

a sort of imitation, but more slow, of the barking! At that point I moved from the kitchen window, where we had been watching, and went into the lavatory, where there is a little window giving a better view. And I was indeed then able to see the robot more clearly.”

“I decided to approach it”

Asked by the newspaper staff whether he had felt frightened, Díaz said: “I felt ‘goose-pimples’, as we say, and a very peculiar sensation. But, having watched it for over half an hour already, I didn’t feel any fear. I asked my boy whether he knew where the torch was. I managed to find it and, arming myself with a hunting knife, I unbolted the door, but when I got out there I found the robot had disappeared, and I saw the craft taking off again and heading in the direction of a grove of trees lying on the right-hand side of our house.”

Noise produced by the UFO

Asked if the UFO made any noise, he said yes, it was a noise like the sound emitted by high voltage electricity cables.

Asked how long exactly he and his son had watched the robot, he replied that it was for about twenty minutes. “Its body looked square — that’s all. We could make out neither head, nor arms. In height, it was a little shorter than myself.”

Domínguez Díaz said the night was quite dark and

the weather not very good, and that this was why he had not been able to see the robot more clearly. He added that when he opened the door and went out he could see flashes of light directed towards the house from the departing craft.

He and his son finally went to bed at 7.30 that morning. A few hours later they were up again, and they went to inspect the spot where the UFO had stood, and found numerous footprints and marks left by the craft. There were also holes in the ground, and areas of scorched earth and scorched grass. The marks were crescent-shaped.

Concluding the report, the group of investigators from the newspaper confirm that they went to the landing site and also saw the marks and burns. The area of scorched soil and grass measured about five square metres. They said they felt this was due to a sudden burst of heat rather than actual flame, because the burning was quite superficial and sporadic, and had not penetrated deeply into the soil. At first they found only two holes, about 30 cms. deep and 2 cms. in diameter, and lying 1½ m. apart. The holes ran into the ground on a slant and this gave the investigators the impression that there must be a third hole, in accordance with the concept of an adjustable tripod landing-gear, and indeed after a few minutes of further search they did find the third hole, concealed at first sight by a tuft of grass.

(Credit and thanks for photostat of *Pueblo* press report to reader Jean Bastide of Aix-en-Provence, France.)

FSR BOOKSHELF — 16

New UFO books reviewed by...

Janet & Colin Bord

FROM November 1896 to April 1897, thousands of people in the U.S.A. reported seeing bright lights moving across the night sky. In some cases they said that they saw the shadowy structure of an airship above the light. The phenomenon was widely reported in the press and rapidly became known as the mystery airship. In the 1960s UFO researchers unearthed some of these reports and published their findings, which showed that the reported performance of the mystery airship was inconsistent with the level of technical development which airship designers had achieved at that time. Since then, the mystery airships have joined that group of peripheral mysteries which appear to have some connexion with the main body of ufology, but which continue to evade precise investigation.

Many articles on the subject have been published in UFO journals, and one booklet dealing with the

early Californian wave was privately distributed by Loren Gross, but in *The Great Airship Mystery* (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, hardback, \$9.95, 212 pages, index, illustrated) Daniel Cohen provides a detailed report and analysis of these events, and their strangeness can here be fully appreciated. The author starts with the earliest sightings in California in November 1896 and follows the reports as they moved eastwards during the next six months. He shows how the airships were reported in the press, with much the same mixture of irresponsibility and ridicule that later UFO reports received, and how the rivalries and ambitions of newspaper owners coloured the reporting. The public expectation was that a secretive inventor had solved the mystery of flight and would very soon reveal himself, and there were of course various individuals who claimed to be he, but after a brief blaze of publicity they faded once more into obscurity.

The author also deals efficiently with the Hamilton calf-napping and the Aurora spaceship crash, two apocryphal tales that have in past years received unwarranted publicity and have recently been shown to be quite unsubstantiated. The attitude of the contemporary newspapers, that they would publish anything that might entertain their readers, whether true or not, combined with the vogue for the most respectable of men to vie with one another in telling "tall stories", makes the unravelling of this mystery practically impossible. Daniel Cohen provides no answers to the "airship mystery", and on the last page declares himself to be a "long-time UFO skeptic", implying that both the airship and the UFO phenomenon are of a socio-psychological nature. We find that this type of explanation is usually promoted by those who have read briefly but not deeply into the subject. But in spite of this shortcoming, Cohen has provided ufologists with a balanced, clearly written and thought-provoking book on one of the lesser-known aspects of ufology.

