

UFO CHASE IN CHINA

Gordon Creighton

(Translation from Chinese. G.C.)

We have recently had our "Air Force Chase of the Pingpong Balls" over Brazil, and now in a fresh batch of press-clippings for which we are most indebted to our Consultant/Correspondent in Japan, Mr Yusuke J. Matsumura, we have details of a similar but smaller "Air Force chase" in China. Rather than making a general summary of these reports, as I would normally have done, I have on this occasion taken the unusual step of translating the entire batch of clippings in great detail, because I feel this present case gives us an excellent opportunity to observe how the Chinese authorities are coping with the pesky UFOs.

In the early days when they had just got rid of the unusually obnoxious "Gang of Four", and were settling down to a *slightly* more relaxed form of Marxist tyranny, the Chinese authorities cannot possibly have known much about UFOs, and in all the hullabaloo of the Civil War and mutual mayhem since Mao Tse-Tung seized power in 1949 (only two years after Kenneth Arnold's sighting) they cannot possibly have had the desire or the time in which to study the problem. Consequently, when the slight relaxation came, we heard of the establishment of the civilian Chinese UFO Research Society and the launching of their journal (published in Lanzhou, N.W. China) with a total of 300,000 readers — a figure which I am sure was all eyewash. In theory they are supposed to exchange journals with FSR, since we regularly send our magazine to *their* Overseas Representative, Paul Dong. But in actual fact, scarcely one Chinese magazine per year reaches me, and those that do contain nothing but translated re-hashes of articles about Keyhoe and Hynek and very old articles of Vallée and Ribera; a few harmless accounts of "things seen in the sky" over China, and the usual padding in the form of articles about hypothetical space-travel by humans.

My own guess is that, now that the Chinese authorities have had time to settle down a bit, and have also had time to take a look at the UFO Phenomenon, they have unquestionably realized at last how dangerous it is. Therefore, despite the usual jabber about the Chinese version of "glasnost", *it can be predicted that they will start stamping heavily on UFO research there, and all groups and publications will soon wither away, as they are doing elsewhere.*

A few months ago I talked with a foreign expert, a man of world-wide fame in the UFO field, who had just returned from a visit to China. He had been invited to visit that country by a UFO study group there, but I had warned him that, apart from a nice chance to see something of China, the trip would yield nothing of value and that he would not be free to meet people. And so it proved. He told me that local officials had kept up the surveillance and harassment throughout his presence in the town, and had forbidden the members of the UFO study group to let him visit their homes. What talks and contacts he managed to secure were therefore done clandestinely.

This little batch of recent reports from China which I give below shows that the Chinese authorities are employing the usual methods to dissuade the public from interest in the subject. It is evident, from the large amount of newspaper space devoted to the case, that they are distinctly worried about it. And no doubt realize that their old hackneyed "explanations" are ceasing to convince. It is therefore all the more amazing that the Chinese press-censors should have been so slipshod and so careless, as they have done in this case, by letting several nice little cats out of the bag. These little cats (so well known to us from all over the world!) are: (1) The reports that, after the UFO had passed through clouds, the clouds still glowed; (2) the reports that many eyewitnesses said their wristwatches stopped; and (3) the reports that, on the Island of Shengsi, off the coast of China, there was a brief electricity blackout as the UFO passed over. All three of these remarkable phenomena, say the Chinese experts, were purely due to chance. — EDITOR

Sources

Wenwei Bao (Wen Wei Po) (Shanghai edition) August 28, 1987

Wenwei Bao (Wen Wei Po) (Shanghai edition) August 29, 1987

Wenwei Bao (Wen Wei Po) (Hongkong edition) August 29, 1987

Wenwei Bao (Wen Wei Po) (Hongkong edition) August 31, 1987

Dagong Bao (Ta-Kung-Pao) (Shanghai edition) August 31, 1987

Jenmin Ribao (Peking edition) August 29, 1987

1. WEN WEI PO, Shanghai, August 28

SHANGHAI VISITED LAST NIGHT BY UFO. "FLYING TOWARDS SOUTH-EAST: SIZE OF A WASHBOWL, WITH DARK CENTRAL SPOT": SOME SAY "LIKE A SPIRAL WATCH-SPRING"

WEN WEI PO Reporter: At about 7.58 p.m. last night an unidentified flying object passed over the

City. From 8.00 p.m. onwards the paper received numerous phone calls reporting it.

One caller at Shangnan Xincun in the Pudong area said it was of the apparent size of a washbasin with a dark central spot and emitting dazzling flashes of light. He watched it for some two or three minutes until it vanished in the south-east.

