

UFOs AND PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

Thoughts on a lecture given by Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard

Charles Bowen

SATURDAY, May 3, 1969, is a date to remember. In the evening, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, at a few minutes past 7.0 p.m., a former member of the Air Council rose to speak to a packed auditorium on the topic of flying saucers. When, earlier, he introduced his speaker, chairman The Hon. Brinsley le Poer Trench had good reason to feel proud that he had persuaded Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, KGB, CBE, MA (Cantab), to address his "Contact" group, and other guests.

Earlier that week the London *Evening News* had given advance notice of the meeting, and a statement that "secrets would be revealed" was attributed to Sir Victor. This, I confess, had puzzled me, for I remembered discussing the subject with Sir Victor at an informal function about a year earlier. From what he had told me on that occasion, it seemed unlikely that the retired Air Marshal was about to lift the lid from any allegedly bubbling cauldron of Royal Air Force-suppressed facts about UFOs. Indeed, Sir Victor had always insisted that there was no official cover-up.

A sceptic

As I expected, this was precisely the line taken by the speaker, who told also of his scepticism in 1946—he definitely said 1946, but I feel he meant 1947—when the "flying saucer" story broke on the world. He went on to tell his audience of a story circulating among officers at the Pentagon—where he was stationed at the time—of the reputation of the "Boise Boys" for hoaxing. (Unless the point be missed by some readers, may I remind them that Kenneth Arnold of the June 24, 1947, sighting fame, hailed from Boise.)

Although Sir Victor also told of a "flying saucer"—a rickety model—which he had produced from under the table before startled colleagues at an Air Council meeting, he did not tell of any remarkable sightings hitherto known only to the Royal Air Force. The impression one gained from the talk was that the RAF may have considered specimen reports, and, finding that there seemed to be no threat to our security, had lost interest in them although at the same time having no wish to arouse public enthusiasm by admitting that the RAF had such reports.

From their reactions, one could deduce that many among the audience had no idea that as well as being a scholar of considerable attainments and a very high-ranking officer on the technical side of the Royal Air Force, Sir Victor has long been deeply interested in psychic phenomena and ESP. Since he has retired, this perhaps has been his major interest, and his more recently acquired interest in UFOs has developed because

he feels that the latter phenomenon may be involved in some way with the former. In fact he told his audience about fascinating experiences he had had while serving in the RAF during the time when he was still a pilot during the years following World War I.

The airfield

One account was of a time when he was flying an aeroplane through appalling weather. He knew he was somewhere in the vicinity of a derelict wartime airfield, and he knew it would be dangerous to attempt to land there. He was flying very low when he sighted the airfield, and then, to his amazement he flew into bright, clear sunlight. And there, below him, with the wheels of his aeroplane almost touching them, were the roofs of aircraft hangars, spruce with new paint, and in good repair. There too, on the tarmac apron, were yellow-painted aircraft, with mechanics busy around them in an unusual type of blue overalls. The young Victor Goddard gaped down at the figures as he roared overhead, and his amazement was complete when he realised that not one of the men stopped work to look up at him as he made his dangerously low pass over the field. And then, as suddenly as he had flashed out into the sunlight, so he found himself once again cutting through the swirling rain with scudding clouds low overhead.

Amazing as the incident was at the time, the pay-off came a few years later, when the derelict airfield was refurbished and brought back into use as a Royal Air Force training station, with a squadron of trainer planes resplendent in their newly adopted yellow paint, and staffed with mechanics who were kitted out with the RAF's new style blue working overalls.

For some inexplicable reason the young pilot's consciousness seemed to have experienced a shift forward in time, but luckily for him he made no attempt to land on the apparently perfect grass runways because *he knew* that in reality they were extremely hazardous.

Squadron photograph

Sir Victor gave another example of the way a person's consciousness can exist away from the physical body. A young officer in his squadron was killed in a flying accident. The funeral was held on the morning of the day when, by long-standing arrangement, the squadron's annual photograph was to be taken. In the afternoon all the squadron personnel were assembled for the picture and, sadly, the dead officer's place was left vacant. When the pictures were developed and prints taken, it was seen that all the spaces were filled. Closer examination revealed the image of the young man in its rightful place, slightly fainter, and less distinct than the images

of those on either side of him, but there nonetheless.

Sir Victor's suggestion

I apologise that this is but a brief recapitulation of a few of the main points of Sir Victor's talk, but they serve to illustrate his line of thought. Indeed, he went on to suggest that UFOs may well be the work of departed ones, in that the consciousnesses of the "dead" can return to display, for example, the wonders of the "new world" in which they find themselves. To take the idea even farther, could not the consciousnesses of those who had been technically skilled in this present world of ours return to demonstrate—for example—the advanced "aerial machines" of their new world?