The UFO is a world-wide phenomenon, yet there are vast areas of the earth which, if we are to judge by the quantity of reports published, seem rarely to receive UFO visitations. The huge African continent is one such area, and in her book **UFOs — African Encounters** Cynthia Hind shows that without competent local investigators, the UFO occurrences in any area will remain unknown, however spectacular they might be. Mrs. Hind is based in Zimbabwe, and from there has investigated some intriguing cases in many parts of the African continent. Although details of many of these cases have already been published elsewhere, it is useful to have all these high interest African cases together in one volume, and to realise that there may be many more strange cases in that continent which even the indefatigable Mrs. Hind has not uncovered. She is to be congratulated on her efforts, as she works virtually single-handed and Africa is a big territory to cover. Her book is sane, sensible and readable, and we recommend it. *UFOs — African Encounters* is a 236-page paperback illustrated with photographs and drawings, plus notes, bibliography and index. Published in Africa by Gemini, P.O. Box MP 49, Mount Pleasant, Salisbury, Zimbabwe (price unknown), the U.K. price is £2.95 and in the U.K. stocks are held by the Herne Bay bookseller Suzanne Stebbing and Middle East Books. In case of difficulty contact the U.K. distributor John Neild Associates, Old Bakery Cottage, 45 Freehold Street, Lower Heyford, Oxon, OX5 3NS.

All over Britain local UFO research groups continue diligently to follow up UFO reports in their immediate area, but unless they publish a magazine or newsletter, the results of their efforts never become

known to other researchers. To be of any value, UFO data should be made public so that it can be accessible to those engaged in a wider study of the phenomenon. One group that has been able to do this is PUFORG (Plymouth Unidentified Flying Objects Research Group), who have published a 34-page booklet of recent sightings: **UFOs Over Plymouth** (available price £1.05 including postage from PUFORG, P.O. Box 75, Plymouth, PL1 1SQ). The period 1978-81 was a busy one for the group, their major case involving an alleged UFO burn inflicted on a young woman in September 1981 when a UFO shot down a green beam of light onto her hand as she was opening her back door when returning home late at night. A PUFORG investigator was on the spot within four hours and thus was able to record the progress of the injury from the very early stage. This strange case deserves wider publicity. The booklet is illustrated with drawings and photographs, and is generally well produced, but we are surprised that after telling readers "If you see a UFO, contact PUFORG as soon as possible," they give only a Post Office Box address, and no telephone number for instant contact in case of major events of long duration.

By now we have come to expect a high standard of content in the annual MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings, and the papers presented at the 1982 Symposium, MUFON's thirteenth, were no exception. The theme was **UFOs — Canada: A Global Perspective**, and the speakers were Arthur Bray (on professionalism), Dr. George and Iris Owen (on the relationship of the UFO phenomenon to parapsychological research), Dr. Michael A. Persinger (on predicting UFO events and experiences), Dr. Frederick E. Alzofon (on a UFO propulsion model), John F. Schuessler, M.S. (on radiation sickness caused by UFOs), David Haisell (on an international perspective in UFO research), Dr. J. Allen Hynek (on preparing for the next UFO flap), and William L. Moore (on new evidence in the Roswell investigation into crashed UFOs). The resulting publication, a 104-page, large-format softcover, is a readable mixture of facts, theories and opinions, obtainable price \$10 (plus \$1.50 for foreign postage) from Mutual UFO Network, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155, U.S.A.

