

of our most able investigators, interviewed him on November 15, 1978. Many interesting details came to light during our conversation. (One of these was the date of the proposed return meeting which Mr. Amano gave to me in confidence and which I am bound not to reveal for the present.) Based on these

details, the incident now has more of the "feel" of authenticity as far as I am concerned. I propose to discuss the possibilities (at least four hypotheses), and full details of the incident which were revealed to me, in my follow-up report.

THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND UFOS (Continued from page 15).

su Avvistamento di Oggetto Volante non Identificato (UFO Sighting Report.). C.U.N. have long been aware, unofficially, of the existence of this standard report form, because of our off-the-record and unofficial contact over the years with the Air Force and Air Ministry, but this is the first time that it has been made available to us.

It has a total of 27 questions for the UFO percipient to answer.

Notes by Gordon Creighton

1. See FSR, Vol. 24, No. 1. *A Problem for the Italian Minister of Defence?*
2. Dr. Pinotti's official text was written by him in English. I apologise to him for having edited it and re-arranged it here and there.
3. And even from the USSR we have recently been advised of an extremely significant change, which will be reported in FSR in due course.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

To see, and not to hear?

Dear Mr. Bowen,— I am writing concerning the article *Low-Level UFO at Mytchett* (FSR volume 24, No. 1), since I feel that the object seen in fact has a straightforward explanation.

The UFO was seen by two teenage boys and described as a large object with two "headlights" at the front and flashing red lights underneath. The shape was never accurately described, but their illustration shows some type of elevator at the rear, and a row of apparent windows along one side.

I feel that it is highly probable that the UFO was simply an aircraft, since I saw an aircraft recently which gave an identical appearance. It was a blustery and overcast night with low clouds, and the aircraft was flying very low. Two very bright white lights located on the wings, and facing forwards, were reflected off the clouds and gave the appearance of two searchlights, while underneath were flashing red lights. The aircraft's tailplane could just be dimly seen at the rear, and along the side were the windows. Since the aircraft was partially flying through cloud its lights were reflected off them, which would account for the boys' description of the object "... glowing with a misty light as though producing terrific heat." The only difference in my sighting was that I could definitely hear it was an aircraft. However the report mentions that it was a windy and blustery night, so it is not inconceivable that this muffled and distorted the sound.

At first sight my aircraft also looked very weird and spectacular, and

I think it highly probable that two running boys might get over excited and exaggerate the lowness of the object. The fact that the object later seemed stationary could be explained by it approaching or receding directly from the witnesses.

I also feel that this report was given undue attention because of a coincidental similarity with an object seen in 1974. These cases should however be judged on their individual merits.

Of course my explanation falls flat if the sky on January 11, 1978, was clear and cloudless, so it is a pity that Omar Fowler does not state whether the sky was overcast.

Yours sincerely
K. Hodson
46, Gainsborough Gardens,
Edgware,
Middlesex.
Jan. 9, 1979.

I live in a district in Surrey about half-an-hour's drive from London Airport (Heathrow) and some of the flight paths are very close to us. Accordingly I have experience of every kind of civil aircraft from Vanguards and BAC 111s to Concorde and Boeing 747s flying overhead (not to mention helicopters from Farnborough to Cessnas and the like from Chobham). Naturally they come in all kinds of weather, including "windy and blustery" conditions, and gales whistling through the trees that surround us. I've seen many a plane go by, climbing away (or applying reverse thrust if going the other way!) with landing lights probing

the night sky like searchlights, navigation lights flashing, and window ports clearly glowing.

When I read Omar Fowler's item it occurred to me that the lads might have seen a big jet for, after all, Mytchett is close to Farnborough, and not all that far from here, but I dismissed this idea in view of my own experience. For there is no way they could not have heard a plane as close as they described it, storm or no storm! — EDITOR

Pilots and sky objects

Dear Sir,—The recent sighting of a UFO in the Severn Estuary and South Wales area, reported I believe by the Ministry of Defence as probably the burning up on re-entry of part of a Russian rocket, was witnessed at close range from the flight deck of a civil airliner. A discussion took place between the pilots and the radar controller for the sector, in which the controller stated he had no knowledge of another aircraft in the vicinity, also no return on his screen although this latter point is quite probable with modern radar as not all targets are necessarily painted on the screen. The A.T.C.C controller also stated that a ground sighting had been made in Chepstow. A UFO report was filed.

The details are as follows:-

"New Year's Eve 1978, time 1903Z. Sighting time approximately 2 minutes. Position 10 miles south of Brecon VOR heading north on Amber 25 — an airway running North/South, height 31,000 ft. object appeared to

be about 5,000 ft. above (a pure guess as size unknown) and flying level.

