

# SHAPE-CHANGING UFO

L. Harris

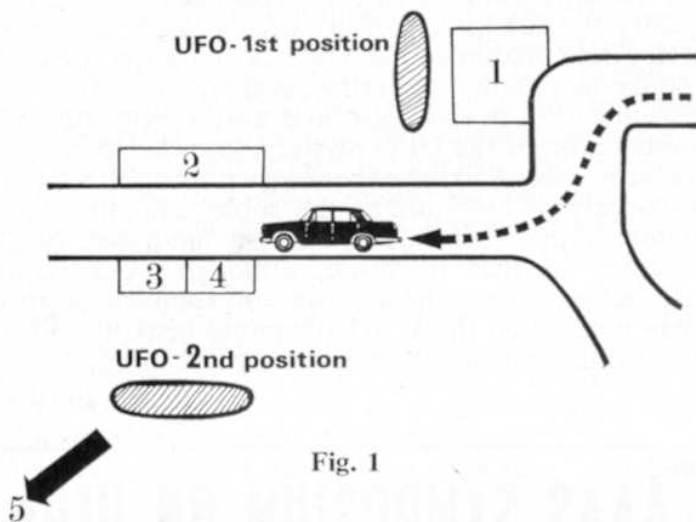
Our contributor, a regular reader of *Flying Saucer Review*, is a member of the Cosmic Research Group, a UFO study organisation active in Bournemouth.

THE following report has recently come to my notice and I thought it may be of some interest to FSR readers.

One evening in October, 1967, about ten friends were returning from a fishing trip at Portland, Dorset. They were travelling in separate cars, the last one being occupied by a Mr. L. Druce, and his brother-in-law, Mr. George, whom Mr. Druce was teaching to drive.

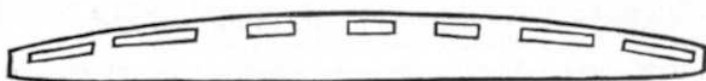
## "Auto stop"?

It was dusk as they were passing through the village of Lytchett Minster, when Mr. George noticed an object hovering over St. Peter's Finger Garage (Fig. 1).



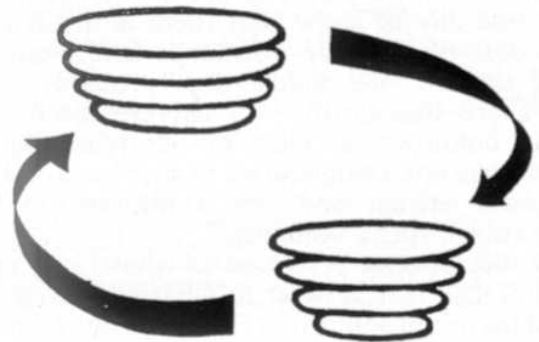
The car's engine stalled (Mr. George is quite certain that *he* did not stall it, for at the time he was cruising in top gear) and Mr. George drew the attention of his brother-in-law to the object.

Mr. Druce estimated the object to be about 200ft. up. It was cigar-shaped (Fig. 2), and about 70ft. long. Mr. Druce describes it as being coffee-brown, with yellow lights of regular shape along its length, giving the impression of observation windows.



By this time several other cars had stopped, and the object was observed for about five minutes. Then Mr. Druce and his brother-in-law became rather scared, so they re-entered the car, and drove on. The object had now risen higher in the sky, and kept pace with them, crossing the road en route.

When they reached the Oasis Cafe, farther along the



road, they stopped the car again. The object stopped also, hovering over the police houses opposite the cafe. Mr. Druce ran into one of the police houses, but when he returned with a police officer, the object had vanished. He was about to assure the officer that it *had* been there, when it reappeared, this time in a totally different form. It was a blaze of coloured light; Mr. Druce clearly saw red, green, yellow, blue, etc., in "bands" of colour. By this time the sky was completely dark.

## Split in two parts

After a couple of minutes the policeman went into the other police house, and returned with another police officer. They all watched the object for some minutes, then a strange thing happened. The glowing object split into two sections; one section went beneath the other, and rejoined; thus the object took on a totally different shape (Fig. 3). After this manoeuvre, the object vanished for a moment, then reappeared. About two minutes later, it began to move away, slowly at first, then disappeared very swiftly, as if travelling at phenomenal speed.

The police officers took statements from Mr. Druce and Mr. George, but neither heard any more of the matter.

