

this phenomenon.

"On each occasion only one such light was visible of a reddish nature. They appear at about 8.30 p.m. and stay visible for periods of between two and ten minutes, then slowly fade. The only possible explanation I can think of is that they bear some connection with the latest American satellite seen lately over Dundee. But since I have found it impossible to tell the height and speed of the object, I cannot say whether this is correct or not.

"Can a more plausible explanation be suggested?—Yours faithfully,
Meigle. Puzzled."

This letter brought the following reply:

"Dear Sir,—I read with interest "Puzzled's" letter in Monday's *Courier*. Last Thursday (February 6) night, while walking the dog, I saw a strange reddish object travelling very fast towards the west.

"However, unlike 'puzzled' I do not think this object was an American satellite since, when the first Russian sputnik was launched, I could often see its flight through the heavens and this object was in no way similar. I have therefore concluded that this object must have been a falling star or some such other natural happening.—Yours faithfully,
Blairgowrie. Stargazer."

(Credit to Mr. John Ogilvy)

Moorland sighting

This letter was printed in the *Scottish Daily Record* of July 25: "Returning from holiday about 1 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23rd, my wife and I saw a bright object approaching us from the north. We thought it was a plane at first but as it came level with us I could see it had no tail, no navigation lights and no nose.

"It was aglow with lights that seemed to shine from the inside. It also had about four or five windows.

The whole thing took place on the moors between Rochester and Jedburgh and I'm wondering if we were the only ones to see it. I am now convinced that what we saw was a flying saucer. — William Elrick, 116 McCracken Drive, Viewpark, Uddingston."

Ice from Space

The following general item appeared in the *Scottish Sunday Post*

(details of issue would be welcome): "Scientists are to carry out special investigations on a chunk of ice which fell out of a clear blue sky near Moscow and may have come from outer space.

It was 'absolutely impossible' for the ice to be of atmospheric origin as the weather was clear and sunny when it fell.

"The weight of the splinters of the chunk, which broke up on hitting the ground, was about eleven pounds."

(Credit to Mr. William Robertson)

St. Andrews family see UFO

From the *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, April 10: "A strange object with a yellow, green and blue light and emitting rays was seen in the sky late last night by a St. Andrews family.

"Mr. Thomas Marshall, 82 St. Nicholas Street, was returning home with the family's dog from Woodburn Playing Field when he saw it at 11.15. 'It started off as a small, silvery-grey cloud,' he said. 'A light appeared in the centre of it and started to move towards me. The light got brighter all the time as it came nearer and I could see yellow, green and blue colours in it. There were rays of light coming from it—about seven or eight.

"The shape changed and flattened as it got nearer from roughly circular to oval. It wavered, then suddenly went back the way it came. The funny thing was it didn't swing round or bank like an aeroplane does—it was just as if it went into reverse. It took only a couple of minutes to disappear."

"Mr. Marshall saw the object reappear and go through the same performance before he reached home. He called out his wife and daughter and the three of them saw the occurrence twice more before it disappeared for good at 11.40."

FRANCE

Triangular shaped object over Lyons

The *Le Figaro* on April 17 reported that a mysterious luminous object was observed on the evening of April 15 in the sky over Lyons. The phenomenon would not have attracted notice had the device, which was of great size, appeared to be moving.

At the Lyons-Brun Airfield it was also seen by observers. Precise readings were made by the service authorities who are unable to explain its presence in the sky.

The object was observed with an azimuth of 309 degrees and it even showed a constant oscillation. It presented an inclination of 52 degrees, but this inclination slowly decreased and after seven minutes it was only 43 degrees. Observed with powerful binoculars, the device presented triangular shapes, powerfully illuminated by the sun which had already gone down. It resembled a large milk carton, or a big star, but the fact of the matter is that nobody knew what this mysterious object was which was slowly traversing the sky.

Readers may be interested to compare this sighting with a similar one over Hertfordshire last summer. A full report of this incident witnessed by a number of people in the Watford and Hatfield areas can be found in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November-December, 1963, issue. The photograph, reproduced in this issue, taken by Mr. Jan Willemstyn who lives at Bushey, Herts, now receives unexpected confirmation. The British Air Ministry and others have tried to "explain" the Hertfordshire object as a weather balloon but for several reasons this was nonsensical. It would seem that the French authorities are more prepared to let the facts speak for themselves.

FROM G. W. CREIGHTON

IRELAND

Strange story from Ireland A landing in 1922

On April 30, the *Watford and West Herts Post* printed a letter from our contributor, Mr. Gordon W. Creighton concerning the possible connection between the outbreak of mysterious fires in the Bushey area and flying saucers. Mr. Creighton mentioned other mystery fires in the Colchester, Essex, area and drew the Editor's attention to the fact that both Bushey and Colchester witnesses had reported a number of sightings in the last year or two. Mr. Creighton's letter brought an astonishing response from a Mr. Lawrence Bradley of 38, Fuller Gardens, Watford and we

print his letter in full from the *Watford and West-Herts Post* of May 7: "Sir,— The existence of flying Saucers that carry people from other planets is highly probable and not a laughing matter.