A reader named Zhou at Zhongguxiang in the Qingpu area gave a very clear account. His description of its appearance agreed with that of the first-named caller — “like the spiral spring of a watch”. The under part gradually became more vague, and then assumed the shape of a round tail. The strangest feature was that, after it had passed through the clouds, *the clouds still continued to glow*. This witness, immensely shaken, told us that never before in his life had he beheld such a flying object.

There were also many phone calls from residents of the Jiangwan and Caojiadu districts.

We telephoned to the Shanghai Weather Bureau, the Shanghai Observatory, and the Yushan University. They all said they too had received numerous similar phone calls, but that at present it was still difficult to give a clear and definite explanation.

2. WEN WEI PO, Shanghai, August 29

Today, this same paper reported that the staff of the Shanghai Observatory had issued a statement that the object seen was probably a man-made missile or the debris of a missile. (The paper, however, now mentioned — for the first time — that various people had reported *electricity failures* as the UFO flew over.) The paper now explained that, in the view of the experts, should any such electricity failures have occurred anywhere, then these were strictly by pure chance, and could not possibly have had anything to do with the flying object.

The paper goes on to mention that, in 1985, an unknown flying object had also caused a great commotion in Shanghai, and the Observatory staff had discussed it and come to the decision that it was a meteor.

Since 1986, says the paper, the Shanghai Observatory has received more than twelve reports of UFOs. The Observatory experts view these phenomena not as objects from Outer Space, but as possibly due to “some natural phenomenon arising from the Earth’s own atmosphere.”

3. RENMIN RIBAO, Beijing (Peking), August 29

UFO OVER ZHEJIANG PROVINCE AND SHANGHAI. SHANGHAI AIR FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS DESPATCH FIGHTER CRAFT TO INVESTIGATE. SUDDEN ELECTRICITY FAILURE AT SHENGSI, AND WRIST-WATCHES STOP.

XINHUA NEWS AGENCY, BEIJING, August 28. From our Shanghai Correspondent:—

Last night many people in the Shanghai Municipality observed the passage of a UFO through their skies.

The eyewitnesses state that the sighting was between 7.50 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. They described it as “a flashing spiral with a glowing rear part”. Some saw “a shining elliptical dish”. Others said: “Like a comet, with a shining tail aperture like an umbrella”.

The eyewitnesses reported the colour as yellow, and said the object was revolving in a clockwise fashion rapidly from west to east, the whole sighting lasted but a few moments.

The Shanghai Naval Air Station sent up an aircraft to pursue and observe the object.

At the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau the object was also seen by the Bureau’s Chief Engineer Shu Jiajin who told me that it was the first occurrence of a UFO over Shanghai, but said that, as regards its nature and origin, it was still not yet possible to give a concrete answer.

Furthermore, according to a telegram from a correspondent in Shengsi County, when this UFO passed over that area, at the local electricity generating-station, where the machines were running quite normally, *there was a sudden failure; and instantly the entire island was plunged in darkness. Most people’s wrist-watches stopped*. All that was to be seen in the sky was the small object, “shaped like a spinning-top, of maybe the size of a helicopter” spinning away fast from west to east. Owing to the power failure, most of the military and the civilian population on the island all saw the phenomenon.

4. WEN WEI PO, Hongkong edition, August 29

UFO NEAR SHANGHAI. “ROUND LIKE A WASHBASIN, EMITTING ORANGE-YELLOW BEAMS.” MILITARY AIRCRAFT SENT UP TO INVESTIGATE

From our Shanghai Correspondent, August 28:—

At 8.00 p.m. on August 27, in the night sky over Shanghai a bright flashing unidentified flying object made a fleeting appearance and then was gone. In many places, folk strolling and enjoying the evening air saw the strange sight in the heavens. A man living in Pudong said: “At about 7.56 p.m. more or less, a spiral-shaped flying object suddenly appeared over Bailianjing, its size being about that of a net-ball, shooting out bright flashes, it moved off, still spinning, towards the south-east. In Nanhui County, crowds of people reported that at about 7.55 p.m. it appeared overhead there. The visual judgement of eyewitnesses was that it was at a height of about 4,000–5,000 metres. It was ellipsoid, and its (apparent? ED) diameter was about 30 cms.—50 cms. At the rear end there was an orange-yellow beam from an aperture that

looked about the size of a washbowl.

The fisher-folk on the Island of Shengsi saw it at 7.57 p.m. It was bigger and brighter than the planet Venus. They said it had three pale white apertures and was of spiral shape and spinning as it went, very fast.

