIL. This will mention some of the other reports which occurred within hours or days of the Knowles' incident. The article will be published in our June edition of AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN and, no doubt, reprinted in other UFO publications. You may use the article before June if you wish.

With regard to your article in December quarter of FSR, it is true the first doctor that attended the family made the silly remark that he studied his medicine on this planet, however, after VUFORS intervened, the victims were placed into the hands of more sympathetic professionals.

It is also true that some policemen ridiculed the family but other law enforcement officers with some thinkability were more sympathetic.

Next week, I will have a VIDEO copied and posted to you which confirms that the experience was being treated seriously by policemen until the car got to Adelaide where the dedicated debunkers got into the act. After our tests and more accurate details unfolded, the incident commenced being treated seriously again. The VIDEO shows several news telecasts from Channel 7 Adelaide covering several days. So the story goes on; more will be added as research continues.

Best wishes, sincerely yours,

Paul Norman,
Vice-President VUFORS,
P.O. Box 43,
Moorabbin,
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Australia.
March 24, 1989.

[We have now received both the video and the article. The article will be found on page 7 of this issue. — EDITOR]

"Cornfield Circles" not an ancient phenomenon

Dear Editor, — Since 1986 I have

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

been working with Colin Andrews, Pat Delgado, and "Busty" Taylor in the investigation of the circle phenomena, and two important facts have emerged that may give readers food for thought.

Firstly — up until the 1987 season, all the circles we have looked at were either in wheat or barley, both crops being of uniform structure in the length of the stem of the plant. In May 1987, however, the first circle of the year was in *oilseed rape*, which is quite a different sort of plant altogether.

The main part of the stem of rape-seed is quite fragile, and, if pressed down from above, will fracture at some point over its length. This was not the case in the circle; some 80% of the plants were bent over just above the ground, where the stem is fibrous and woody and will snap readily if an attempt is made to bend it. It is as if the stems had been "steamed" over (to use the term employed in the woodworking trade) at almost a 90° angle, *with the action taking place at that point* and the rest of the plant following. The crop was in full bloom and yet had not been damaged. It did not appear to be a violent happening. *This observation, I think rules out any kind of wind theory and points to a subtle action of some kind of energy whether from above or below.*

The second thing is an apparent lack of historical evidence. Apart from one instance pre-War (World War II) on Colin Andrews' computer file, the first mention of circles in this country was by Arthur Shuttlewood in "*The Warminster Mystery*" (page 153) during the 1960s. At about the same time we have the first known photograph, taken at Tully,* Queensland, Australia.

Most of the circles started appearing in Southern England around 1979/1980, on farms where, in some cases, *two generations* of farming families had not experienced anything like it before — some of the families going back nearly 70 years. So it seems to be a new phenomenon.

I have been an avid reader since my schooldays, and I have never read a single paragraph about circles or come across a single photograph of a circle until recent years, and yet most other bizarre events are already reported somewhere or other in books or periodicals.

As I said to Colin Andrews earlier this year, *something is on the change, and if it turns out to be due to our own interference with the Planet — like the Ozone Layer — then let us hope it is not a serious warning of things to come.*

Yours sincerely,
Donald Tuersley,

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December 1, 1988.

* NOTE BY EDITOR

See *Queensland Again*, by Judith Magee, VUFORS Australia, FSR Consultant, in FSR Vol. 12, No. 2 (March/April 1966).

North Queensland UFO Saga, 1966, by Stan Scers and William Lasich, in FSR Vol. 15, No. 3 (May/June 1969).

Reprinted in FSR Vol. 29, No. 1 (1983), p.18.

"Above Top Secret"

Dear Mr Creighton, — Ref. the letter by D. J. Hampton and comment in FSR 33/3. I have been selling copies of this book since it was first published and have been able to supply all requested. As far as I am concerned there has not been any problem on supply, considering the title is a U.S. publication.

Regarding Berlitz & Moore's "*Roswell Incident*": this title has been out-of-print for quite a while, although we usually have secondhand copies for sale. It is not regarded as a scarce title.

Regards,
John Trotter,
(Specialists in Middle East Books,
Judaica, Arabia & Islamica,
Archaeology, Ancient History, Travel,
Entomology & Natural History),
11 Laurel Way,
London N20 8HR.
October 8, 1988.

Thank you. We are glad to hear this, though some people (including the manager of a large bookshop in Surrey) told me a rather different story. Incidentally, why the reference to "*Above Top Secret*" as "a U.S. publication"? The British edition was out a year before the American one.

What is very notable about the American edition (Morrow & Co.) is that, so far as I have been informed up till now, *only one or two* U.S. reviews of the book have been reported. (Here in Britain, the total number of reviews in the British press that have reached me must have been about 25. But almost all of them were in minor and provincial papers. On the whole, an excellent hatchet job was done in our *national* papers.) — EDITOR

Corrections to two French reports

Dear Editor, — Media reports are indeed a useful source of information in Ufology, but they must be used with caution in view of the danger that the actual events might have become "embellished".

For example, in FSR 33/4, J.P. Crivillén of Spain mentions the Nort-sur-Erdre sighting case in France of