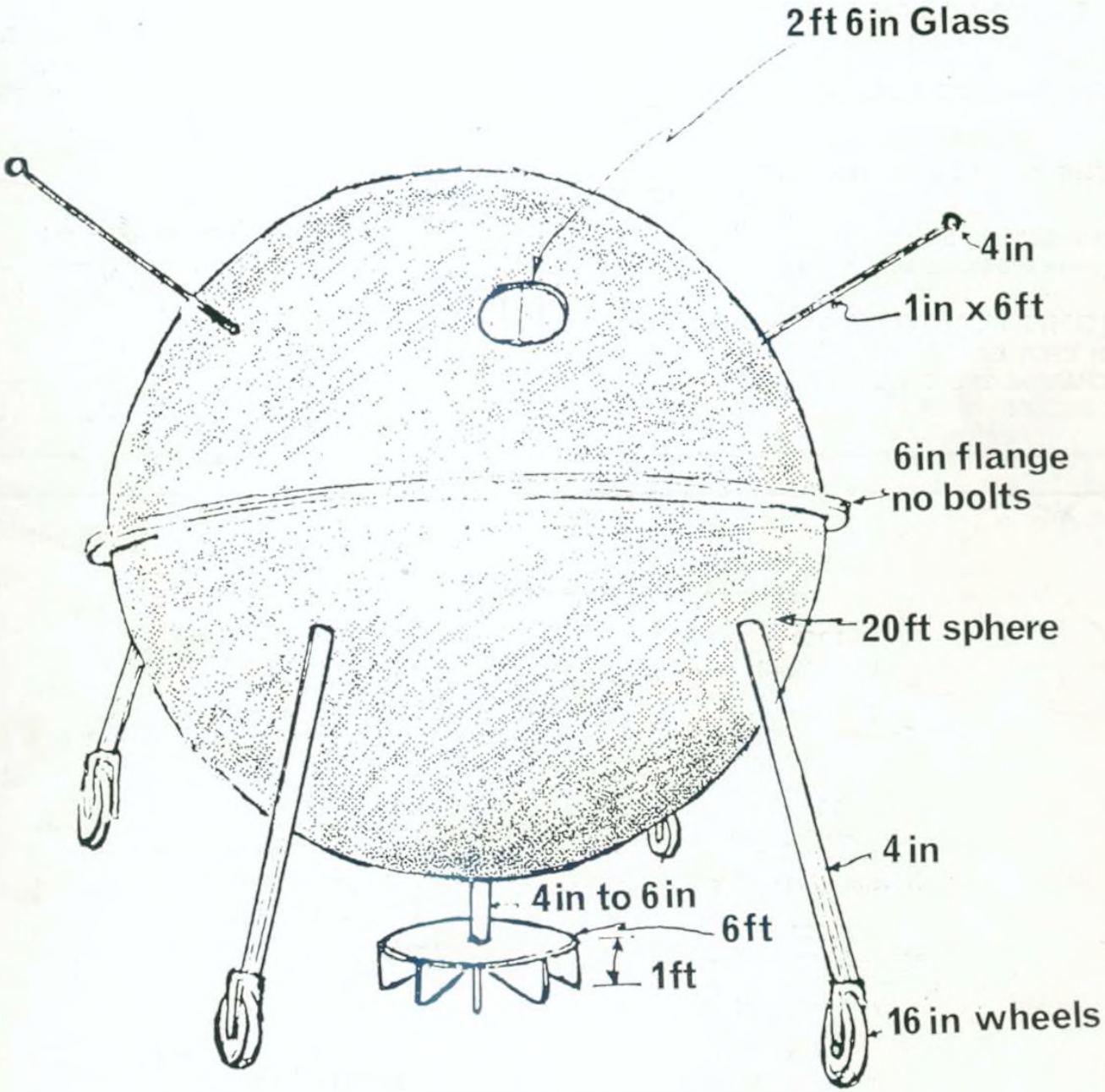
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

MAY - JUNE 1967

VOLUME 13, No. 3 13th YEAR OF PUBLICATION



UFO WITH WHEELS!

Strange object reported hovering over a gas main

SEE . . . FROM MY OHIO VALLEY NOTEBOOK

by John A. Keel

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CONTENTS

From My Ohio Valley Note Book : John A. Keel .. 3
Three More Brazilian Cases : Gordon Creighton .. 5
Design for a Flying Saucer Pt. IV : R. H. B. Winder 9
A Long, Cool Look at Alien Intelligences Pt. II : C. Maxwell Cade .. 13
The Problem of the Frankensteins : Ivan Brandt .. 16
A Staffordshire Creature Report : Wilfrid Daniels 19
Mail Bag 20
Even More Amazing . . Pt. V : Dr. Olavo Fontes .. 22
Twenty Years Back : Brinsley Le Poer Trench 26
Visual Perception of UFOs . . Pt. I : Anthony Durham and Keith Watkins .. 27
Crawling Lights : Dan Lloyd 29
Book Review 30
World Round-up 31

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 13 No. 3 MAY-JUNE 1967

A Call for Discretion

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW was the first specialist journal to draw attention to the Warminster phenomenon. Within a few weeks of the appearance of our article in the July/August number of 1965, events cascaded around the quiet little market town on the western edge of Salisbury Plain. Celestial objects were seen, and noises were heard at all points of the compass. Photographs of alleged objects were taken, some being accorded wide publicity ; even now some are undergoing searching analysis. A rising note of hysteria pervaded the scene, and this prompted the REVIEW to stand back and observe events with caution.

From details revealed in correspondence with an American researcher, we have learned of happenings in the United States (about which a full report is being prepared by our correspondent) which could be paralleled in this country, and which support our view that there may have been many real events in the Warminster area. It seems likely, furthermore, that strange objects have been observed there in some numbers because people are on the lookout for them after the great blaze of publicity. Warminster is adjacent to an area where there are many military establishments, which could be a reason for UFO activity, and it is more than likely that there are many other quiet, hilly, wooded spots within easy range of other defence establishments and industrial areas under "surveillance" where similar phenomena may be observed, but where nobody has taken the trouble to look for evidence.

We suggest that those research groups that can find the time, and who have the necessary patience, should organise expeditions to such places. Venues that occur to us are, for example, the mountainous country overlooking the valley of the Clyde and the industrial lowlands of Scotland ; the Lake District and the Pennines, where these regions are close to the Cumberland coal and steel districts, to Lancashire, and to the busy North-East around Newcastle upon Tyne ; the Cleveland Hills overlooking Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley ; the hills and reservoirs around Sheffield and other vital parts of Yorkshire ; the wild mountainous country of South Wales ; the Chiltern Hills, not so very far from London and its international airport. Several of these localities have already been the centres of interesting activities during the past two or three years.

Above all it should be remembered that any such expeditions should be organised quietly and without advance publicity. The bunfight and barbecue atmosphere prevailing at some recent essays at field work leaves much to de desired ; the temptation to invite along

certain journalists—who seem intent only to encourage a circus atmosphere, and to provoke laughter—should be avoided. Instead, it would be an advantage if police officers, members of the Observer Corps, service officers and other reliable and trained observers, could be invited as witnesses once it is established that the chosen area is subject to UFO activity. There is every chance that a discreetly organised watch in the early hours, over a period of days, could reveal the presence of hitherto unsuspected " unlit " objects, often low over the ground. It seems too that " star-like " objects so often derided by over-serious researchers, could be shown to be just small portions of larger, darker objects, on patrol, as it were.

It is essential that during daylight hours, researchers should become conversant, without fuss, with those places in their chosen locality where man-made lights may be expected at night. They should also learn their star maps, in case there is a clear sky. For reasons that should be obvious, they should act throughout the exercise with discretion.

This REVIEW would very much like to be acquainted with details of impending expeditions, and to learn of any results. Publication of the results of investigations, and of any other research into the subject will establish international priority for the work, for the REVIEW is read in more than forty different countries, and goes to many learned institutions and scientists in those countries.

The McCarthy UFO Detector

Prolonged testing with a prototype model has revealed that even the best batteries would have only a short life. Accordingly a mains power-pack has been incorporated which will convert mains electricity supplies ranging from 110—250 volts AC. Battery supply may still be utilised where a detector is needed for portable, outdoor use.

The addition of the two-diode power unit to the detector, which consists of pick-up coils, 5-transistor amplifier circuit, relay switching device, alarm buzzer, etc., has necessitated a price adjustment to £6 2s. 6d. (including packing and delivery).

Readers who have forwarded application slips will be advised as soon as production models are available.

Important notice . . .

THE HUMANOIDS

is now out of print

In the event of a reprint being ordered, a notice will appear in a future edition of the *Review*.

MEANWHILE, DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

FROM MY OHIO VALLEY NOTE BOOK

by John A. Keel

Our contributor has made a personal investigation of a number of unusual cases in the States of Ohio and West Virginia.

DURING the tail-end of March and the early days of April this year I travelled extensively up and down the Ohio Valley. Here is a selection of cases where I have interviewed witnesses and "silent" contactees, and which have thrown a little more light on UFO ground level activities.

The Vanishing Building

Some time in late October, 1966 (the witness does not remember the precise date), Mr. Leonard "Shy" Elmore, 72, of Duncan Falls, Ohio, was taking a stroll around 4 a.m. when he encountered a strange "building" which frightened him badly. Like many elderly people, Mr. Elmore does not sleep well and often takes long walks late at night. On this particular morning, he was walking along a road two blocks from his home when he saw a strange "L-shaped building that looked like a galvanised iron shed" sitting in the middle of a large field. Since he had never noticed this "shed" before, he walked closer to it to take a better look. Something about it frightened him . . . later he could not exactly explain why it had scared him . . . and he turned and started to hurry away. Although it was dark and he could see no windows or doors in the "shed", he claims that he distinctly heard a normal male voice come from it. "Don't run . . . don't run", the voice called. "I didn't exactly run," Mr. Elmore told me, "but I walked pretty fast."

He hurried home and got his rifle and returned to the site. To his astonishment, the "shed" was gone. This incident upset him very much and, according to his wife, he was a nervous wreck for several days afterwards. He decided to call the sheriff the next day and report what he had seen. The sheriff promised to come out and take a look . . . but never did. Mr. Elmore told me his story in a direct manner without embellishments or wandering speculations. He did not claim that he had seen any kind of "flying saucer". It was just a "shed" of some sort to him . . . something that was there one minute and gone a few minutes later.

I carefully examined the field in which he claimed to have seen this object. It was a large open field directly behind the newly constructed Duncan Falls Elementary School.

Duncan Falls is about 20 miles from Roseville, Ohio, where Mr. Ralph Ditter, a barber employed in Zanesville, saw and photographed a low-level circular craft in November, 1966. There were innumerable other UFO sightings in the neighbouring towns around that same time.

Among the chicken coops

On January 10, 1967, another elderly man, Wallie Barnett, 77, a retired schoolteacher, presumably got within sixty feet of an unidentified flying object. Mr. Barnett, who lives on a farm on route 2 about 12 miles from Point Pleasant, W. Va., heard his dogs barking about 10.30 p.m. that evening and went outside to investigate. Although he is partially deaf and walks with a cane, he is mentally sound and able to give a lucid description of what he saw. Like Mr. Elmore, he gives the impression of being an honest and forthright witness. Unlike Mr. Elmore, Barnett made crude drawings and notes immediately after his sighting.

A very steep hill rises behind the Barnett home. It is thinly wooded and there is a slight ravine which runs down the face of this hill, ending a few feet from the kennel where Mr. Barnett houses several beagle dogs. When he first observed the object, it appeared to be a very large light on the summit of the hill. As he watched, it came down on to the hill and moved slowly towards the ravine. "It was about the size of a Volkswagen," Mr. Barnett said, "and appeared to have windows in it which were brightly lit. But when it got close to the ground, those lights went out. There were two four-inch red lights in the front of the thing and they stayed on." As the object moved closer, Mr. Barnett noted many small white lights which seemed to dart out from the object and return to it . . . "like they were doing a square dance". The machine came slowly and silently along the ravine with the little lights whirling around it. It came

within sixty feet of Mr. Barnett's position, paused, and then slid out of view behind his chicken coop. Mr. Barnett hurried around the chicken coop, hoping to get a better look at it, but it was gone when he reached the other side. It did not rise into the air (he could have seen it if it had), but simply vanished. He was not afraid, only puzzled.