When it passed over the Island, all the electric lights went out, and came on again about one minute later. The Electricity Supply Office said there had been no suspension of operations by them. There were also reports that a UFO had been seen at Hangzhou.

As we understand, when the UFO appeared over Shanghai, the Shanghai Air Force Headquarters at once sent up an aircraft to pursue and investigate the

UFO. The pilot's description of the object corresponded pretty well with accounts given by many eyewitnesses. By 8.30 p.m., it had vanished eastwards over the sea.

According to the investigations made by the astronomers, this was not a shooting star, nor a comet, but it could possibly have been a man-made object (such as a rocket, etc.) or the debris of such, falling and reflecting the light of the Sun.

Already in 1985, Shanghai had a UFO sighting which caused quite a stir. On that occasion the Shanghai Observatory said that it was a fireball. Since 1986 the Shanghai Observatory has seen about a dozen unidentified flying objects. As regards the present case, we must await their final decision after they



have collected more data on the occurrence.

5. DAGONG BAO, Hongkong edition, August 31

UFO HULLABALLOO OVER EASTERN CHINA: AIR FORCE PILOT DISCUSSES HIS PURSUIT

From our Shanghai correspondent, August 29:—

On August 27, Air Force Pilot Mao Xuecheng, of a certain unit stationed at Shanghai, pursued a UFO for about 2.45 minutes, and today he has given an account of it.

He is an experienced, full-time Air Force pilot, with more than ten years of service.

He said: "At 7.35 p.m., I received orders to take off and, flying at 800 k.p.h., to carry out my mission, from the area over Chongming Island, and fly to an airfield due south.

"As I was leaving the area over Jiangnan, I suddenly spotted, above, on my starboard side, over Jiading, a very bright, very dazzling flying body, and, since it didn't resemble an aircraft, nor a guided missile, but did in fact look like a flare, being in size and shape a bit larger than a sort of round straw hat. I opened up the throttle and put on speed to 900 k.p.h., in pursuit. My clock showed 7.57 p.m. Keeping my eye closely on the object, I saw that it was now descending. The bright part of it was an orange-yellow colour, and, behind, it had a sort of spiral tail, also orange-yellow. The whole thing was spinning clockwise, but the tail was not spinning. At 7.59 p.m. it shifted to my front port side. At that moment, it started to rise again and increased its speed greatly compared with when it had been going down. After 45 more seconds, I still had not caught up with it and by now I was over the airfield, so I requested permission to land. The object vanished towards the south-east, over Chuansha County.

Central News Agency Telegram from Fuzhou, August 29:—

At about 8.00 p.m. on August 27, an unidentified flying object was seen over Fuzhou and also over Zhenghe, Songqi, and Tuorong in the northern part of Fujian Province.

According to a report in the *Fujian Ribao* (daily newspaper) the UFO was elliptical in shape, its whole body emitting a reddish-orange glow, and from the two sides of the elliptical craft it emitted beams of white light. It was travelling from west to east, and at 7.59 p.m. it appeared in the sky to the north of the village of Ancun, lying to the east of Zhenghe County, and was seen by more than sixty people.

6. WEN WEI PO, Hongkong edition, August 31:

This carries the same report about Fujian Province,

as just given above under item 5, but has the following additional material:—

"On the same evening, August 27, at exactly 8.00 p.m., a similar unidentified flying object was seen at Tuorong, Songqi and other places in Fujian Province. But reports of the various eyewitnesses at Songqi said it was "shaped like a butterfly", with a very bright round central part, and the upper and lower parts looking like fans.

Observers in Fuzhou said that in the centre it had a very big round thing emitting from its top and its underside diffracted rays of light, the brightness and length of the beams constantly changing.

No sound was heard from it.

The witnesses everywhere say the sighting was very brief, from a few seconds to 1½ minutes or so.

(NOTE BY EDITOR FSR. If, at 8.00 p.m. on August 27, the same UFO was visible from both Shanghai and the city of Fuzhou, which is at least 750 or 800 kms to the south, then it must surely have been at an enormous height!)

In a separate news item, the same issue of the Hongkong WEN WEI PO of August 31, has the following:—

Central News Agency Telegram from our Shanghai Correspondent, August 29:—

Some of the Shanghai astronomers have now made a preliminary analysis of the sighting of a UFO over that city on August 27, and consider it was possibly a man-made object (such as a rocket, etc.), or maybe the debris of such. Their reasoning is as follows:—

"The spiral-shaped unidentified flying object seen on the 27th was, in the first place, certainly no aircraft, since aircraft are not spiral and cannot spin. Secondly, it cannot have been a fireball, because when a fireball enters the upper atmosphere it is very fast and exceedingly bright as it burns up.

