

Readers' Reports

Unexpected photographic images

Dear Sir,—I have been prompted to send some photographs for your inspection after re-reading *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 17, No. 2, March-April 1971, "New mystery at Warminster."

My photographs (1—6), which are consecutive prints of the whole negative in each case, on ADOX KB 17, taken with a Canon *Demi-Frame* 35 mm. camera with 28 mm. lens. 1 and 2 were taken on the afternoon of Good Friday this year [1972—ED]; 3 and 4 on Easter Sunday at

lunch time; 5 and 6 on the morning of Easter Monday.

The photographs 1 and 4 have similar spots, of darker density than those in the photo taken by Michael Samuels.*

The first photograph was taken in the Imber Firing Range, on one of the public roads to Warminster, but the position from which it was taken should be identifiable from the wrecked tanks seen in the distance. I was driving towards Warminster, looking for places where UFOs are stated to have been sighted, when I

saw the wrecks. I stopped my car (left-hand-drive), wound down the window and took the photo quickly before driving on. I did not see an object, as I hardly looked over the landscape. The sky was overcast.

Photo No. 4 was taken on a quick visit to Stonehenge; the weather was cold and windy, and the sky overcast. I quickly walked round the stones and then took the two photographs, the second (No. 4) at right angles to the first (No. 3). I do not recollect looking into the sky at the time.

On neither occasion did I see the objects, which only came to my attention when I was examining the negatives. In the case of the Stonehenge photographs no one at the site was apparently looking at the sky, or noticed the object.

I do my own developing and printing, and have not retouched the negatives or prints in any way. I enlarged the negatives to the maximum of my enlarger, and made positives of the objects on *Kodak* 35 mm. positive film. From these I made negatives which have been further enlarged into the enclosed prints.

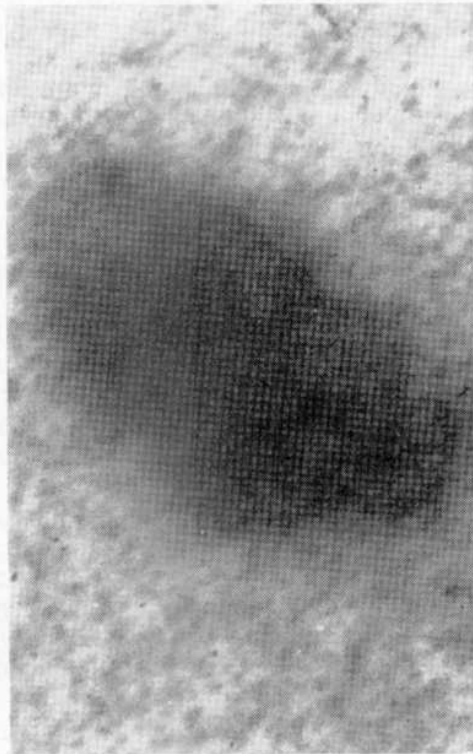
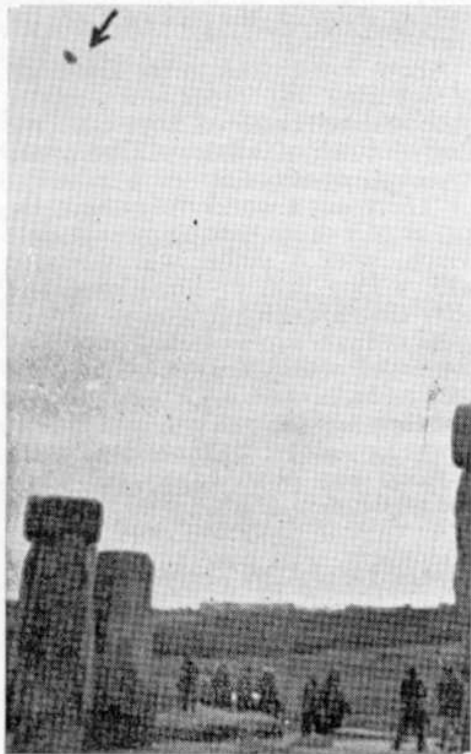
I regret I am unable to comment on the exposure, or the light readings, as I was relying on the coupled meter in the Canon, and didn't notice the aperture, or the speed.