His family and friends vouched for his honesty. (" If Wallie says he saw it, then he saw it! ") He did not report it to the press or police, although he did consider writing to the Air Force but did not.

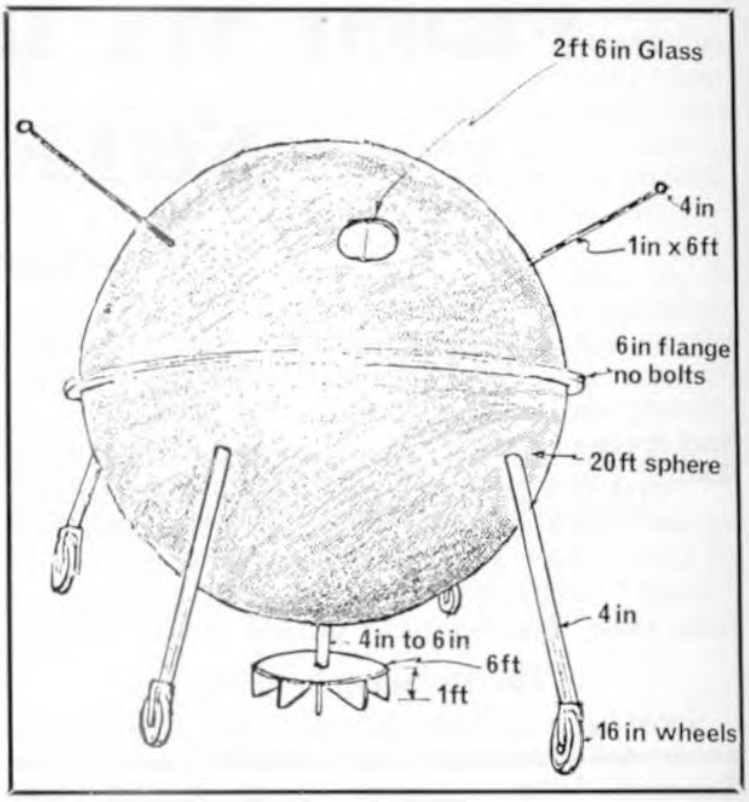
A few days later a country preacher and his entire congregation saw a large " red fireball " whizzing past the church about two miles from Wallie's farm. This thing was travelling at ground level and disappeared " up the holler ". (Hollow : valley.)

Witness threatened

At 9.05 a.m. on the morning of January 19, 1967, Mr. Tad Jones, 38, of Dunbar, W. Va., was driving along Interstate Highway 64 about ten miles outside of Charleston, W. Va., when he came upon a large metal sphere hovering about four feet above the road. Since it was broad daylight, and since the object remained in view for about two minutes, Mr. Jones was able to give a very good description of it. The sphere was about 20 feet in diameter and was the colour of dull aluminium. There were four legs attached to it, with caster-like wheels on the bottom of each one. He could also see a small window about 9 inches in diameter and there was a " propeller " underneath the object which was idling when he came upon it. This propeller began to spin rapidly and then the object rose and disappeared into the sky.

Mr. Jones, the owner of an appliance store at Cross Lanes, W. Va., is one of the most impressive witnesses I have met in my travels. He is an articulate, well-educated man . . . a non-drinker and a leader in church and civic affairs. Another reporter accompanied me on one of my meetings with him and was equally impressed.

We visited the exact area of the sighting (three months after it happened) and I discovered the object had been hovering *directly above* a major gas line which passes under the road. Furthermore, we found a series of very strange footprints in the mud beside the road. One group of footprints were identical to those I had found in the TNT area north of Point Pleasant last December. They looked like huge dog tracks . . . except that they were not dog tracks and were so deep that the animal which made them must have weighed from 200 to 400 pounds. We made casts of these prints and none of the wild life authorities in Charleston



was able to identify them. In addition, there was one single footprint of what appeared to be a naked human foot of unusually large size. And there were also several prints of a human foot wearing a ripple-soled shoe. The spacing of these footprints were most peculiar, they did not start anywhere, and they did not lead anywhere. Since this section of the highway (a four-lane super highway) is quite isolated, hilly and thinly wooded, it seemed unlikely that any hunter could have made the prints.

On further questioning, Mr. Jones recalled two other incidents to which he had not given much thought at the time. A week after his first sighting, Mr. Jones was driving along the same highway at the same time in the morning (on his way to his store) when he saw a man standing by the road in the same area of the UFO site. Assuming that the man was hitch-hiking and was stranded in this isolated spot, Mr. Jones slowed his truck and offered the man a lift. The man did not answer but merely waved Tad on. The next morning this same man was in the same spot but this time Tad did not slow down. The man was dressed in a blue coat and blue cap with a visor. His face was normal but seemed tanned or reddish. He was holding a peculiar clock-like instrument in one hand. It had a large dial on it and a wire ran from it to the man's other hand.

Upon hearing this, I immediately checked with the local gas companies to find if they had had a man out " walking the line " in that area. I also

enquired about the use of such instruments. The answers were negative.

The day after his sighting of January 19, a crude note was slipped under Mr. Jones's door in Dunbar. Written in pencil on a sheet of ordinary notebook paper, this message declared : " We know what you have seen and we know that you have talked. You'd better keep your mouth shut." This note was printed with certain flourishes which were also present in a note pushed under the door of another witness in Middleport, Ohio, some sixty miles to the north. A few days later another note, this one written on cardboard, was pushed under his door informing him that " there won't be another warning ". Mr. Jones considered the notes a prank.

This is such an involved case, and my investigation of it is continuing, that I have offered only a quick summary here.

THREE MORE BRAZILIAN CASES

by Gordon Creighton

WRITING recently to express his satisfaction with *The Humanoids* special issue, Dr. W. Buhler enclosed a copy of his SBEDV Bulletin No. 10 (July 1959) which, as he points out, contains some interesting cases of which I had not heard and which certainly have never been mentioned in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Two of these cases, involving alleged contacts, were investigated by Dr. Buhler in person, while the third, which has psychological and hypnotic features, was investigated in person by the prominent Brazilian Journalist and UFO researcher, Joao Martins. I give below a close translation of these three cases, with some comments.

Paraiba do Sul : August 1958

Investigation and report by Dr. W. Buhler

The witness, a man named L—— (his name was not divulged by Dr. Buhler) stated that he lived at a place some 30 km from Paraiba do Sul in the State of Rio de Janeiro. On the day in question, near his house, he caught sight of a shining object which was falling silently from the air and appeared to be coming towards him. It landed, and he was then able to hear a faint whining note from it. When he had got to a point quite near it, he saw a small round porthole begin to open in the lower part of the machine, and from the porthole there emerged the head and shoulders and upper torso of a man, who smiled at him.

L——'s first impulse was to take to his heels, but so great was his fear that his legs failed him. The man got out and approached him. After walking a few metres, the man picked up a stone and seemed to be examining it. Then he stretched out his open hand towards L——, who did not understand the meaning of the gesture. Then the visitor pointed forwards, but again L—— had no idea what was intended, and stood there silent wondering whether the visitor was gesticulating about the hills or trees or some other feature of the landscape. Once more the man made a gesture as though endeavouring to communicate and then, with a movement as of disgust or anger, he turned away from L—— and walked back to the machine, which shortly afterwards rose, at first slowly, from the ground, and vanished rapidly in the sky.

L—— told Dr. Buhler that the man was " good looking ", with long fair hair, clear pink complexion, no moustache or beard, and about 1.72m in height (5 ft. 7 ins.) He was dressed in a sort of light coloured overall, with no pockets or seams. The man made no sound throughout the encounter : only gestures.

L—— described the machine as yellow and golden in colour, with rectangular opening around the rim, from which openings a " faint white smoke " was coming. The craft " seemed to consist of two parts, like basins ".

Once more, I feel that, although the craft itself admittedly sounds quite different, honesty demands that we dwell upon the total resemblance between this description of the man and Adamski's description of his " Venusian ". This then, is a *sixth* case of "long-haired men" in Latin America. Note that this man did not speak, so L—— reports. Nor did Adamski's man, who was similarly obliged, as Adamski tells us, to gesture.

Bahia, April 24, 1959

Investigation and report of this case on the Atlantic coast of Brazil by Senhor Joao Martins.

On April 24, the witness, Senhor Hélio Aguiar, called on a friend at the local barracks of the Sixth Regiment of Marines of the Brazilian Navy. Like himself, the friend is a keen student of hypnosis and metaphysical questions. The witness borrowed the motor-cycle of his marine friend and rode off on it to visit some relatives living near Amaralina. He had with him his camera, planning to take photographs of his nephews.

On reaching a place called Piatã, Senhor Aguiar saw what looked like a black spot out over the sea, and thought at first it was a defect in his vision. But as it drew nearer he perceived that it had a distinct shape, and at that moment his motor-cycle stopped.

Sitting there immobilised on his machine, he could now see that the object was a silvery disc. On one side of it there was a cupola with openings or windows around it, and a number of parallel tubes emerging from them. There were also various markings or symbols that he was unable to fix in his memory.

The other surface of the disc (no doubt the base) was flat, with " four small projecting hemispheres ". There were also some dark markings like symbols and he had a better view of these. He took three photographs of the craft. (See Figure 1, based on an enlargement of one of the photos which was published in *O Cruzeiro*).



Fig. 1

While the witness was taking his pictures, the machine was performing " looping the loop " movements in the sky. Two of the photos showed the flattened side, while the third showed the cupola. As he was taking the pictures, Senhor Aguiar began to feel a strange pressure in his brain, and a state of progressive confusion overtook him. He felt vaguely as though he were being ordered by somebody to write something down. It was as though he was being hypnotised. As he was winding the film on before proceeding to take a fourth picture, he lost all sense of what was happening.

When he came to, he found himself slumped over the motor-bicycle and the UFO had vanished. In his left hand was a piece of paper that had been in his pocket (on one side of it there was a game of noughts and crosses which had been played by his children), and his right hand was grasping a pencil. Written upon the paper, in Portuguese, and in his own handwriting, was the message:

Put an absolute stop to all atomic tests for warlike purposes. The balance of the Universe is threatened. We shall remain vigilant and ready to intervene.

Before we examine the contents of this story, we must note at the outset that the witness has admitted that he is interested in hypnosis. Sceptics will therefore suggest—and we cannot blame them for it—that his friend in the Marine Corps had been hypnotising him and had induced the whole episode in his mind. We cannot be sure that such was not the case.

Assuming, on the other hand that the case is genuine, we recall that Brazil is not yet an atomic power nor is she a front-line participant in the current struggle to decide the future of human society on this planet (although, as a loyal ally of the United States of America, her position in that struggle is not to be questioned). So one is obliged to wonder why any alien intelligences having our world under surveillance should deem that it served any useful purpose to deliver their admonitions to the man-in-the-street in Brazil? Perhaps the answer is that such warnings *have* been received in both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. as well as in other lands. But do our visitors have such faith in the influence of unknown and insignificant members of the public that they imagine their " message " can be brought home to our rulers in this odd manner? Why not deliver it directly to the powerful ones of our Earth? To which question one can but reply: *how do you know that this has not already happened, and often*? I am not saying that it *has* happened. I have no information. I only stress that if it *had* happened, it would be pretty puerile of us to imagine that the Heads of State would ever have told us anything about it.

Personally, I believe that there have been so many alleged " warnings " of this kind, said to have come from UFO entities, that despite all the sceptical and knowing talk about " Atomic Age neurosis ", we ought to look at all the reports very carefully indeed.

Note, for example, that precisely the same " message " was given to the American actor Stuart Whitman during the Great Power Blackout in New York City (see page 10 of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1966).

Among other " warnings " said to have been received by individuals possessing no political power or importance, there are those of Adamski and Allingham and of a considerable number of lesser-known " contactees ", most of them American. One may recall also the account that I gave in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for November/December 1962, of the Soviet woman parachutist who said that she had been " captured " in mid-air and " given a message for the authorities ", and

my account of the warnings claimed to have been received by the Italian Eugenio Siragusa (FSR, January/February 1963).

Since we have no way of knowing at present whether there is any truth in this story of the Brazilian Senhor Aguiar, we can but place it on record here in the same spirit as Senhor Joao Martins when he published it in *O Cruzeiro*. One day we may know the truth.

