Price Sixpence SPRING, 1953.

FLYING SAUCER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL of the FLYING SAUCER CLUB

QUICKENING PACE ?

WHAT may perhaps prove to be the most important development for some time, is that we have had news of the formation of two organisations whose purpose is that of investigating the Saucer phenomenon.

The "Auckland Star", reporting several saucer sightings, quotes the president of CIVILIAN SAUCER INVESTIGATION (New Zealand)... then we learn that in Paris, the French ministry of Information recently opened a "DEPARTMENT OF FLYING SAUCERS" - this news followed hard on the report of five officials from Le Bourget airport who affirmed sighting their flying saucer over Paris. It was said to be "streaking along at 800 mph...."

The more organisations there are for the investigation of the phenomena, the sooner the mystery may be solved. The problem is, that so very, very few of these "sightings" are by now not attributable to some "natural" cause. If anyone sees something in the least unusual in the sky nowadays - it immediately becomes a "Flying Saucer".

We must remember that the original ones, as seen by Mr.Kenneth Arnold, were described as "shiny metallic discs", and were seen in the daytime.

New reports of this type of aerial disc have been coming in from Japan (see note p.5), so that these are apparently still with us - but the very large majority of 'saucer' reports from all areas are thos of nocturnal lights.

These may quite well be - and in some cases definitely <u>are</u> - entirely different phenomena altogether, and quite unconnected with 'saucers' generally.

However, it is as well to remember also that even some of these have been known to chase fighter-planes, and even guided missiles.

Despite this, we should like to suggest that a new name be found for these night objects, so as to distinguish them from the more clearly discernible objects observed by the light of day.

----- R.H.

TITO'S SAUCERS

Shortly before the Marshal visited Britain in February, "Flying Saucers" were flown over districts of Belgrade, at varying speeds and heights. Belgrade radio stated that the 'saucers' had been built by the Yugoslav Air Force Construction Institute as an experiment. They measure 40" across and weigh 4½lb.

Controlled by radio, they can reach a speed of 31 mph - but it was not disclosed how they were powered. Small 'saucers', it was stated, would be flown (pto)

during the annual ceremonial relay-race in honour of the President's birthday, on MAY 25th.

.....

INDIA SUGGESTS " A SPACE STATION "

A luminous nocturnal object, variously described as "the moon's younger sister", a "Flying Saucer", "Space Station" or just plain "meteor" - was reported to have been noticed in the skies over MADRAS from points as far apart as 400 miles, between December 4th and 10th last.

The object was of a blue-green colour and emitted a trail of orange sparks as it flew horizontally in an east-west direction. Its size - "half as big as the moon" - raised the speculation that it might be a space station 7,000 to 8,000 miles above the earth, moving in a fixed orbit, says a U.P. report.

We would point out that one can only suppose the above refers to the apparent size - but its actual size must have been not inconsiderable to have been reported from places so far apart. We've not gone into the maths. of it, but have an idea that any 'space station' would have to be of really colossal size to appear "half as big as the moon" from 7,000 miles!

IT'S SOAP-SUDS NOW !

The Lancet, the Doctors' journal, suggested recently that soap-substitutes which slip down innumerable sinks on wash-days may account for some "saucer-scares".

Suds, it says, have been known to cling together, sometimes 6ft deep, and become a surface layer of foam in sewage farm aeration tanks. Then comes a breeze.... the suds become airborne... and - Presto! - another 'saucer'!

The AVRO-CANADA 'SAUCER'

Reports of the projected Flying Saucer fighter-plane design appearing in Canadian newspapers early in February (and picked up a day or so later by some British dailies) have aroused much interest in aviation circles. Now, R.A.F.FLYING REVIEW (April '53) publishes a 2-page report, complete with artist's impression and SECTIONAL DIAGRAMS, which is reprinted from the "Toronto Daily Star".

The Saucer - which, it has been said, is 'not far beyond the thinking-out stage' - is shown to be nearly circular in planform and of about 40 ft diameter.

The power-plant is in a rotating housing, the rear jet orfice being the "flattened" trailing-edge part of the Saucer.

This rotating power-plant, besides imparting gyroscopic stability, will no doubt produce some spectacular results in directional control - perhaps even approaching the "lightning about-Turn" attributed to some existing 'saucers'! This latter is mere speculation on our own part, of course.....

- NEWS FROM AMERICA -

TEXAS has "Arrowhead" Saucer

In sight for two hours, over Dallas on January 6th., was a bright object, described as "Green, orange and red, with a nose which gave out a white light". The object also produced a whizzing noise. Amongst the more official observers were the crews of police cars and the personnel of the airport control-tower.

