

UFONAUTS AS TIME TRAVELLERS

S. E. Priest

I HAVE been interested in the "UFO" phenomenon since 1950 and a subscriber to *Flying Saucer Review* for more years than I care to remember. During all that period I have rarely seen any suggestion put forward that UFOs might have some connection with time-travelling; that UFOs may actually carry people from our own future or from the future of other planets.* It is, I think, very worth while to forget about extra-terrestrials (at least, contemporary ET's), denizens of inner-Earth and of other dimensions for a moment and give the time-traveller theory more than passing attention.

Let us say at the outset that time-travel is *certain* to be achieved at some time in the future of the human race; a future, when one comes to think about it, which is endless, and is not even contingent upon the continued existence of Mother Earth. Just as our remote ancestor, a caveman, say, of 50,000 years ago, could have asserted, had he been imaginative enough, that television was *bound* to have been invented sooner or later, so we, with our vastly superior knowledge and technology to guide us, can say with certainty that at some time in the future our descendants will invent a time-travel machine, whether it be next century or a million years' time. The actual date of invention is immaterial, for once time-travel is achieved all antecedent ages can be visited, the caveman's as well as ours, A.D. 1066 or 10,066 B.C. (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.)

Having established that time-travel must be a certainty on the basis of what we ourselves have achieved in only five or six thousands years of recorded history we should now, perhaps, try to examine the mechanics of such an achievement. I say "try" because, personally, I haven't the remotest idea of how it can be done mechanically, ("mental time-travel" cannot be considered in our present frame of reference; time-travel, to be valid, must be physical i.e., by physical three-dimensional means and in normal, physical bodies). Despite that, however, there is one salient physical property which all time-machines must possess and that is, I suggest, the ability to fly.

Science-fiction writers, from H.G. Wells onward, have always described T-T machines as stationary, grounded objects; but over the course of centuries land configuration alters. For instance, it is a bare 10,000 years since Britain became an island. Roman London lies fifteen feet below the present surface. A visitor from, say, 50,000 years hence, setting off in such a stationary, grounded T-T machine from the future London might well come into our time, in other words, *materialise* into our time, smack in the middle of the Post Office Tower, for instance, with disastrous results all round.

It is plain, therefore, that the only area in which such travellers could safely make their journey

An article which is frankly speculative, but which as a former editor of FSR might have said, "is offered in the hope that it will prove controversial." Our contributor is not the first to allude to, or to discuss, in the pages of *Flying Saucer Review*, the possibility that UFOs are time-travelling machines. He does, however, make some interesting suggestions, and the subject is topical in view of experimental work being done by scientists in connection with time. Indeed we know theoretical physicists who are involved with that question, and one of them has evinced an interest in the Peter and Francis story of their nightmarish ride from Umvuma to Beit Bridge, and the investigation of Peter under hypnosis (see FSR Vol.21, Nos.1 and 2).

EDITOR

through time is high in the atmosphere, both at the starting point and at the destination. It follows then, that time-travel machines must also be capable of flying. It also follows that the vastly superior and expert technology of a future age would be reflected in the performance and design of such machines, and thus the pattern of the "conventional" flying saucer begins to emerge.

As to the motive or motives behind such time-travel. Perhaps it is just a simple scientific curiosity, for the Earth of their time may well consist of large areas of desert, as many of our present-day scientists have prophesied. If so, our existing lush vegetation and plentiful water supplies would be of absorbing interest to the visitors. Just as we use archaeology to laboriously unearth traces of past civilisations buried deep in the ground, so our descendants far in the future may be using time-travel to study our own ancient (to them) civilisation. Perhaps, also, the large, cigar-shaped, carrier type of UFO described by Adamski held nothing more sinister than parties of students, researchers and sight-seers.

On the other hand, it may be that that future earth may be torn by a strife whose meaning we cannot even imagine (what would our caveman, for instance, make of the political differences which divide the United States and Soviet Russia today?), and that the purpose of their visits is connected with some aspect of an internecine struggle or struggles going on in their own time.

* [In FSR, Vol.9, No.3 (May/June 1963) there was published a short article, *Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension* by one Charles Bowen, a speculative piece which concluded with the thought: "If, however, they are time travellers manifesting at points along fixed geographical lines, perhaps they are aliens who at some time in our future have defeated our descendants!" This and the other ideas, *materialisation, either from space, or the future, via entry points (or "windows") on orthotenic lines*, were inspired by an allusion to time travel by Luis Schönher in his article *UFOs and Fourth Dimension* in FSR Vol.9, No.2, (March/April 1963) - EDITOR]

A good deal of hitherto puzzling UFO phenomena can be tidied up by referring to the time-travel theory. For example, it is possible, human nature being what it is and likely to be in the future, that some time-machine operators are not as careful or as skilled as they might be. Instead of arriving accurately at their time-destination they may skid and bounce off, somewhat as a flat stone is skimmed across the surface of a pond, and come into our time at regular intervals until settling down into the required time-slot. If at the same time they are capable of, and wish to, impress upon a watcher's mind that he is seeing a (to him) conventional object (in keeping with the "no interference" rule; see later), then we have a possible explanation of the Airship mystery of the eighteen-nineties, and also of the packet-boat seen sailing along a quarter of a mile above the ground near the Menai Straits in 1743 (my letter in FSR May-June, 1970, page 31). This boat was seen at three ten-year intervals and in the same place each time.

Again, this theory could explain the mystery of the falling objects which never seem to reach the ground. Once detached from the time-machine-UFO the object, whatever it may be, would lose the time-travel power and either return to its own time or simply proceed to go haywire through time, somewhat analogous to a hub-cap falling from a car in 1975 and landing at the feet of an astonished peasant in the region, say, of Alfred the Great. It could also explain what Ivan T. Sanderson described as "Out of Place Artifacts," i.e. manufactured objects found at ground levels not applicable to their time.