As regards the machine allegedly seen in this case, note that it seems to be a much shallower and flatter type than the so-called " Adamski bell " (a type for which there is excellent evidence, whether Adamski's photos are bogus or not) and that instead of three hemispheres on the underside, it has four. One would certainly like to see the original photos.

I think its general appearance recalls the thing that the British policeman Colin Perks claims to have seen at 4.10 a.m. on January 7, 1966, at Wilmslow, a few miles from the radio-astronomical installations at Jodrell Bank.

Sao Paulo, April 1959

Investigation and report by Dr. Buhler

The witness, a young man named L— H— da S—, stated that on the three days in question he had had contacts with entities from flying saucers.

On the night of April 25, he had been to a dance and afterwards, being unable to sleep, went out into the garden, where he heard a noise of something " like a very strong wind ". Looking up, he then saw " a circle in the sky, like a red-hot iron ". He went indoors to call his parents to see it, but when they all came back to the garden, it was gone.

At 4.30 a.m. he finally got to sleep, but was awakened suddenly, and once again was drawn out into the garden, where he found a message which read: *" Come back tomorrow morning, at* 3.10 *hours, at this same place, and tell nobody lest your life be endangered ".*

He returned to the house, took a sedative, and slept once more. By next morning he had apparently forgotten about his experiences. In the evening he attended another party and then went to a cinema, getting home to bed at 11 p.m. So far there had been nothing abnormal that day. But at 3 a.m. he awoke and the memory of the events of the night before came back to him. He rose, put on his overcoat, in the pocket of which he now found again the message, and went out into the garden " as though impelled by an unknown force ".

At 3.10 a.m. he suddenly felt himself totally ' paralysed ', and a circular object appeared. It was about six metres in diameter and at a height of some 100 metres from the ground. From a V-shaped door in this object a being in human form emerged, who descended spirally until he was about 20 cms. above the surface of the ground, where he remained.

This entity was wearing a helmet and was clad from neck to feet in clothing that looked like plastic. He had transparent gloves which " looked as though made of glass ".

The entity said: " Can you give me what you found ? " Da S— accordingly drew the piece of paper from his pocket and gave it to him. The entity grasped it, then opened his fist, and the paper had vanished.

The visitor then asked Da S— to come back to the same place at 2.05 a.m. on the following Thursday, again enjoining him to keep it secret on pain of his life. Then, rising in a spiral movement, he re-entered his circular machine and a minute later it had vanished.

Recovering from his paralysis, Da S— returned to the house. Frightened and perplexed, he was unable to work or study for the next few days, and wondered whether he should tell his mother of his strange experiences, but decided against it.

At 2.00 a.m. on the Thursday arranged, he awoke and, going down to the garden, was again immobilised and saw the same object appear.

As before, a being descended in a spiral manner from the object. Glancing at something very small (" no larger than a grain of millet ") on his arm, this entity remarked : " 2.05 hours, Earth time ". At which point, Da S— tried to look at his watch, but was unable to do so, for he felt his hand held fast by something.

The visitor asked if everything was normal, to which Da S— replied that it was. The entity then excused himself and went back up in a spiral movement. Then he (or another : Da S— could detect no difference between them) appeared once more and greeted him. The entity's helmet moved upwards and then downwards, but Da S— was unable to see the face. He told Dr. Buhler that he thought this second entity " was engaged in the study of something else ".

The second entity excused himself and rose up into the air in the now familiar way, and then a third one (or the same one for a third time) made his appearance and asked for something with which to write. Da S— enquired whether it was a pencil he wanted, and he replied " sheet ". (" fôlha ").

At this point Da S— discovered that the power of moving his limbs had returned to him, so that he was able to go into the house and, without

awakening his family, get a notebook. Returning with it to the garden, he was about to hand it to the visitor, when the latter told him to place it on the palm of his (the visitor's hand), which he did.

The notebook then rose up into the air, and L— H— found himself paralysed once more. About half a minute later, the notebook descended, bearing an inscription (See Fig. 2). The visitor thanked him and said : " An Earthman will have to decypher it, and when that has been done, we shall know what to do ".

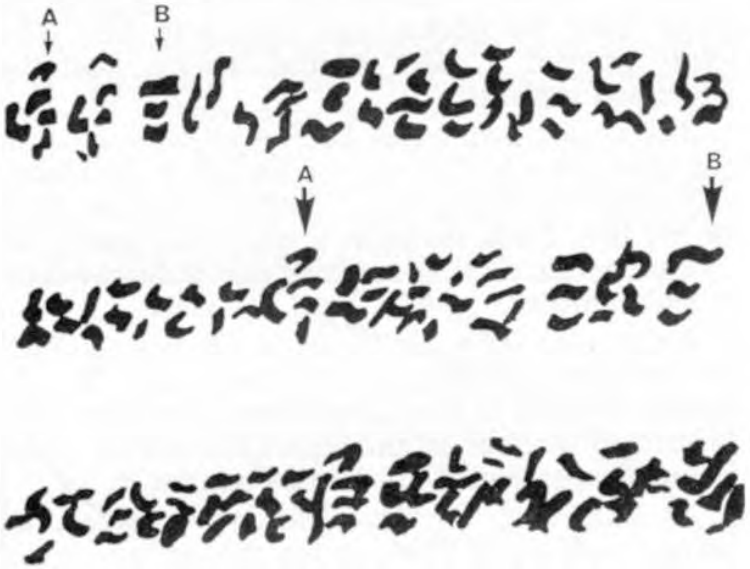


Figure 2

The passages marked by arrows and the letters A and B appear, as our Brazilian friends point out, to be identifiable repetitions in the text.

But is it a piece of real writing, containing a message ? On the basis of my own study and knowledge of languages, which has involved working with most of the leading scripts and alphabets used on this planet now, as well as a number of dead ones, I find it hard to believe that this curious jumble of marks is a sophisticated script used by intelligent beings possessed of an advanced science.

There have already been a great many of these alleged UFO messages written in strange scripts, and I have only seen two that seemed to me even remotely convincing. I propose to review some of them at a later date.

At this stage I would merely remind readers that there is evidence of much fraud and trickery but that, if the happenings in the U.S.A. are any guide, it looks as though the trickery may not have been perpetrated by members of our species at all !

Here, of course, we may be nibbling at the fringe of that really tremendous Sixty-four Billion Dollar Question . . . *Who, or what, is it that may be trying to break through and communicate with us, and who, or what, is it that may be bent on frustrating such contact*?

When we know the answer to such questions as this, we may be far along the road towards knowing who and what we are, and what is the purpose of our existence. In the meantime, we can reflect awhile upon the possible meaning of such things as the Christian concept of Man as a " fallen being ", who is not in the place—or in the condition—where he ought by rights to be. Those familiar with esoteric Eastern teachings might also reflect with profit upon the strange and sinister and rarely encountered doctrine that there exists a " Hidden Government of the World "—that is to say, of our Planet.

We might bear in mind, too, that as I have pointed out before, some of the UFO beings allegedly encountered could—apart from the absence in most cases (but not all !) of wings—be said to correspond quite closely to our traditional western, Christian, idea of " Angels " (" Angeloi ", " *Messengers* ", in the Greek of the New Testament), or to what Hindus and other peoples of Asia might term " Devas ". And, in addition to these, as our recent special issue on *The Humanoids* shows, there is abundant evidence that there are other and altogether different creatures which correspond very closely indeed to the traditional concepts held, in all parts of our world, of " demons ", " goblins ", " trolls ", and so on.

And finally, somewhere there amid all the welter of reports, are we not surely now beginning to discern something more familiar still—the features of occasionally encountered beings that appear to be true men just like us, possibly men far in advance of us both morally and intellectually, but who are nevertheless perhaps kith and kin at least to some of us ?

That all these different types of creature should now be appearing here in such numbers and impinging upon Earth Man's consciousness must surely indicate that some crucial stage in our development has been reached, or that some event of enormous import is at hand.

Here is food for much thought.

DESIGN FOR A FLYING SAUCER

by R. H. B. Winder, B.Sc., C.Eng., A.M.I.Mech.E.

PART IV — Characteristics and Effects (Concluded)

IN the first two parts of this article we applied the basic principles governing the interaction of magnetic fields with ionised gases to the design of a 1,000 ton, 100 ft. diameter, fusion-powered disc-like machine. It was shown that this machine could accelerate at 30g, could hover somewhat jerkily with little or no sound, could operate at low level like a hovercraft, and at high altitudes could either orbit, or enter and contribute to the propulsion of a carrier ship over the vast distances of space. It was seen, furthermore, that the machine looked and behaved exactly like a flying saucer.

In the third part of the article we studied some of the characteristics and effects of the machine ; in this part we will complete that study.

Formation Flight

The magnetic properties of the machine have a bearing upon the manner in which it might approach or fly together with others of its kind. Certain well-defined restrictions are imposed by the attractions, repulsions, and tilting effects applied to each other by similar magnets in close proximity.

For example, coplanar approach by machines of comparable size and with the same polarity. i.e. with their electric currents circulating in the same sense, could produce a dangerous situation. If two horizontal machines approached at the same altitude they would generate mutual repulsion that might be expected to make a collision unlikely. However, the slightest relative tilt, which could easily arise from wobble, would produce an overturning effect tending to aggravate that tilt. If one machine or the other lost its stability, it would immediately flip on its back and the repulsion would be replaced at once by an equally powerful attraction, probably with disastrous consequences.

It is, therefore, unlikely that machines of this kind would be observed flying in a formation that put them close together in the same plane. Machines tilted in helicopter fashion for level flight would not, for the same reason, be able to adopt a conventional echelon formation, i.e. stepped up behind a leader : reversed echelon, with the leader high, would be the only permissible formation in the circumstances.

Axial approach, on the other hand, would generate attractive forces unaccompanied by overturning moments or instability. The attraction could be anticipated and turned to good account, for example to assist station keeping or to facilitate rescue of a powerless machine—provided that the disabled machine had not also lost its magnetism.

As previously mentioned, the lower container coil, with its current flowing in opposition to the others, would play a special role in close axial approach. Within a certain range, it would repel the upper container coil of a machine approaching from below and thus nullify the general attraction between the machines. In this way it would serve as a buffer preventing catastrophic collision.

The magnetic forces between similar machines in close approach are considerably modified if there is a large disparity in size. Then, as already explained in connection with ferromagnetic materials, the field of the larger machine is unlikely to vary significantly over the dimensions of the smaller one, which would in consequence experience no nett repulsion or attraction. It would, however, have a strong tendency to align its axis with the local direction of the big machine's field, but this would not seriously impede its approach or departure.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the various considerations outlined in this section in terms of permissible and forbidden flight configurations.

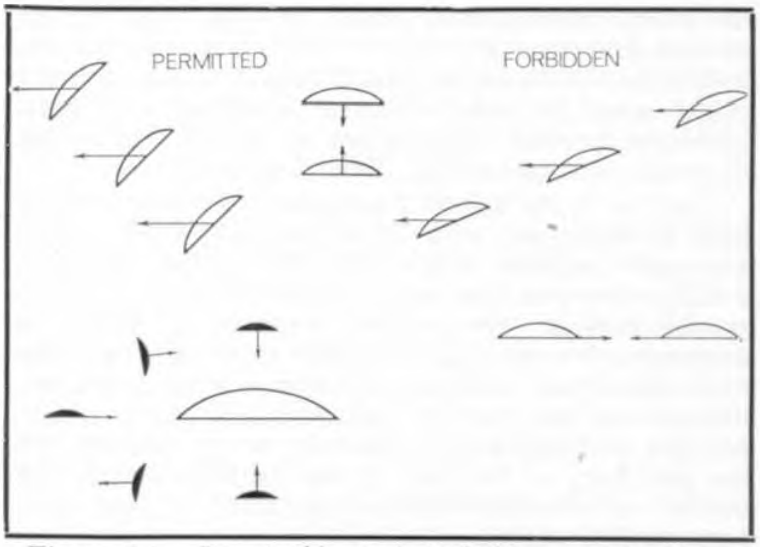


Figure 4.1. *Permissible and forbidden manœuvres of magnetic machines.*

Radiation

Electromagnetic radiation emitted by the machine would be of three kinds:

1. Short wavelength ionising radiation, i.e. Gamma, x, and Ultra-violet.
2. Visible light.
3. Long wavelength, infra-red, micro, radar and radio waves.