I am sending you these photographs to examine on their own merits on account of the similarity to Mr. Samuel's photograph. Should you consider further tests are warranted I will gladly supply the original negatives, together with any further information you may require.

Yours truly,
A. D. Clapham,
Skidby, Cottingham, Yorkshire.
November 8, 1972.

* There appears to be a spot lower down to the left of the stones in photograph 3 as well. We have asked Mr. Clapham for a loan of the negatives, which we will send to Mr. Percy Hennell for examination and comment.—EDITOR.

The negative strip has been examined by Mr. Hennell, who says that he suspected immediately a non-UFO, or non-"light phenomenon" cause as the spot appeared on three different frames at two different sites. Indeed, if an object in the sky had produced the images on the Stonehenge photographs, it would have been enormous, and the many visitors to the site would have seen it. Mr. Hennell feels sure that in this case the "image" was caused by a loose speck of dust on, probably, the rear element of the lens.



1. The fourth of Mr. Clapham's strip of photographs. A similar spot appeared in different positions on the left of photos 1 and 3 (not reproduced)

2 and 3. Enlarged details from the fourth photograph

New Jersey photograph

Dear Sir,—Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D., has asked me to write to you about the enclosed photograph, which was taken in January, 1967, by James Bjornstad, a research consultant at the Christian Research Institute of Wayne, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Mr. Bjornstad stated that he was at the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Mahwah, N.J., when he heard a humming noise, and saw a 30ft. "flying saucer" overhead. He snapped a photograph of the object before it took off into the sky, almost vertically to the right, at a high speed.

"The colour was crazy, a darkish grey . . . you could call it a blackish grey colour," Bjornstad said. "There were no lights, just a slight hum. The photograph was taken at about 1.00 p.m."

The photo was taken in colour, and I made a black and white picture from it. Personally I find no fault with either the story or the photograph, and, most important, I am very impressed by James Bjornstad himself. The Director of the Christian Research Institute, and all others to whom I spoke, have high opinions of him.

Thank you,

August C. Roberts,

P.O. Box 152, Wayne, N.J. 07470, U.S.A.

May 27, 1972.

A shining white "plank"

Dear Sir,—I have come across a UFO sighting made by two people known to me and whom I am sure did not imagine it or make it up. They are Mr. and Mrs. L. H. West, East End Cottage, Barford St. Martin, Near Salisbury, Wiltshire. The date of the

sighting was June 15, 1957, and the couple were travelling from Newbury to Hungerford, Hampshire, on the A4 road. The sun was just setting at the time, and the sky completely clear of cloud. Mr. West has given permission for his account to be printed in *FSR Case Histories* and is as follows:

"After we had travelled a few miles my attention was drawn to a very bright, shining white object quite high in the sky. I stopped my car to observe the object more clearly. Both my wife and I looked up and noticed that the object was absolutely stationary, and that it was exactly oblong in shape. There was no haziness about it; its lines were clear-cut. It was like looking at a plank painted white and standing on end.

"After we had observed the object for about 10 minutes, we noticed that it started to pulsate very much like a star appears to do. Then suddenly it turned flat, into a horizontal position, and raced into the sky. The most amazing thing about the object was that within a few seconds it had disappeared completely. It must have gone at an incredible speed, straight up into the now darkened sky. After we watched the minute spot of light disappear, we started to get back into the car. We then heard an aircraft's engine and I noticed an aircraft which I think must have been investigating the UFO. I wrote to the Air Ministry, but they never replied."

M. G. Flippent,

Stratford Road, Salisbury, Wilts.

The haunted sky

Dear Sir,—The residents of the town

of Hatford, in Berkshire, some eight miles from Oxford, were amazed to hear a "hideous rumbling" in the air, followed by a "strange and fearful peal of thunder" about five o'clock in the afternoon of April 9, 1628. The noises, after a while, then assumed the sound of distant cannon being fired at regular intervals, each report ending in a hissing noise, not unlike the sound of cannon balls flying through the air. Approximately twenty such loud reports were heard.

