

MYSTERY SATELLITES

BY JOHN D. LLEWELLYN

IN the May-June issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* the article on satellites mentioned six space craft of "status unknown," which had been put into orbit. Mr. Peter Fairley stated that "neither the U.S. or Soviet Union would own up" to these being any of their space shots.

Previously a State Department spokesman had announced that Russia is believed to have been responsible for five secret space objects between September 1, 1962, and January 7, 1963.

The *Sunday Telegraph* of June 30 carried an article by John Delin headed "12 Russian Space Efforts Fail," which refers to the above launchings and also mentions speculations about the number of possible lost cosmonauts. Readers of *Fate* magazine will recall the excellent article by Frank Edwards in the September, 1962, issue with full details of launchings and the possible number of those lost. The John Delin article concluded: "Russian reaction has included denials and publication in the press of letters about the missing cosmonauts."

A search in the "Table of Artificial Earth Satellites" issued by the Royal Aircraft Establishment reveals that six objects were launched between September 1 and January 7 with the tentative identification of "Sputniks" 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 with uncertain or unknown orbital data.

From the information given on the fantastically accurate detection system for objects in orbit including even the location of nuts and bolts and pieces of the "junk yard in space," it seems incredible and most disturbing to imagine what the hundreds of UFO sightings must be doing to the defence systems of the world.

As mentioned in the January-February, 1961, *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* article, the object photographed by the Grumman Corporation was in a retrograde orbit. It is of interest to note that it was seen within 10 minutes of the ECHO satellite transits as stated by Grumman. Something more has been heard of this type in that two observations from Stratford-upon-Avon occurred on August 16 and September 3, 1960, agreeing as to colour and size. Also it is not unknown to observers belonging to the world-wide tracking organisation (COSPAR) for artificial earth satellites.

A Midlands Moonwatch observer reported a reddish-coloured object in a SSE.-NNW. transit, slow moving, no trail, on September 17, 1961.

The October 1 issue of *Satellite News Bulletin* reported an observation from Cheltenham of, again, a reddish-coloured object, SE. to NW., naked eye brightness—suggested height 60-100 n.m.—on August 20, 1962. A corroboration of this sighting appeared in the October 16 issue from an observer at Bentley, near Walsall, who in a personal letter confirmed all the details given, including the colour.

A request for possible identification to the world—data centre at Slough brought forth the reply: "The object of August 20 seems unlikely to have been a satellite. Its direction of motion from E. to W. would necessitate the satellite moving in a retrograde orbit with inclination of about 130°. The usual orbital inclinations are at less than 100°—Lunik 3 is thought to have entered the atmosphere in April, 1960."

The above sightings seem to be further observations of the Grumman object.

There has since been a satellite launched in a retrograde orbit but it is not so much this type of orbit but the colour observed which gives any orbital object seen an identification of "unknown." No artificial earth satellite is seen other than having a star-like appearance. This can be steady or flashing, slow moving (ECHO has been observed for 25 minutes—horizon to horizon—appearing to "stagger" at times due to atmospheric disturbance) and extremely fast moving. Usual rule—the higher the satellite, the slower it appears to move, and vice-versa. Generally speaking, there are approximately 12 satellites which can be seen by the naked eye.

It should be noted that satellites can disappear or re-appear into and out of the earth's shadow. This is known as eclipse entry or exit. They are also seen rising straight up or "falling down." If seen to enter or exit on transit they can give rise to good UFO sightings (ref. Whitley Bay, Pacific sighting—*FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, March-April, 1963, issue).

To puzzle us further, satellite ANNA carries a powerful light which is switched on when passing over four photographic observing stations.

METEORS OR SAUCERS ?

BY D. WARD

The Wiltshire crater incident, fully reported in the September-October, 1963, issue of the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** has brought the topic of meteors and meteorites very much to the fore. Professional sceptics like Dr. Menzel and Patrick Moore have always included meteors as being among the causes of saucer sightings. However, it has never occurred to these gentlemen that the shoe could be on the other foot and that genuine saucer sightings in the past may have been ascribed to meteors for want of any other rationalisation. The following examples were taken from the report issued by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, for 1876-77, a period well in advance of weather balloons, aeroplanes and sputniks.

1872 September 5
Iowa City, U.S.A.

Its course was Sioux City to Iowa, Chicago and Pittsburgh and thence to the Atlantic Ocean. The meteor was very large and red in colour, its flight was majestic and grand. It had a spiral or wavy motion, and it passed clean across the United States from the Missouri to the Atlantic.

1876 July 25
Richmond Park, Surrey

At about 10 p.m. This was violet at first, then green in front and red behind at last. It moved slower than meteors usually move. Its course was from south to north. Its appearance: nucleus pear-shaped, followed at last by numerous globules which broke off it. No visible light streak was left on its track, and it first appeared behind trees.

1876 10 p.m., July 25
Downham, Norfolk

Very large and bright meteor having a sea-green colour and moving slowly and majestically. At Brompton it was a brilliant blue and pear-shaped, followed by a train of red sparks. Near London the object was greenish purple.

1876 9.35 p.m.
Douglas, Isle of Man

Meteor was yellowish, changing to greenish-blue, and moving slower than meteors usually do.

Also it moved nearly horizontally at first, then gradually declining.

1876 10.14 p.m., September 19
Bristol

This meteor had a very slow motion and left a bright phosphorescent streak which was visible for three minutes.

1876 5.45 p.m., November 6
Orsay, near Paris

Bright meteor, smaller than the moon's disk, and moved slowly and horizontally towards the south. The meteor had a globular nucleus which left a slight streak on its course.

1876 9.53 p.m., November 29
Newcastle upon Tyne

This was a small, white meteor which moved slowly and had a globular shape.

1877 10.31 p.m., January 7
Birmingham

The meteor was the apparent size of Venus and moved very slowly, with a slight undulation as if forcing its way with difficulty. Its colour was deep-yellow merging into ruby-red towards the tail. Matter was apparently projected from the head and formed a long train behind it.

1877 10.32 p.m., January 7
Near London

The meteor had an unusually slow motion and at one place

halted for two seconds. Several meteors were seen on the same evening, which equalled Jupiter in brightness, with slow motions.

1877 9.57 a.m.
British Isles

Several observations of this very luminous fireball were recorded and were collected and compared together. The meteor was exceedingly luminous at places near its line of flight over the Bristol Channel and in Ireland as its body of brightly coloured light sailed slowly through the sky. From Waterford the meteor was seen to be double, one part closely following the other in the same track, while the light was so brilliant that the coast of Kilmore, nine miles distant, became distinctly visible. All along the track fiery ashes were observed to fall nearly vertically downwards. At Basingstoke 90 miles distant green and red masses of fire seemed to be falling into adjacent fields.

1877 6.27 p.m.
Wolverhampton

A meteor of unusual magnitude and brilliancy moved almost perpendicularly in a south-west direction very slowly. It passed behind a cloud for the space of a second, reappearing with equal brilliancy until it vanished. Colour was pale blue and it left no visible light streak.