The object - which was shaped like an arrow-head - appeared to be moving at some 2,000 mph - and climbed, during an hour, from 30,000ft to about 100,000ft.

SAUCER "SCOOP" ?

The "Santa Fe New Mexican" said on January 10th., that it had "learned of fantastic strides in guided missiles and rockets" which might account for - in part - the reported sightings of strange sky objects.

It was said that the "wraps of security" will be removed from some projects at a special Guided Missile Demonstration scheduled tentatively for White Sands proving ground within a few months.

The most logical conclusion, the paper says, was that the country's Guided Missile experts had succeeded in developing "unmanned craft capable of manœuverability, range and speeds heretofore undreamed of".....

CAMERAS ON THE TRAIL

Chief of U.S.A.F. Intelligence, Major John Samford, says that 200 special cameras are being used to identify saucer phenomena. The cameras are equipped to provide spectro-analysis of the objects photographed, thus indicating the physical constituents of such objects.

ASTRONOMERS' VIEWS

Three papers read at the OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA's 37th annual meeting were concerned with Flying Saucers.

Prof.D.H.MENZEL, of Harvard College Observatory, stated that the majority of sightings could be explained as being "due to atmospheric physical phenomena, such as mirages or reflections from layers of fog, haze or from ice crystals".

A.HYNEK, of Ohio State University had concluded, from a study of hundreds of reports, that the only phenomenon not readily explicable on an astronomical basis was the "Hovering nocturnal light" -- and finally, U.LIDDEL, of the Bendix Aviation Corporation, said that no evidence exists for any phenomenon not explicable by standard physical concepts!!! (The exclamation points are of course our own -- Ed).

B O O K N O T E

Professor Menzel's book, "Flying Saucers" is being published very shortly in this country, by Putnams, and we hope to include a review of it in our Summer edition.

AFRICAN SIGHTINGS

Several photographs have been published in South African newspapers (Viz: "Rhodesian Herald", "Natal Mercury" and "Cape Argus") of a strange sky object seen at BULAWAYO early in January. One photo includes an inset of a much-enlarged portion showing the actual 'object'. This appears to us to be a collection of closely spaced vapour-like trails - as though made by an aircraft flying in tight circles....

Since the photograph appeared, there have been reports of saucer-sightings in CAPETOWN (bright stationary object, with lights flashing on and off - visible 14 min from 9.0am January 29th) and again in BULAWAYO (five saucers 600 to 700ft - 10.20am on February 8th).

MYSTERY OBJECT - in the form of a piece of metal - is reported to have landed "with a swishing sound and brilliant, multi-coloured flash" and is being examined by Dr.Graham White (a member of the British Interplanetary Society), says the Rhodesia Herald. The object, a hollow metal cylinder, which was seen to descend, was warm when picked up by a railway official at RUSAPE at 1.10am, on February 8th.

Finally, another PHOTO. This time from ABERDEEN (Cape), and it shows an object that - according to the photographer - looked "like a shooting star"....lit up the landscape... travelled at terrific speed... and was said to have been snapped with an exposure of 1/200th of a second - in moonlight.

The picture shows what looks like - for all the world - a car headlight beam, fanning out - but the source of which is.... in mid-air. The landscape and clouds are also clearly shown. (We repeat: 1/200th of a second - in moonlight!).



NEARLY all the photographs which we have seen in connection with Saucer articles have been accompanied by notes to the effect that "THE NEGATIVES HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND PROCLAIMED UNTAMPERED-WITH" etc.

We have said before - and will probably say again that there are more ways of producing a faked picture (of any kind) than by re-touching the negative. We will have more to say on this subject in future issues.

*****

HAIFA: SAUCERS, THEN "CIGAR"

Two saucers, sailing next to each other at first, and then one-above-the-other, were observed for three or four minutes over MOUNT CARMEL at 9.55pm on December 30th 1952, says the "Jerusalem Post" in a report just received.

They took the form of "gleaming white discs" flying at about 30,000 to 40,000ft in a westerly direction, and finally they disappeared into the upper atmosphere. The same paper reports several witnesses as having seen a CIGAR-SHAPEDobject between 4.5 and

4.12pm on January 4th. The object was "fairly low" and moved at great speed. It had three bright lights; one at either end and one in the centre. (N.B. - certain New Zealand objects also had these lights - see page eight).

TELESCOPIC EYESIGHT ?