Bremsstrahlung in the fusion plasma would, according to Glasstone and Lovberg (2.1), manifest

all these wavelengths but would consist largely of the softer x-rays. The gamma component would be very small and the ultra-violet and longer waves would be unlikely to escape the reactor casing. Soft x-rays are fairly readily absorbed by air and therefore constitute a good ionising agent. The degree of absorption varies quite sharply with wavelength so that the spread of the ionised air beneath the machine could be controlled by slightly varying wavelength. This could be done by the use of adjustable external shields.

Although the primary ultra-violet would be unlikely to emerge from the reactor casing, a great deal of secondary ultra-violet would arise from air undergoing ionisation or recombination. Most photographic film is as sensitive to ultra-violet as it is to visible light. A camera could therefore be expected to record an image of the ionised air ejected from the machine, even though it might be invisible to the naked eye.

The visible radiations associated with ionised air were listed in the first article of this series. They are characteristically, green, red, blue and violet glows which human observers curiously almost always classify as weird, ghostly, or mysterious. It is not presently possible to forecast what colour or combination of colours would dominate in the vicinity of a hydromagnetic machine because surprisingly little seems to be known about the spectra of highly ionised air at ordinary temperature and pressure.

Light of a more ordinary kind could be expected from exposed hot zones in the machine, although it is not certain that they would remain exposed at all times. Such zones would be the base of the reactor and the cooling air vents, both located towards the centre of the bottom surface. The colours could range from the dull red associated with temperatures around 700 degrees F. to the white heat of surfaces approaching 3000 degrees F.

Certain types of hydromagnetic machine could also be equipped with laser devices for producing extremely intense visible light for various reasons, notably to produce supplementary ionisation in specific regions for control purposes. It might be necessary, for example, in order to tilt the machine or to counteract wobble, to enhance ionisation some distance to one side of the machine's axis. Lasers for this purpose would probably be located around the periphery of the base of the machine and would appear as discrete sources producing distinct and concentrated beams.

Longer wavelength radiation would arise in the most part from the gyration of ions in the magnetic fields both inside the reactor and in the region beneath the machine. Its frequencies would cover most of the normal radio, television and radar bands and could be expected to interfere with reception of that kind. The character and strength of the interference is difficult to predict but it is at least certain that it would exhibit periodic variation in tune with the pulsations of the machine. It should not, however, be confused with the flutter often observed on television screens, caused by the passage of ordinary aircraft.

Although we shall not enlarge upon the subject here, physicists will appreciate that radiation from a hydromagnetic machine will also be characterised by polarisation and is likely to exhibit pronounced Faraday and Zeeman alteration.

Ionisation

The visual consequences of ionisation in air have already been discussed. The presence of ions will also make the air electrically conductive and capable of affecting certain kinds of electrical equipment:

CROWTHER (4.1) gives an expression for the current that will flow across a potential gradient in the highly ionised gas of an ordinary flame. The same equation may be applied without excessive error to conditions in the vicinity of a hydromagnetic aircraft. The relationship is:

$$I = Xc\,(n_1 k_1 + n_2 k_2)$$

where I = current in Amperes/cm.^{2}
X = potential gradient in Volts/cm.
c = ion charge in Coulombs
n_1 = No. of positive ions per cm.^{3}
n_2 = No. of negative ions per cm.^{3}
k_1 = positive ion mobility in cm./sec. per V/cm.
k_2 = negative ion mobility in cm./sec. per V/cm.

The charge of most atmospheric ions will be the same as that of an electron, i.e. 1.6×10^{-19} Coulombs, and the numbers of positive and negative ions will be equal. For mobilities in air at ordinary temperature and pressure Crowther quotes $k_1 = 1.36$ and $k_2 = 1.87$ in dry air or 1.51 in moist air.

For a practical example of the application of this equation, let us suppose that an ordinary petrol engined motor car is exposed to the efflux from a hydromagnetic machine, so that air containing 10^{13} ion pairs in each cubic centimetre is drawn over the exposed terminals of its spark ignition system by the engine cooling fan. It will be recalled that the machine is designed to produce 10^{16} ion pairs/cm.^{3} in the air beneath it, so the lesser concentration that we are assuming could be found at quite a distance from it.

Now, a typical igniton coil will generate a potential of 6000 Volts and have a capacity of about 24 Watts, enabling it to produce currents up to about 4 milli Amperes. In most cars the gap between an exposed spark plug terminal and the nearest earthed metal would not exceed 2 cm. The potential gradient across such a gap would therefore be at least 3000 V/cm.

The numbers to be inserted in equation 3.1 are therefore :

$X = 3000$ V/cm.
$e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$ Coulombs
$n_1 = n_2 = 10^{13}$/cm.^{3}
$k_1 = 1.36$ cm./sec. per V/cm.
$k_2 = 1.87$ (in dry air)

Hence $I = 3000 \times 1.59 \times 10^{-19} \times 10^{13}\,(1.36 \times 1.87)$
$= 15.4$ milli Amperes/cm.^{2}

Thus a column of air only 1 cm.^{2} in cross-section occupying a 2 cm. gap between an exposed terminal and the nearest metal would be quite capable of carrying the whole of the output of the ignition coil. Sparking inside the engine would be in these circumstances almost certainly cease, and the engine would stop.

In practice, emission electrons from metallic surfaces exposed to ionising radiation could aggravate the situation. Old engines with defective insulation would be m ost susceptible. The low voltage system of the car would not be affected directly to any significant degree but, of course, old batteries might prove incapable of sustaining lighting if the engine failed, particularly if futile attempts were made to re-start it.

The same equation may be used to predict the effects of ionised air upon other high-tension systems such as power lines or radio and TV transmitters.

Ionised air will also reflect radar waves and could in appropriate circumstances produce a larger and stronger " blip " than the machine itself. The image would be transient, tending to fade as the ions recombined and the air returned to normal. A moving and pulsing machine could therefore be expected to produce a series of separate fading images which might be mistaken for a multiplicity of machines. Similarly, an inexperienced operator might form the impression that the machine itself was capable of dematerialisation.

Physiological effects

The physiological effects of severe doses of ionising radiation are well understood and need not be elaborated upon here. It is sufficient to note that symptoms are seldom immediately apparent. The first indication may be vomiting and diarrhoea occurring up to several hours after exposure. Skin damage, if present, would be of the kind familiar to reckless sunbathers. It is possible that an observer might feel heat from the machine as he suffered ultra-violet irradiation. It is also possible that air trapped beneath clothing might in certain circumstances be heated during recombination to a degree sufficient to cause superficial burning. Other possible symptoms would be complex and relatively slow in appearing.

The associated hazard depends of course upon the duration and degrees of exposure and the intensity of the radiation. The dose is usually measured in units named after Roentgen. One Roentgen is the amount of radiation that will produce about 10^9 ion pairs in one cubic centimetre of air exposed to it. A single whole-body dose or 500R would be fatal to one out of two human beings.

Considerable difficulties arise in attempting to predict the dose likely to be received at a particular distance from a hydromagnetic craft because the absorbing capacity of the intervening air may vary sharply with wavelength in the case of X-rays. The machine would obviously be designed to produce the kind of radiation most likely to be absorbed in the zone where ionisation was needed for propulsive purposes, and to avoid the wastage inherent in allowing ionisation to extend beyond that zone. Conditions inside the zone would always be dangerous.

It follows that the greatest hazard would be associated with a machine in aerodynamic hover ; a machine in ground-effect hover could probably be viewed at close range with little danger ; and one in high acceleration could not be approached for obvious reasons.

The coefficient of linear absorption of X-rays in air may, according to PRICE *et al* (4.2) range from about 50×10^{-4} to 0.3×10^{-4} cm.$^{-1}$, depending upon wavelength. This of course is a considerable variation. We may illustrate the difficulty of predicting the hazard in the absence of practical experiment, by inserting these values in the standard equation for intensity due to a point source of known power. The equation is approximate becaues it takes no account of secondary emission from excited atoms and because our source is somewhat larger than a point. The equation is :

$$Q = E/4\pi D^2 e^{\mu D}$$

where Q = quantity of radiation received by target in Watts/cm.^{2} (4.2)
E = power of source in Watts
D = source-target distance in cm.
e = exceptional coefficient = 2.718
μ = linear absorption coefficient in cm.$^{-1}$

The hourly whole-body dose rate in Roentgens is roughly equivalent to : $Q \times 1.2 \times 10^7$

If we use these expressions to calculate the dose likely to be received by an observer 100 metres (about 330 ft.) from a machine in aerodynamic hover and emitting 10,000 MW of radiative power, we find that the lower absorption coefficient gives a dose rate of about 70 million Roentgen per hour so that even a short flash would be fatal ; whereas the higher coefficient gives a rate of 2×10^{-14} R/hr. which is completely negligible. It seems, therefore, that the machine could change from being harmless to being highly dangerous simply by adjusting its external shielding. There would of course be a corresponding change in the distribution of ionised air beneath it.

The physiological effects of strong magnetic fields are not yet well understood, but data is being accumulated as more powerful magnets come into use. It seems likely that short-term effects will be produced by changing fields whereas static fields, which are of no immediate interest to us, may only cause slow changes. Both presumably act by influencing the movements of ions in solution, which is an essential feature of living tissue.

FINCH (4.3) has already reviewed, in this journal, the known physiological effects, including those upon the central nervous system and the visual sense in particular. We need only add a reference to HEENAN (4.4) who reported finding synchronous interference with his vision when he placed his head in an alternating field peaking at a few hundred Gauss. Similar influences upon a close-range observer of a hydromagnetic machine might well lead him to conclude that it disappeared as it pulsed.

Scale

The whole discussion so far has centred upon a 100ft. diameter machine, and all the characteristics have been related to that size. There is no objection

in principle to larger or smaller machines. It is therefore appropriate to conclude with an examination of the effects of size upon characteristics. The simplest approach is to assume that all other sizes will be scale models, although substantial variations might arise in practice. We shall also assume that the central field strength will continue to range between 100 and 200 kGauss in all cases, this being an essential requirement for the containment field of the fusion reactor.

Table 4.1 is a provisional list of the factors by which the various characteristics of a machine will be multiplied if its diameter is multiplied by a factor K, which may of course be greater or less than unity.

Table 4.1

Scaling Factors of Selected Characteristics for Dimensional Factor = K

Weight	K^3
Field strength	K^3
Weight of air expelled per pulse	K^6
Pulse rate	K^{-3}
Jet velocity	no change
Jet power	no change
Ionisation power	K^3

Of particular interest in Table 4.1, are the indications that pulse rate would increase sharply in a smaller machine whilst its radiation would diminish equally sharply. Jet velocities would remain unchanged. Thus a small hydromagnetic aircraft could be expected to fly just as soundlessly as its big brother but much more smoothly and with considerably less risk of harming onlookers.

Finally, it is worth noting the consequence of applying similar considerations to the crews of these machines. We know that human beings are unlikely ever to be able to fly a craft at an acceleration of 30g. because their tolerance limit seems to be fixed at about 15g. The problem of finding a pilot for a high performance machine seems therefore to be insurmountable.

However, if we scale an average human being by a factor $k = \frac{1}{2}$, we find that his weight diminishes to 1/8, but the cross-sectional areas of his bones and muscles, which determine his strength, diminish only to $\frac{1}{4}$. Thus we finish with a diminutive creature who is *relatively* twice as strong as a normal human being and therefore capable of withstanding twice as much acceleration.

It is not unreasonable to expect that the technical problems to be overcome before we can construct hydromagnetic aircraft will be solved within the next few decades. If at the same time we wish to exploit fully their extraordinary performance potential, we may have seriously to consider the development of a new species of pilot. *Copyright R. H. B. Winder*

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The Little Blue Man on Studham Common
by R. H. B. Winder

Fantasy, or Truth
A new look at an old contact claim.
by Charles Bowen

Physiological Effects of UFOs
by Gordon Creighton

Essex Revisited
by Alan Watts

More on 1897
by Jerome Clark

A LONG, COOL LOOK AT ALIEN INTELLIGENCES

Part II—The Forms of Intelligent Organisms

by C. Maxwell Cade

ALTHOUGH many animal-lovers will claim a high order of "intelligence" for their pets, the only really intelligent organism at present known to man is man himself. By "intelligence" we have not merely to understand the dictionary definition of "intellect, understanding", which does not get one much further, but specifically we mean the capacity for abstract thought. Within the compass of terrestrial scientific knowledge we can conceive the possibility of three groups of intelligent organisms, excluding man :— (i), Humanoid or non-humanoid biological oragnisms ; (ii), Mechanical intelligences (self-programming computers) ; (iii), Stable intelligent plasmoids. Despite the claims of Spiritualists, psychic phenomena provide no evidence for the existence of "dis-embodied" intelligences : these phenomena (some of which will be discussed in Part IV of this article) can all be better explained by alternative hypotheses based upon the powers of the living human mind. We will now consider in some detail the three classes of possible intelligent organism mentioned above.

