

It is possible that they had been scrambled to follow the unknown, although military activity is not uncommon in the area at all times.

* [Beddelert — pronounced Bethgelert — means “Grave of Gelert.” Gelert was the faithful hound tragically killed by mistake by his master, Prince Llewelyn who, at the end of

the 13th and beginning of the 14th Centuries, fought a long and courageous fight against the English under Edward I. The grave may still be seen in this village which was more recently famed for being the headquarters of the makers of the epic film *Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, starring Ingrid Bergmann. Readers who saw the film will recall the wild beauty of the mountains—EDITOR].

MAIL BAG

Bible warning

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I have had it put to me that flying saucers, UFOs etc., are delusions as are warned against in the Christian Bible (second book Thessalonians, Chapter 2, verses 10-11). How should one best answer such ideas?

The passage does seem to talk about some kind of deliberate campaign of apparent happenings with an otherworldly flavour. These have the appearance of being true happenings but aren't really.

How can one best refute the arguments raised in the Bible and convince people that UFOs really exist?

Yours etc.,

J. Wadkin,

2 Crawford Rise, Maidenhead, Berks.
November 26, 1977

For years we have asked ourselves the important question: are UFOs solid space-travelling objects carrying extraterrestrial visitors, or are they something less obvious than that? Are the majority of the things that people see no more than illusory objects induced by some means into the minds of the percipients by some external power, or UFO (itself encountered on the other rare occasions) which aims, perhaps, to control the minds of the human race? Is the UFO frame of reference — in the illusory sense — used as a decoy to divert the attention of human observers while the main purpose is conducted unobserved and unopposed?

This naturally sounds evil, but not all the UFO evidence points to evil intent. It is in the nature of things that good invariably counters evil, and this is what most of us yearn for.

These ideas have been touched on, or discussed, in a number of FSR editorial leaders, with “More Beliefs” (Vol.20, No.6) and “Alarm Bells ringing?” (Vol.23, No.3) springing readily to mind.

It would seem therefore that it may not be advisable to refute the arguments raised in the Bible; the ancients, and particularly the Prophets,

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.

may well have known a thing or two. Indeed the arguments raised in the Bible may be used to strengthen our belief that UFOs do exist, and that we should beware the intent of many of them, which could well be put into effect in a guise wherein they are the denizens of the “good” forces. (Fortifying ourselves the while with the “good” picture prominent in our minds of the translation of Elijah at the end of his time on Earth, as portrayed in the Bible.)—EDITOR

Blobs and gear

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Has anybody noticed the resemblance of the “blobs” under the Nelson Lancs craft (Vol.23, No.2 1977) to those of Adamski's scout ship photo? I personally never did think they were landing gear. Cheers for now,
Tom Powell,
50 Warren Farm, Pyrford, Surrey.

The lonely percipient

Dear Sir,—I detail the events of yesterday evening Monday, November 28, 1977, in some sort of order.

At 6 p.m. I listened to *Day by Day* on Southern TV, during which I heard a recording of the “alien voice” that cut out the news programme on Saturday — in case anyone hasn't told you as yet, the recording was accompanied by serious warnings to people not to panic, and brief references to other “scarey” items such as the Orson Welles broadcast and one I didn't know about, the “tidal wave” item that apparently put France into a panic in 1947.

At 8.15 the same evening I decided one of our “stray” cats ought to be put out so I went out into the garden and put him well out, and, as is my habit, looked up at the somewhat cloudy sky and was, to put it mildly, transfixed!

Hovering above my house, below the scudding clouds, was a large seemingly circular object, with coloured lights underneath — in the few seconds I watched it I could remember, afterwards, a red light at the “front”,

a green light on one of the other edges, and a white light underneath. Actually this latter was more yellow than white.

The light underneath illuminated the undersurface of the object.

I just had time to pick out these features before I shot into the house and grabbed my binoculars from the door, shouted to my wife to come out quick, and was possibly ten to twenty seconds in this. When I re-appeared outside no sign of the object anywhere could be seen.

