

MAIL BAG

Important airship flap

Dear Sir,—I am attempting to gather material for a detailed study of the "airships" which were observed widely during the latter 19th Century and the early years of the 20th. The most famous sightings were those made in the United States during 1896 and 1897, of course, but readers of FSR will be familiar as well with others in Wales, New Zealand and South Africa.

One of the most potentially important of the airship flaps has been completely ignored, however—the one that occurred in Germany during the 1850s. For reasons too complex to explain in this short space, this might well be the pivotal event of the entire airship saga. If I am right in my surmise, we could be a long way toward solving the airship enigma if we had the details of this particular flap at our disposal.

I urge German readers interested in unearthing these early reports to write me at first opportunity. I would like to emphasise again that research into the question is imperative if we are ever to hope to find the truth about the airships.

Yours sincerely,
Jerome Clark,
504 South 6th Street, Moorhead,
Minnesota 56560, U.S.A.

ITF

Dear Sir,—If only as a curiosity, those who are interested in such things as the concept of *ITF* may like to take a look at the detailed description, given in Daniel Fry's book *The White Sands Incident* (1952), of precisely how his "Space Visitors" allegedly went about the complicated job of teleporting their great "mother-ships" from their home planet to the surface of our Earth.

Gavin Gibbons included the account, for the benefit of British readers, in his book *They Rode In Space Ships*, published some years ago by Neville Spearman of London.

Although I have met the American rocket engineer Daniel Fry, and have heard him recount his extraordinary story of the White Sands episode, in which he claims that a small remote-controlled and unoccupied disc landed in the New Mexico desert on the evening of July 4, 1952, and took him for a flight, at 80,000 feet, to New York and back, in half an hour or so, I naturally have no idea of how much truth (if any) there is in it all. But, now that a

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

few people are beginning to think quite seriously about *ITF*, it might be wise to look again at what Daniel Fry wrote about it *no less than twenty years ago*.

Yours truly,
Gordon Creighton,
London.
February 20, 1973.

Cause of the Eerie Night?

Dear Sir,—Recently I was reading "The Marvels of Animal Behaviour" published by the National Geographic Society and the section on bats brought to my mind an article in Volume 16, No. 4 of *Flying Saucer Review* (July/August 1970).

This article, "Eerie Night at the Château des Martins," mentioned "The Monster of the Forest of Moulrière," and it occurred to me that this "monster" may have been some species of large bat. I enclose a rough sketch of one of the photographs from the National Geographic publication and a short quotation from the text. Although this publication says that giant bats are only found in the tropics, this may not be strictly true. It seems to me that the gamekeeper who shot



the creature could have mistaken ears for "horns" if he was expecting to see the devil.

Yours truly,
Sheila Davis (Mrs.),
Old Carp Road, South March,
R.R.1 Kanata, Ontario, Canada.
December 28, 1972.

On "Gobbledygook"

Dear Sir,—I was very interested in Gordon Creighton's article "Gobbledygook" (FSR for November/December '72). Regarding the item "Voices on tape," I wondered whether it would be possible for a tape recorder to pick up radio waves from a long distance. Something like this could account for the jumble of languages, although not the rhythm of the voices. I put this question to a man who is an expert in electronics: he seemed to think it might be possible if the tape recorder had something which would act as a "rectifier"—I think that was what he called it.

This man told me of a true case he'd heard of: how a man was walking under the radio masts of one of the big broadcasting stations, and he heard the programme which was at that time being broadcast, *in his mouth!* He wasn't carrying a transistor set, oh no! A metal filling in a tooth had acted as this "rectifier" (or whatever the word is) ["Detector"?—ED.]. I know nothing of the workings of radio, but I did think the voices on the tape could have had a similar cause.

Yours truly,
Betty Allen,
Poolbrook Road, Malvern.