Biological organisms

The subject of Life in the Universe proved very popular at the 1964 meeting of the British Association, where the general opinion seemed to be that Bug-Eyed Monsters (B.E.Ms.) are more probable than humanoids as extraterrestrial life-forms. Certainly, if one is considering planets which differ greatly from Earth in their temperature, mass or chemistry, then B.E.Ms. are far more probable as indigenous life-forms than humanoids, since the principal characteristic of successful life-forms is their adaptation to their environment. Different environments means different life-forms, and this implies Monsters, since this is the term which we habitually use to describe creatures of unfamiliar form.

If we make the assumption that, within limits, the physical properties of materials are much the same wherever they occur, we can proceed to draw inferences concerning the way in which the size and shape of biological organisms will vary with the mass of the planet on which they live. For example, the limit to the height of a living creature is reached at the point where it can no longer support its own weight, so that, in general, the height of living organisms must vary inversely as the gravitational field of their planet. Giant planets might be expected to be inhabited by powerfully built, squat creatures, perhaps something like a multi-legged tortoise, whilst planets of small mass might be occupied by tall flimsy creatures supported on very slender limbs.

These physical characteristics of biological organisms bear a direct relationship to the probability of their being intelligent, since intelligence is a function of the number of inter-connections between the neurons of the brain, and there is therefore a minimum number of neurons. Neurons themselves are quite complex structures incorporating numerous organelles, and therefore have a certain minimum size. The brain of a man has somewhere around 10,000 million neurons, and any brain of human intelligence cannot differ very greatly from a human brain in complexity and size. The delicate mass of nervous tissue requires a liberal blood supply to provide nutrients and remove waste products ; this in turn implies that the organism has some kind of digestive system, and lungs or gills for respiratory exchange. All of this means that an organism of human intelligence cannot be very much smaller than a man. On the other hand, the finite rate of propagation of nervous impulses, and the square/cube law, between them set an absolute upper limit to size. The finite velocity of nervous impulses means that a brain must be compact, and its connections to sense-organs and limbs reasonably short, if the organism as a whole is to be efficient. The square/cube law means that all processes which depend upon surface area in an organism (such as respiratory exchange, and the absorption of nutrient substances from the gut) are proportional to the square of the size of the organism, whilst processes depending upon volume (such as the total metabolism, or energy exchange) are proportional to the cube of the size.

Apart from considerations of mere size, there are other requirement for an intelligent organism. It needs sense organs and motor organs, so that it can detect and react upon its environment. Man has numerous senses, in addition to the five obvious ones. There are senses which relate to movement and position and acceleration, also pain, pressure and temperature. Other terrestrial organisms possess a wide range of senses unknown to man. The elasmobranchs, which include sharks, rays and dog-fish, have organs knows as Lorenzini's ampullae, which are voltage detectors. Elasmobranchs use this sense to detect their prey : the gill movements of the plaice, for example, generate voltage gradients of the order of some thousandths of a volt per centimetre, whilst the ampullae of Lorenzini can detect fields of as little as one hundred-millionth of a volt per centimetre. A shark can thus detect a plaice buried in the sand by the tiny tell-tale electrical signals given off by its muscles. Mud-snails and planarian worms are but two of many terrestrial

organisms which have a built-in magnetic compass; bees and king crabs are two out of many more which can detect the plane of polarization of polarized light, and use this as a guide to direction. The pit-vipers (including the rattlesnake) possess very sensitive infra-red detectors with which they can sense their warm-blooded prey in complete darkness. The eyes of the common snail are very sensitive to X-rays, while bees and some butterflies cannot see red but can see well into the ultraviolet part of the spectrum.

In addition to these senses, possessed by various creatures but not by man, there are undoubtedly many others which we have not yet discovered, and the senses which might be possessed by extra-terrestrial creatures are quite un-guessable.

Limbs, whilst a great convenience for locomotion, are also a requirement for intelligence. The story of man's early struggle towards intelligence was the story of his struggle to develop hands, and then to free them from the task of locomotion so that they could more effectively make use of tools. The number of limbs employed by the higher forms of terrestrial life has stayed at four for some millions of years, although the insects (also highly successful in their own way) have tried everything from six to a hundred or more.

William Howells, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University, has suggested that the first men from Outer Space " will be neither bipeds nor quadrupeds, but bimanous quadrupedal hexapods ", in other words, something like the mythical creatures. Professor W. T. Williams of Southampton University favours something more like John Wyndham's " Triffids ". So, whatever your preference in the way of B.E.Ms., you have a fair chance of finding some open-minded academic to support your opinion.

Mechanical Intelligence

Only twenty years ago, electronic computers were almost non-existent, but today they are in use by the tens of thousands, and their number is doubling every year. They deal with everything from routine addition and subtraction to advanced accountancy, astronomical computations, and the economic planning of whole industries. The latest machines, though scarcely out of the experimental stage, not only think for themselves, but in some cases they think better than we can. Thinking, as Rignano pointed out some forty years ago, is a process of experimentation, not with things, but with their representatives. Looking at the thinking process in this way is very helpful, for it assists one to understand how the thinking process can be mechanized.

But, in spite of the evidence, whenever mechanical intelligence has been discussed, there have been strongly emotional denials that automata could ever think creatively. And yet our brains are relatively badly organised, inaccurate and slow. They were not evolved for the purpose of abstract thought, or the pursuit of those elusive concepts, truth, beauty and goodness, but developed slowly through millions of years as a product of the struggle for survival. As Lord Balfour said, our brains are essentially a food-seeking system, and no more necessarily a truth-finding apparatus than the snout of a pig. It is well to bear these things in mind when pondering the problem of how long it will be before we build mechanical minds of super-human muscle-power.

Most of the early work on the design of intelligent machines was done by teaching them to play games. Chess is particularly suitable for this job, because it is a microcosm of human struggles, with its own hierarchies, rules, aims and logic. The first chess-playing machine was built in 1769 by Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen. The machine was demonstrated before Marie Therese, with whom von Kempelen frequently played chess, and is said to have defeated both Frederick the Great and Napoleon during the eighty-five years before it was destroyed by fire at Philadelphia in 1854.

The first *real* games-playing machine was the chess-player exhibited in Paris in 1914 by Senor Torres y Quevado, Director of the Laboratorio de Automatica, in Madrid. This chess-player could not tackle a complete game with the pieces, but it could complete an end-game, checkmating the human player's king with its own king and rook. In 1949, D. W. Davis of the National Physical Laboratory built an electro-mechanical noughts and crosses player, using standard automatic telephone equipment for most of the apparatus. Today, there are numerous electronic computers which can play chess well enough to beat most human players. The latest of these learn from their own mistakes, and erase from their ' memories ' bad moves, substituting those which they have found from " experience " to be better.

This rate of progress, in less than 200 years, from Baron von Kempelen's (probably fraudulent) chess-player, to electronic computers of almost human ability, is typical of modern technology. What will the next 200 years bring ? It could well be something beyond human imagination. Similarly, we must ask ourselves what could have happened on older worlds, where technology might have been far advanced before life crawled out of the seas of Earth.

It is possible that a new phase of evolution—mechanical evolution—is about to begin on this planet. It could be that the change from biological evolution to mechanical evolution will prove to be of far greater importance than the change from chemical evolution to biological evolution which took place some 2500 million years ago. It is even possible that this always happens—that whenever biological life attains an intellectual level such that the organism can understand its own physiology, then mechanical components begin to be used for the replacement of biological components that are defective. The report from the New York Memorial Hospital, a year or so ago, of surgeons cutting a man in half, from the ribs down and fitting him with an artificial trunk, pelvis and legs, points to one way in which this work is going. The Russian experiments in keeping alive, and supposedly conscious, an isolated monkey brain, point to another path.

Another game which could lead to computers ruling the world is that of real-life monopoly. It will not be long now before political leaders come to realise, as scientists did many years ago, that machines of

super-human thinking ability can be built, and that they would completely alter human existence. Any nation which puts out the tremendous financial and technological effort needed to produce a Mechanical Minister, would use it to the maximum capability, which means that it would be used full-time in making decisions of national policy. Any restriction to the range of data supplied to the machine would limit its ability to make effective political decisions, yet if no restrictions are placed upon the machine's command of information, the entire control of the nation will virtually be surrendered to the judgment of a robot. It is unquestionably true that a single super-intelligent machine could dominate and direct the activities of the whole human race—if we let it. Unfortunately it is also true that the present world tendency towards Dictatorships and Police States does not suggest that mankind is alert to such dangers.

Mechanical super-intelligences, which may already exist upon other worlds, would have great advantages over biological organisms. They would be little inconvenienced by interstellar journeys impossible for man. They could withstand enormous accelerations sustained for long periods, and by using only those parts essential for piloting a spaceship, they could survive the cold of outer space without food (fuel), water or air. In strange environments such machines could withstand great extremes of heat and cold, operate in almost any atmosphere (or none), and be immune to bacteria, viruses and most forms of radiation.

Reproduction, which is usually thought of as something which is exclusively biological, is actually nothing of the kind, being a phenomenon of very wide occurrence. Reproduction is something which begins to take place in all dynamic systems of more than a certain (very high) degree of complexity. The problem (and American engineers are already working on it) is to programme a machine to make another machine like itself, and to programme this 'mechanical-offspring' to do the same. John von Neumann was the first mathematician to point out that it is theoretically possible for a computer to design a better computer than itself, and for the two between them to decide on the design for a third . . . In this way mechanical evolution follows quickly on the heels of mechanical reproduction.

Stable, Intelligent Plasmoids

A plasma is an ionised gas, that is to say, it is an aggregation of ionised and neutral molecules and atoms together with free electrons, and it is possible for quite large amounts of energy to be stored in the ionised particles. Plasmas are by no means a new discovery; every time we look at a glowing neon sign, we look at a plasma. The properties of plasmas arise from two very familiar phenomena discovered nearly 400 years ago by William Gilbert, physician to Queen Elizabeth I. In the year 1600, Gilbert discovered that an electrically charged metal knob lost its charge when placed near to a flame. Gilbert thus showed that a hot gas (which we now know to be an ionised gas) can conduct electricity. Gilbert is also remembered for being the first experimenter in magnetism, and magnetism is the other physical phenomenon which governs the behaviour of plasmas. Magnetism and ionisation together produce all those effects—including the terrifying phenomenon of ball lightning—which have recently been given the name of magnetohydrodynamic phenomena.

How can a ball of hot ionised gas be stable? At present, no one knows the answer, but that they can be stable is abundantly proven. For one thing, natural ball lightning has frequently been observed to persist for five or ten minutes, and on rare occasions for more than a quarter of an hour. A study of magnetically confined plasmas was made at the University of California Radiation Laboratory about nine years ago. A plasma gun was constructed which generated a plasma of deuterium. Two electrodes made of titanium with absorbed deuterium were used to strike an arc of several thousand amperes, and with a pulse duration of about a two-millionth of a second. The intensity of the arc evaporated electrons and ions from the electrodes, and the magnetic field associated with the current-pulse pinched the plasma into a slender column. The doughnut-shaped (toroidal) plasmoids were magnetically expelled from the gun with velocities of up to 120 miles per second. Although the plasmoids moved at such tremendous speed, they left a luminous wake which could be recorded with high-speed cameras. This work was one of a chain of research projects which may soon lead to the systematic production of artificial lightning balls.

Artificial lightning balls are being explored in research laboratories all over the word, for two reasons: firstly, because they are believed to offer great potentialities as a defence weapon; secondly, because they throw some great light upon the problem of plasma-containment, which is the chief obstacle in the way of thermonuclear industrial power.

One of the most remarkable properties of artificial plasmas is that, like natural ball lightning, they are often surprisingly stable. The University of California experiment showed that the toroidal deuterium plasmas would not only bounce off the floor but even off each other. The experimenters said that they almost seemed to possess individual personality.