I stayed outside for ten minutes, but no good, it was gone.

I have a good field of view from where I am. No way could the object have gone completely from view in that short time, and having been used to the many aircraft that take off and land at nearby Southampton (Eastleigh) airport I can follow them for quite a while, normally.

I telephoned the local Police. Frankly I was stunned, although it wasn't my first sighting as you know, but this was so close! They hadn't had any reports.

I telephoned Eastleigh (Airport) and they were closed!

Not quite knowing what to do I telephoned the Royal Observer Corps HQ at Winchester. A very helpful gentleman complained that ‘they had no eyes’ these days to investigate the sky but put me on to Air Traffic Control at Middle Wallop, Wiltshire, the Army Air Force, who, he said, maintain a radar watch.

No one there could throw any light on the matter — it would seem that our radar defences go to sleep after eight o'clock — I hope I'm very wrong in that idea!

Then I telephoned Jenny Randles at Manchester having read about the UFOIN structure in FSR — we had a brief but interesting chat and thro' Jenny I spoke to John Ledner at Ringwood, Hants...

Yours truly,

Ernest A. Sears,
12a Westridge Road,
Portsmouth, Southampton.
November 29, 1977.

[That, I confess, is an extract from

MAIL BAG (concluded)

Mr. Sears' long letter, which details many other frustrations. All of which

goes to underline one simple little fact, and that is that UFOs can often be very selective — an individual phenomenon, if you like. Even one

person in a crowd has been known to have had such an experience, not a soul around him seeing anything!—
EDITOR].

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

Disappearing lorry?

In a reader's letter that was published by the *Daily Express* of September 20, 1977, we detect a note of exasperation,—

"Have we got another Bermuda Triangle — this time over England? On September 11 my husband and I were stopped by a driver outside Downham Market, Norfolk, who asked if we could direct him to the A1 going North. We told him to follow our car.

"There he was, for mile after mile on our tail until we came to a bend. Then he vanished. We went looking for him. I even climbed a bank and scanned the flat countryside.

"There were only two roads, We were on one and he hadn't passed us, so we went haring off down the road in case he had turned off. Nothing.

"How is it possible for a 70ft lorry carrying a boat as high as a house to just disappear into thin air?"

The letter was signed by (Mrs.) G. Allum, Peterborough, Cambs.

Credit: J.W. Goodes of Collyweston, Stamford, Lincs.

England

"Alien" voice cuts in on TV news

From the Southampton *Echo* of Monday, November 28, 1977, we learn that:—

"That Phantom Voice from Beyond which caused a supernatural break in Southern Television's 5.05 ITN News bulletin on Saturday, remains an alien mystery.

"What is known, however, is that, visitors from Outer Space apart, it was someone with considerable knowledge of electronics.

"The Voice which proclaimed doom to the Earth unless it laid down its arms, was in fact heard only by Hannington Transmitter viewers — a triangular area between Newbury, Basingstoke and Andover and serving the Thames Valley and Reading district.

"One Bitterne viewer, at least, heard the doom-laden message, and a Southern Press Office spokesman

thought that was possibly due to the fact that some TV aerials are pointed to Hannington for better reception.

"To achieve such a fearful feat — and many viewers were upset by the extermination threat from outer space — the owner of the Voice would have needed technical know-how.

"The Post Office and the IBA monitoring unit have since been trying to find out how the Voice managed to over-ride the news broadcast.

"It was an elaborate hoax (or hopefully it was a hoax) which could cost the hoaxer a £200 fine.

"Southern Television, not amused by it at all, say it's difficult to know whether it could happen again.

"But turning the transmitters to put some fear into the hoaxer himself, they add: 'Needless to say — the Home Office are alerted.'"

Credit: E. Sears of Porstwood, Southampton.

