

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

England

Hastings UFO: "Moonlight" says Observatory

The following item is taken from *The News* of Hastings, E. Sussex, of October 8, 1981, and refers to an incident reported of October 4. (*The News* is an advertising newspaper with some editorial content, and the item concerned appeared under the signature, Jonathan Mendenhall.)

"Two women who spent nearly an hour on Sunday night gazing in awe at 'two huge golden plates' pulsating and changing shape in the sky insist it was a UFO.

"They also saw six fast aircraft and a helicopter crisscrossing the sky near the object as they watched from a Bristol Way, Hollington window.

"Their sighting — reported to Hastings police — has been dismissed by the Royal Greenwich Observatory as 'moonlight' and the RAF at Manston, Kent deny knowledge of the aircraft.

"But Mrs Matilda Antell (65) and her daughter-in-law Janette Antell (30) are sticking to their story. Said Janette: 'I know I saw a UFO and it was an amazing and marvellous sight.'

"And another person saw something in the sky at the same time. Colin Carey (28), of Gladstone Terrace, Hastings, said: 'I was walking my dog about 9 p.m. along Plynlmmon Road when I happened to look up. I saw a large bright light in between two houses. It didn't seem like a star and when I saw it it was not moving.

"The thing that struck me was its colour. It was very yellowy and it had a white centre. It wasn't like a moon. I thought I'd run to the West Hill to get a better look but when I got there it had gone. I don't know what it was but I did wonder whether it was a UFO.'

"Matilda Antell of Bristol Way, Hollington, said: 'It happened at about 9.15 p.m. on Sunday night. I was in the middle of a film when I suddenly felt compelled to look out of the window. I looked into the sky over Hollington Church-in-the-Woods when I saw one huge light in the sky.

"It kept changing shape. It came forwards and backwards and was the size of a dinner plate. It was a huge golden light, it formed into a ball and

then went into shapes, one was a cross and the other a cigar shape.

"Then suddenly six or seven aircraft appeared and a helicopter I think. It formed its own cloud as the planes went over and kept coming out and going behind it.

"We thought it had gone at one stage and it was the most fabulous sight when it came out again and radiated this golden light. It also got very big suddenly and came right towards our direction. There were red and other coloured lights. It went on like this for nearly an hour.'

"Janette Antell, of Amherst Road, went to her mother-in-law's after she phoned.

"I'd been there ten minutes and saw nothing,' she said. 'Then suddenly it happened. It appeared from a white haze and came out as a cigar shape. I also saw a pyramid of flashing lights and at that point it looked just like a UFO.

"There were blue lights around as well. There were lots of aircraft flying round it and when they seemed to get near it disappeared behind its own cloud.

"The amazing thing was all the clouds in the sky were in one direction. It had its own cloud which it kept going behind when the aircraft got near.

"I was shaking after I had seen it, an amazing sight. I have seen the moon in all different states and I just know it was not this.'

"But at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Hersmonceux, Gordon Taylor insisted the moon was probably responsible. 'The moon plays all sorts of spectacular tricks. It was a cloudy night and the effects of the light and cloud would account for the changing shape.'

"Mr Taylor said he had seen many strange things in the sky but never anything he could not explain. 'Burning meteorites can have strange effects,' he said."

Credit: **Mrs P. M. Tustin** (see "Mail Bag" column).

Swiss view of Northumberland auto-chase by UFO

According to a DDP report from London published in the *Basler Zeitung*

(Basle, Switzerland) of August 25, 1980, Mrs. Lilian Middleton, a 33-year-old housewife of Wilton Bay, near Newcastle, had the shock of her life when a UFO pursued her as she was driving her car on the previous Saturday along a quiet country road between the villages of Earsdon and Holywell. [*A192 road, N.W. of Whitley Bay — ED.*]

At times she touched 100 km per hour as she tried to get away from it, and when she suddenly pulled up and stopped, the UFO came back and hovered directly above the car. The local police were taking the affair very seriously, said the report, inasmuch as numerous other people had also reported that they had seen the UFO.

According to a statement made to the press by Mrs. Middleton's husband, she is "not the sort of person who would imagine things." She said the UFO was of about the same size as her car. She also said that it was frequently so close to the roof of the car that she could have touched it. The UFO emitted a dazzling white light.

Credit to Swiss reader **Fr. Lou Zinsstag**. Translation from German by Gordon Creighton.