We Discovered Alien Bases on the Moon by Fred Steckling is yet another compilation of fuzzy photographs of the Moon's surface, liberally decorated with arrows which direct the reader's attention to vague surface marks which the author believes to be objects, vehicles, UFOs, domes, constructions, mining activities, symbols, letters, vegetation, lakes, reservoirs, and clouds. This book is even less convincing than those by Leonard and Wilson; Mr. Steckling's knowledge of ufology is fragmentary and his attitude extremely

naive and gullible. As an example, John Searl and his ridiculous claims are apparently taken at face value and he is credited as being a "British scientist" with "the National Space Research consortium." Searl's true status and the reality of his "consortium" can be quite easily checked, so if the author can be so inaccurate and misleading about this, what in the book can the reader accept as accurate? This 192-page softcover book, though nicely produced and illustrated with black and white and colour photographs, is only likely to be of interest or value to those who enjoy collecting all UFO-related material whatever its quality. It can be obtained from GAF International, P.O. Box 1722, Vista, CA 92083, U.S.A., price \$9.95 plus \$1 postage in U.S.A., \$3 postage abroad.

Arcturus Book Service are issuing a variety of publications of historical interest, and the following are currently available from A.B.S. at 263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, NY 12302, U.S.A.: *UFO Propulsion Systems, Origins and Purposes* by Behrendt (20-page booklet, price \$3.50); *Truman Bethurum's Personal Scrapbook*, an exact reproduction of the contactee's personal

newsclippings and memorabilia (72 pages, price \$10); *Those Saucers*, a Gisholt Machine Company newsletter from 1958 devoted to UFO sightings (8 pages, price \$1.50); *Capsule History Behind the Flying Saucers* and *Technical Briefing Behind the Flying Saucers* both by Frank Scully (both 2 pages, both price 50 cents); *A Survey of Press Coverage of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1947-1966* by Herbert J. Strentz, a full-length treatment of how the U.S. Air Force and the media handled UFO reports in the first 20 years of UFO history (341 pages, price \$24.50). Arcturus Book Service also provide a superlative service in supplying old and new UFO books, and their catalogue (price \$3.50 outside U.S.A. and Canada) is well worth getting.

U.K. readers who may wish to obtain out-of-print UFO books and magazines will also be interested to know that Middle East Books (16 Brockenhurst Gardens, Mill Hill, London NW7 2JX) from time to time issue a catalogue of new and second-hand UFO publications for sale. They also offer books on Atlantis, ancient mysteries, pyramidology, the occult and other subjects.

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING GENERAL

Since, as we all know, UFOs do not exist, many folk must have been surprised indeed to see the following item, in extra black type, right in the centre of page 8 of London's evening paper, *The Evening Standard*, for August 19, 1982:-

'UFO kidnap' puts U.S. Army in a flap

Standard Reporter

LOS ANGELES, Thursday. A REPORT that America's Vietnam Commander, General William Westmoreland, had been "snatched by a flying saucer", sparked off a full-scale emergency alert.

The report was made by 49-year-old Mrs. Edith Mello. Security Police immediately tried to track down the general. They failed. And troops at El Paso Army Base in Texas were put on full alert.

"We put out an all-points bulletin", said Army spokesman Ed Starnes. "But four hours later we decided the woman's claim was just too much so we called off the search."

The Army said later that General Westmoreland had been found . . . but refused to say where."

Goodness me! *Don't the U.S. Army know* that UFOs don't exist? And *don't they know* that folk who report UFOs are nut cases? (This is even worse than Ike Eisenhower's famous 'disappearance', allegedly secretly

to view a UFO or UFOs at Muroc (Edwards Air Base), California, on February 20 1954.)

On the following day, Friday, August 20, a London morning paper, *The Sun*, ran a briefer version of the story:-

General in UFO Scare

PANIC broke out when an American Vietnam War hero was reported kidnapped . . . by a flying saucer.

Twenty thousand U.S. troops were put on full alert.

A woman told police in Monahana, Texas, that she and General William Westmoreland had been robbed by aliens, who had whisked him into outer space.

The General turned up safe . . . and the woman is under psychiatric observation.

But is it possible that the last two lines of this report contain a serious warning for folk who might be disposed to turn in UFO reports?

Isn't it the Soviet Union where people who displease the authorities in some way or other find themselves in the notorious Serbskiy Institut or some other hospital and forced to undergo injections, some of which inflict damage of a permanent nature?

Are we seeing the Shape of Things to Come? — G.C.