[I am told on good authority that this interference with, and interloping into, a TV broadcast would be an extremely difficult thing to do, requiring sophisticated and expensive equipment — unless, of course, it was a hoax by someone on the inside.—EDITOR]

England

Taking the plunge

Despite advice to the contrary from well-wishers, the Earl of Clancarty (formerly Brinsley le Poer Trench), has taken the plunge. In the London *Evening Standard* of December 1, 1977, we read how,—

"After two uneventful years in the House of Lords, the Earl of Clancarty has broken his silence with three momentous questions asking the Government if it is taking measures to deal with unidentified flying objects.

" 'I have been sitting pretty until now,' said the 66-year-old Earl, whose publications include *The Sky People* and *The Flying Saucer Story*. 'This is my special subject, you know.'

"Lord Clancarty wanted the Government to tell him if our police force have been officially instructed to collect reports and investigate UFOs like the French gendarmerie who apparently play a crucial part in sightings.

"To his distress Lord Harris replied that the Government had no knowledge of what Lord Clancarty was talking about, and added:

"The jurisdiction and powers of the police are normally confined to terrestrial activities but I have every confidence that should an occasion arise where there is evidence that a UFO has landed within a police area, the police force concerned will investigate it with their customary vigour."

"The indefatigable Clancarty was far from happy with this answer. 'I didn't think much of it,' he said."

Portugal

Car-pacing UFO

The following is a précis translation from the Portuguese newspaper, the *O Jornal*, Lisbon, of September 23, 1977. The item took the form of a letter from a reader of the newspaper:

"At about 21.45 on August 3, 1977, when my wife (22), my sister-in-law (20), my brother-in-law (15) and I (22) were driving from Fátima to Torres Novas we came upon something rather strange. It was already the dead of night, the sky was overcast and not a single star could be seen. I was driving and, when taking a curve near an intersection called "Videla" noticed that there was an intense light on the horizon. A helicopter, I thought. Nevertheless, when I reached the straight stretch after the curve, I was curious enough to want to see the "helicopter" again. To my great surprise I noticed that it was anything but a helicopter, and still less an aeroplane.

"A yellowish, very bright and roundish body was hovering in the sky. Three beams of light stood out clearly from it, and these were even more yellowish than the rest. I alerted my wife and the others, and I stopped the car.

"No sooner had I done this than we were astonished to see the object begin to move towards us, increasing apparently in size as it did so. Somewhat frightened we set off again, at a snail's pace, and without losing sight of the object. We now had an

even greater surprise for the UFO had stopped coming towards us and now seemed to be escorting us along, on a course parallel with ours.

"We stopped again, the object once again moving towards us but by now we were all thoroughly scared, and the others urged me to drive off quickly. In my haste I stalled the engine, and at that point we saw another car approaching, which was good. So we turned our attention to the object once again and, to our surprise, saw it for only a few seconds more. While we were looking at it it just vanished, which was a pity for we hoped the occupants of the other car would see it.

"It did not move or fly away at a great speed; it just disappeared. My wife says she saw a white vertical track upwards where it disappeared. I frankly saw no track.

"The observation lasted for about two minutes at the most. The engine of the car behaved normally."

"Signed — identified reader"

Credit: Frederico Leal, Ermesinde, Portugal, to whom we are also indebted for the translation.

United States of America

CIA sued over UFOs

From an issue of the London daily newspaper *The Sun* which appeared during the week ending December 3, 1977,—

"A court battle to make the CIA reveal all it knows about flying saucer visits to Earth has been launched by an American lawyer.

"Mr. Henry Rothblatt — who defended the Watergate burglars — claims the CIA has been withholding vital facts since it started files on the saucer mystery in 1952.

"He says he was refused the information on the grounds that it would threaten national security.

Mr. Rothblatt is suing the CIA in a Brooklyn court on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch Incorporated, an organisation dedicated to solving the UFO mystery.

"The public are entitled to the truth," he said.

Credit: R.A. MacEwen of Acton, London W3.

United States of America

Fancy that!

