

UFOs and Fourth Dimension

by Luis Schoenherr

The author of this article is a civil servant who has for the last ten years written articles on scientific and technical subjects. His first approach to flying saucers was one of scepticism, but having started to collect reports his interest was aroused and as the data accumulated he finally became a believer. He is aged 35 and lives at Innsbruck, Austria.

ONE of the most interesting features in UFO reports is the apparent dematerialisation of such objects. The observers frequently persist in stating that UFOs disappeared before being hidden by clouds or before reaching the horizon or even that they disappeared in the vicinity of the ground. In case of an unexpected observation (and practically all UFO sightings are unexpected) it is unfortunate that most of the witnesses are unable to tell us exactly in which manner the object appeared. Sometimes UFOs disappear in the same mysterious manner.

According to practical experience as well as to prevailing physical theories the annihilation of mass must create energy. The mass-energy ratio is a very high one. It is quite obvious that you cannot explain the dematerialisation of UFOs that way. They dematerialise without any noise. Sometimes the process is accompanied by a flash. But never an excessive amount of energy has been observed in such cases and there is often no evidence of radioactivity.

Another explanation is that the objects do not really disappear. Instead they become transparent. Now, the UFOs are probably machines built of metal. Observers who came close enough have reported a metallic noise when the objects touched the ground. UFOs have even been fired on in two cases, when a metallic noise was heard.¹ We must also

remember the frequently reported metallic appearance which is capable of causing a radar echo. To make metal transparent, the molecular structure of it must be altered by some means. But this could certainly not be done without changing the physical properties such as the strength or the electrical conductivity. It seems impossible to submit the complex apparatus of a space-craft to such a process without disturbing all the functions.

Alternatively, it could be that UFOs—or some of them—may be objects which enter our three-dimensional space coming from a fourth dimension. There is nothing wrong with the concept of the fourth dimension. Mathematicians have sufficiently proved that it involves no contradiction whatever to logic or to geometry.

Besides the phenomenon of dematerialisation and materialisation there are certain (electromagnetic?) effects which seem to indicate a relationship between UFOs and this fourth dimension. But, those effects must not necessarily be considered as ordinary force fields merely superimposed on the force fields of some apparatus such as an ignition system, etc., thus causing the devices to fail. If the UFOs come from another dimension we have to take into consideration that their appearance causes some changes in the structure of our three-dimensional space itself, in

the way that the surface of the ocean is disturbed when a submarine emerges from the depths.

Between these two examples there is a noteworthy difference. In the first instance we can protect our devices by proper shields so as to prevent interference. In the second, nothing of that sort is possible, because it is the space itself which is influenced. It should be possible to distinguish between these two effects by experiment. But as the phenomenon we are dealing with is rather rare, the difficulty is to get the measuring equipment at the place when the event and where the event occurs.

The only explanation of the second type of phenomenon we know at the moment is gravitation. It is interesting to note that, according to some reports in cases of dematerialisation, the effects of a strong gravitation-like force field have been observed.²

There is even some evidence that UFOs are able to dematerialise other objects, if the conclusions drawn from some radar observations (and not only from them) are correct.³ In my opinion this could only be the result of shifting the objects into another dimension inaccessible to us. It is certainly difficult to imagine a physical materialisation or dematerialisation process, but it may be mentioned that under certain conditions the application of extremely strong gravitational fields could cause a material object to disappear from our space.⁴

As to the relationship between UFOs and fourth dimension I should like to suggest in principle the following possibilities:

1. The fourth dimension is a means of connection between different three-dimensional spaces. Centuries ago, Zöllner, Fechner and Du Prel tried to explain materialisation and dematerialisation by the supposition of the existence of a fourth dimension. If such phenomena can be produced only rarely by the assistance of a medium, this is no proof that somewhere intelligent beings might not have succeeded in creating such effects by technical means at will.

2. Space travellers are indeed coming from outer space but they use the fourth dimension for their voyages. It seems that travelling from a point of our universe to another via the fourth dimension involves a byway. But this ought not to be true. An aircraft which climbs to the stratosphere does not take the shortest route. But, in spite of that, the greater height enables the pilot to reach his destination faster.

The advantages in using the fourth dimension may be similar. Perhaps it allows higher velocities or it could even make completely new methods of transportation possible.

3. The UFOs are not three-dimensional but actually four-dimensional objects. What we can see of a UFO is only the projection of its fourth dimensional structure on our three-dimensional space, as a circle is the projection of a cylinder on a plane. In this case, the frequently reported changing of shapes would be due to varying angles of projection and movements of those objects in their four-dimensional universe. Our three-dimensional space would be a part only of their four-dimensional space as the two-dimensional square is a part of the three-dimensional cube.

4. Present physical theories use a four-dimensional continuum whereby the fourth dimension is considered to be formally identical with time.⁵ It is essential to point out that according to this

mathematical concept movements in all four dimensions must be possible. There is no difference between time and space; there is only the continuum. It has been said that this continuum is only a mathematical device in order to obtain an economical description of physical events and it has nothing to do with the true nature of space and time. As far as I know, there are no grounds for this view. If the contrary is true, if this model does actually fit the real nature of the universe, the fourth dimension is not merely a concept but is actually identical with time. In this case, a movement in time should be just as possible as movement in space and the UFOs may therefore be what H. G. Wells would have called "time machines."