That story of a "near miss"

On Monday evening, 30 November 1981, we were startled by a telephone call from a reader who stated that it had been disclosed in a TV news broadcast (ITV "News at Ten") that the Duke of Edinburgh was the pilot of a plane which, on 27 November, was involved in a near miss with a Boeing 747 which was *changing course to avoid an unidentified flying object!* Next morning *The Times* of 1 December 1981 carried a report of the incident which presented the story in a somewhat different light,—

"Buckingham Palace confirmed last night that the Duke of Edinburgh was at the controls of an Andover of the Queen's Flight when it was involved in a near miss with a jumbo jet carrying 200 passengers to Miami.

"The incident happened after a British Airways Boeing 747 had taken off from Heathrow airport on Friday and was climbing at 300 mph, according to reports.

"The pilot took evasive action after seeing an 'unidentified object fly ac-

ross his field of vision. An inquiry is to be held as to why the near miss happened. The Duke will be required to submit a report."

Tibet and China

"Ping-pong ball" in sky

The *Daily Telegraph*, London (August

6, 1981) carried the following report from its representative in Peking:-

"The *New China News Agency* said yesterday that eyewitness reports had been received from five places in Tibet on July 24 of a 'bright object the size of a ping-pong ball surrounded by a ring of blue-white light moving from east to west at about 90 miles a minute.'

"The *Chengdu Daily News* (Szechuan Province, West China) reported from Szechuan that there had been UFO sightings around the city of Chengdu and in some other areas the same night. These reports came almost four years to the day after similar reported sightings in Chengdu.

DINOSAURS . . . NOT HUMANOIDS?

Dr Bernard E. Finch, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS

This highly speculative idea, Dr Finch tells us, was stimulated by a recent programme in the *Horizon* series on BBC-2 TV, in which some remarkable models of possible dinosaur evolution were projected.

THE name Dinosaur is derived from the Greek *deinos* (terrible) + *sauros* (lizard). These great reptiles lived in the Cretaceous period 130 million years ago, and reached an astonishing degree of specialisation. However, somewhere at the close of the Cretaceous period the dinosaurs died out, leaving no descendants. This extinction was sudden and complete.

Recent investigations have shown that reptiles are sensitive to both heat and cold, and avoid the sun in the warmest time of the year.

It has recently been suggested that a massive asteroid six miles wide smashed into Earth. The resultant dust cloud blacked out the sun's rays, killing off many plants, and the animals which depended on them, including dinosaurs, for there was no indication that they were on the point of extinction without extra-terrestrial intervention. The collision with an asteroid would be a million million times more devastating than the bomb that fell on Hiroshima, and there would have been vast clouds of debris blackening out the sun for five years or more. Chlorophyll-based plants would have died, and the Terrestrial temperature would have risen by eight degrees. Life would have disappeared except for smaller forms less susceptible to this greenhouse effect. These smaller animals evolved, and from them came various species including man.

Let us consider, however, a (hypothetical) similar state of affairs on another planet in our galaxy. In this model no asteroid collision occurred, and the dinosaurs that were *in situ* evolved to something like a human level of intelligence, and took on humanoid forms (as shown in fig. 1). A similar situation could have occurred on earth: man would not have appeared, dinosaurs being dominant in the absence of a cataclysmic collision. The dinosaurs would have

evolved, instead, and would have dominated all other species.

They had binocular vision, could open their mouths widely, and as they evolved would have become warm-blooded and begun to walk upright. The hand would have developed grasping reflexes, the first digit diverging from the other two, and the ring and little fingers becoming vestigial. The claws would have shortened and the teeth become smaller. The feet would have retained their webbing between the toes. The forelimbs would now have become short and feeble as they developed into arms, and the hind limbs would have become legs with three functional toes.

The most remarkable development, however, would be in the skull, which would enlarge to accommodate the growing brain and develop convolutions (as in man).

As these animals developed they would have become slender and graceful bipeds, their necks shortened, their heads larger, their orbits expanded and their tails receded.

Finally, at the time that man on this planet of ours was beginning to walk upright, the evolution of the "dinosaurians" in a neighbouring galaxy was complete. A highly intelligent and graceful creature was dominant, civilised and with a technology equal to its brain development. It would evolve finally in a form bearing remarkable similarities to descriptions of (UFO) aliens which are received from many sources. In other words, the so-called Humanoid, or alien, closely resembles the end product of the evolution of the dinosaur from the reptiles, the "terrible lizards" of the Cretaceous period . . . and an identical form would have been dominant on this Earth had the dinosaurs not suddenly died out.