Meanwhile, we pick up an item from an earlier issue of the *Echo*, which appeared on November 21, 1977,—

"The launch of the European Space Agency's first weather satellite, Meteosat 1, was postponed last night for the second time.

"Space Agency officials at Cape

Canaveral, Florida, said they called off the launch when they discovered radio signals of unknown origin in a frequency band used for the rocket's self-destruct system.

"A new launch date for the satellite was expected to be set in a few days. The satellite will provide weather photographs and information for Europe every half-hour..."

Credit: E. Sears, Portswood.

Peru

UFO kidnap alleged

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razon* of December 31, 1976, carried an ANSA report from *La Prensa* of Lima, capital of Peru, to the effect that a Peruvian woman, Candelaria Tucto Chilon, and her two-month-old baby daughter had been kidnapped by a UFO in the high sierra region of Cajabamba, in the Department of Cajamarca, central Peru.

The affair was reported to the newspaper by several peasants from the same district as Sr. Candelaria Chilon. According to these peasants, there were at least five other witnesses of the kidnapping, in addition to themselves. They said the UFO was saucer-shaped and of a dazzling violet colour. It appeared suddenly just as Sra. Candelaria and her child were getting ready to return home from the fields.

Credit and translation: Miss Jane Thomas, Buenos Aires.

Peru

Three-fingered dwarfs

The English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* of January 12, 1977 carried a Reuters report from Lima, Peru, about a twenty-year-old Peruvian university student, Jorge Alvarez, who, in a radio broadcast in a programme entitled "Interplanetary Contacts", claimed that he had been saved from drowning by weird little humanoids.

He said that he had been going down to the bank of a river in Huanuco Province (420 km. east of Lima) to get water, when he fell into a swamp. He was sinking rapidly and had given up all hope, when "four scaly little creatures of human appearance, but with three fingers on each hand," came suddenly, and, grunting and gesticulating, extended several branches with which they pulled him on to the dry land. He then collapsed with exhaustion and, on recovering, found that the little creatures had vanished.

Alvares described them as less than one metre in height, and covered with green scales. Their three-fingered hands

were cold and clammy. A local UFO investigation group known as the Peruvian Institute of Interplanetary Relations (sponsors of the radio programme) were reported to be taking an interest in the case and their president, Sr. Carlos Paz Garcia, was planning to lead a party to investigate this case at the site.

Credit: Miss Jane Thomas, Buenos Aires.

Uruguay

UFO bends refrigerator!

According to *La Razon* (Buenos Aires) of October 19, 1976, an ANSA news agency report from Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, said that that country had been undergoing a spate of UFO visitations. At Paso de los Toros, a town 200 km. north-east of Montevideo, the local UFO investigation group CITOVNI had come up with one of the most fantastic cases ever recorded. For about ten days running UFOs were active over the area. One man reported that, as a UFO passed overhead, his refrigerator was bent right out of shape. The eyewitness described the UFO as "like an enormous mercury lamp, very luminous, and silver-coloured." Other local residents claimed that UFOs had left the batteries of their cars flat or had caused bottles to explode.

Credit and translation: Miss Jane Thomas, Buenos Aires.

Uruguay

Abduction attempted?

The Buenos Aires paper *La Razon* (June 26, 1977) carried a U.P. report from Montevideo that local authorities were investigating a mysterious occurrence in the north-eastern Department of Treinta y Tres, where a thirteen-year-old boy, Jose Denis, claimed he had been the object of an abduction attempt by a UFO. He had been to night-classes, and was returning to his grand-parents' home at Villa Sara, 5 km. from Treinta y Tres, when he saw "something like small luminous stars coming together like a whirlpool. They were bright but did not flash. I was scared and felt paralyzed. Then I felt that a force was trying to take me upwards towards the light, which had now grown bigger. I clung with all my might to a post and yelled for help. After that I remember nothing more. When I awoke, I was at home." The police were having the boy examined by psychiatrists and specialists.

Credit and translation: Miss Jane Thomas, Buenos Aires.