This conclusion is certainly difficult to digest. But there are some details in the reports of contactees which seem to give the hypothesis some reasonable chance of being correct.

(a) Some landing reports mention beings without space suits. If they are really coming from another planet why should they be so careless as to expose themselves unprotected to our atmosphere?⁶

(b) Some of them are said to resemble the inhabitants of the earth.⁶ But if we consider that on earth comparatively insignificant differences in climate have produced very different races it is highly improbable that there would not be essential differences between those visitors and ourselves.

(c) Sometimes those visitors—so it is alleged—use an earthly language.⁶

(d) Their behaviour indicates that there are certain relationships between them and us. For example, it has been reported that these beings have apparently tried to get some information and they seemed to be disappointed or even angry when they realised that they were not understood. From the various stories about Springheel Jack, for instance, one must get the impression that he was looking for somebody. (See

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1961.)

If the details referred to above are not simply the inventions of fraudulent contactees there are only two possible explanations:

(a) The visitors are indeed coming from another planet of this universe but they are perfectly accustomed to conditions here and they are, as it happens, of the same family as man.

(b) They are from this earth, but they are coming from another time. (There may also be time travellers from other planets, of course.)

The latter suggestion is a highly speculative one. But those who believe that only the present is real, may be reminded that what we call "the present" is merely the infinitely small border between future and past. And that this border, without any dimension in time, would be real? If it seems to be so, this is due only to the peculiarities of our consciousness, which comprehends the immediate future and the immediate past as a unique experience, thus giving us the illusion that the present is real. But actually the reverse is the truth. Physically there is no present. We are living between future and past, remembering and foreseeing the things that have gone and those that are to come. The fact that events of a far future have sometimes been exactly foretold may also be mentioned in favour of this view. How should true prophecy be possible, if there is not a connection between the event to come and the prophet? But if the event should effect the prophet's imagination, then it must be real.

If we undertake some speculation about our hypothetical time machine we can reach the conclusion that the craft must have the properties of a space ship. If a time traveller wants to journey, say, from the year 2000 back to 1963 he would have to follow the course of the earth in the four-dimensional continuum with the utmost precision, in order to avoid leaving the earth's surface or atmosphere. I doubt that this is possible. There is an inevitable

inaccuracy in every navigational system. However, if one may imagine a navigation in four dimensions it would certainly be subject to some degree of inaccuracy. In this case our time traveller could not be certain that he would manage to stay on the earth's surface or at least in the atmosphere while travelling in time. It is highly probable that he would soon find himself in space, perhaps far away from the earth. As deviation from a true course would be the greater the longer the voyage lasted, one could suppose that the UFOs which materialise within our atmosphere have covered only a short distance in time; that means that they are coming from the "near" future. This could also explain why the materialisation of UFOs has so seldom been observed whereas dematerialisation is more common. The chance of seeing them at their moment of arrival in our time is only a very small one.

On the other hand, you cannot absolutely exclude the possibility that an object, while travelling in time or when attempting to materialise, could collide with some other object already existing in space, e.g. our earth. What would happen? Would there be a collision at all?

There are reports on materialisation phenomena during which other objects have been supplanted by the materialising structure. As to the UFOs, a few of them have been seen coming out from the sea. Is this where they have materialised?⁷

Unfortunately it is impossible to deal in this article with the question of determinism and causality which arises in connection with my suggestions. But I should like to mention that in my opinion the hypothesis of time machines does not necessarily involve an absolute determinism, because there may be a multitude of worlds in which all possibilities we can think of are realised.

I do not want to imply that one of the hypotheses outlined in this

article should be considered as a definite explanation of the UFO phenomenon and I leave it to the reader to judge the value of my

suggestions. But, speaking for myself I am convinced that the key to the riddle will be found somewhere in this direction.

NOTES

¹ Wickford (Essex), December 28, 1956, reported in the London *Sunday Chronicle*, January 6, 1957, and Poquoson (Virginia), October 19, 1959, reported by N.I.C.A.P.

² France, autumn, 1954.

³ I refer to the incidents of:

(a) Kimross (Michigan), November 23, 1953, reported by Keyhoe.

(b) Hokkaido (Japan), October, 1952.

(c) The disappearing of an F-86 interceptor and of a transport plane with 26 passengers reported by Comella in *Fate*, May, 1961.

(d) Twin Falls (Idaho), dematerialisation of a bull by an UFO, reported by the *Idaho Post Register*, September 7, 1956.

⁴ According to an astrophysical theory put forward by Prof. Pascual Jordan.

⁵ e.g. the theory of relativity.

⁶ In the following alleged cases man-like beings without space suits, partly using a known language, have been observed.