Extract from "Dawn" - Karachi, Pakistan: Jan 24.1953:- "A solitary shining object of about 12 inches diameter flashed across the Peshawar skies at 3.30 this afternoon. Revolving on its axis, it flashed past Peshawar to disappear across the Khyber Hills into Afghanistan at a height of about 15,000 feet.

"The first reactions of sky-watchers was that it was a day-star shooting across the sky - but its consistent flight and dentless, orb-like appearance, however, lead many to beleive that it was a Flying Saucer...."

Now, we have underlined the most remarkable points in this report. What Superman is it, we wonder, who can decide than an object is 12 inches across, at a distance of 15,000 feet - AND, since it was of "dentless orblike appearance" - tell that it was revolving on its axis??? Really Karachi - this won't do! Sheer "journalese" like this can mess-up perfectly factual reports.

MORE "LITTLE MEN" ?

"PREDICTION" for April, 1953, reports an Italian gentleman as having seen a saucer only thirty feet from the ground and who claims that one of the occupants spoke to him in an unknown language.....

and from T O K Y O....

On February 21st the U.S.A.F. in north Japan disclosed that "Rotating clusters of red, green and white lights" had been seen over Japan by American airmen, and had also been tracked by radar.

The, on January 27th., a fighter -pilot had a really close view of a small metal disc-shaped object which made " a controlled sweeping pass at another aircraft". He said it "caught up with the Thunderjet, hovered a few moments and then shot out of sight". It was said to have moved with a curious "flipping" motion, similar, we suspect, to that of Kenneth Arnold's original discs.

(N.B. We don't question the size here, as the disc was seen in conjunction with another aircraft, against which the size could be judged).

AUSTRIAN "BALL-FLASH" THEORY

The OBSERVER has been carrying on quite a debate in its Readers' letters columns of late, concerning Flying Saucers. One interesting theory, propounded by a Herr Walcher Eduard of Austria, was that the nocturnal lights were caused by what he called "Ball-flash" lightning. We have written to Herr Eduard, requesting more details of this, and the conditions necessary for its occurrence, and hope to be able to pass the information on to readers later on.

NEW ZEALAND'S BUMPER CROP

We have on our editorial desk a pile of over sixty cuttings from New Zealand newspapers, which we have sifted down to sightings on seven different dates. Reports are still coming in. Excitement must have risen to fever pitch over there, since articles, letters and comments - apart from reports - are appearing almost daily in one New Zealand paper or another.

It will be seen, from our tabulated list on the back page, that all the objects so far reported have been of the "Nocturnal Light" category, and we have had no reports of daytime saucers from New Zealand as yet.

BRITAIN'S SHARE

LIVERPOOL: JAN.1. 2.17 am. Large brilliant ball of fire with red streak of flame and sparks trailing in a tail behind. Over West Derby at very low altitude, travelling swiftly and silently in northwesterly direction. ('Liverpool Echo').

STREATHAM: January. Orgnge ball flying across the sky. Disappeared, then reappeared some minutes later travelling in the same direction (not given). Seen from Tooting also.

INVERNESS: Feb.13th. Afternoon. Grey, oval object. When it turned sideways was of a cigar-like shape. It disappeared twice but came back again into view - and darted back and forth with great rapidity, says Mr.GEORGE MACPHERSON, one of the observers, whom we welcome as a LIFE MEMBER. The incident was reported in the "Glasgow Herald" and the "Greenock Telegraph".

AND ONE FOR AUSTRALIA

GEELONG, 9.57pm. January 22nd. Scores of Geelong people witnessed a mysterious white object in the sky, south-west of the city. As it moved it became bright yellow and grew in size. It then disappeared but reappeared a few minutes later.

As the object disappeared, moving further south, it left a phosphorescent trail in its wake.

Almost immediately afterwards, people at Grovedale reported a light travelling south. ('Melbourne Age').

WE were expecting more reports from Australia... following the atomic experiments there, as we thought we had established some sort of connection between atomic explosions and the presence of saucers.... but reports may yet come in.

One report, from the U.S.A. says that sightings are still occurring there at the rate of about ten a month, and some 70 recent ones have been pin-pointed on a map when it was found that many of the discs or cigar-shapes had been seen above atomic energy installations. The report adds that perhaps it is just as well that these sightings are no longer regarded as mythical.

This Quarter's STAR LETTER



DEAR SECRETARY,

Whenever 'flying saucers' are mentioned, the question of Interplanetary visitors inevitably arises. There has been much speculation as to where any visitors from space might originate - and a great deal of nonsense has been written on the subject, as well as a small amount of logic!

When considering "Visitors from Space" very few suggestions are made to the effect that these visitors most probably come from --- ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM. That is to say, from a planet or system of planets circling another sun.

