

on the Moon. According to the article accompanying the photograph scientists agree that the shadows are unusual "...but feel that the protuberances casting the shadows are naturally-occurring features of the lunar surface."

If the object in the photograph mentioned is indeed a naturally-formed spire, which its shadow seems to suggest, then may I ask: *how can a spike-shaped object roll down a hill and land perfectly upright?*

I would like to hear what the scientists have to say about that. Yours sincerely,
Ronald G. Twine,
 11 Milton Road,
 Cowley, Oxford
 Oxford.

Time Travel

Dear Sir,—On reading an article, from your magazine, "Ufonauts as Time Travellers" by S.E. Priest, I read a section that confused me, and I will tell it to you as I see it (Vol 21 No. 6).

I would like to refer to the section in brackets at the bottom of the second paragraph; "In passing, I think it is true to say that Time-travel can only be travel in the past. The future at any given point in time is as yet unformed and therefore non-existent." I would like to argue this point. Let us take for instance a time traveller, the year 2578, to visit the year 1976. On leaving this time period, according to Mr. Priest, he is automatically doomed, because he

leaves his time period of the year 2578 to enter the time period of the year 1976. On doing this he becomes a member of the same time period as us. Therefore he is stuck for life in the year 1976 because, according to Mr. Priest, "the future at any given point in time is as yet unformed and therefore non-existent, so the future for the Time-travellers and us on earth is non-existent. Therefore how can the time traveller return to his own time period.

Could you please explain this? Thank you.
 Yours faithfully,
S. Suddell
 Yew Tree Cottage, St. Brides Major
 Nr. Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

Over to you, Mr. Priest — EDITOR.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

England

UFO, with possible physical effects, over Gateshead

We are indebted to Jenny Randles for this account from the North East of an incident investigated by William Muir.

The story was told by Mrs. M. the mother of 15-year-old Thomas. Thomas is afraid of discussing the story in detail, because he believes that he would be thought of as mad. On October 24, 1976, at 6.10 p.m., he was called to the door of his home in Low Fell, Gateshead, by a twelve-year-old friend, Andrew.

A few minutes after going outside he came back in and told his mother that he had just been watching a UFO. As he did so he switched on his battery-operated cassette tape recorder. This had been working perfectly a few moments before, but now it began to malfunction. The tape which was on it was replayed, but the speech was all speeded up and garbled, and the tape itself spilled out of the machine, splitting into little pieces. It was thrown away. Mrs. M. attests to this event, and says that the machine has otherwise worked normally.

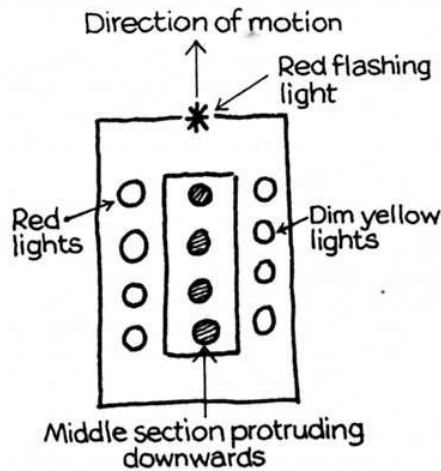
Intrigued by this she immediately called Andrew in to relate his story. He did so, and confirmed all the details which Thomas had given, plus a few additional ones (which is only to be expected as he in fact had been watching the object for about one and a half minutes before he called for his friend). Both had watched the object together for a further 20-30 seconds.

Mrs. M. also got the two boys to draw the object, independently, and their drawings do appear to agree to a considerable extent.

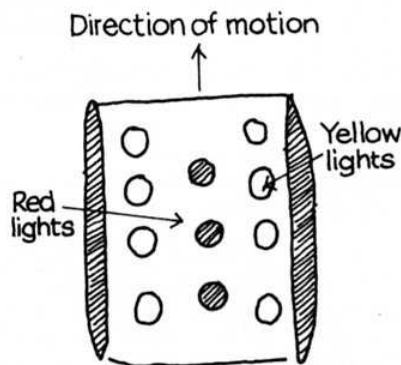
Basically the object was described

as looking like a square or oblong platform, which was glowing and which had centre red lights and dim yellow lights surrounding these. It appeared to have a projection underneath.

Andrew's sketch:



Thomas' sketch:



It was travelling quite slowly at a height estimated to be about 1000 feet. At first it came from the south,

but then turned northwestwards and accelerated suddenly speeding away into the distance. Thomas said that it was completely silent, but Andrew had heard a noise which he described as like a 'sucking' sound (as if air were being displaced).

The weather was dry, and the sky was clear, although it was just dark. It was, however, light enough for an aircraft to have been recognised immediately, and there appears to be little reason to doubt that the boys concerned did indeed see something unusual.

Wales

Lorry driver scared by UFO

From the *County Times & Express & Gazette* of November 27, 1976 we learn how,—“A young Rhayader lorry driver admitted he was 'scared to death,' early one morning, this week, when a 'flying saucer' appeared above his steel-filled lorry.

“It happened about 4.15 a.m. on Tuesday, at Marteg, a few miles north of Rhayader and only minutes after 24-year-old Mr. Michael Bufton of Green Gardens, Rhayader, had started out on his drive to Shotton steelworks.