"I would like to tell of an incident that happened many years ago, before people accepted the fact that from time to time we have unearthly visitors in our midst.

"It was on an April night; the year 1922, the place County Donegal in the Irish Republic. A civil war was raging at the time and the army that I belonged to was fighting scattered rearguard actions—mostly in the mountains.

"One evening, tired and dispirited, I laid down in the entrance to an old cave. In the fading twilight I noticed that practically all the gorse bushes and grass that grew around the entrance to the cave were scorched and burnt.

"The only occupants of the cave were sick and wounded men who were unable to walk. The six able-bodied soldiers who were looking after them told me a strange story which, at the time, seemed very far-fetched and unconvincing.

"It appeared that early that morning they were awakened by a whirring noise from outside. Thinking it was an enemy armoured car, they immediately opened fire. In the darkness before the dawn it was hard to see the object they were shooting at, but after a brisk fusillade of shots, the object retaliated by firing jets of flame at the cave.

"The defenders had to withdraw in face of the fierce heat. All the undergrowth was now ablaze and the smoke was billowing into the cave so it was a case of facing the flame throwers or suffocating to death which was a hard choice to make as it meant death either way.

"The urgent need for fresh air made them choose the latter course. When they ran out of the entrance they saw the flame throwing object beginning to ascend into the sky. It was clearly visible in the first light of dawn—circular in shape and bright in appearance as if made of aluminium.

"I daresay some of the men who saw this strange phenomenon are alive today and can vouch for this story. For myself I can only vouch

for the scorched and burnt undergrowth. Still it is another bit of evidence in support of the theory that flying saucers do exist and it may interest Mr. Gordon Creighton."

U.S.A.

More marks on the ground

The following account is taken from the *Montreal Gazette* for May 1: "The sheriff's office said today it is investigating marks left on the ground by what was described as an unidentified flying object. Reporters and sheriff's deputies investigated the area east of Helena where the object was sighted Wednesday night (April 29)—along the shoreline of Canyon Ferry Lake on the Missouri River.

"They found four holes about 13 feet apart, six to eight inches deep and eight to 10 inches across. The holes smelled like diesel fuel, according to one reporter. A circular spot was seared into the top of underbrush.

"First report of the object came from 11-year-old Linda Davis of Canyon Ferry Village, about 15 miles east of Helena.

"'It was a bright glow in my bedroom window,' she said. She said she and her brother, home alone, sighted it about 10.30 p.m.

"The holes were discovered about 125 feet from the rear of the Davis home and about the same distance from the lake shore.

"The report of the scorched area and surface marks jibed with reports from Socorro, N.M., where a policeman reported seeing an egg-shaped object Friday night (April 24). This followed by other reports from New Mexico."

The Socorro incident is reported fully elsewhere in this issue.

(Credit to Mr. Ronald W. J. Anstee)

SOUTH AFRICA

A pilot's sighting

This incident, briefly reported in our previous issue, can now be more fully documented. Captain R. B. Truter, Senior Captain of South Africa Airways, wrote to the *South African Journal of Science* and his letter appeared in its March, 1964, issue: "Whilst flying a Boeing 707 from Las Palmas to Zurich on the 15th February, 1964, I noticed a bright bluish-

white glow in the Eastern sky at 06.11 GMT. When observed through the right-hand panel of the aircraft windshield it appeared to be about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter and was perfectly circular.

"The aircraft was at 37,000 ft. pressure altitude, position 32° 00'N 11° 11'W, heading 033° T.

The co-pilot, navigator and myself watched the glow for about 10 minutes. During this time it did not appear to change its position in relation to stars which were visible in its vicinity, or in relation to the aircraft. I requested the navigator to determine the altitude and azimuth of the glow by means of the periscopic sextant. This was done at 06.25 GMT and found to be 09° 49' and 097° T respectively.

"Prevailing meteorological conditions were: a $\frac{7}{8}$ layer of medium cloud with tops at about 15,000 ft. immediately below the aircraft. This layer became broken towards the African coast and the NE. There was also some cirrostratus and wisps of cirrus to the NE. The aircraft itself was well above all cloud. Ambient air temperature -64° C.

"From the height at which we were flying, the Eastern sky was becoming lighter prior to sunrise, and the glow began to assume an elliptical shape with the long axis horizontal. The position of the glow was now altering in relation to stars and the aircraft, and we appeared to be drawing abeam of it, but its altitude appeared to remain the same to the naked eye.

"As the Eastern sky became brighter, the glow appeared to increase gradually in size, the Southernmost end of the now larger ellipse diffusing and splaying out and finally disappearing just before the sun appeared above the horizon.

"From first observation the glow appeared to be in space, but the later, fairly rapid change in position in relation to the aircraft indicated that it was not.

"Along with the rest of my crew at the time, I should be most interested to hear an explanation of the phenomenon."

Dazzling "stars"

Mr. Philipp J. Human sends us the following account from the *Pietermaritzburg Natal Witness* of May 2: "For three successive nights, Mrs.

