

Delta volants

by W. H. Watson

ON August 1, 1963, Mr. Jan Willemstyn, a former KLM pilot and keen amateur astronomer, photographed an odd-looking UFO over Bushey, Herts. The object was also observed from Elstree airfield, London, and many other parts of the London area. Mr. Willemstyn had ten witnesses to the sighting.

The photograph is probably one of the most significant pieces of evidence in favour of that minority flying saucer, the "Deltavolant" or flying triangle, so far produced. Yet its import seems to be lost on the world of ufology.

The article *The Significance of the Unidentified Deltas* in the May/June 1959 FLYING SAUCER REVIEW went a fair way in promulgating evidence for the deltavolant, but in the few years that have passed since then so much more has accumulated that I feel the time has come for a postscript.

Since writing that article some three dozen further sightings have been added to the two dozen recorded between 1871 and 1958. And most of the three dozen have come from the pages of this magazine.

Certain of these observations are exceedingly odd. Take, for instance, the story of a Moffat, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, couple and their married daughter, concerning a UFO which flew low over their home some time between 11 and 12 p.m. on August 16, 1960: "The three of us," said the mother, "were amazed to see a big reddish-brown thing coming towards us. . . . This queer-looking thing went right over our heads but we couldn't make out what it was and it didn't give us much time to see. The front of it was about 30 to 40 feet across and it looked to be all in one piece and tapered until it was pointed at the back."

She drew a sketch of a triangular object flying edge forward. There appeared to be some kind of structure on top, forming a definite ridge in the middle with two smaller ridges, or protuberances, either side. The whole top front section seemed to slightly overhang the under portion, which latter came gradually to an obtuse angle in the centre front. The upper part was reddish-brown, the underside being a darker brownish-grey.

The daughter claimed "There seemed to be a slight hissing sound", although her parents heard nothing.

This sighting, which is one of the most descriptive on file, recalls to mind many sketchier reports of "conical" or "kite-shaped" UFOs flying "blunt end" forward.

There is also the story of John Peers of Little Hulton, Walkden, Manchester, whose 19-year-old son along with other youngsters saw, "at 6.55 p.m. on September 16, 1964, a noiseless, pearly-white triangular object which travelled over Little Hulton in a northerly direction. The object moved in such a way that the 'base' of the triangle was the *leading edge*, with the apex trailing." (*vide FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November/December, 1964.)

In the vast majority of reported deltavolants, however, we read that the object moved in the "conventional" manner, i.e., "sharp end" forward. They are variously described as "arrowhead" shaped, like a "sharply-pointed star", "V" shaped, or simply "like a delta-winged aircraft".

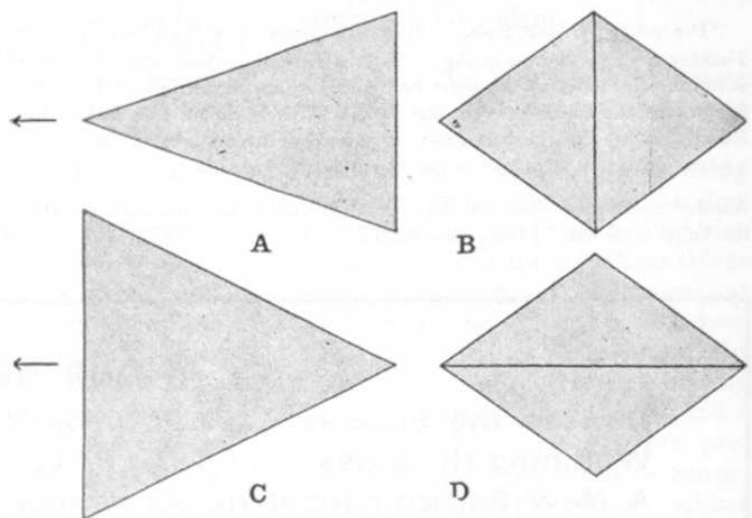
Frequently arising are tales in which the object is originally a disc which changes to triangular form, or appears discoid to one witness and triangular to another, or appears discoid to the naked eye and triangular through an optical instrument.

Occasionally, too, one comes across a report of a "flying square".

So now we arrive at the question: where is all this taking us?

Quite simply it gives us the true form of a particular type of UFO. A type which is obviously more prevalent than has hitherto been believed. A type, moreover, which gives rise to the supposition that there may be more than one alien race surveying our Earth.

This type is a four-sided craft of triangular aspect. From the top or underside it appears to fly



A—Side, B—Rear, C—Plan, D—Front

with the base of the triangle as the leading edge, apex trailing. From the side it appears to fly with the apex leading, base trailing. From the rear it can appear rectangular. The sketches of its plan and elevations show this better than it can be explained.