During the sighting Mr. Druce experienced weakness in his legs, and rising hair on his arms. During their journey home Mr. George was sick.

Since this occasion, Mr. George has seen a large orange ball "four times the size of a dinner plate" crossing the sky near Old Harry Rocks, Studland, Dorset. And in the evening of September 25 last, a stationary yellow "scratch" in the sky, appearing to be one inch wide, and eighteen inches long.

Mr. Druce, formerly a sceptic of all UFO phenomena, now devoutly believes that we are being visited by extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Sketches based on drawings made by Mr. Druce

# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## ENGLAND

### Huge orange UFO

In a letter to the Editor of the *West Cumberland Times* of May 31, 1969 (name and address of sender was withheld) we learn of an unusual sighting on May 24:

"I am curious to know whether any of your readers were travelling on the Carlisle to Cockermouth road in the early hours of Saturday morning, and saw what I can only describe as an Unidentifiable Flying Object.

"I was driving along at Moota when a large orange object, the size of a dinner plate to the naked eye, appeared from the Keswick direction, hovered and stopped. I stopped the car and with my four passengers kept watch. After a few minutes it appeared to travel for a short distance in the direction from which it had arrived. I proceeded towards Cockermouth, when once again it travelled towards the car, hovered and stopped. I again stopped the car, and watched. After several minutes it set off at a leisurely speed and disappeared into some clouds, again in the Keswick direction."

### Tunbridge Wells UFO

The *Kent & Sussex Courier* of August 15, 1969, told the story of a commuter's sighting from a train on Thursday, August 7:

"For fully half an hour while travelling by train from Tunbridge Wells to Hastings last week, Mrs. Joan Fuller, a Tunbridge Wells bank employee, watched a 'silver, cylindrical' object in the sky.

Mrs. Fuller caught her usual train, the 6.18 p.m. from Central Station, on her way home on Thursday night. She looked out of the window and saw the unidentified flying object hovering in the sky between Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst.

"I watched it for about half an hour, and even looked out of the window to make quite sure it wasn't a shadow," said Mrs. Fuller, who has been commuting to Tunbridge Wells from her home at Bexhill-on-Sea for the past 10 years.

"It was about the size of a jet—and at about the same height," recalled Mrs. Fuller, who says she could not tell it if was moving because of the movement of the train.

"A police spokesman said there had been no other reports of sightings."

### Isle of Wight mystery

The following report was sent in by reader L. Scammell of East Knoyle, Wilts.:

"At 6.10 p.m. on July 30, 1969, from a boat 2 miles south of the Needles, Isle of Wight, in clear sunny weather, a very bright light was seen to the east against the background of St. Catherines Down (12 miles away) at a level just below the crest. It appeared to come nearer while displacing slightly to the left, i.e. as if on a westerly course to pass north of the observer. Through powerful field-glasses it was seen as a circular disc of uniform and steady orange light with an indistinct darker elongated body behind it which was not visible to the naked eye. Comparison with the height of the cliff at St. Catherines Down through the binoculars indicated that *if at that distance* the diameter was about 15ft. (i.e. about 1/4—1/5 the height of the cliff).

"The explanation at first assumed was that it was a helicopter carrying a horizontal spot-light, but assuming such a spot-light to have a diameter of (at most) 18in. this would imply that the machine was so close (i.e. hardly more than a mile) as to be clearly seen in all detail and also clearly audible. There was no noise.

"Another explanation considered was a reflection on a car-windscreen travelling inland, but this was ruled out by the orange colour, its uniformity over the whole disc, the absence of any flash or glitter, and the perfect regularity of the disc. A reflecting windscreen was found on another point of the coast immediately afterwards, and examined through the glasses: the light was white, irregular in intensity and shape, varied with the movement of the boat, and was easily recognisable.

"After about 3 minutes the light dwindled and disappeared: through the binoculars the dwindling appeared to be of a kind that suggested that the object was turning away north and that the light derived from a relatively flat plane and not from a sphere, i.e. as if a distant car head-light turned away. As the light failed I expected to see the dark indistinct shape that carried it more clearly on its new course, but to my surprise this faded with the light.

"Two witnesses.

"The 'defect' in this report seems to me to lie in the fact that the light seen at horizon-level was a perfect disc of large radius. Since a saucer is not usually seen for a long period in a completely vertical plane one would have expected an ovoid shape for a light from this source."