"Thirdly, it could not have been a comet, since a comet is shaped very much like a broom hanging in the sky; it has a head and a tail, and it does not spin.

"Consequently, it may possibly have been a man-made object (such as a rocket, etc.), or debris of same. The pieces could be of very differing shapes and sizes, and could be spinning.

"The height would be in excess of several hundred kms., and it would shine in the rays of the Sun.

The scientists say that the accounts given by many eyewitnesses were basically all very similar, which proves that it was not an illusion. The eyewitnesses had very varied estimates of the altitude of the UFO, naked eye estimates in these matters being very unreliable.

As for the reports that in various places, when the thing passed over, there were electricity failures, the scientists say that this could simply be

大公報

Ta-Kung-Pao
海外航空版
(Overseas Edition)

報 匯 文

六期星

日九廿月八年七八九一元公

光圈似臉盆 發桔黃色光

UFO飛臨上海

軍機即升空追蹤

【本報上海二十八日電】二十七日晚八時，上海夜空出現增輝發光的不明飛行物，稍後即逝。在外納涼的人們普遍看到了這一天空奇觀。

一位住在浦東的市民稱，大約在晚上七點五十六分，在白蓮潭上空突然出現一隻螺旋形的飛行物，大小如網球，熠熠發光，旋轉着向東南方上空飛去。南匯縣的羣衆反映，七點五十五分左右，不明飛行物出現在南匯上空，據目測約有四五千米高，飛行物呈橢圓形，直徑約三十五至五十厘米，尾部閃着桔黃色的光芒，光圈有臉盆那麼大。住在浙江嵎泗列島的漁民看到

物時，駐滬空軍立即出動飛機追蹤觀察，飛行員所見飛行物的形狀和許多目擊者描述的差不多。至八時三十分，不明飛行物在東面海洋上消失了。

據天文學家分析，這個飛行物既不是流星，也不是彗星，它有可能是個人造的飛行體（如火箭等）或其殘骸遺留在空間，靠反射太陽光而發光。一九八五年，上海曾出現一個不明飛行物而引起轟動，上海天文台當時認為是火星。自八六年以來，上海臺文台已發現不明飛行物有十二次之多。對於這次現象，有待在繼續收集資料後，再作進一步分析判斷。

的時間是七點五十七分，飛行物比啓明星要大點亮，有三道淡白色的光圈，飛行物呈螺旋狀，旋轉飛行，速度很快，它飛臨海島上空的時侯，電燈都不亮了，倏消失了，電燈又亮了，歷時約一分鐘。供電部門說此時並未發生供電故障。據說，在杭州也發現了不明飛行物。

巴也呈桔黃色，整個物體作順時針旋轉，但尾巴並不旋轉，朝東南方向飛去。七點五十九分，它變換在我飛機的左前方。此刻，它還直下降變為上升，速度比下降時要快得多。又過了四十五秒，我沒有追上它，這時已到機場上空，於是請求着陸，並報告了上述情況。我隨着降落，飛行物體已在川沙縣上空，逐漸看不清了。

【中新社福州二十九日電】福建省福州及閩北的政和、松溪、柘洋等地於八月二十七日晚八時左右相繼發現一不明飛行物。

UFO大鬧華東地區

空軍機師談追蹤經過

適巧空中執勤 追蹤歷時兩分餘鐘

【本報上海二十九日電】駐滬空軍某部飛行員毛學成二十七日跟蹤不明飛行物體連兩分四十五秒。毛學成今天向人們敘述觀察到飛行物體的情況。

毛學成是位全天候飛行員，已飛行十多年，有豐富的飛行經驗，他說：“二十七日晚七點三十五分，我奉命駕機起飛，執行空中巡邏任務後，以時速八百公里的

速度，由崇明島上空向正南方的機場返航時，當我飛越長江上空時，突然發現右上空、真定上空，有一個很亮、很刺眼的飛行物體，它既不像飛機，也不像導彈，倒像一個照明彈，大小和形狀比一般圓形草帽大一點兒，我立即加大油門，以九百公里

的速度，與它形成一百度加角，緊急追趕。此時，時針指在七點五十七分，我經過仔細觀察，發現不明飛行物體在下降，亮點部分顏色呈桔黃色，後面拖着螺旋形尾

人民日報

新华社北京8月28日电 本社駐上海記者報道：昨天晚上不少上海市民觀察到天空出現不明飛行物體。

目擊者稱，發現不明飛行物的時間大約是晚7時50分到8時30分之間。目擊者對飛行物的形狀描述不一，有的說是“螺旋形光束，後散為光點”，有的稱似“橢圓形光盤”，還有“象彗星，尾部光圈似傘形”的說法。據報告者說，不明飛行物呈桔黃色，順時針旋轉，自西

