

not at all sure that the bad weather can be ruled out.

He said: "I think that, after the cold weather, the condition of the birds was weakened. Perhaps the best bet² is that they died of hypothermia."

1. My italics.
2. And an even better bet is that none of these gentlemen have ever read Charles Fort or M. K. Jessup! — G.C.

* * * * *

But how's the following for an even better one! (Credit

and thanks to FSR reader E. M. Jakes of West Sussex):
Sunday Express, London, March 9, 1986

(2) FINGER MYSTERY

Berlin: Police were mystified yesterday over the discovery of a human finger which fell from the sky with a thump onto a car roof in West Berlin. So far, no explanation has emerged.

TWO SOUTH AMERICAN LANDING REPORTS FROM SPANISH PRESS

(Credit and thanks to FSR reader Sr. Gerard y Holmes of Majorca)

1. From newspaper *Última Hora*, Majorca, of August 21, 1985

UFO LANDING IN CHILE

A UFO landed early in the morning of last Monday (August 19) on the top of a hill in the Chaca Valley in the Arica region of northern Chile, some 2,000 kms to the north of the capital Santiago, according to a report issued yesterday by Radio Capisima.

The radio station stated that a truck-driver named Manfredo Olgún, as well as other drivers of vehicles, observed "an intensely reddish-violet light descending vertically, just like a helicopter, on to the top of the hill, distant some 500 metres from the highway. The truck-driver described the UFO as "huge".

The report went on to say that the local villagers subsequently found an area some 20 metres wide with burnt shrubs and vegetation.

The Chaca Valley lies at some 50 kms. from Arica.

This sighting comes very soon after the observation of a UFO which was over the capital, Santiago, on the afternoon of last Saturday, August 17. It was watched for four hours by personnel of the control towers and meteorological posts at the airports. It was also seen by the crew of an airliner of the Avianca line, and by three astronomers at the Observatory of the University of Chile on the Cerro Calán Peak.

The sighting was in broad daylight, from 4.00pm to 8.00pm local time, on Saturday (8.00pm to midnight, GMT) and caused a sensation in Santiago.

Radio and TV reporters quit commenting on the football games they were covering and, from their posts in the stadia, concentrated on reporting the

movements of the UFO.

It shone brilliantly, having the shape of a luminous sphere six times the size of a normal star. Excellent photos of it were secured both by graphic reporters and by astronomers.

2. From the Majorca newspaper *Baleares*, February 27, 1986

A SQUADRON OF UFOS LAND IN ARGENTINA

A fleet of UFOs were seen yesterday morning (February 26) by a number of residents of the Atalaya district to the south of Buenos Aires and also by troops of the tank unit of the Argentine Army stationed in the nearby town of Magdalena.

The UFOs, which were seen at 4.30am, local time, were in a formation of ten, and were flying at high speed and in perfect alignment.

The entire squadron was seen to land, and on the same area of country where, some weeks before, scorch and burn marks had been found on the ground, presumably left by other previous landings.

The report was given wide coverage in the evening newspapers and on the TV news, and follows upon a number of UFO sightings over Argentina in the recent past.

There are also reports of burn marks from another UFO which were found recently in a field in the Province of Córdoba, 800 kilometres to the north-west of Buenos Aires. Experts described the size of the UFO as very large.

ANOTHER AMERICAN "BOOMERANG" REPORT FROM 1981

In FSR 30/3 and 31/3 we published lengthy accounts of the huge "boomerang" craft allegedly seen by between 30,000 and 50,000 people in New York State over the period 1983-1985. In 31/1 we also gave Antonio Ribera's report on a similar sighting from Cataluña in 1984.

Several readers have now pointed out that, when we are considering "boomerangs", the famous "*Lubbock Lights*" of August 21, 1951, should not be overlooked, and we entirely agree, and we hope to be able to say more on this matter in due course.

In the meantime, we recall yet another interesting and well-known American "boomerang" case from 1981, when a huge object of this type is said to have swooped down over a factory. The details of the affair are as follows:—

Workers on a repair gang at the Morenci copper-smelting plant in Arizona claim a massive spacecraft swooped on the factory in January 1981. It seemed to be examining one of the two 650-foot smokestacks by beaming a light ray down on it.

The four men who were repairing the other stack said the UFO was shaped like a boomerang, *and as big as four football fields*. It had 12 small red lights on its surface, in addition to a large white searchlight beam underneath.

"It just sort of stopped in mid-air above the smokestack and shone the big light right into it", said workman Randel Rogers, 20. His colleague Larry Mortensen added: "I have never seen an airplane hover like that. I got the feeling that it wasn't aggressive. Certainly it did nothing to frighten us. Whoever was in it was friendly."

A third member of the gang, Kent Davis, said that during the craft's examination of the stack, one of the red lights at the edge of the 'boomerang' suddenly

darted away at fantastic speed, returning after a few moments. The whole object then turned, without warning, and shot off like a rocket.

The UFO was also seen by 100 members of a high school marching band who were holding a practice session on the football field of Morenci High School, just over a mile away. Director Bruce Smith said: "I looked up and saw all these lights in the shape of a V. There was no sound. It hovered for a few minutes, then disappeared high into the sky".

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MAIL BAG

Dr Hynek: A Correction

Dear Editor, — Your issue No. 31/5 was one of the most interesting you have produced — articles as well as Editorial. I was especially interested in the photographs and analysis of the "rings" (Pat Delgado), and in Dr Sarbacher's letter.

However, in the letter from me about Dr Hynek, printed on page 28 of that issue, there is a slight mix-up, due, I suppose, to my obscure "Frenghish". What I had meant to say was, of course, that (1) when visiting Dr Hynek at his home in Evanston, I saw him at the Dearborn Observatory — the one near the lake — of which he was the Director. And (2) he also took me to the Yerkes Observatory, the one with the huge lens-telescope (which is an entirely different observ-

atory) where he was attending a conference.

While Hynek was in the conference, I was left alone inside the cupola of the Yerkes telescope, and thus it was that I had the opportunity to examine in detail the wonderful old machine. It was a great moment in my memory.

Yours ever,
Aimé Michel,
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Alpes de Haute Provence,
France.

August 20, 1986.

The Mystery Swirled Rings (1985)

Dear Editor, — As you will recall, I visited the site at Alresford with you* in the summer of 1985 soon after the rings there had appeared. I was greatly impressed by the formation, and am certain that this is a phenomenon of no known cause. The pho-

tographs in FSR 31/5 are excellent, and could not be bettered — (even by the M.O.D.).

These circles could not be produced by natural causes. *Whirlwinds (or "wind devils") only occur in hot conditions and in daylight — they are never seen at night.*

Helicopters would cause the plants below to be bent straight out from the centre equally all round — like the spokes of a wheel.

Jet machines, hovering, would leave an area of "scorched plants", and sometimes droplets of paraffin appear on the ground below.

Other alleged causes are trailing cables or anchors of balloons. The effect of these would be totally different from the circles.

Moles (another alleged cause!) produce tiny hummocks!

Archaeological sites are marked by changes in the colour of vegetation.

As for whirlwinds, these would only produce irregular areas of flattening in the line of movement.