Of significance, too, to the Time-Traveller theory is the fact that so many reported UFO occupants have the human form, and future civilisations would certainly have developed robots and androids to take most of the possible physical danger in exploration away from themselves.

The first and cardinal rule of time-travel must assuredly be "no interference" or no tampering with the historical course of events. This could explain the general evasiveness and reluctance to make more than the most inconsequential contact with us on the part of the UFOs, although it is not hard to imagine that even in future ages antisocial and irresponsible elements in their own society will exist; elements who would not be above making sport, be it physical, mental or psychical, of any odd "primitive" (us) they come across.

Our own age, the age of Man's first venture into space and the harnessing of the power of the atom, is undoubtedly the most important, so far [as we know - EDITOR], in human history. Future students and historians will certainly want to study us to see what made us "tick." The latter half of the twentieth century may well be the first "port of call" for the earnest time-traveller of the future.

Over the past 25 years more and more inexplicable phenomena have forced the UFO believer into some extremely esoteric theories in order to make sense of it all. At first sight the T-F theory would appear to have the merit of simplicity, but a moment's thought leads one to realise that its implications are as diverse and startling as any yet considered. The average

human being of our time is too wrapped up in his own "present" to give much thought to the nature of time. For him the world ceases, literally, with his own personal death, but for untold millions of people yet unborn the Earth will continue to go on, and will so continue until it becomes a cinder falling into a dying sun.

By that time, however, men will have learned to colonise other planets of other suns. The statement made by "Peter" under hypnosis (The Rhodesian UFO Encounter - FSR Vol.21, No.2, Page 10) that they come from other galaxies may well be true - especially as "...if they want to go from point A to point B they have to come back in time to get to the Earth, so they send themselves back into time. They are time-travellers, not space-travellers."

Formerly it was the immense distances involved in the study of the astronomical Universe which stunned the mind. We must now adjust our brains to the equally immense stretches of time involved in an endless future.

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TELE-MYSTERY

August C. Roberts

ON Sunday, December 15, 1974, NCB Television presented a special programme entitled "UFOs — Do You Believe?" Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that what happened to the photographs I took of this television special documentary would happen in my camera.

To recap for a few moments for those people who did not see the programme, or were unaware that it was being shown, this documentary examined various accounts of eyewitnesses and photographic evidence, searching for the possibility that we here on planet Earth may be receiving visits from beings from somewhere out in space. Among the eyewitness accounts was that of Astronaut James McDivitt, who claimed to have seen a UFO while in a space capsule on a mission in space, and the dramatic stories of two men from Mississippi, who claimed they were taken aboard a so-called "unidentified flying object" and were both examined by occupants of the spacecraft. Also on the programme were such prominent researchers as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University; Stan Friedman, scientist; Coral Lorenzen, APRO; Walt Andrus, Mutual UFO Network; and John Acuff, NICAP. The one-hour programme was as serious as serious could be in trying to get across to the general public the pros and cons of the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

When I first heard that this special presentation was scheduled, I cancelled everything else that evening and planned to stay at home to record this event both on tape and on film. I also received advance notice that my own photograph of the July 28, 1952, Skywatch Tower case, was to be shown.

I spent the day of December 15 checking all my photographic equipment to make certain that it was in perfect working order. It all checked out, and a half hour before air time, I fastened by Nikon-F camera on a solid professional tripod. I checked and rechecked the exposure time that I would be using for the coloured slide film, and as soon as the programme went on the air, I started to release the shutter of my camera. As the events unfolded, weaving their storyline to, I believe, millions of viewers, I took exposure after exposure, until I had taken a total of twenty-six frames, leaving a balance of ten frames on a thirty-six-frame roll of coloured slide film.

While watching the programme, I did see my own 1952 Skywatch Tower case photo, but I was so busy with my camera that I did not think fast enough to take a picture of it. Right after the show was off the air, I received phone calls from friends, asking me if I had seen my own photo and if I had been able to obtain a picture of it. I explained that while I had seen the photo, I was unable to photograph it because I was too busy *seeing* it.

As is my custom, I did not rush out and develop the film but waited until I shot the whole roll, and

then had it developed. Since on December 29, 1974, my two grand nephews were going to be christened, I planned to use the rest of the coloured film then. On the 29th we were all in church, I had my pocket tape recorder and my camera working, and everything went as smooth as silk. After the christening all the relatives went to my niece Judy's home for dinner, and there I exposed the rest of the film; I then prepared it for mailing to Rochester, New York; to be developed, took it personally to the post office, obtained stamps for it, and dropped it in the mail slot.

Slightly less than two weeks later, the postman delivered the small package of coloured slides to my mailbox. After putting the first slide into the viewer and seeing it was backward, I took it out and reversed it. Again I thought that I had put it in wrong; but no matter how I tried, there was no way I could turn the slide so that it appeared correct in the viewer. As I looked at each slide, the same thing happened. The slides with captions on them, like the names of persons in the pictures, etc., all appeared "mirror imaged."

As the impact of what appeared to have happened struck me, I was dumbfounded. My mind then started to race at full speed, searching for every tiny bit of information that my training as a professional news photographer could provide. Every time I thought I might have part of the puzzle solved, a correcting thought would come forward and cancel the thought. From that moment until this, I can only emphasize that there is no normal way that I, or anyone else can take pictures of a television programme and have those photographs come out in what I call double reverse. As you study the photographs printed with this text, you will see what appears to be photographs printed incorrectly. The way you are viewing them is just the way they appear on my coloured slides. All I did was to make black and white negatives, so that I would be able to make fairly