So there it was. UFOs, according to Sir Victor, may be just a small part of the psychic set-up. The extra-terrestrial spaceship-cum-scoutcraft-cum-mothership section of the audience didn't like that at all, as later their questions showed. The retired Air Marshal handled them well, but he looked quite exhausted at the end.

It is a pity some people just will not listen to new ideas, and hasten to display that intolerance which they deprecate so much in others. Any new idea, any new line of enquiry is worth examining in a subject so barren of tangible facts. Sir Victor's is a novel idea, and a very interesting one.

Interesting because there are many of us who think there is possibly a link somewhere along the line between UFO and psychic phenomena. I for one have gone on record saying just that, and I am aware now that Waveney Girvan before me (he was editor of FSR from October 1959 to October 1964) was examining such a possibility, although he never disclosed this to his friends. He had been corresponding with Sir Victor Goddard through a friend, the journalist and author well known in psychic research circles, Anne Dooley. I have a carbon copy of a letter given to me in 1965 by Mrs. Dooley, in which Waveney described to Sir Victor some of the reported characteristics of flying saucers. He told how some had been described as being solid and metallic-sounding when struck, how bullets had allegedly ricocheted off a UFO's surface, how UFOs had been known to leave marks on the ground, and so on.

So although he has known of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for some time, and although he has discussed UFOs on odd occasions with my colleagues or myself, Sir Victor does not seem to have fully acquainted himself with the UFO "evidence".

Is there a link?

For the time being I will stick to my view that there could be a link between UFOs and psychic phenomena. This UFO business is a very complicated affair, and I recognise that there may well be more than one kind of UFO and there may well be many different sources for these objects. Nevertheless I would not be greatly surprised if one day it were demonstrated that certain types of psychic phenomena and certain kinds of UFO phenomena are one and the same thing, and that they are triggered off by a common cause.

I know UFOs *could* be interplanetary spaceships, although there's little true evidence to support that view; that they, or perhaps just some of them, *could* be

reflections from another unseen "Parallel" world¹ or level, some alternate reality²; that they *could* be machines occupied or manipulated by the denizens of another unseen world or reality which exists, as it were, *across* our world, because time in the unseen world runs in a different direction; that these presumed entities may be able to pass at will through "gates" (or "windows") where their time stream and ours impinge momentarily.³ However, I have an uneasy feeling that much of what we see and hear of UFOs and their alleged occupants is illusory, or hallucinatory in character, *perhaps pumped into us by radiation* from the real, solid "ironmongery", and that we see the real, solid ironmongery on relatively few occasions.

Solid objects, nightmarish creatures

An apparently solid object was seen at Valensole,⁴ solid enough to leave some pretty real marks among the lavender plants, and eleven years before that a solid enough machine stood on, and cut holes in, the railway sleepers beside the Dewilde cottage,⁵ but, in each of these cases, were the two little creatures solid? It seems from the testimony of each of these witnesses that they (the witnesses) were controlled quite deliberately: but were the creatures real, or were they merely images put into the minds of Messrs. Masse and Dewilde by something inside the "machines"? Again, a solid enough object was seen and heard at Socorro,⁶ but what of the little creatures so fleetingly observed? Of one thing I feel reasonably certain, and that is that judged both by my own impression gained from my meeting with him, and by the comments of Dr. "Jacques Lemaître" in private letters to me, neither M. Masse nor the Lonnie Zamora we saw on British television, seem to be types blessed with the imaginative flair to invent such remarkable stories. I suspect they were telling the truth as they saw it.

Has this been the way then with other reported visions of hobgoblin, or horrific types, like those at Kelly-Hopkinsville,⁷ or the monster at Flatwoods,⁸ or the bat man in Sandling Park,⁹ or Mothman¹⁰ in West Virginia. If so, could these be that side of the phenomenon which savours of psychic phenomena, produced by forces—through the agency of their solid objects—which men have long known as the "forces of good" and the "forces of evil"? Are these forces responsible, indeed have they always been responsible—even when they or their machine objects have not been visible—for many of the strange phenomena hitherto categorised as psychic?

Perhaps a few of the F. D. Marrows of this world¹¹ will deign to read these highly speculative thoughts and begin to understand why I have been interested in spooks and ghosts, and little blue men¹² in out-of-the-way places, especially where certain features common to a number of UFO cases, such as the smell of "sulphur", are also present.