向東快速移動，從出現到消失僅數秒鐘。

人民解放軍海軍航空兵駐滬部隊發現不明飛行物後，曾出動飛機追蹤觀察。

上海市氣象局昨晚也觀察到了不明飛行物的行踪。氣象局總工程師張家森告訴記者，在上海發現不明飛行物還是第一次，對飛行物的來龍去脈，目前還不能做出具體解釋。

另據一通訊員自浙江嵎泗縣來電稱，這一不明飛行物經過當地上空時，嵎泗縣發電廠在機器運轉正常並未失電的情況下，突然停電，瞬間島上一片黑暗。人們戴的手表大部分都停止走動。只見一形如陀螺，若直升飛機螺旋槳大小的物體由西北向東南旋轉運行。所經之處如同白晝。因停電，島上大部分駐軍和居民都目睹了這一景象。

嵎泗突然停電手表停走 駐滬部隊出動飛機追蹤 沪浙上空出現不明飛行物

1987年 8月 29日 星期六

丁卯年七月初六

北京地區天氣預報

白天	晴轉多雲	北風	北轉南	二級
		風力	二、三級	
夜間	多雲	轉晴	北風	二級
		風力	一、二級	
溫度	最高 32℃			
	最低 19℃			

(代號 1-1)

due to chance.

Staff of the Shanghai Observatory also said it could have been some natural phenomenon occurring in the upper levels of the Earth's atmosphere.

There was a great sensation in Shanghai over an unidentified flying object in 1985. On that occasion the Shanghai Observatory decided that it was a fiery meteor.

THE AWFUL TRUTH AT LAST

(Translation)

"FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Over thirty years old and the most venerable institution of the Ufological world. When it was edited by Charles Bowen, it was the most respected UFO journal in the world. A few years ago, Bowen retired for health reasons, and Gordon Creighton took over, introducing many bizarre ideas into the Review. It is now regarded as totally superseded, although still supported by leading figures in world Ufology (which worries the British Ufologists). It scarcely ever publishes any interesting reports, and the native British experts give it a wide berth."

J. Randles, in an obscure French-language UFO magazine (July 1987).

Since 1986, the Shanghai region has had about twelve sightings of unidentified flying objects.

NOTE BY EDITOR

IDENTIFICATION OF PLACE-NAMES

NAME IN CURRENT "PINYIN" SYSTEM	NAME IN WADE/GILES OR OLD CONVENTIONAL SYSTEM
LANZHOU	LANCHOW, LAN-CHOU
SHANGNAN XINCUN	SHANG-NAN HSIN-TS'UN
PUDONG	POOTUNG, P'U-TUNG
ZHONGGUXIANG	CHUNG-KU—HSIANG
QINGPU	CH'ING-P'U
JIANGWAN	KIANGWAN, CHIANG-WAN
CAOJIADU	TS'AO-CHIA-TU
YUSHAN	YÜ-SHAN
ZHEJIANG PROVINCE	CHEKIANG PROVINCE
SHENGSISLAND	SHENG-SSU ISLAND
BAILIANJING	PAI-LIEN-CHING
NANHUI	NAN-HUI
HANGZHOU	HANGCHOW
CHONGMING ISLAND	CH'UNG-MING ISLAND
JIADING	CHIA-TING, KIATING
FUZHOU	FOOCHOW, FU-CHOU
FUJIAN PROVINCE	FUKIEN PROVINCE, FU-CHIEN PROVINCE
ZHENGHE	CHENG-HO
SONGQI	SUNG-CH'I
TUORONG	T'O-JUNG

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THE BOGOTÁ SPECIMEN: A NEW PHYSICAL INVESTIGATION

Dr Jacques Vallée, PhD., FSR Consultant

We have much pleasure in publishing this article which we have just received from Dr Vallée. And he states that he will naturally be very interested in any comments that FSR Consultants or Correspondents or Readers are able to make, and that all suggestions will be welcome. — EDITOR

SCIENTISTS interested in the UFO Phenomenon have long hoped that some sort of physical evidence would be found in connection with a well-documented sighting. Such evidence could be analyzed in the laboratory and it would provide, if not proof of the

reality of UFOs, at least a good basis for a fruitful dialogue among the supporters of various theories about them.

In real life things are not so simple. The combination of a good sighting with a physical specimen is