“He was leaning forward in the driving cab adjusting the station finder on his radio, when he glanced up and saw the object hovering a few hundred feet above his vehicle.

“It was almost cigar shaped and a fair sized thing, belching orange and red flame. After a short time it veered off and over the top of the mountain in the direction of the top of the Elan Valley,” said Mr. Bufton.

“He stopped the lorry and got out, but only in time to see the object moving away.

"Mr. Bufton who admitted he was scared to death by the sighting said he had never seen anything like it before. He also admitted he was reluctant at first to tell anyone about the incident when he returned home.

" 'I thought they might think I was trying a leg pull and they wouldn't believe me, but it was no joke, I was really frightened' he said.

"The police said they had not received any other reports of any such sightings, but were keeping an open mind on the incident."

Credit: Peter Liss of Shrewsbury

Spain

UFO blacks out lighthouse

According to a report received from the UFO investigator Senor I. Benvenuty Cabral of Sevilla, a case which he followed up in 1976 involved the unusual feature that the light of a lighthouse was extinguished.

On August 11, 1976, at 11.00 p.m. on the La Linea beach, at Cadiz, two boys aged about 13 or 14 were standing chatting together and facing towards the western entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar when they observed a UFO approaching from over the sea. They were unable to describe a precise

shape, but said it glowed with a yellowish-white light and that it had a sort of "axis" which went right through it from one side to the other. They watched it as it climbed rapidly, changing colour the while, from a pale yellow to whitish and then to a vivid yellow. As it travelled on a curving course they saw it approach what they took to be a "mother ship". It passed once around the "mother ship" and then entered it. They noticed that, while they were watching it, the light of a lighthouse opposite where they were standing was temporarily extinguished. After taking on board the smaller object, the "mother ship" remained there where it was.

The boys are quoted as having said the apparent size of the small UFO was no more than the size of the head of a pin, from which it seems that the operation must have been conducted at a great height.

Credit: I. Benvenuty Cabral, and Ignacio Darnaude, both of Sevilla. Translation: Gordon Creighton.

Cape Trafalgar sighting

At 10.30 p.m. one night, between August 4 and 10 of 1974, a party of

five campers and their children observed a whitish-orange, cone-shaped UFO over the sea. The observers were in a small cove called Canos de Meca, slightly to the east of Cape Trafalgar. The UFO performed a triangular flight out over the Strait of Gibraltar and the witnesses thought it went as far as Tangiers, which is 40 km. distant, but the investigators who examined the case felt it improbable that the witnesses could have been sure how far it went out over the sea before returning. When first sighted by the party, the UFO was stationary above a partly submerged group of rocks some 500 m. or so out in the sea.

The UFO appeared to be silent, and was emitting whitish-orange flashes of light. They thought its diameter might be in the neighbourhood of 30-50 cms. and its height above the rocks likewise only about 50 cms. It was there for some time before flying off and they were able to observe it at leisure through binoculars.

After returning to its position above the rocks, the UFO remained there a while again and then departed.

Credit: Sr. Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla, and Srs. Miguel Peyro Enrique Nogueira of the C.I.E.F.E. UFO Investigation Group, Sevilla. Translation: Gordon Creighton.

SWAMP GAS FROM THE PAST (continued from page 30)

when it is difficult to estimate distances correctly, is also considered.

But lastly the authors have to admit that there are observations that cannot easily be associated with any known phenomena.

A certain Dr. Filopanti visited a place near Bologna (Italy) where such phenomena were alleged to occur repeatedly. He could actually see a light appear, which moved and ascended to a height of five metres where it went out. Before this the observer was able to ignite a bunch of oakum fastened to a stick by holding it into the light.

The German ornithologist von Homeyer reported a classic case of the mysterious will-o'the-wisp. First the light moved beside the road approaching the observer up to 200 metres, then receding again and so on, but without ever coming within reach. It could not be chased, nor was it possible to seize it cunningly. This observation lasted two hours during which the light covered a distance of approximately two kilometres. Finally it stopped above a completely inaccessible swamp.

In another case another observer saw a luminosity, five metres high, behind some trees which appeared distinctly as silhouettes in front of the light. When the observer approached, the light became more and more blurred and was finally no more than a

luminous, fluctuating mass. Allegedly the observer then jumped into its midst, but he felt no heat. The luminosity persisted only for a moment and suddenly it was completely dark.

Our author closes his article with the remark: "What does it help if we are told, in connection with this last observation, that it was no will-o'the-wisp, but an 'Erdlicht'³! This is as if saying that the lights are 'spontaneous odd-lights,' the cause of which is on a 'higher plane of existence.' Surely many observations can be reduced to known facts, but also there is many an unambiguous description which cannot at present be explained."

Notes

1. Dr. Fritz Möller: "Was sind Irrlichter?" in: Kosmos, *Handweiser für Naturfreunde*, Frankh'sche Verlangshandlung, Stuttgart, 30, Jahrgang, 1933, page 337.
2. Phosphine (PH₃) is spontaneously inflammable when hydrogen phosphide (P₂H₄) is present. Methane (CH₄) could in turn be ignited by this. See Raymond Fowler, MUFON Field Investigator's Manual, 2nd Edition, June 1975, page 70.
3. I am unable to translate the German term 'Erdlicht' adequately. Literally this means 'earth-light' but this is probably the question of an occult term which was in use in that era.

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