Hypnotic effects

Other striking features of certain contact cases and of a number of close-range sightings are the remarkable hypnotic effects on witnesses,¹³ and the obsession quite often displayed by UFOs, of focussing attention on one person.¹⁴

These, and many others of the kinds of manifestations and types of UFO activity seem to me to be poles apart from Sir Victor Goddard's idea. However, it was an interesting idea, and not one to be shouted down, for it demonstrates that its author has spotted the possible UFO/psychic phenomena link. I suggest that Sir Victor, with his wealth of experience and his great knowledge of his own subject, would do well to examine the possibility that many species of psychic phenomena are in fact UFO-caused. For even if there is a grain of truth in the ideas I have speculatively presented, we are still faced with the old problem—where are the solid objects from, how do they get here, and why are they doing what they are doing?

On the Bridgnorth-Wolverhampton road

To close, here is a little-known case which demonstrates the eerie business of a UFO seemingly battering on to one person. The account is taken from the *Bridgnorth Journal* of Friday, August 2, 1968. The editor of the paper discussed the case with me at the time; it is only in recent weeks that I have realised that it was probably of greater significance than I thought at the time.

Jerry Richmond, a science teacher at a Small Heath, Birmingham, secondary school, had been to a dance on the evening of July 25, 1968, with a Bridgnorth girl. Here is the newspaper version of the incident:

"After running her to Bridgnorth through Kidderminster, he left her at about 1.30 a.m. [July 26] and decided to go to his home in Sparkhill, Birmingham, via Wolverhampton.

"He was running low on petrol and wanted to fill up at a late-night garage there.

"It was a clear, dry night. The stars were shining.

"Back at the scene—near Hilton, on the Bridgnorth-Wolverhampton road—this week, Jerry told of the time he saw the strange object first.

"I was doing about 40 m.p.h., when I saw it rise from behind a clump of trees by a low fence on the left of the road. At this time it was elliptical in shape (Fig. 1) and the closest I was to it. It was only 30-40 yards away.



Fig. 1

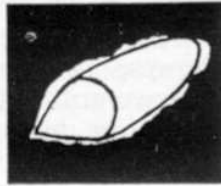


Fig. 2

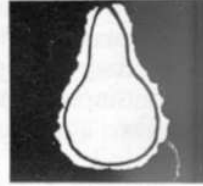


Fig. 3

"I estimate it to have been about 90-100ft. long. It had a flat, dull, steady glow. It rose to about 500ft. and then descended at the same speed.

"I first thought it was a weather balloon, and the friction caused by its descent had made the gas inside it either burn or fluoresce. But I immediately dismissed that possibility because of the speed it moved and its size, and the apparent lack of wind.

"After rising and falling at a steady speed, the object shot across the road and then started to zig-zag towards me about 1,000 yards dead ahead. It left no visible trail,

and made no noise that I could hear. It looked like a projectile of some kind (Fig. 2).

"I placed my hand on the outside of the windscreen as I drove along to make sure the object wasn't a reflection. It wasn't. As it zig-zagged towards me, I estimated it to be about 30ft. wide. By this time I was really worried. I just had no idea what the thing was.

"I didn't feel courageous enough to stop the car. I just increased speed and kept a look-out for anything human, like another car, or a light in a house. But there was nothing. To be frank, I was near panic. There was just no explanation.

"After it had followed me for about five miles, it disappeared over a hill. Then I saw the lights of a car approaching. I flashed my lights and sounded my horn as he came nearer. I think it was a Ford Zephyr or Zodiac. But he didn't stop.

"Then the Thing came back.

"It appeared again on the left and came towards and over the top of my car and turned and went ahead of me. It looked as though it had a tail of some kind, something like a helicopter viewed from underneath (Fig. 3).

"After repeated zig-zags, the object hovered over a clump of trees on the right-hand side of the road. It was a definite cigar-shape and only about 100 yards away. I was panic-stricken.

"There seemed to be a light from the object shining on the top of the trees as it hovered there. Then it shot off in the distance getting smaller and smaller until it disappeared. That was the last I saw of it, but its speed was fantastic. The whole thing from first to last took about 10-15 minutes. I covered about nine miles in all."

* * * * *

Could this object have been a natural phenomenon? One that springs to mind is our old friend the fireball. I haven't checked the weather reports for that night, but from the newspaper report the conditions do not seem to have been those in which ball lightning would have been generated. The possibility that the object was any other natural one, or a man-made device, seems remote. As for the likelihood that it was a hoax, this is what Mr. Richmond had to say on that score:

"This is no hoax. I stand to look quite a fool to some people over this, and as a teacher, I could come in for quite a bit of ragging. After talking to friends about it, I decided the best thing to do was to check, through the *Journal*, if anyone else had seen the object. I've nothing to gain from a hoax."