Seen at an angle it would seem “tumbler-shaped”—and how many of those are on record?

For evidence of the variety of shapes adopted by the deltavolant spacecraft, one merely has to select two from about twenty similar reports—the original one of August 29, 1871, when Astronomer Trouvelot reported from France formations of highly complex objects; some triangular, some round, others many-sided: and a more recent one from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, when three witnesses gave three separate descriptions of the one object observed at 6.30 a.m. on October 13, 1962, (i) “round, with two humps”, (ii) “cone-shaped”, (iii) “square”.

It is interesting to perceive the similarity between this type of alien spacecraft and the re-entry vehicle designed by Dr. William F. Hilton for the Armstrong Whitworth Company and publicised in 1960. Its title is very impressive: *Pyramidal Delta Winged Glider*, and it is designed to enter

planetary atmosphere with its nose raised at an angle of 45 degrees to minimise stresses on the pilot. But it would fly backwards, “sharp end” first, if it were ever built.

While moving at high speed the deltavolant leaves a “vapour” trail, normally described in night-time sightings of conical UFOs flying “blunt end” forward. This trail is usually orange-red in colour.

Here, once again, we have the possibility of UFOs utilising a simple primitive rocket power-unit for propulsion at atmospheric altitudes, where deep-space drive is unprofitable, and anti-gravity devices cannot be employed, it is suggested, except at very slow or zero velocities.

Referring back to two sources, *Flying Saucers Have Landed* by Desmond Leslie and “Ufology and the Ion Rocket” (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September/October, 1958), I suggest that it is possible that alien spacecraft of this type employ an advanced form of mercury-fuelled ion drive.

It is perhaps significant that no contactee has yet reported such craft disgorging humanoid spationauts to indulge in philosophical and/or metaphysical discourses.

Triangular UFO Over Valladolid

By Father Antonio Felices

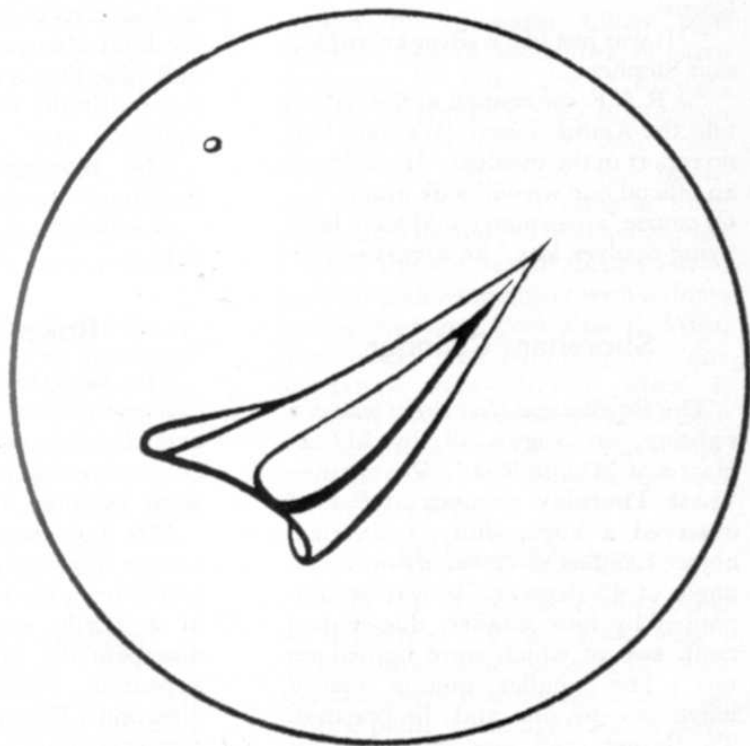
Our contributor is a teacher at the Dominicos College at Valladolid, in Spain.

YESTERDAY, September 16, was for me a most exciting day. At 5.45 p.m., G.M.T., a UFO which came from the north paused directly over our school. A father and a brother were out in the garden taking a stroll, when they noticed the object. They looked at it bewildered. Ten minutes elapsed before they decided to call me. At that time I was in the church supervising the repairs being carried out. I rushed to the garden and looked up, to see it right above the school, the size of a grapefruit, and shining very brightly. I have no idea as to its height, but that was all we could see with the naked eye.

The next thing I did was to call out eight other fathers to witness the fact. Then I went into the physics laboratory with another father to get out the 4-inch telescope which we have. By 6.20 p.m. we had the telescope mounted in the garden. When I focussed it—well, I just don't know how to describe the sight—but there it was, a beautiful silver craft rocking ever so slightly from side to side. It was like a triangle with an oval body in the centre: I made a water colour drawing of it as I saw it.