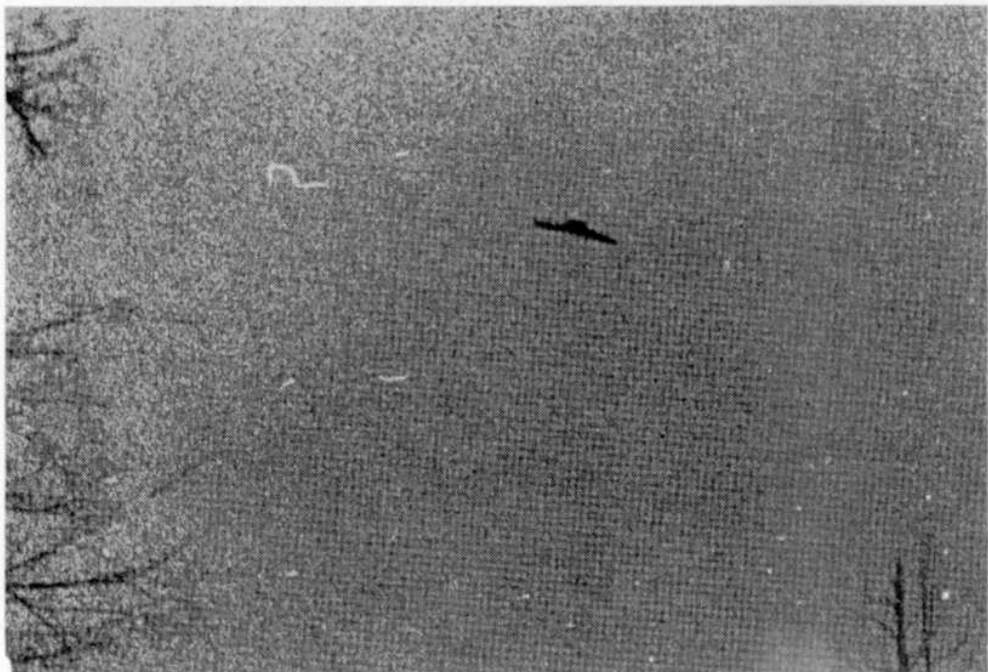
At Bawlkin Green, a village one and a half miles from Hatford, many people saw an object fall from the sky, during the aerial detonations, and a Mistress Greene, who saw it fall, had it dug out of the ground. From an old copy of *The English Magazine*, the following description of the object is given:

"The form of the stone is three-square, and picked at the end; in colour outwardly blackish, somewhat like iron; crusted over with that blackness about the thickness of a shilling; within, it is soft, mixed with some kind of mineral, shining like small pieces of glass. This stone broke in the fall. The whole piece is, in weight, nineteen pounds and a half, the greater piece which fell off weigheth five pounds, which, with other small pieces put together, make four and twenty pounds and better. It is in the country credibly reported that thunder-stones have been found in other places; but for certainty there was one taken up at Letcombe, and is now in the custody of the sheriff."

About five o'clock in the afternoon of August 4, 1642, a similar phenomenon occurred over the little English town of Alborow. One of the witnesses wrote of it:

"There was a wonderful noise in the air, as of a drum beating most fiercely which, after a while, was seconded with a long peal of small shot, and after that a discharging as it were of great ordnance in a pitched field. This continued with some vicissitudes for the space of one hour and a half, and then making a mighty and violent report altogether; at the ceasing thereof a stone was observed to fall down out of the sky. . . ."

A captain Johnson and a Mr. Thompson, who were superintending the launching of a ship at Woodbridge that day, hearing the aerial cannonade coming from the direction of Alborow, took to their horses and hastened homeward to that town, a dog accompanying them. They were upon a heath between the two towns when the mighty report climaxing the aerial detonations was heard. Thereupon they both saw the stone fall earthward, but lost sight of it



The photograph taken at Mahwah, N.J., by James Bjornstad

as it struck the ground. Their dog "followed it by the scent, as it was hot, and brought them to where it lay, covered over with earth and grass, that the violence of its course had contracted about it." The stone had grazed the heath "some six or seven yards". It was eight inches in length, five inches in breadth, and two inches

in thickness.