Ken Marwick, of Mona Glen farm, nine miles from Richmond, has seen a mysterious formation of 'stars' over the farm. She said that on the first night two bright objects, close together with a bright crescent, were visible in the night sky for about 45 minutes until they were lost to sight behind a hill. The light was so bright that it dazzled the eyes. The phenomenon occurred again on Thursday night (April 30), and last night (May 1), although last night there were three bright objects in the sky in a triangular formation. Friends of Mrs. Warwick came specially from Richmond last night to witness the strange sight, and were at a loss to explain the occurrence."

Linden UFO

The *Die Transvaler* on April 15 carried the following report: "A large grey object was seen last night over Linden (Johannesburg) at about 7 o'clock. At least three people saw the object travel over the suburb at enormous speed. It closely resembled a large boomerang and made no sound. 'Mr. D. Preston and I saw the object quite clearly for about 10 seconds until it disappeared behind a block of flats,' said Mr. L. Lamneck, of 30 Eighth Street, Linden. Late last night no one could establish what it really was."

(Credit to Mr. Philipp J. Human)

The Three Rivers sighting

From the *Vereeniging News* for March 13: "A bright object like an acetylene flame was sighted flashing across the skies over Three Rivers on last Thursday (March 5) at 9 p.m. The object, about the size of a tennis ball, sped soundlessly from north to south. Several people reported seeing it. Mr. Gerald Schneier, who was sitting on his stoep at the time, said a guest at his house suddenly cried, 'Look, look!' The object vanished for an instant, then re-appeared on a downward trajectory, accelerating in jerky movements and leaving behind it a long trail of sparks. It was difficult to judge at what height it travelled, but when it finally vanished in a shower of orange sparks it appeared to be fairly low in the skies. Mr. Schneier of Hertzog Road, Three

Rivers (Vereeniging) said the core of the object was a 'ball of brilliant flame.'"

(Credit to Mr. Philipp J. Human)

Box-like object

The *Pretoria News* of May 6 reported:

"A mysterious glowing flying object which has been puzzling Pretorians for about three weeks, made another appearance over the city last night. This time, powerful binoculars were trained on the object, and residents of Chamfuti Street, Moregloed, saw that it took the form of a box-like structure surrounded by an orange glow. The object was in view for about 20 minutes between 7.30 and 8 p.m.

"Mrs. J. F. J. van Rensburg and her neighbours saw the object switch from an east-west direction to the north-east, where it disappeared over the horizon. 'We saw it stop and then continue,' said Mrs. Van Rensburg today. 'I immediately telephoned the Radcliffe Observatory and, although they scanned the sky, they could not see it. Because we thought, at first, that it may have been a meteorological experiment we also telephoned the Weather Bureau and the Meteorological Office at Jan Smuts Airport. They did not see it,' Mrs. van Rensburg said.

"Recently, Mr. H. B. Hansen, of 482 Frederick Street, West End, saw an orange glowing object, at 5.20 in the morning. It was moving towards the north, and then veered eastwards.

"Mr. Hansen said: 'The object was stationary for some minutes and then disappeared only to reappear soon after. It was definitely not a shooting star.'" Several other reports about the object have been received at various times. Technicians at the Hartebeesthoek space station, near Pretoria, do not know what it is!

(Credit to Mr. Philipp J. Human)

Object and smoke trail

This report is taken from the *Queenstown Daily Representative* of May 15:

"Mr. W. F. du Plessis, of the farm Occupation, near Bolotwa, reported to the Rep. yesterday afternoon that he and his wife saw a strange object

crossing the sky from west to east at about 2.30. The object, which was visible for five minutes, was long and thin and a silvery colour—like a shooting star, said Mr. du Plessis. At one stage it had a crinkly appearance, he said.

"Mrs. Norma Payn, of Poplar Grove, also reported early yesterday afternoon that she and workers on the farm saw a strange object passing from west to east towards Tylden. From it emanated a long continuous trail of smoke. A noise accompanied the object.

"Mr. O. Ramsey, of the farm Who Can Tell, and his labourers saw the same object. Their attention was drawn to the sky when they heard a strange noise, Mr. Ramsey said."

FIJI

Double explosion

Our correspondent in New Zealand, Mr. Ray Holden, has sent us this cutting from the *New Zealand Herald* for June 6: "A mysterious streak of bright bluish-white light, accompanied by a double explosion, was reported over the Fiji island of Taveuni early yesterday. Reports of the travelling beam, which lit up the sky, came from people throughout the 26-miles-long island, as well as from fishermen off the coast.

"One islander said: 'It was a strange and terrifying experience. Without warning the sky suddenly brightened and it seemed almost like daylight. We looked up and saw a bluish white light followed by sparks. It disappeared to the north-west of Vanua Levu.

"About three seconds later there was a loud double explosion and then everything was quiet."

"A report from Sydney says that two loud explosions and a tremor-like disturbance felt in a 30-square-miles area on the mid-north coast of New South Wales on Thursday are a mystery.

"Residents said that buildings vibrated, windows rattled and doors slammed, but the police at Taree and Forster said they had received no reports of damage."