"Initial sighting was a bright white light at first, thought to be landing lights, and the aircraft landing lights were shown in response (normal practice these days) and, shortly after, the light which the pilots thought was an aircraft heading south, moved east (an apparent turn possibly only if you visualize the lights pointing forward) and the light developed a tail described as a lit contrail appearance tapering to a point and some ten diameters as long as main light width. As light moved from left to right from a 12 o'clock position to a 2.30 to 3 o'clock position it appeared to become four separate lights, thus, $\begin{matrix} \circ & \circ & \circ \\ & \circ & \circ \end{matrix}$ "

There is little doubt it was not space junk re-entering, although the fact that the Ministry made a statement is enlightening, as they could have remained silent. There are military aircraft in use which could be moving this fast in this area (estimated speed 1,500 miles/hr. plus) but unless in error, would not normally show lights. Tail could be reheat, and four lights could be engines seen from rear. However, until the world stops playing at war all sightings will be hushed up.

Regarding sightings, scientists recently stated that although pilots and other professionals are skilled in their own fields, they know little about astronomical bodies, balloons, etc., and could be misled. This is not fact as many of us are very interested in astronomy, astro-physics etc. and all of us see more balloons, meteorites, etc. in a year than most of the theorists see in a lifetime. There is no doubt that Venus, Jupiter and the odd comet, especially when low in the sky, can mislead but there is usually an interested amateur around who knows where Venus etc. should

be. Besides, it should not prove impossible to orientate photos or film and video tapes taken and, with a fairly accurate time, have a pretty good idea if Venus etc. is the culprit.

Yours faithfully
D. C. Johns,
St. Ives,
Cambridgeshire
January 9, 1979.

[The name of the airline, and the type of aircraft, have been withheld at the writer's request - EDITOR]

Weird explanations

Dear Mr. Bowen,- Let me say that I enjoy reading FSR tremendously, especially the Mail Bag. One point that irritates me a little, though, is to see all the weird and wonderful explanations of UFOs in that feature. If it's not demonic powers taking over the human race, then it's extradimensional intelligences ruling us (J. H. Kaneko's letter FSR 24/3. I do believe this person has got a bit mixed up with the overself that exists in a higher dimension and has nothing to do with UFOs as such).

Please tell my why everyone believes that every UFO is either this, that or the other? Do they all have to be of one source? Why can't people accept the fact that other people live on worlds just like us, and they probably have families, and worries, and long to get out of their rat race too. These beings may also have a desire to "reach for the stars" as we do, only they have succeeded. Why does everyone assume that there must be some mystical and power-seeking reason behind them?

Of course not all UFOs are of the same type so some probably do have these reasons, but please don't assume that they are all one and the same

thing. After all, do all Chinamen come from China?

Yours sincerley
Tricia Mooney (Mrs.)

[They're bound to be something, and while we do not know what they are, poeple are bound to speculate. It is up to the reader to decide whether the speculations are wild or not - which is what Mrs. Mooney seems to have done - EDITOR]

CE III K again

Dear Sir,- I am writing in response to a letter published in FSR, Vol, 24, No. 2, sent by a Mrs. Helen Frank of Macon, Georgia. She asserts that the movie CE III K was disgusting and disappointing. Well, I totally disagree.

She pointed out in her letter that none of the UFOs in the movie fitted the descriptions of UFOs reported by witnesses in the UFO case. That is totally incorrect, as glowing spherical and conical-shaped UFOs are frequently reported.

She also stamps her feet on the fact that in one scene of the movie some toys and appliances go berserk (such EM effects are reported in some instances involving UFOs, especially after visits by MIB) and throws the baby into Dr. Hynek's lap (Dr. J. A. Hynek was the chief technical adviser for the movie, and is the world's foremost authority on UFOs) for giving the "OK" on such things. Well I should point out that there are many aspects of the movie which don't fit the framework of ufology, but I should also remind Mrs. Frank that the movie after all was stated to be science fiction, and as for that, I am sure Dr. Hynek enjoys a good science fiction now and then.

Yours sincerley
Michael La Bonte,
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A WEIRD TALE FROM THE VIENNA WOODS

Gordon Creighton

A fifty-year-old Austrian named Josef Wanderka has sent us a lengthy account of several UFO sightings he claims to have had at various times and, in particular, of a close encounter that allegedly took place in August or September of 1955. Herr Wanderka's style is verbose in the extreme, and on top of that he is afflicted with a dreadful inability, so it seems, to write anything without lacing it generously with left-wing political propoganda. Should the reader find it queer that this gentleman has preserved total silence — as he claims — for 23 years about his UFO experience, one can but quote Herr Wanderka's own explanation, which is that he has never wanted to have any dealings with individual investigators or with UFO research groups in Austria because these folk — every man jack of them — “are all Nazis.” (A proposition which I find myself quite unable to believe and I don't think many other people believe it either.)

