

INVISIBLE BARRIERS

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THE invisible barrier is one of the more useful devices employed by at least some of those who, from wherever or whenever, occasionally favor us with a visit. This is the unseen protective shield used to keep potentially harmful agencies at a safe distance. They may also manifest with no UFO in sight, and in the most unlikely places.

Following is a catalogue of eighteen such reports, each containing a reference to an invisible "barrier", "force field", or unseen "wall". The reports are dated 1935 — 1980, and are of varying reliability. Reports have been included whether or not they mention the presence of an unidentified flying object.

1. County Mayo, Ireland (1935).

A girl found herself trapped in a wooded area on top of a hill. When she tried to leave one way, she would find herself walking in the opposite direction. She then tried to get out the way she got in, and found her way blocked by an "invisible wall" which was "so solid she could follow it round with her hands." Later in the night, a group of people searching for the girl passed within 20 yards of her position, but could not see her or hear her calls for help, although she could see and hear them. Later, she discovered that the barrier was no longer there, and was able to return home.

2. Oxford, England (c. 1947).

An RAF sergeant was riding his bicycle in the grounds of Newnham Park when he suddenly seemed "to have hit a brick wall and was thrown violently over the handlebars on to the ground." Nothing was seen or subsequently found which could account for the accident.

3. Westminister, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (1949).

Betty Aho, age 12 (later the famous abductee Betty Andreasson), encountered a small entity rising out of a hole in the ground while playing in the woods. Thinking it was an animal, she threw some rocks at it. The rocks "hit something in mid-air and just fell down! . . . they fall about an arm's length from the person. I throw them and they stop, and they go down straight" as if they hit a wall "but there is no noise to it." The entity was about three feet tall, had grey skin, large dark eyes, a tear-drop shaped face, and buttons on its chest. When the being pressed one of the buttons, a small ball of light emerged from a hole in its

chest. This ball attached itself to Betty's forehead, causing her to feel sleepy, slowly fall backwards, and hear voices in her head.

4. North Devon, England (about 1/2 hour before dawn one day in May 1957).

Mr. "J. P." had pulled his truck on to the unused runway of Winkleigh airfield to have some coffee. There he observed a large object, glowing a fluorescent blue, shaped like a submarine and having two fins on the end. He decided to have a closer look, but was unable to get nearer than about 90 (or 200?) yards. Mr. "P" described this experience as "just like walking into a cushion . . . (the barrier) seemed to completely surround the object, and on trying to walk towards it, the feeling was like walking into an invible air cushion resisting your movement. You could actually lean on it." The object took off straight up, without a sound, leaving behind a faint black circle about 50 feet in diameter. After the incident, the witness found his watch to be running slow by 20 minutes.

5. Rybinsk, U.S.S.R. (Summer, 1961).

A large disc-shaped object, along with several smaller discs, appeared and hovered at an estimated altitude of 20,000 metres over a hill on which there was a new ground-to-air missile installation. An order was given to open fire, and a salvo of rockets was launched. All of these exploded simultaneously and harmlessly about 2 km. before reaching their target. More rockets were fired with the same result. The smaller saucers then swooped down and powerfailed the whole installation.

6. South Central Missouri, U.S.A. (7.00 a.m., February 14, 1967).

A farmer saw one of his cows looking at something in a nearby field. He looked over to the east of his barn, and saw an object resembling an over-turned soup bowl. The object was 12-15 feet in diameter, 6 feet high, grey-green in color, and sitting on a 2 1/2 foot high shaft. Bright lights of constantly changing colors were flashing from the rim. Several small objects or creatures could be seen moving about beneath it. As he approached to within 30 feet, he threw a rock at the object. The rock struck something unseen 15 feet from its target and fell to the ground. He threw another rock at the upper part of the object, and it

“skipped off of the invisible field with no sound.” He got to the place where the first rock had hit and could get no closer. There was, he said, “just a pressure” which stopped him. The object ascended, silently and quickly, leaving no traces in the muddy ground.