Where does the intelligence come in? Well, it dosn't—yet, but Dr. Kenneth Shoulders of the Stanford Research Institute in the U.S.A., is tackling the problem. The U.S. Navy have commissioned Dr. Shoulders to produce an extremely compact computer—one with about 100,000 million components per cubic inch. It is hoped that such a machine, about 1000 times more compact than the human brain, could recall information at about 10,000 million binary "bits" per second. Dr. Shoulders' first model is expected to be a high-temperature solid-state job, using thin films of alumina and molybdenum at a working temperature of around 800°C. Dr. Shoulders' long-term project, however, is a plasma computer, in which the active components will be electrons and ions whirling in a matrix of magnetic fields. Although Dr. Shoulders does not expect to finish the project himself, it does seem that another piece of Science Fiction is in process of coming true. Fred Hoyle's

(concluded on page 19)

The Problem of the Frankensteins

by IVAN BRANDT

THE Editorial "Clean Sweep" in the November-December 1966 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW was extremely stimulating, and will tend to give some of us pause, especially those of us who have perhaps given the wrong impression that the "alien Aeroforms" are presenting no problems for us.

Now that we have been given a concise form of collected evidence in *The Humanoids,* as well as other detailed accounts of witnesses' experiences published elsewhere, the problem of the flying saucer phenomenon seems to be far greater and more of a mystery—even after twenty years—than it had at first appeared. As our Editor said, it is now incumbent upon all of us—indeed, it is imperative— that we devote some hard thinking to what I have called the "New Revelation", and it is high time for the official investigation recently set up in America. For the evidence and accounts of experiences collected from reliable witnesses seem an alarming and terrifying aspect of the phenomenon. But I believe that the long-awaited breakthrough is now possibly on hand, and as our information increases and our understanding grows so this alarming and terrifying aspect will diminish and eventually disappear. However, a breakthrough will not be made unless man on earth is prepared to use his mental faculties as energetically as he is at present wasting his physical energies, chiefly in the futile slaughter of warfare as well as indulging in other forms of human wastage which seem to be legion. Nor will we be in a position to make a breakthrough or to solve the problem until we realise that, first, science and religion cannot be divorced, and secondly, that both of these are one and the same, that they are essential and cannot be used separately for its solution. Although I believe that our humanity is badly retrogressed and our civilisation thousands of years behind that of the "variegated bunch of all-sorts" of beings now visiting us, we have at least advanced enough to know for sure that certain facts exist, that these facts are valid and that we must enlist these facts or principles to help us with any investigation that is to be made. Among all the hypotheses stated by Aimé Michel in "The Problem of Non-Contact" in *The Humanoids,* he made this point clear, and the most important of all the points he made in his Thirty-seven Articles, which end with the sentence "The rest is useless child's play." The great mystic, Anna (Bonus) Kingsford, has taught us that

> "As all things proceed from mind, mind is necessarily competent for the comprehension of all things . . . It is not that truth is not infinite, but that reason, when perfected, is also infinite. There is nothing that is incomprehensible or cannot be understood. The doctrine of the "incompetence of the human reason to comprehend the truth' has ever been the stronghold of superstition . . ."[1]

Thus we possess a reliable instrument of understanding which is capable of expansion.

The facts and principles which our earth's humanity know and understand for sure at its present stage of evolution, and which support this instrument of understanding, can be used as a basis or foundation upon which our investigation may be built. These facts and principles include such realistic examples as the following: the fact that a physical universe does indeed exist and is maintained; the fact that our planet Earth revolves around the sun of our solar system, and that the earth itself turns on its axis; that each of these revolutions takes a precise period of time, and that they have been going on and taking these periods of time for thousands and thousands of years; that a vacuum is a non-conductor of heat and will not transmit sound waves; that water on the earth's surface always finds its own level . . . These, and many other facts that are known by us "for sure", constitute proof that *law and order* exist as a constant and ruling principle in the universe, and that "Maria—*the sea of limitless space*—Maria the Virgin,[2] born herself immaculate and without spot of the womb of the ages" *is without chaos,* and that any chaos which may now exist has been made by man himself, and not by "God" or the Divine Intelligent Principle by which the universe is maintained.

> ". . . for the so-called 'forces of evil and darkness' have always been recruited from the ranks of your own humanity"[3]

There is nothing, therefore, that cannot be understood, for all is evolving by law and in order—though we ourselves seem to do everything we can to shroud this evolutionary movement in a mist of *disorder.* It remains for us to improve our faculty of understanding through the expansion of our consciousness.

What is constituting a shock in this New Revelation, and something that must give us pause, is not the fact that advanced races of mankind from other regions of the universe are now visiting us in their space-ships—for the possibility of interstellar and interplanetary space travel has been in our minds for a long time—but the fact that the visitors appear to be a "variegated bunch of all-sorts", some of whom are so formed as to strike terror into the hearts and minds of those of us who have encountered them. For *this* is the fact that is presenting a *seeming* chaos. But remember, "there is nothing that

cannot be understood " and in the same way that we know that nature abhors a vacuum so do we know that chaos is not a part or quality of deity, and it cannot therefore exist in a divinely sustained universe. (This is where the latter part of science-religion can help).

The kick-off, then, for our " hard thinking " must start here, and the first indispensable requisite for our investigation is the power to discriminate ; the ability to distinguish between qualities which are eternal (spiritual) and those which are temporal or transitory (material). The teachings of the mystic Anna Kingsford are particularly relevant in the solution of this problem which is now presenting us with forms of humanoid life that appear to be very different from those which are " nature's chosen form " for the human being. The power to discriminate, and to distinguish between the sons of God and the sons of men, as well as the power to discern those things which have been made by man himself, has become essential. We need the help not only of Anna Kingsford but of all those advanced souls of our earth's past and present humanity who possessed and possess this wisdom. One immediately thinks of the two greatest of these, Siddharta Gautama (the Buddha) and Jesus. The German mystic Jacob Boehme, whose significant statement " there is a signature in all things " would have been particularly helpful in helping to solve the probem of the humanoids had he been living today. But the teaching which is especially helpful with regard to the appearances of the " variegated bunch of all-sorts " originates from Anna Kingsford when she explains why man's countenance is the " express image of God's nature ", and how this physiogomy " bears in its features the impress of the celestial, showing him to be thence derived ". For, according to this teaching by one of our greatest thinkers and mystics, there is a reason for the pattern or design of man's countenance, the positioning of which features is fixed and constant and is by no means arbitrary. This explanation is too long to quote here, but anyone who is interested will find it in the book entitled *The Perfect Way*.[4] The importance of this explanation is readily understood when one realises that it is a reliable guide for distinguishing between those of our extraterrestrial visitors who possess the characteristics of their progenitors who were the " Sons of God " (the original Adam, Galactic Man, created by the Elohim), and those who possess the characteristics of progenitors who were the " sons of men " (the second Adam, earth animal or chemical man, who were created long after the first Adam).

Now at this point it is necessary to remember the last part of the 9th verse of Ecclesiastes 1 " . . . there is no new thing under the sun ", also the last part of the 9th verse of Deutronomy 5 about " the iniquity of the fathers . . .", and the fact that history repeats itself. If we go back far enough, to the very beginning of things with the help of the Pentateuch and Brinsley le Poer Trench's book *The Sky People* published in 1960—the thesis of which book postulates that there were two creations of man, separated by many ages, and that this fact is stated in the first and second chapters of Genesis—we shall find an illuminating account of the origin of the human race, and a reasonable explanation of our double nature. For " the Sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair . . ."[5] and humanity became a crossbreed. This explains many things and answers many questions, among which is the character of Jesus who, denuding Himself of all characteristics of the second Adam, attained Christhood. He was born both Son of God and son of man and by this denudation became the most perfect manifestation of consciousness in matter this world has so far seen. The signs in our skies (which were foretold by Jesus)[6] and the accumulating accounts of the experiences of witnesses, confirm much of the teaching in the Old Testament and the thesis of le Poer Trench's book. It can now be seen why science and religion cannot be divorced, for it has taken a combination of scientific and religious " hard thinking " by several philosophical writers to produce the clue which is the most likely one to solve this problem. The type of Christianity which we call Orthodoxy, with its anomalous doctrine and dogma, pales into mere superstition when confronted with its realistic supplanter Wisdom-Knowledge, and the reason for this belief's present decline and its inevitable fall is becoming apparent. This has just been dramatically emphasised by the courageous action of Dr. Charles Davis, Britain's leading Catholic theologian.

But for the solution of that aspect of the " flying saucer " phenomenon which is currently presenting such alarm and terror to us we must go back to the beginning of things, remembering at the same time all the teaching we have received not only from all those wise ones who have lived on our planet in the past, but also from those who are living on it at present. Since " there is nothing that is incomprehensible or cannot be understood " there must be an explanation of those things which, at the present stage of our evolution, may seem incomprehensible and terrifying to us. Now the great amount of evidence from witnesses all over the world suggests that our extraterrestrial visitors are of three different types. It must be remembered—and this is most important—that present humanity are the crossbreed descendants who have descended from the fusion of the first and second Adams. The first type of extraterrestrials would possess the characteristics of those who belonged to the first Adamic race (" So God created man in his own image . . ." Genesis 1 v. 27) ; these are the descendants bearing characteristics of those who belonged to the second Adamic race (" And the *Lord* God formed man of the dust of the ground . . . " Genesis 2 v. 7) ; these are the descendants bearing characteristics of the second Adam, earth animal or chemical man, who may be coming perhaps from a limited space, from within the confines of our own solar system. So present humanity, including the extraterrestrials, bear characteristics of both Adam I and Adam II, in

which descendants one or the other characteristic may be dominant.

But the third type is a " synthetic being " which has been built or " manufactured ". It would seem that among the descendants bearing the characteristics of the second Adamic race there are some who are emulating the " iniquity of the fathers " and, with their greatly advanced biological and physiological techniques, are again creating " servants ". For it was for the " services " of their remote ancestors that their ancestors were originally created —" to till the ground ".[7] This third type is therefore a synthetic being which has been " built "— in contradistinction to being " born "— and although its form may be crudely human and possess an efficient kind of intelligence, it is not intrinsically human. It does not possess, therefore, a body which is " nature's chosen form" for the son of man but the body of a very advanced type of biological robot. The incidents at Cisco Grove, Globe, Valensole, and the cases which recount somewhat similar incidents, appear to corroborate the hypothesis that these descendants have arrived at a stage of chemical and physiological knowledge which has enabled them, like Mrs. Shelley's Frankenstein, to produce a synthetic human being " for rendering services, and they are sending or bringing these robots with them to our planet to help them with their researches. But since the time when man dwelt " in the Garden of Eden dressed in the celestial garment, a garment of heavenly light ", (Zohar ii, 229b) many millions of years have passed, and it has taken all these ages to evolve a material and physical body for him which is a replica in " heavier " atoms of the form of that garment, and which, in its divine proportion, is a facsimile in flesh, blood and bone of the Vision of Adonai.[8] As it has taken all this time to evolve a physical body of " nature's chosen form " for the human race, our technology could hardly expect to manufacture one which would exactly match or equal its prototype in such a comparatively short period of time.

Now the cases of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hill, and Villas Boas (*The Most Amazing Case of All*),[9] also appear to corroborate this hypothesis, and the evidence points to the possibility that these members of the Adam II descendants are obsessed by, or at the least vitally interested in, their—probably and comparatively newly-found—talent for " making men ", which know-how may be, for them, among the last remaining fruits to be plucked from the tree of knowledge. Although we have not been given the details of the examination-cum-" operation " on the reproductive organs of the Hills, this incident and the Villas Boas case strongly suggest that the captors of all three of these persons were the extraterrestrial descendants themselves, and not their " servants " or " robots ". The important question is ; Why are these descendants of the Adam II race so interested in the reproductive organs of earthmen ? Is it not possible that, having succeeded so far only in being able to manufacture near-monsters or creatures which, though they may be extremely efficient mentally, (with a brain " at least three times as big as ours "— Aimé Michel[10]) they are only crudely human, and their makers are trying to solve the problem of creating man in the exact image of themselves ? They may be wondering : since their own remote ancestors were at first manufactured from " the dust of the ground " in the image of their God the Jehovah, why cannot they themselves now succeed in making an image exactly similar to their own, or in nature's chosen form ? In spite of the fact that the inhabitants of our earth are a retrogressed and comparatively ignorant humanity, there are still many beautiful and intelligent people among us, some of whom possess bodies, the physique of which sometimes reaches the perfection of " the golden mean " or " divine proportion ", and these must have been seen by our extraterrestrial cousins. But since—as Wade Wellman believes—these extraterrestrial cousins of ours, who seem bent on the manufacture of synthetic beings, would consider it beneath their dignity to communicate with us, regarding us as far inferior to themselves, they would certainly not ask us to collaborate with them or assist them in their experiments. Rather would they look upon us as human guinea-pigs to be taken for examination and experiment in their search for the few essential but missing details for the perfect construction of nature's chosen form.