Interplanetary space ship? The consciousness of a departed friend or relative showing off a newly-found technology? Or an image created for Mr. Richmond to "see" while—purely a suggestion this—he was being "monitored" and, perhaps, found to be insufficiently receptive? And, before you are tempted to wag your heads sadly at this last suggestion, you had better wait and see what we have in store for you in our third Special Issue.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

NOTES

- ¹ Sanderson, Ivan T. *Uninvited Visitors* (now available from Neville Spearman Ltd.), in which the author also gives credit to FSR for publishing articles dealing with this aspect of the problem (p. 181).
- ² Greenfield, Allen H. *The Alternate Reality Theory*, see FSR Special Issue No. 2, BEYOND CONDON. . . .
- ³ Keel, John A. *The Time Cycle Factor*, FSR, Vol. 15, No. 3 (May/June 1969).
- ⁴ Bowen, Charles. *A Significant Report from France*, FSR, Vol. 11, No. 5 (September/October 1965). G.E.P.A. Investigation Report (*Phénomènes Spatiaux*, September 1965 (reprinted in FSR, Vol. 11, No. 6). Also special report giving additional details from G.E.P.A. investigator in FSR, Vol. 12, No. 3 (May/June 1966). Michel, Aimé. *The Valensole Affair*, FSR, Vol. 11, No. 6 (November/December 1965). Michel, Aimé. *Valensole—Further Details*, FSR, Vol. 12, No. 3 (May/June 1966). Michel, Aimé, and Bowen, Charles. *A Visit to Valensole*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 1 (January/February 1968). Bowen, Charles. *Interesting Comparisons in THE HUMANOIDS* (revised edition only, Neville Spearman Ltd., London).
- ⁵ Michel, Aimé. *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, see Quarouble case of September 10, 1954. See also revised French edition, *A propos des Soucoupes Volantes; Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (Editions Planète).

- ⁶ Details of this case were given in FSR, Vol. 10, No. 4 (July/August 1964) and No. 6 (November/December 1964). However, a more recent account has been given by W. T. Powers in THE HUMANOIDS.
- ⁷ Hanlon, Donald B. *Questions on the Occupants in THE HUMANOIDS*. See also, in the same publication, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's account in *UFO Occupants in United States Reports*.
- ⁸ Sanderson, Ivan T. *Uninvited Visitors*.
- ⁹ An account of this incident appeared in FSR, Vol. 10, No. 2 (March/April 1964) and was quoted by Charles Bowen in *Few and Far Between in THE HUMANOIDS*.
- ¹⁰ Keel, John A. *West Virginia's enigmatic "Bird"*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 4 (July/August 1968).
- ¹¹ Bowen, Charles. *Strangers about the House*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5 (September/October 1968).
- ¹² Winder, R. H. B. *The Little Blue Man of Studham Common*, FSR, Vol. 13, No. 4 (July/August 1967).
- ¹³ Gonzalez Ganteaume, H. *Landing at San Pedro de los Altos*, FSR, Vol. 15, No. 2 (March/April 1969). The singular fact that the witnesses were able to repeat, word for word, the "gobbledygook" contents of their "message" would seem to indicate that something more than mere memory was at work. Fuller, John G. *The Interrupted Journey*. The story of Betty and Barney Hill gives an instance of this, and of other features discussed in this article. A report of a new case investigated by Aimé Michel which contains another, alarming instance of this type of behaviour, will be contained in FSR's projected third special issue, UFO PERCIPIENTS.

THE CLEMENTE FERREIRA SANATORIUM UFO

Nigel Rimes

IN my report *Another Hospital Visited* which was published in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January/February 1969, I told the strange story of Dona Maria Cintra, the receptionist-cum-general servant at the Clemente Ferreira Sanatorium which is situated near Lins, some 450 km. to the north-west of São Paulo in Brazil.

To recapitulate briefly, it was in the early hours of the morning of August 27, 1968, when Dona Maria was awakened by a sound like the flapping of a large bird's wings, together with a whistling sound. Thinking it was a new patient arriving, she went down from her room to the front door, to find instead a "foreign-looking woman" with light-coloured clothes and a sort of headdress that left only the face bare. Although this visitor spoke a strange language, it was obvious she wanted water, for she held in her hands a bottle and a mug. The bottle seemed to be of glass and was beautifully engraved.

Maria filled the bottle, then, seeing the visitor was interested in two cars parked near the door, she called out that they belonged to the duty doctor and to the administrator. The visitor then came in through the door, and up to the fountain, and again spoke in the unfamiliar language. At this point—with the mug filled—Maria saw the "machine" in which the "woman"

had arrived, and was overcome with a great fear, for it was hovering 25 metres away, and about one metre from the ground.

Dona Maria's account was given in far greater detail in my earlier article; these brief lines are given merely as a vehicle for the photographs which I was unable to send in January. However, I have a little more information about the sighting

Dona Maria Cintra in her room at the Clemente Ferreira Sanatorium