7. Itaperuna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (8.00 p.m., February 7, 1969).

Sr. Néelson Leite and Sr. Manoel C. Leite saw “a ball of light, flattened on its underpart, hovering at about three metres above the ground.” Investigating, they were stopped at about 100 metres from the object “as though by an ‘invisible wall’”. The object increased its luminosity and shot off straight up. Both witnesses found themselves sweating heavily. Scorched soil was found at the place over which the object had hovered. (See also Case 10).

8. Awanui, New Zealand (1.00 a.m., February 22, 1969).

Nathan Brown, a Maori, was walking home from a bar when he noticed a light behind a bush on the side of the road. Behind the bush, enshrouded in a luminous haze, he found three beings, two of whom were “men” sitting with their feet in a ditch with their backs to him. The third party present was a pale young woman with white hair, wearing a white sleeveless gown, lying across the ditch, as if supported by an unseen board. When he stepped between the men to see what was wrong with the woman, he encountered an invisible force, which he compared to “a bar across his stomach”. He tried again and again to advance, but could not do so, each time encountering the same barrier. The same “fuzzy wall” also surrounded the men, as he found when he tried to grab one. He could not get his hand closer than one foot to the entity’s body. At this point, he became frightened, went back to the road, performed an obscene protective ritual, and ran off. Strange markings were found at the site the next day. Brown felt unusually tired for three weeks after his encounter.

9. Itajuba, Minas Gerais, Brazil (May 1969).

Sr. Clixto Borges de Mouros was driving along a highway at night when, somewhere between Pouso Alegre and Maria da Fé, his car struck “an invisible wall”. The car remained stationary while its wheels spun and its lights went out. The witness saw overhead “an object from which came a dazzling brightness.” When the object moved away, the car lights came back on again. The object next passed over and powerfailed a nearby town.

10. Itaperuna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (May 1971).

Sr. Néelson Vieira Leite, a farmer and businessman,

observed a greenish object “resembling a soup-plate upside down” descend into a nearby meadow. Investigating, Sr. Leite was amazed to discover, at about ten metres from the object, that he was no longer walking, and had not been for several minutes. He “had by now somehow or other lost all sense of time” and felt “half-numbered”. No matter how much he tried, he could not make his legs move him in a forward direction. He was not paralysed, for he was able to flail about and turn his body around to face back the way he had come. From behind him, all of a sudden, raced Manoel Carlos, his nephew. Manoel was not so fortunate as to have been walking when he encountered the barrier, with the result that he was unconscious for several hours thereafter. The “soup-plate” took off a few minutes later, leaving behind burnt grass at the place over which it had hovered.

(See also Case 7).

11. Duluth, Minnesota, U.S.A. (11.15 p.m., October 7, 1973).

Mrs. Wallace L. had “the feeling that something was going on outside”. She then heard sounds like footsteps on her wooden porch and a noise at her screen door. Going outside, she observed an object which looked like a diffuse silver-colored cloud hovering over a tree in her backyard. It was projecting a brilliant beam of white light through the living room window of a neighbour’s house (the people inside were asleep at the time). A street light nearby was blinking off and on and the neighborhood dogs were barking and howling. After fifteen minutes, the cloud dissipated to reveal a domed disc with a glowing red bottom and what looked like about ten landing struts hanging down from the rim. The witness felt that the object “knew what she was thinking”. When she wondered what the greenish thing she could barely see at the top of the object was, it obligingly tilted toward her, revealing the thing to be a glowing arm-like “antenna”. Mrs. L. decided to approach the object. When about 20 feet from the tree over which it was hovering, she felt as though she “hit a wall and could see nothing but silver. Upon backing up, her sight returned and when she walked forward the same thing happened again.” Later, the object ascended vertically, leaving a hole in the overcast. The next day, Mrs. L. remembered nothing of the weird events of the previous night until reminded by one of the three other witnesses.

12. Unknown Mediterranean Island (1975).

A UFO appeared over a NATO missile installation and an order was given to destroy it. Four missiles were fired, and all exploded before they could reach their target. The object then apparently powerfailed the missile system. The remains of the missiles were found to be covered with holes.