Mars and Venus are the only two planets in our own Solar system which might possibly support life (of a kind which the human mind can accept!) - and the writers of hack articles which appear in newspapers during a saucer-glut rarely seem to be able to break away from dear old Mars...

Now, I consider that if there were spaceships watching the earth then they would have to be from another System. The argument used against this theory is usually that of the immense distance which such ships would have to travel, and the time that it would take for them to do so.

The journey from a star such as 61 Cygni, for instance, would take something like eleven years - if one could travel at the speed of light! (Roughly 186,000 miles per second).

I agree that this seems a formidable argument against the "Other System" theory, but we must not imagine that beings who have developed independently of ourselves would be at anything like the same stage of development.

Even taking the "Short" time-scale theory of the Universe, (say four thousand million years) it can be seen that on planets of other systems there would have been ample time for civilisations to have arisen millions - or scores of millions of years ahead of our own.

The chances are, that if we were to make contact with an alien race, we should find them either so undeveloped as to be like savages - or else so advanced as to be to us as gods.

Certainly we should not try to estimate what would or would not be possible to cultures as yet undreamed of, by using our own achievements as a criterion.

Yours etc.,
(Miss) M. WAKE.

Stannington,
Northumberland.

****

MISS WAKE RECEIVES THIS QUARTER'S BOOK AWARD

We look forward to some lively rejoinders to this far reaching theory, and will publish what we consider to be the best in our next issue.

THE NEW ZEALAND SIGHTINGS

DEC.6. 1952 PLIMMERTON: - p.m. Bright green luminous sphere, with band of brighter dots. Moving south. Hissed faintly.
PALMERSTON NORTH: 9.45pm. Green ovoid object moving S.E. - with faint hissing noise. Later joined by blue object; flew off together southwards, blue above green. CHRISTCHURCH, KYEBURN, INVERCARGILL and WAIPAHI: Blue disc, with hissing... "times given indicate a speed of about 600 mph."

DEC 16. 1952 NAPIER 3.30 am. Six yellow dirigible-shaped objects, in "line ahead" - regularly spaced in a straight line - moving steadily northwards over the sea. In sight 5 minutes.
GISBOURNE, 10pm: Luminous blue object with lighter spot in centre, moved erratically, very fast, eastwards.

JAN 6. 1953 NAPIER, 7 pm. Large, bright, circular object, fading to a reddish glow before disappearing. No direction given.
TE KUITI, 9.27pm: Sighted from aircraft. Brilliant orange light, WITH REDDISH TAIL, moving steadily west to east.
PAPOROA, 9.28pm: Bright orange light, near horizon, moving SE-NW.
WHANGAREI, 9.29 pm: "Slightly smaller than full moon, with comet-like tail".
WHANGAREI: 9.30pm: Object "like a lighted porthole" - suddenly emitted a burst of rocket-like flame, accelerated to higher altitude, made a U-turn and finally disappeared over the horizon. Seen from a boat on the Ngunguru river.
AUCKLAND, 9.30pm: Luminous cigar-shaped object with orange flame at the rear, seem from Henderson Valley district. In view six seconds, and also seen from Pt.Chevalier and Glendowie.
KARORI, 10.10pm: 2 discs - a blue one above a green one.

JAN 8. 1953 MOSGIEL, 10.20pm. Triangular, brilliant reddish glow, which faded, then re-appeared with a rising and falling motion, and accompanied by a small white light. In sight for ten minutes.
KOBURN; object Bright disc, flying on a circular course at about 2,000 feet, had a reddish tail and emitted sparks.

JAN.9. 1953 CHRISTCHURCH, 9.0 pm: Seen through telescope. "Dull disc of light". Yellow-orange, almost circular, with slight flattening over 1/3rd of circumference. No tail. In sight for thirty minutes - and observed by members of the Press.

JAN 14. 1953 OTAGO, 11.30 pm: Blue light with reddish-gold rim, moving South-west at approx. 500mph. on level plane. Visible for 10 secs. - suddenly shot upwards and disappeared.

JAN.18. 1953 SOCKBURN, 10.20pm: Bright yellow, shaped like sting-ray fish, with flames shooting from its tail.

** SYNOPSIS OF REPORTS TO HAND AS OF APRIL 15th.1953 **

* This is a re-print edition - published by the BRITISH FLYING SAUCER BUREAU & FLYING SAUCER CLUB, Hon.Sec. W.E.Nicholas, - 30 Melbourne Terrace, Newtown, Bristol 2, England -