Upon proceeding to Alborow they met the greatest part of the town's folk, "who were generally all run out of their houses round about, amazed with this noise of war, and descreying no enemy near; when suddenly there was heard a joyful noise as of music, and sundry instru-

ments in a melodious manner, for a good space together, which ended with a harmonious ringing of bells."

John Philip Bessor,
Butler, Pennsylvania, 16001, U.S.A.
[*Fortean, or meteorological, phenomena, but a very interesting tail-piece to this divertissement*—EDITOR.]

The Investigations of General Uchoa in Brazil — Part 1

Gordon Creighton

ONE of the speakers at the recent Fifth Brazilian Congress on UFOs, held in São Paulo, was General Alfredo Moacyr Uchoa. Before an audience of doctors, professors, engineers, architects, psychiatrists, and experienced investigators of our subject, he described some of the remarkable happenings witnessed by the small and select group of people with whom he works. He is at present stationed in the Federal Capital, Brasilia, where it seems that he holds an official position in the Ministry of the Interior.

During his earlier years, General Uchoa—who has had a distinguished career, and is a graduate of West Point as well as of the Escola Superior de Guerra in his own country—had already encountered a number of situations and phenomena that orthodox science was quite unable to explain. This had caused him to develop an interest in parapsychology and, eventually, in UFOs.

The group of people whom he gathered together in Brasilia to study the reports of UFOs included his son Captain Uchoa, of the Military Police, and a number of individuals of outstanding intellectual and mental calibre.

Their first important case arose when a Rio de Janeiro television team arrived, having learned of certain luminous phenomena said to be occurring on a plantation owned by a man named Wilson da Silva and located near Brasilia. The TV team set out for the property, bent on "filming the saucers." A number of experts in parapsychology were invited to participate, and Captain Uchoa chanced to be charged with the security arrangements.

This case, and a number of others, as described by General Uchoa, have been fully reported in an important series of nine long articles by Eduardo Santa Maria in *O Dia*, the Rio de Janeiro paper, commencing on October 26 of this year, and ending on November 4. I propose to give résumés of these cases in this series of articles.

The TV party spent three days and nights at the plantation but failed to see anything and came away empty-handed. Captain Uchoa had however heard enough from the local residents to be convinced that something of real importance had been going on there,

and on his return to the Capital he told his father about it.

General Uchoa and his own group of investigators accordingly set out for the plantation and, after exhaustive enquiries, came to the same conclusion. In particular, they found that many local people considered the plantation to be *haunted*.

In March 1968 they were ready to start a regular watch at the place, together with Sr. Wilson da Silva. They set up their base-camp near the same 200ft. hill which the Rio de Janeiro television men had selected as their headquarters. They made a detailed study of every inch of the ground, but a long time was to elapse before they got their chance to see any sign of the famous luminous globes of which there had been so much talk. For four months they watched, a shift taking up position every night at 7.00 p.m., and watching until dawn. It was by now the Brazilian winter, and the nights were pretty cold, with the temperature a few degrees below zero.

At last, at 7.00 p.m. on July 22, 1968, Wilson da Silva suddenly exclaimed: "It will be tonight, General! I know it! I will guarantee that the saucers will appear tonight, at 9 o'clock, over the hill, in their usual place!" (It was stated that Sr. Wilson, in fact, always "felt," or "knew," in advance when "they" were coming, but he was never able to explain how or why it was that he knew.)

As 9 o'clock approached, they were all waiting expectantly, with cameras and other instruments at the ready. And, precisely on the dot, at 9.00 p.m., at a distance of some 350 metres from them, right above the hill, there was a tremendous flash, described by them as like a magnesium flash.

Wilson tells them all to link hands. One man at once turns pale and becomes very ill, and Wilson himself receives a tremendous thump on the back (there is nobody behind him) which fells him to the stony ground. As the others help him to his feet he explains that he had felt it internally as a violent mental shock which threw him totally off balance.

Meanwhile the light had now disappeared, only to

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