### Willian "willies"

From the *Herts. and Beds. Citizen* of August 1, 1969, we learn that:

"A 23-year-old Letchworth artist and his American girl-friend . . . claim they saw three flying saucers over the village of Willian early on Sunday morning (July 27).

"Mr. David James, formerly of 8 Sherwood, on the Grange estate, said on Wednesday that they watched one 'saucer' hovering about the sky for nearly two hours.

"After leaving a friend's house they were walking along Letchworth Lane near the golf club at about 3 a.m. when Dana Cousins saw 'a vivid ball of light.'

"Dana, also 23, from California, said: 'I thought it was a star at first, but then I noticed the colouring. It was made of extremely bright silvers and gold. I've never seen such a beautiful thing.'

"It was hovering about a tree—then less than a minute later it started moving slowly towards them, she said.

"David, a former Norton School pupil, said: 'I panicked. Then I saw a car coming. I tried to flag it down, but it didn't stop. That was hardly surprising at that time of the morning. It was a pity, though, because we wanted somebody else to see it too.'

"David claimed that as he 'panicked' the 'saucer' retreated, taking up its previous position above the tree.

"At this stage Dana noticed two other 'saucers.' They seemed to be 'very high up,' whereas the first one seemed to be 'no more than a few hundred feet high.'

"David said: 'It is extremely difficult to assess exactly how far away it was and how high. Because of this we couldn't really assess its size.'

"After about two hours they saw the first 'saucer' begin to move upwards, 'presumably to join the other two.'

"People have suggested that it was probably some sort of hallucination, but it can't have been,' said David.

'We both saw them—and neither of us had been drinking.'"  
 Credit to **Ian B. Wright** of Letchworth, who added the following note: "This report is of more interest when it is learned that about four or five months previously a Miss Gillian Smith of Letchworth and her fiancé had a similar late night sighting, about a mile from this spot. Again, a similar sighting was reported in the same newspaper in August 1965 at a place less than a mile from Willian. It may not go amiss to observe that Letchworth is approximately on the continuation of the Southend-Rovigo orthotenic line suggested by Aimé Michel."

## AUSTRALIA

### UFO report from Wagga

From the Sydney *Sun-Herald* of May 18, 1969, we read how:

"A glowing 'flying saucer' descended and hovered over the Riverina in the early hours of this morning, several people reported today.

"It was seen by eight people six miles apart.

"Reports said it hung 500ft. above a lonely paddock where Mr. Lindsay Dillon was driving a tractor on an all-night shift.

"The owner of the property, Mr. Tony Hocking, arrived a few minutes later to relieve Mr. Dillon, and also saw the object.

"Both men drove to their homes terrified about 4.15 a.m.

"Mr. Dillon roused his wife and some neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. John Hynes.

"Mr. Hocking woke his 16-year-old brother, Peter, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bark.

"From their homes six miles apart a few miles west of Deniliquin, all claimed to have watched the object for about half an hour before it finally disappeared.

"They reported the sighting to Deniliquin police, and a police officer said: 'Apparently this is fair dinkum. I know Hocking.'

"Mr. Dillon said: 'It came across the trees glowing completely white, then remained stationary above the tractor. Its colour changed to flashing red and green, and it was there for about five minutes. When Tony Hocking came it shot up to about 1,000ft. and changed to white again.

"I've never been so scared before. I was shaking with fear as I drove home.'

"Tony Hocking said: 'What stuck in my mind was the tremendous brightness of this thing, and its speed. It was so bright it was almost dazzling. When it went behind a cloud it lit up the cloud. I couldn't

estimate how fast it travelled, but it was certainly faster than a Boeing jet.'"  
 Credit: **J. R. Lawrence** of St. Kilda, Victoria.