Nevertheless we have this man's weird story, and, FSR being a forum for discussion, it seemed to me worthwhile to make a précis translation of those passages in his German article which bear upon our subject of UFOs, while omitting the sections in which he gives rein to his obsessive political rantings. As regards the tricky problem of the reliability of this story, Herr Wanderka's address is given below.¹ Perhaps some of our friends and readers in Austria will be good enough to go and see him and let us know in due course what opinion they have formed regarding his claims.

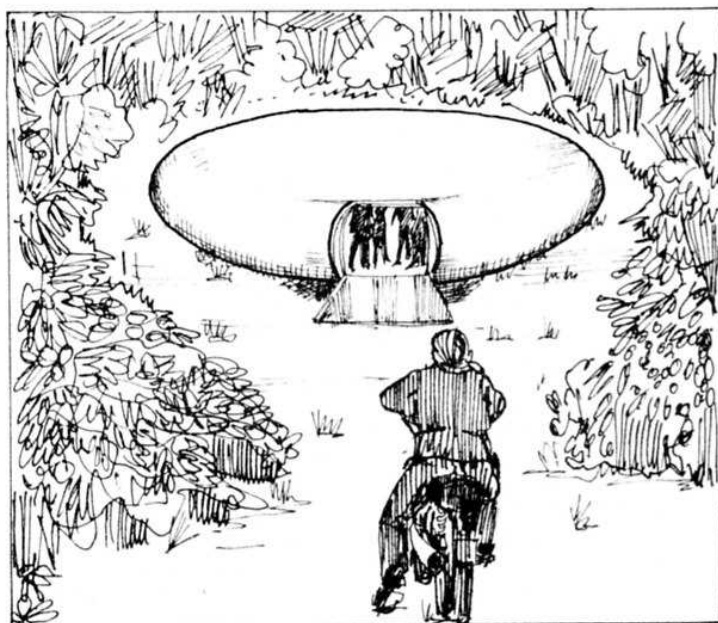
Before we come to his close encounter of 1955, a few words may be in order about another sighting that Herr Wanderka claims to have had one summer evening a year earlier, that is to say in 1954.

Josef Wanderka owned a powered cycle, and was extremely fond of making little excursions on it through that delightful country-side which lies so close at hand just outside Vienna. He claims that on the occasion in question he observed a powerful illuminated, silvery, cigar-shaped object flying slowly across the sky over Vienna, at approximately the speed of a small sports plane, as he estimated it. He thought the craft was possibly about five kilometres distant from him, and possibly more or less of the size (in terms of 1978) of a modern airliner. So far as he could detect, the thing seemed to be totally silent. He dismounted from his cycle and stood in a field beside the road to watch it, and got into conversation with a group of Russian soldiers² who were stationed nearby. The soldiers told him that they had often seen this silvery cigar. And one of them, “half seriously and half in jest,” added that it was of course a new Soviet secret weapon.³

We come now to the encounter, which Herr Wanderka says took place about 2.00 or 3.00 p.m. one day at the end of August or beginning of September in 1955. He was again on his powered cycle and was riding along a path through a belt of woodland about 25 kilometres to the south-west of Vienna, when suddenly his attention was drawn to something of a dull metallic colour among the trees. So he rode off along a side path towards it, and suddenly found himself only 20 metres or so from a disc-shaped craft standing in a clearing. It was about ten or twelve metres wide and 2½ metres high, with no external signs of portholes or, seemingly, of any undercarriage or legs, as it was sitting directly upon the grass. There was however a roughly rectangular opening on the side of the machine facing him, with a ramp about four metres long and two metres wide running up to it.

The whole appearance of the craft was that of a completely plain, smooth, squat metallic machine, with no exterior embellishments or trappings. Through the open door he could see that the interior seemed to be illuminated by a pleasant sort of light, and he got a sudden inspiration to ride straight up the ramp and into the disc. He did so, and at once found himself surrounded by five or six people about 1 metre 80 cms. in height. (He gives his own height as 1 metre 78 cms., and says he remained there, seated in his saddle throughout the experience.)

Herr Wanderka says the beings had beautiful



Wanderka's encounter: heading for the ramp.