This brings me to certain aspects in the now complete account of the Villas Boas case which seem significant with regard to the extraterrestrials' interests and experiments, in which cross-planetary breeding appears to be included. These aspects are the almost animal behaviour of the woman during sexual intercourse, and Boas's emphasis on the colour of her hair. It may be fairly accurately assumed that the " fair, almost white " colour of the hair of her head was not the real colour of the hair of her body, the true colour being seen in her armpits and pubic hair which was " very red, almost the colour of blood ". Red hair has always been indicative of passion, and this, with Boas's description of the act:

> " . . . some of the grunts that I heard coming from that woman's mouth at certain moments nearly spoilt everything, giving the disagreeable impression that I was with an animal . . . "[11]

would suggest that some of the members of the extraterrestrial crossbreed humanity are very " physical " beings, more so, perhaps, than the most physical type of crossbreed earthman. Could it be that this characteristic is proving a deterrent to their progress and that they are wishing to breed with, and from, a less passionate type of being ? Or was this incident merely a study-session during the act of propagation which might give them useful hints or information with regard to their manufacture of synthetic human beings, and perhaps supply them with the missing links in their know-how ? For the captors of the Barney Hills and Villas Boas would seem to share the same morphological interests. These suggestions may seem far-fetched, but, as Aimé Michel says, " in Ufology the rule is to think of everything and to believe nothing."

The accounts of the capture and experiences of

these witnesses are frightening, but it must be remembered that—unless there are specific reports which have been withheld from us—the extraterrestrials, although they may have badly frightened us, have not, so far as we know, deliberately caused any of us serious bodily harm, nor have they used lethal weapons against us. This cannot be said, alas, on our side. Unavoidable accidents may have occurred—such as, for example, the well-known case of Captain Thomas Mantell who was killed on January 7, 1948—but no deliberate act of aggression causing death has been made against us.

Since we ourselves are crossbreed humanity, and akin to our visitors, my case for another word to replace " alien " in the term " alien aeroforms " still stands.

NOTES

1 From *The Perfect Way* by Anna Kingsford and Edward Maitland, Preface to the Fifth Edition, pp xix, xx. Publ. John M. Watkins, London, 1923.
2 For the *true* meaning of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception see Anna Kingsford's book of Illuminations *Clothed with the Sun*. Publ. John M. Watkins, London, 1937.
3 From *The Sky People* by Brinsley le Poer Trench, Prologue p. 18.
4 Lecture 9, Part 4, Note 13.
5 Genesis 6 v. 2.
6 St. Matthew 24 v. 30.
7 Genesis 2 v. 5.
8 For the explanation and description of the *Vision of Adonai*, see *The Perfect Way*, Lecture 9, Part 5, No. 50.
9 FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol. 11, Nos. 1, 2 and 4. (See also *Even More Amazing*, FSR Vol. 12 Nos. 4, 5, 6; Vol. 13 No. 1 and this issue).
10 See " The Problem of Non-Contact " in *The Humanoids* (FSR Special October/November issue, 1966).
11 See FSR November/December, 1966 p. 15.

A STAFFORDSHIRE CREATURE REPORT

by Wilfrid Daniels

HERE is one of the more fantastic tales to have emerged during the thirteen years that I have been alert to mid-Staffordshire UFO sighting reports. I have good grounds for believing it to be true, although the names and addresses of the parties concerned are not for publication.

The fact that the story has been " sat on " for eight years suggests that we are not dealing with publicity-seekers. It " leaked " to me on February 17 this year only through an introduction by a third party at a time when there was some UFO activity reported in the Cannock-West Bromwich area, which got a good " press " locally and attracted attention . . . Hednesford is *very* near Cannock, on the Southern approaches to Cannock Chase.

About eight years ago (1959-60 ?) in December or January, Mr. F. was travelling from Stafford to his home at Hednesford, in the evening, after the day's work at a large engineering works in Stafford. With him were his wife, and a woman friend of the family; all work at the same plant. Mr. F.'s car at the time was a Morris " Oxford ".

Going up the long, steep bank just after Brocton, on the road past the German Military Cemetery to Pye Green and Hednesford, the car began to falter (Mr. F. was aware that the petrol-pump was rather erratic at the time). The car stalled thirty to forty yards from the top of he hill.

Mr. F. got out and " tickled " the pump and managed to get the car started, but it limped only half a dozen yards or so then " conked " again. At this point the two women got out to attempt to push.

It was quite dark, but there was light snow on the ground so what followed was seen clearly enough.

It was at this moment that they all became aware of a small figure standing on the road to their rear —they saw no one approach; suddenly, the figure " was there ".

Its form was humanoid, but it stood only 3ft. 6 in. approx., all in close-fitting blackish clothing from the neck down. (F. denies that it could have been a shortish motor-cyclist or scooter-rider).

The head " was enormous "—three or four times bigger than normal— and enclosed in an even larger transparent bowl ".

A quite, smooth voice asked "are you in trouble?", and the two women said, " Yes !—the car . . . it won't go ", at which the little figure stepped forward and, resting its hands against the back of the car, began to push.

The " Oxford ", which weighs over a ton, went *up* the hill at a crisp pace, and Mr. F was able to " blip " the engine into life—and then, as they turned to thank this weird but helpful stranger—the road was empty save for themselves and the car. They saw nothing else.

The ridicule that ensued when they told a few close relatives and friends soon taught them to keep it to themselves. It is only by chance that I heard of their story, and I fear it is unlikely that we shall ever know whether or not it was a contact with a UFO " occupant ".

A Long, Cool Look at Alien Intelligences (contd.)

" Black Cloud ", instead of coming from the direction of the constellation Orion, may eventually materialise in North America.

We have now considered possible forms of intelligent organism. In Part III of this article we will look at the kind of interstellar exploration and communication which such intelligences might adopt.

PERSONAL COLUMN

WANTED: FLYING SAUCER REVIEW back numbers: Jan./Feb., May/June, 1965. Jan./Feb., July/Aug., 1959. All or any editions for 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958. Top prices offered by: L. Beer, Flat 15, 59a Crawford St., W.1.

" SPACELINK ", articles, news, comment, 9/8d. post free, quarterly. " UFOLOG " monthly sighting sheets, 12 issues 10/6d. post free. F. W. Smith, 4 Connaught Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

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.

Aimé Michel writes on cloud cigars and tornadoes

Sir,—

I would like to stress the remarkable fecundity of the method used by Mr. Anthony Durham to show that the *cloud cigars* are *tornadoes*. And what precisely is this method ? It is to choose judiciously, from among the features of a phenomenon, those which are to be retained, and to keep them, excluding the rest which are of no importance whatever. Thus, for example, it is unnecessary to speak of the perfectly clear sky at Gaillac, Oloron, Homer (N.Y.), etc., or of the frequently observed falls of "angel hair," or the shadows cast, or of the reflections on the "plasmas" from other light sources : all these features reported in *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, pp. 151 et seq., in *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, and in *The UFO Evidence*, pp. 99 et seq., etc., are of no importance whatsoever. One of the advantages of this method, incidentally, is that it dispenses with the necessity of quoting sources and documents.

I believe that this method is destined to solve numerous enigmas. So far as I myself am concerned, I have been able, thanks to this method, to give a correct interpretation of the "steeples" that some people claim to have seen in the countryside. According to their description, a "steeple" is an object made of stone, very high, sometimes capped by a roof and emitting a sound of bells. The feature to be retained in this case is the sound of bells. The other features are of no importance. It is thus perfectly plain that the so-called steeples are merely cows which carry bells wrongly interpreted. The great length of neck attributed to these cows is a phallic symbol. Unless therefore, Mr. Durham objects; I propose to call his method *The Cow and Steeple Method.*

—Sincerely yours, Aimé Michel, St. Vincent.

P.S.—A friend has pointed out that I am underestimating the efficacity of this method, and that in reality the "cows" are bicycles wrongly interpreted. Which we duly note.—A.M.

Fireballs and Flying Saucers

Sir,

The article under the above title by C. Maxwell Cade in your January—February issue (which I have only just seen) reminds me of another entitled "Theory of the lightning balls and its application to atmospheric phenomena called 'flying saucers'", by Carl Benedicks, which appeared in *Arkiv fur Geofysik*, Band 2, Nr. 1. (Sweden, about 1953). Printed in English. All I can remember of the author is that he was a highly qualified scientist holding an important appointment. Enclosed is a copy of my abstract, to which I would add the following comments :

I would not expect a fireball always to explode, because the heat of recombination would tend to balance the cooling at the dissociation temperature and thus slow down the reaction. So some fireballs would disappear quietly.

Secondly, it is known that electric spark ignition of an oxygen-hydrocarbon mixture fails in the *complete* absence of water vapour molecules in the mixture. So cooling far below the dissociation temperature may well occur before the explosion.

(The English edition of *Arkiv fur Geofysik* might be available in the South Kensington Science Library.)

—H. R. Ronnebeck, M.Sc.

Abstract (from memory).

"A lightning stroke passing through moist air will raise the temperature of its track far above the dissociation temperature of water vapour, leaving a trail of incandescent oxy-hydrogen more or less like a string of sausages. Being so very unlike the surrounding atmosphere, some of these sausages may have an interface with the atmosphere and this interface could have a surface tension which would contract them into spheres. Moreover, the interface would be very smooth and would reflect light and heat so that the internal gas temperature would be maintained above the dissociation temperature for perhaps several seconds. Hence the fire ball. If the ball were spinning rapidly, centrifugal force would produce an oblate spheroid. Hence a "flying saucer".

"If a fire ball approaches a cold object slowly, the air between will be heated and its expansion will repel the ball so that it appears to bounce, but if the approach is rapid, or the object is spikey or irregular, so that the ball is cooled below the dissociation temperature, recombination will occur and the ball will explode. Hence the explosive destruction of an American fighter plane sent up to investigate an "unknown flying object" before this paper was written.

"A fire ball was seen to enter a house through an open window, killing a woman sitting inside the room. She was practically incinerated by the explosion. Little else was burnt, so that intense local heat rather than electric discharge appeared to be the destructive agent."

—H. R. R.

Mystery of Yester-year

Sir,

This account of air disturbance in your issue of November/December, 1966, must, I think almost certainly have been local small whirlwinds.

In 1920, one hot summer afternoon, near Cahir in Co. Tipperary, Eire, I remember a quite similar occurrence. We were walking in a cornfield, just after harvest and the sheaves were piled in "stooks" in lines along the field. There was no wind and it was one of those quiet sultry late summer days. Presently the stooks were seen to be taken, whirled round and thrown down along a straight line right across the field. It was a most extraordinary experience and really quite alarming at the time. Within minutes, we saw in the distance at about 3 miles the only water spout I have ever seen and I think that goes for my father and brothers who were with me. Clearly a day of whirlwinds.

This incidentally happened about 15 miles from the recent Cappoquin UFO sighting.

—R. H. Smith, O.B.E., Field House, Fernhurst, nr. Haslemere, Surrey.

The Moon and Mars

Sir,

Edward Fortune considers the conclusions reached in the article "The Moon and Mars" outrageous; whilst C. Maxwell Cade considers that the resemblance between the Clavius region of the moon, and those of Mars taken from Mariner IV, as "not really surprising in view of the similarity of structure and atmosphere."

I am not an expert on either the features of Mars or the Moon, and I am wondering if there is such a near duplicate of the Clavius region on the Moon itself.

If structure and atmosphere have anything to do with it, I should have thought that the most likely place for duplication would be the Moon itself.

—S. Fisher, 19 Wadeville Close, Shadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.

From Senor Antonio Ribera

Sir,

I was quite upset when I received the January-February issue of the REVIEW and read the letter by Mr. Fortune, in the " Mail Bag " section.