We all took turns to watch it. At 6 p.m. the first stars had begun to appear. The UFO was exactly between the star *beta* of the constellation CEPHEUS, and the star *epsilon* of the constellation DRACO. At 7.05 p.m., the UFO began to rise until it finally disappeared from sight.

Many of the fathers who had once laughed at me for believing that there are these things in the skies, themselves now firmly believe in them. What a pity it did not come down for a contact!



Sketch based on Father Felices's watercolour drawing

Meanwhile, things had been happening elsewhere for we were not the only people to see the UFO. For instance, they were busy at our local Air Base at Villanubla. Soon after it was sighted, the airfield instruments registered the height of the UFO as being 23.2 kilometres [nearly 76,000 ft.—Editor] and they stated that its size was approximately one square kilometre. Just imagine a UFO being that big.

Jet aircraft were sent up to investigate, but none of them were able to get near enough to identify the object. Pilot Heliodoro Carrion said on his return that he had many flying hours to his credit, but had never seen such an enormous

object hanging in the sky like that for a full four hours. He added that he now has no doubts about the existence of flying saucers.

The press has tried to play down the UFO appearance because in some parts of the city people began to panic. There has been a great deal of trash published lately in our local press about a future Mars invasion of the earth in the coming months. The stories have been taken from crack-pot astrologers who desire only to attract attention.

It is possible that the same UFO was the one later seen in Baza and then in Badajoz.

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

ENGLAND

Deltavolant ?

From the Sidcup newspaper *Eltham and Kentish Times* of September 17 we learn that on Thursday, September 9—"Stephen Oddy, of St. Mildreds Road, Lee, and his friend, Graham Blow, sighted an object in the sky. They were on a visit to the R.A.F. station at Kidbrooke as both boys are members of the Air Training Corps.

"It was just like a silver triangle," said Stephen.

"A R.A.F. spokesman at the station told the *Kentish Times*: 'We have had no report of the incident. If we do get an official one we will look into it. . . . Of course, an airman could have been flying a silver kite,' he suggested."

Shoreham Cylinder

The *Brighton and Hove Argus* tells of a sighting, on August 19, by Mr. P. Harris of Middle Road, Shoreham—"Last Thursday evening at 9.45, I observed a huge, shiny, cylindrical object hanging over the moon at an angle of 45 degrees. It was accompanied by four smaller, disc-shaped craft, two of which were lighted on top. The smaller objects moved north one by one and disappeared. The larger craft was stationary for about 10 minutes before it too moved slowly northwards and vanished."

(Credit: Mrs. M. Ross)

Walmley Cylinder

From the *Sutton Coldfield News* of July 30—"An unidentified 'cylindrical object' was seen hovering for almost 15 minutes over Walmley at about 10.45 p.m. on Monday evening by local butcher Mr. Barry Cox, his wife, and two friends. . . .

"Mr. Cox described how the object came into view, at an altitude he estimates, of about 5,000 ft. It hovered above the houses showing a brilliant white light for some five minutes. Then it moved slowly away in the direction of Minworth, and the light changed to red—then went dull 'like live coals.' Keeping at the same altitude, it moved away out of sight."

The Birmingham airport radar system was not in use at the time.

(Credit: N. A. Ford, Sutton Coldfield.)

Roker Foursome

The *Sunderland Echo* of August 18 carries the story of sightings by Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson at about 9.45 p.m. on the evening of August 17, as they were walking along the seafront—

Mrs. Jamieson said that she saw an orange disc like a large star, moving inland from the sea. 'It was travelling in a north westerly direction. It disappeared, then a second disc appeared, moving in the same direction. Then a third disc appeared going the other way.' She added, and this may have been the first disc returning.

"Mr. Jamieson went on: 'The

fourth disc we saw was revolving at a tremendous pace. It could not possibly have been a star, and its movement suggested that it was some sort of machine.'"

(Credit: Harry Lord, Heaton)

Discs over Stonehenge

Mr. and Mrs. P. Willsher of Southend-on-Sea were driving near Stonehenge when, according to the *Evening Post* of August 26, Mrs. Willsher saw—"Four silvery objects coming over a hill. At first she thought the sun's rays were catching the wings of an aeroplane but there was no sound in the air above. She drew her husband's attention to the strange sight.

"Mr. Willsher stopped the car, got out and looked up. 'At first I could see only two of these queer things,' he said later. 'Then a third emerged and a fourth joined the trio shortly after. They were moving circular discs.'"

Date of sighting: August 25.

(Credit: J. Hatter, Melksham.)

Cigars over Littleover ?

Our first reaction to this report was that it was about a high-flying jet with just a wisp of vapour trail, but according to the *Derby Evening Telegraph* of August 18, Castle Donington Airport said there were no aircraft in the district. Mr. E. C. Reynolds of Littleover, and four passengers in his car, all watched—