13. Durham, England (late 1975).

Mrs. Dilys Cant encountered an invisible barrier when she repeatedly tried and failed to back her car into a vacant parking space. She said it seemed as if she was backing into a kerb, although nothing was visible to account for the difficulty in entering the parking space. Two other motorists tried to drive, and then push, their cars into the same space, to no avail. Mrs. Cant's daughter reportedly was "prevented from entering the space by an invisible force field."

14. Serra do Mouro, Novo Trento, Brusque, Santa Catarina, Brazil (7.00 p.m., September 3, 1976).

A farm worker, João Romeu Klein, was returning home from a visit to a friend when he saw a disc-shaped object approaching. It took up a position over the road ahead, and projected from the center of its base an intense red light, within which descended three small beings about one metre in height. The object moved off, and said beings took up a position across the road, barring his way. The witness drew his big knife "and threw it straight at them, but the knife seemed to encounter an invisible obstacle and was deflected." One of the entities reacted by pointing a "rod" at Klein, which emitted a beam of bluish-white light. The beam struck the witness on the left thigh, causing unconsciousness. His left leg was stiff for a few days thereafter.

15. Winchester Bypass, Hampshire, England (9.00 p.m., November 14, 1976).

Joyce Bowles and Edwin Pratt noticed an orange glow in the sky as they drove along the highway. Turning off on to another road, their vehicle began to "shudder and shake as though it were coming to pieces." The car veered diagonally off the road and on to the grass verge where it stopped. The witnesses observed an orange cigar-shaped object about 15 feet long hovering about a foot off the ground on jets of vapour. There was a window in the top, left part of the object, through which could be seen three "heads". An entity appeared from the object, apparently by walking right through the side of it. He was about 6 feet tall with long blond hair and a beard, and was wearing a silvery suit. He looked in the car, and was seen to have pink eyes. He moved to the rear of the car, and did not reappear. When the witnesses turned back around to look at the object, it was gone. They started the car and tried to move forward, but it "was as though they were pushing against an invisible wall". The wheels spun and the engine stalled. They tried again, and were able to leave without difficulty.

16. Fort St James, British Columbia, Canada (November 3, 1977).

Two teenagers (one of whom has had several UFO encounters) saw a half-sphere of glowing light hovering behind some trees. They tried to get closer but "a force or something stopped them." Large blue sparks shot out of the object as the witnesses ran back to their truck. The light followed and played "games" with them for more than an hour.

17. Borisoglebsk, U.S.S.R. (after midnight, June 16, 1978).

V. G. Paltsev was hitchhiking home when he saw a glowing object in a field and walked towards it. It had a transparent dome on top, inside of which three creatures with egg-shaped heads and long fingers could be seen working at a control console. When he got to within 25 yards of the object he was "stopped by an invisible force field and blacked out." When he regained consciousness, his briefcase was lying next to him, but it now looked "old and frayed". The "force field" was now gone and he started walking toward the object again. This time he was knocked down by a blast of wind and it started to glow and ascend. His watch had stopped, but he discovered from a passing motorcyclist, who gave him a ride, that he had experienced a 45 minute memory lapse. Under hypnosis, he reported having been led inside the object by its operators. They put his briefcase into some kind of device. When taken out again, it was in its present dilapidated condition.

18. Moscow, U.S.S.R. (June 15, 1980).

Lt. Col. Oleg Karyakin observed an object which looked like a bowl reversed on top of a smaller plate hovering about 30 metres from his house. It was emitting a luminous pink vapour and was humming. He tried to approach it, "but was repelled sharply by what seemed to be a totally invisible and insurmountable barrier". The UFO then gave off several blue-green flashes and departed. Several other persons living nearby supposedly witnessed this event, including a man who lives above street level. He claimed he could see an occupant in the saucer through the transparent cupola on top.

Notes and References

1. John Michell & Robert J. M. Rickard. *Phenomena*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1977, p. 95. This business of trying to go one way and then finding oneself walking in the opposite direction might indicate psychic control.