Date	Locality	Observer	Language
August 20, 1954	Mosjoen (Norway)	Jacobson and Solvang	not understood
October 4, 1954	Chaleix (France)	Garreau	not understood
October 20, 1954	Raon l'Etape (France)	Ujvari	Russian
September 10, 1954	Plateau de Mill-evaches (France)	Mazaud	not understood
Summer, 1956	Sao Sebastiao (Brazil)	Guimaraes	—
September 27, 1957	Bressuire (France)	Girardo	—
November 5, 1957	Kearney (Nebraska, U.S.A.)	Schmidt*	German
November 5, 1957	Jonesville (Virginia, U.S.A.)	Seabolt	English
November 6, 1957	Playa del Rey (California, U.S.A.)	Kehoe and others*	English
November 6, 1957	Dante (Tennessee, U.S.A.)	Clark	German?
October, 1958	Snyders Lake, New York, U.S.A.)	Robinson	English
April 18, 1961	Eagle River (Wisconsin, U.S.A.)	Simonton	—

* The assertions of Schmidt and Kehoe (no relation, of course, to the well-known Major Donald Keyhoe of N.I.C.A.P.) have been seriously doubted.

⁷ I refer to the following cases:

(a) The observation made by the crew of the brig *Victoria* in the Mediterranean on June 18, 1845. (Report of the British Association, 1861.)

(b) The object seen by the crew of the steamer *Siberian* near Cape Race in 1887. (*L'Astronomie*, 1887, *American Meteorological Journal*.)

(c) Possibly the UFO observed and visited by Prof. Guimaraes also came out from the sea.

(d) According to rumours in 1960 an unidentified object—300 feet long, shape of a rocket—was detected about 16 miles east of Sidney, 500 feet below the surface. It was said, that naval authorities denied that it might have been a submarine.

DID UFOs STOP A WAR?

By W. R. DRAKE

IF the histories of mankind are re-examined, many strange incidents hitherto baffling may be resolved by the acceptance of intervention by UFOs. Such an event in the year A.D. 776 was chronicled by an unknown French monk in the *Annales Laurissenses* and paralleled by the *Annales Eginhardi*, the latter compiled by Abbot Einhard, the contemporary biographer of Charlemagne. These works in Latin are printed in Migne's *Patrologiae*, Tomus CIV dealing with the ninth century; as far as the present writer knows, his own translation is the only English version extant. From his capital, Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen), Charlemagne (742-814), the "Light of the Dark Ages," had created the Holy Roman Empire, including the future France, Germany, Italy and Austria, and united Christendom into one community, a glorious, imaginative, super-national state. The Emperor's many subjects rebelled against imperialism and Charles was constantly warring to suppress national revolts over all his vast domains. A literal translation of the *Annales Laurissenses* for the year A.D. 776 reads:

DCCLXXVI [A.D. 776]

"Then our Lord, Charles the King, went forth into Italy to assault the lands around Foruli, Hrodgaudus was killed, and our above-mentioned King Charles (Charlemagne) celebrated Easter with the citizens of Tarvisium. The citizens captured at Foruli, with the citizens left behind at Tarvisium who had rebelled, he distributed them all among the French, and again with prosperity and victory he returned to France. Then a messenger arrived announcing that the Saxons had rebelled and massacred all their hostages, and had broken their solemn oaths. They had pacified the castle at Aeresburg by evil and sinister ingenuity, thereupon persuading the French to leave, so that when Aeresburg was abandoned by the French they destroyed its walls and fortifications. Advancing from there they sought to do likewise at Sigiburg. The French with the aid of God opposed them courageously so they in no way prevailed. (But to pacify the garrison within the fortress, they (the Saxons) were unable to destroy them as they had done the others in the other castle, so they began to

prepare their forces and catapults to capture it by valour. God willing, the balista of stones, which they had set up, did more damage to themselves than to those living in the fortress. Now when the Saxons perceived things were not going in their favour, they began to erect scaffolding from which they could bravely storm the castle itself. But God is good as well as just. He overcame their valour, and on the same day they prepared an assault against the Christians, who lived within the castle, the glory of God appeared in manifestation above the church within the fortress. Those watching outside in that place, of whom many still live to this very day, say they beheld the likeness of two large shields reddish in colour in motion above the church (*et dicunt vidisse instar duorum scutorum colore rubeo flammantes et agitantes supra ipsam ecclesiam*), and when the pagans who were outside saw this sign, they were at once thrown into confusion and terrified with great fear they began to flee from the castle. The whole multitude in panic were driven to take headlong flight, some killed others indiscriminately, glancing back in panic then hurling their spears, which they carried by their shoulder, at those fleeing before them; others were struck by blows among themselves, and by the divine retribution judged down upon them. How the goodness of God for the deliverance of the Christians had worked upon them, none could relate, but the greater the Saxons became terrified by increasing fear, so much more were the Christians comforted and they praised the omnipotence of the Lord, Who had graciously extended his power over His servants.)

"And as the Saxons took flight from there, the French harried them, slaying them as far as the River Lippy. The castle was saved and the French returned victorious. And when our Lord, King Charles, came to Worms and heard of all these events, he began a meeting of the people held with public acclaim. After the council had met, with the aid of God, by swiftness and great enterprise, he suddenly stormed the Saxon strongholds and defences. The terrified Saxons all assembled at the place where the Lippy rises, coming from all parts they surrendered their country in a bond given by all present; they