## FRANCE

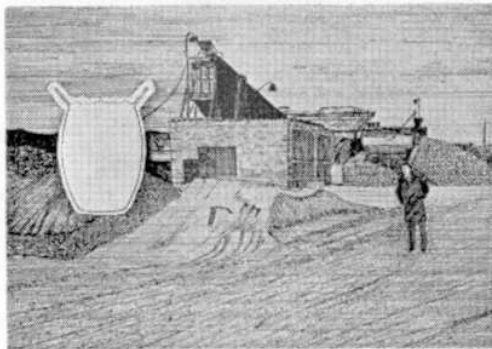
### Urn-shaped object in Montélimar

Monsieur Guéritault, a representative of *Lumières dans la Nuit*, investigated a report of an unusual object seen in southern France earlier this year. His lengthy and detailed report appeared in LDLN issue No. 101 (August 1969) and Gordon Creighton has extracted the following account for the benefit of FSR readers:

"On March 14, 1969, at about 7.50 or 8.00 p.m., Monsieur Manselon, aged 37, owner of a gravel pit at Malataverne, canton of Montélimar, Departement of Drôme, saw a strange urn-shaped object hovering at about 1½ metres from the ground in the gravel-pit. It was eight or nine metres from him, and shaped as shown in the sketch. Its colour was a vivid white, but not dazzling. He estimated its height at 2 metres and its width at 1½ metres.

"Surprised by the object, he found himself immobilised. He tried to retreat, and then to advance, and finally to call out, but all was in vain.

"He remained there observing the object for what he estimates to have been about one minute. At its upper corners, as the sketch shows, it had two 'antennae', which were much brighter than the other portions of the object. He heard no sound from it, and was unable to say whether it had suddenly arrived there in front of him, or had already been there for some time without being illuminated.



Scene reconstructed by F. Largarde

"Among the details which he noticed are the following: The edges of the object were all very sharply and clearly outlined except for the top, which was hazy and indistinct. The object did not light up the surroundings, so that he could not see the ground below or around it. The light emitted

from it did however seem to him to be pulsating slightly and very rapidly. No structural or other details were to be seen on the object. He felt no pricking or tingling sensation, nor were his eyes dazzled or unpleasantly affected.

"Finally the object began to rise straight up into the air, very slowly (at about 4 to 5 kms. p.h., he thought) and as it went up he felt the "paralysis" leaving him. When it had reached a height of about 8 or 10 metres, it tipped over on to its side, and suddenly 'went out, just like a light going out'. All this time he had heard not a sound, and felt nothing apart from the paralysis. He was now overcome by fear and started to tremble, and then ran to one of the huts in the gravel pit, where one of his men had just gone to turn off the power for the night.

"Inspecting the terrain next day, M. Manselon found no marks or traces left by the object. He was wearing no watch. There were no reports of interference with TV or radio in the area at the time. One of LDLN's investigators took the pull-over which M. Manselon had been wearing and had it checked for radioactivity but the result was negative. (This was, however, twelve days after the event.)

The investigator found no traces of magnetism at the spot under the area where the object had been seen, but he did find the mechanical digger, which was about 65 metres from where the object had been, quite magnetized (though this, in the opinion of LDLN, may well have been due to static). Monsieur Manselon's dog was taken to the spot on the same day as these tests were made (March 27). The dog showed no strange reaction at the spot over which the object had hovered but did behave queerly at a spot behind the digger, where for about five minutes he remained, turning round and round in a circle about three or four metres in diameter. Two days later, taken back to the spot, the dog no longer acted in this strange manner.

"Monsieur Manselon felt no unusual effects during the following days.

"A number of other people who were found and interviewed said that they had also been the object, and there was a similar sort of sighting five days later in the same region when, at a place about 8 km. south of Malataverne, at least half a dozen people said they had seen either a sort of orange 'vertical cylinder' stationary in the air, with flames shooting out of its base, or a stationary white ball with flames coming from below."



### Disappearing motorcyclists

From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 100 (July 1969) we learn of the remarkable account, sent to that journal by a Mme. Porta, of a "non-UFO" incident alleged to have occurred more than thirteen years ago:

"At 11.50 on the morning of August 22, 1956, I was riding my moped along Route No. 115 from Le Boulou to Céret when I was passed by an enormous and absolutely silent nickel-plated motor-bicycle. It was carrying two passengers lavishly dressed in blouses of a sort of fawn-coloured shiny satin-like material or watered silk. They were wearing gloves, closely sealed helmets, black or dark blue trousers, and tight stiff-looking half-length boots up to the middle of the calf.

"Then I was overtaken by another motor-bicycle absolutely identical with the first. Then, at a point about 500 metres further on the two machines stopped, right in the middle of the road, behind a bend, and blocked my way. I hooted to them to let me by. But in vain. I was obliged to pass them on the extreme left—a very tight squeeze, for their machines were enormous, of absolutely unusual size.