2. Gordon Creighton, *Itaperuna Again*. FSR Vol. 18, No. 2 (March-April 1972), p. 15.
3. Raymond E. Fowler. *The Andreasson Affair, Phase Two*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982, pp. 80-91, 255. Invisible barriers seem to produce no audible sound waves when struck.
4. Richard Farrow, "Landing on Winkleigh Airfield" (Reader's Reports). *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 8* (December 1971), p. 16. See also FSR Vol. 18, No. 3 (May-June 1972), p. iii.
Ron Toft, "The Alleged Landing at Winkleigh" (Reader's Reports). *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 13* (February 1973), p. 16.
5. Gordon Creighton, *Amazing News from Russia*. FSR Vol. 8, No. 6 (November-December 1962), p. 28. An account of this incident was also published in Vol. 18, No. 2, on p. 14. It is, of course, uncertain whether an invisible ray might be responsible for something like this (and Case 12), rather than a "barrier".
6. Ted Phillips, *UFO Events in Missouri 1957-1971*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 8* (December 1971), pp. 10-11. Once again, no sound was produced when the rock struck the barrier.
7. Walter Buhler, *Brazilian Cases in 1968 and 1969 — 4*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 5* (June 1971), p. 10.
8. Anthony J. Brunt, *Two "Creature" Reports from New Zealand*. FSR Vol. 15, No. 4 (July-August 1969), pp. 29-30.
9. Walter Buhler, *Brazilian Cases in 1968 and 1969—Pt. 6*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 7* (October 1971), p. 15.
10. Gordon Creighton, *Itaperuna Again*. FSR Vol. 18, No. 2 (March-April 1972), p. 13.
11. *Cloud Hides UFO*. A.P.R.O. Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 3 (November-December 1973), p. 1, 4.
12. Gordon Creighton (trans.), *Life in the Cosmos*. FSR Vol. 25, No. 1 (January-February 1979), p. 26.
13. Michell & Rickard, p. 95.
14. Walter Buhler, *Extraterrestrial Dwarves Attack Farm Worker*. FSR Vol. 28, No. 1 (August 1982), pp. 5-8.
15. Leslie Harris, *UFO & Silver-Suited Entity Seen Near Winchester*. FSR Vol. 22, No. 5 (February 1977), pp. 3-6. There had been considerable rain around this time, and it is possible the car was just stuck in the mud.
16. W. K. Allan, *The Fort St. James Sightings*. FSR Vol. 24, No. 3 (November 1978), p. 11. This report is not specific as to the nature of the "force". A telepathic force may be meant.
17. *The Abducted Vet and the Frayed Briefcase*. Fortean Times 33 (Autumn 1980), p. 30.
18. Gordon Creighton, *Dr. Felix Zigel' and the Development of Ufology in Russia: Part II*. FSR Vol. 27, No. 4 (January 1982), pp. 15-16.

THE "ANGELS OF MONS"

S. E. Priest

The recent article in FSR 28/6 concerning the Fátima Apparitions prompts me to write a word or two regarding what came to be called the "Angels of Mons" incident.

It happened in 1914, early in World War I. The British Expeditionary Force was retreating across Belgium before a numerically superior German Army. As they reached the Mons area a section of the British Army was in serious danger of encirclement and capture. Soon after, back home in Britain, rumours began to go round that British soldiers at Mons had seen a line of "Angelic Beings" standing between the two armies and holding off the Germans so that the British forces could withdraw in safety. The newspapers carried startling reports and many clergymen spoke of the "Angelic" occurrence in their sermons, but at this distance in time it is difficult to get any real information on a subject which has hitherto been dismissed as just a rumour from a half-forgotten war.

The role of Arthur Machen

I have, however, in my possession a small book written by a well-known writer of the time, Arthur Machen, and published in 1915, about eight months after the alleged incident at Mons. In this book Mr. Machen sets out to explain that, at the time of the Retreat from Mons, he wrote, in a mood of patriotic pride, a short, entirely fictional, story which was published in the London *Evening News* under the title of *The Bowmen*. In this story he described how a line of archers from the Battle of Agincourt appeared between the two armies and drove off the Germans. It was his opinion that this story, appearing as it did at the time in the public press, was the stating point of the legend of "The Angels of Mons".

A Nurse's story

Curiously, because it seemed to go against the point Machen was making, included in this same small book was a copy of a letter printed a month or two before in