UFOs and battery-radio "blackouts"

Dear Sir,—With reference to Mr. Creighton's remark, in the article *Brazil Once More* (FSR, September/October 1972), concerning the rarity of cases in which it has been reported that battery-operated radios have been blacked out in the vicinity of a UFO, I find, on doing some research into this matter, that in fact there seems to be only one other case on record where it is specifically stated that the radio affected was battery-operated. This is the well-known case which occurred on November 6, 1957, north of Ottawa, and is reported on page 75 of NICAP's *The UFO Evidence*.

Their account reads:
"Battery radio and portable short-wave radio failed, then single tone

signal heard on one short-wave frequency. UFO hovering below overcast. Radios worked normally after UFO departed."

The same incident, although without mention of the fact that one radio was battery-operated, is referred to on page 30 of the Putnam paperback edition of John G. Fuller's *Incident At Exeter*, where he says:

"A group of electronic technicians and ham radio operators north of Ottawa, Canada, reported seeing a huge brightly lighted sphere, projecting beams of light, hovering above a hill. Two radios failed, except for a rapidly modulated strong signal tone picked up on one frequency. The UFO finally disappeared into the clouds."

It would be interesting to know whether, as a result of this correspondence, any further such cases could be turned up.

May I, incidentally, take this opportunity to say that I am at present engaged in the compilation, for eventual publication, of a catalogue of all known UFO sightings for the year 1952. I have over 700 listed, and shall be grateful for any further cases that FSR readers can bring to my attention.

Yours faithfully,
Robert Skinner,
Gilmour House, Renfrew Road,
London SE11 4LY.

Dr. P. M. H. Edwards replies to "Ph.D. of Dallas"

Sir,—1. "I will not leave you bereft; I am coming back to you" (*St. John, XIV, 18*); almost world-wide legends about the departure of the Sons of the Sun, as well as countless contact stories about UFOs, often end with such words as these. John Keel believes that this indicates a deliberate intention, on the part of the entities, to mislead humanity.

I am very loth to put forward a hypothesis which may easily be shot down by psychologists; however—merely thinking aloud, as it were—would it be possible that nearly all of the Ufonauts' statements were merely imagined by the witnesses who could have been, consciously or unconsciously, in a temporary trance-state? There are so very many people everywhere who feel that world affairs are in such chaos that they would (at least unconsciously) welcome the advent of a *Deus ex Machina* to put us to rights again. The Negro Spiritual puts it eloquently: "*Swing low, sweet Chariot; coming for to carry me home . . .*" I am tempted to interpret such reported promises as nothing other than wishful thinking on the part of a bemused witness. In this matter, as also in the question of whether the Ufonauts are extraterrestrial or something else, I really think that a *wrong interpretation*

of the available evidence may seriously put us off the scent.

2. In reply to two letters signed "*Ph.D., of Dallas, Texas*" (in FSR 18-2 and 18-3), expressing dismay because I was unable to give further facts on the traumatic experience of a West Canadian youngster who was molested by a UFO near Calgary, I must now explain my reticence:

The case was investigated by a leading researcher in Calgary, and by psychologists at the university—I understand, mostly at my suggestion. I have heard a tape recording of a hypnosis session with the boy; I know his name and address; I have driven past his home when surveying the area. But I was asked not to communicate with him, because he no longer consciously recalls the incident—he has been made to forget it consciously. His parents are anxious that he shall never be told of it. His sister knows something of it, as she saw him directly afterwards when he was in a state of shock. However, everyone has agreed that, for his sake, it is far better to report nothing in print which could enable curiosity-mongers to communicate with him. This is the only reason for withholding his name. I understand that he is in good health.

P. M. H. Edwards,
Western Canada.
January 22, 1973.

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A record of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) symposium, held at Boston, Mass., in December, 1969.

UFOs — A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE

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Published by
Cornell University Press
Ithaca, N.Y., and
2-4 Brook Street, London
W1Y 1AA.

Price: £5.65
(\$12.50 USA)

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FSR PUBLICATIONS LTD., c/o COMPENDIUM BOOKS,
281 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1