"The two pairs of riders were turned towards each other, as though they



Sketch by P. Lacroix

were talking, but as I came up level with them all four turned round to stare at me.

"Their faces were totally hidden by big smoked glasses, and neither their cheeks nor their chins were visible. The helmets did not have the usual chinstrap.

"I was very shaken. About ten metres further on I looked back. They had vanished without a sound.

"I remained shaken by it all that day. In the evening, at 7.25 p.m., as I was returning, a very bright point of light, with a metallic gleam and of the size of a distributor cap, seemed to be on the slopes above Le Perthus. Some

motorists stopped to look at it. It remained there for 4 or 5 seconds and then disappeared. When I reached home, my son told me that green balls had travelled through the sky at Le Boulou at about 5.30 p.m."

(Witness interviewed and report written by Mr. Vidal. Sketch of entities and their "motor-bicycles" by M. Philippe Lacroix for LDNL to whom we are indebted for permission to reprint this case.)

[Note by Editor of FSR: This report calls to mind the curious case of the mystery vehicle, with no windows, no lights, no number plates and no reflectors, said to have passed Mr. Ian Hann on the Bath-Stroud road in the West of England at over 60 m.p.h. one night in the autumn of 1965 and to have vanished ahead of him in a cloud of yellow smoke. (See FSR, March/April 1966, p.35, "UFO takes to the Cotswold roads").

Various writers, including John Keel and Coral Lorenzen, have mentioned evidence that, perhaps as a disguise, alien beings may be developing aircraft or ground vehicles very similar to our own existing types of machines.

Le Boulou: in the extreme S.E. of the French Pyrenees. (Lat. 42° 33' N., Long. 2° 50' E.).

## MAIL BAG

### Can You Beat This?

Dear Sir,—Library users will be encouraged to hear that many librarians are beginning to stock up on UFO material. When I checked the records of Erith public library recently I was delighted to find the following titles listed for borrowing: "The Case for UFOs", M. K. Jessup; "Flying Saucers From Outer Space", Donald Keyhoe; "My Contact With Flying Saucers", Dino Kraspedon; "Flying Saucers Have Landed", Desmond Leslie and George Adamski; "Flying Saucers", Donald H. Menzel; "Flying Saucers & The Straight Line Mystery", Aimé Michel; "Flying Saucers & Commonsense", Waveney Girvan; "Space, Gravity & Flying Saucers", Leonard G. Cramp, and "Uninvited Visitors", Ivan T. Sanderson. Anne Dooley, Southend Close, Eltham, SE9.

[That's just about the best I've encountered. If Mrs. Dooley will see to it that they acquire "The Humanoids", "Anatomy of a Phenomenon" (J. Vallée), "Challenge to Science" (J. and J. Vallée), "The Flying Saucer Story"

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.

(B. le P. Trench) and "The Scoriton Mystery" (E. Buckle) the list will be almost complete, and very good publicity for the subject too! At my local West Byfleet Library they have "Anatomy", but pressure is being brought to bear to improve on that. At Woking, three miles away, they used to have Waveney's book, but that's disappeared; I'll see what my friends can do. We can't let Eltham win as easily as that! But, perhaps there are some libraries even better stocked on the subject than Eltham.—EDITOR.]

### That cloud-like UFO

Dear Sir,—I refer to your January/February report of a South African Cloud-Like UFO—said to have been seen over South Africa in July 1968.

I think that it was a cloud, yet there are one or two features that I should like to think could be explained further.

It was first seen by several others and myself at about 6.30 p.m. (I write from memory and not from notes made at the time). It attracted attention because it appeared luminous, and came overhead with what could have been the

speed of a drifting cloud, moving from the south-west, staying in view for some 10 to 15 minutes. It was not noticed by us until it was fairly high above the horizon and expanded as it came over. Clearly transparent (stars were visible through it). No other clouds in the sky (typical for this region in July). When almost overhead it measured approximately the span of my hand at arm's length. One had the impression that it was not so dense at the centre—rather as though someone was blowing gigantic smoke rings, yet it was not American doughnut shape. I do not think the apparent expansion was due to the way in which an object grows in size as it nears one; even when nearly overhead it seemed to be growing. But not knowing its literal size it was impossible to make any estimate of true height. One was left with the impression of a cloud drifting across at 20,000-25,000ft. (or less), but not natural since the object was definitely circular.

Explanations came in papers some days later—and what was seen by us

(continued on iv of cover)