I thought the English were a people of gentlemen and used to tolerating people who may think differently, that intolerance was supposed to be an attribute of fanatic Latin countries. We in Spain are not used to such language as Fortune uses in his letters even in the more " yellow " papers. I agree that he can think that our calculations are erroneous, but he should have stated so in more correct terms, without saying that our article is " rubbish ". This " rubbish " has been published so far in the U.S. by *The Strolling Astronomer* (the staff of this magazine, as everybody knows, is formed of people, with no knowledge whatsoever of mathematics); in Italy by the *Centro Unico Nazionale* (formed of scientists, astronomers, mathematicians and other irresponsible people), and in Germany, the *Ventla Verlag* has just bought us the German rights; in France, our friend Aimé Michel found it most remarkable and intriguing (see his comments on page 416 of my book) and from the same country, I have just received a letter from Albert Ducrocq, the noted French student of Astronautics and one of the top mathematicians of his country (which is to say, of Europe). As you see, morons and illiterate people from all over the world have bought our lies, and, not content with this, some of them are reproducing this " rubbish " or quoting it in their works (which, I presume are also rubbish to Mr. Fortune and pundits like him).

Mr. Maxwell Cade, too, is a bit too happy when he disposes of any atmosphere on Mars. In the reply to the above letter, which Oliver and I are preparing, and I expect you to publish, we plan to quote the findings of William Sinton, of Harvard, about the CH molecules, the 100,000 photographs of Mars received from all over the world during the Mars opposition of 1956, in Flagstaff, Arizona, and *your* article on the image orthicon photographs *and* the canali. All this evidence points to a more living world than Mr. Maxwell Cade may think it is. I plan to quote Aimé Michel, too, in his article on Mars published in " Atlas Histoire ".

Our calculations, in fact, were conservative, since we limited them to a small area and *not* to the whole Martian surface, as should be the case. The possibility, then, of Mariner 4 photographing at random a zone *exactly like* the Clavius regions seems even more improbable. I find it extremely difficult, then, to believe in the good faith of Mr. Fortune and his unfortunate letter. You also know that with numbers you can prove anything. But we shall check the calculations, of course, ours *and* Mr. Fortune's.

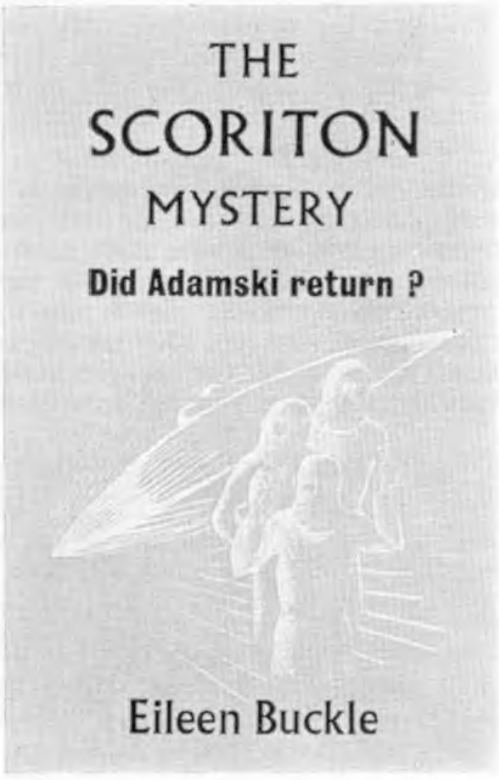
—Antonio Ribera, Barcelona, Spain.

Correction

Sir,

I feel I must clarify my letter in Vol. 13, No. 1. The words " like the tail of a kite " should be deleted.

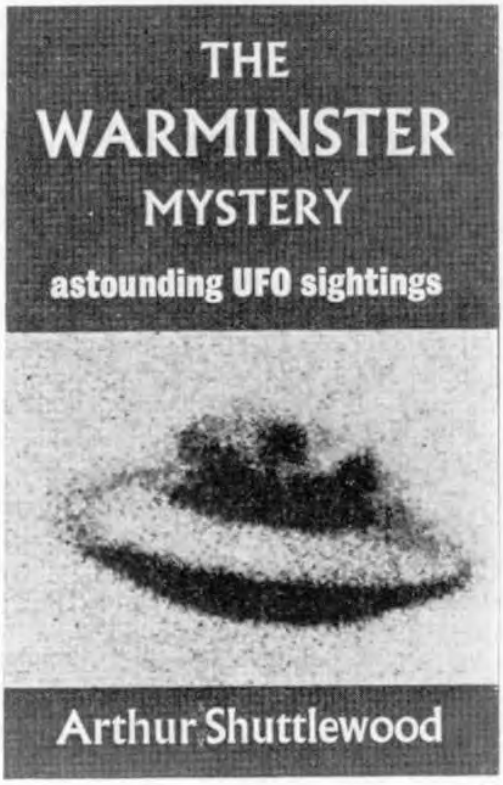
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EVEN MORE AMAZING . . . *Part V*

by Dr. Olavo Fontes

Parts I to IV of this series commenced in the July/August 1966 issue and concluded with the January/February 1967 issue of Flying Saucer Review. **They comprised an introduction and the long deposition of A. V. Boas, translated by Gordon Creighton.**

THE deposition transcribed above was made spontaneously by Senhor Antônio Villas Boas in my consulting-rooms. For about four hours we listened to the narration of his story and we subjected him to a minute interrogation. We endeavoured to clarify certain details, trying to catch him out in contradictions, and trying to call his attention to certain inexplicable points in his story, in order to see whether he was disconcerted by this or had recourse to his imagination.

Right from the outset it was obvious that he presented no psychopathic traits. Calm, talking freely, revealing no nervous *tics* or signs of emotion instability all his reactions to the questions put to him were perfectly normal. At no moment did he ever falter or lose control of his narrative. His hesitancies corresponded precisely to what could be predicted in an individual who, in a strange situation, could find no explanation for certain facts. At such moments, even though he knew that the doubts expressed by him on certain questions might lead us to disbelieve him, he answered quite simply : " I don't know about that ", or : " I can't explain that ".

Various examples can be given of features in his narrative that, to him, are totally inexplicable, such as . . . a) the beam of light that lit up the farm paddock but which came from he knew not where ; b) what it was that caused the tractor engine to stop and his lights to go out ; c) the reason for the presence of that rotating dish, turning incessantly, on the top of the craft ; d) their motive for taking his blood ; e) the door that closed and became part of the wall ; f) the strange sounds that issued from the throats of the personages in his story ; g) the symptoms (described below) presented by him during the days following his adventure, etc.

And then, on the other hand, in one of his letters to Joao Martins he had declared that he could not put certain details in writing, because he felt ashamed. This was the part concerning the " woman " and the " sexual relations ". No description of any of these details was given spontaneously by him. When we interrogated him about it, he displayed shame and embarrassment, and only by dint of much insistence did we succeed in extracting from him the details given above. He was also bashful when admitting that the shirt he had on at the time was torn, in reply to my question as to whether they had torn his clothing.

These emotional reactions are in keeping with what one would expect from a psychologically normal individual of his education and background.

We noted in him no tendency towards superstition or mysticism. He did not think the crew of the machine were angels, or supermen, or demons. He considers that they were men like us, but from other regions, on some other planet. He declared that he believed this because the member of the crew who accompanied him out of the craft pointed to himself and then at the ground and then at some place in the sky—a gesture that, in his opinion, could have only that meaning. Furthermore, the fact that the members of the crew remained the whole time with their uniforms fastened up and their helmets on indicates, in his opinion, that the air that they breathe is not the same as ours. Taking this statement as an indication that he considered the woman—the only one to appear without helmet and uniform—as being of a different race from the others (possibly of terrestrial origin, bred and adapted to the conditions of another planet) I put this question to him.

He firmly refused to accept this possibility, arguing that she was physically just the same as the others when she was wearing her helmet and uniform, being different from them only in the matter of her height. Furthermore, when speaking, she made the same sounds as the others ; she had also taken part in his capture ; at no moment had she appeared to be under any constraint by the others, being just as free as any of them.

I then asked whether the helmet could not have been a sort of disguise, inasmuch as the woman was able to breath our air. He replied that he did not think so, for he believed that she had only been able to bear our atmosphere by reason of the smoke coming out of the small tubes set in the wall of the little room where the "meeting " took place. This was the smoke which had caused him to feel so unwell. This fact, plus the observation that the " smoke " did not exist in any of the other rooms (where he did not see any of the crew members remove their helmets), had led him to conclude that the smoke was some gas necessary for her to be able to breath, and put there precisely in order that she could appear without the protection of the helmet.

As can be seen from this example, Senhor Antônio Villas Boas is very intelligent. His reasoning is surprisingly logical for a man from the Interior who scarcely knows how to read and write (primary education only). The same can be said with regard to his suspicion concerning the possible aphrodisiac effects of the liquid that they rubbed over his body, although here this explanation may perhaps have served more to satisfy his own " ego "—if he was telling the truth—since his sexual excitement could well have been perfectly spontaneous. His unconscious revulsion could have been due to the fact that it was painful for him to admit that he had been dominated by purely animal impulses.

On the other hand, the liquid could have been simply an antiseptic, disinfectant, or deodorant, to clean him and rid him of germs that might have been harmful to his lady companion.

We asked him if he considered that any of his actions had been performed under mental domination or telepathic suggestion from his captors. His reply was in the negative. He said he had been master of his actions and thoughts throughout the whole adventure. At no moment did he feel himself dominated by any extraneous idea or influence. " All that they managed to get from me was by the fist " was his comment. He denied having received any telepathic idea or message from any one of them. " If they thought themselves capable of such things ", he concluded, " then I must have disappointed them quite badly ".

At the close of the interrogation, Joao Martins told him that unfortunately he would not be able to publish the story in *O Cruzeiro* because, in the absence of more conclusive proofs in support of it, it would be difficult for it to be taken seriously, unless a similar story were to appear somewhere else.

Villas Boas was visibly discouraged at this (either because he wanted to see his name in *O Cruzeiro*, or because he could see from Joao Martins' expression that he did not believe him). He was quite upset, but did not protest, nor did he attempt to discuss the matter. He simply said: " In that case, if you don't need me any more, I'll go back home tomorrow morning. If you should want to make a trip out there one of these days I shall be very glad to receive you. If you need anything else from me, you only have to write . . ."

To console him in his disappointment, I told him that, if he was set on seeing his adventure in print, he had only to go to the newspapers—which would certainly print it at this time, just when the subject was back in the headlines because of the photographs of the Trinidade Island " saucer ". But, citing as an example this case of the photographer Barauna, I warned him that for many people he would be merely a madman or a hoaxer. His reply ran as follows : " I would challenge those accusing me of being a madman or a liar to come out to my home district, and make an investigation of me. They would see whether the folk there do not consider me to be a normal and honourable man. If, after all that, they still continued to doubt me, then so much the worse for them . . ."

All the foregoing remarks confirm the impression of sincerity that Senhor Villas Boas' manner of relating it lent to his story. On the other hand, they make it very clear that we are not dealing with a psychopath, a mystic, or a visionary. But, despite it all, the very content of his story is itself the biggest argument against its veracity. Certain details are too fantastic to be believed—unfortunately for him. In these circumstances we are left with the hypothesis that he is an extremely clever liar, a hoaxer endowed with an amazing imagination and of a rare intelligence—capable of telling an entirely original story, completely different in its genre from everything that has appeared up to now. His memory must also be phenomenal ; for example, the detailed description that he gave us of the strange machine tallies precisely with a carved wooden model which he sent to Joao Martins in November. Be it noted, moreover, that the craft is entirely different from the flying saucers described up till now (as if he were determined to be original even in this).

This agreement between the wooden model made months before and his oral description (plus a sketch) given to us today, indicates that this man must be endowed with an excellent *visual* memory.

Another experiment which we did was to show him various photographs of blonde Brazilian women, to see if he found that any of them resembled, either in features or hair, the blonde female member of the machine's crew. The result was negative. Last of all, we showed him a photo published in *O Cruzeiro* (in 1954) of a painted reproduction of Adamski's " Venusian ", done in accordance with Adamski's own instructions. Villas Boas recognised no similarity, pointing out that the face of the person whom he had met was much thinner, and was triangular in its lower half ; that the eyes of the woman were larger and more slanting ; and that her hair was much shorter (coming only to half way down the neck) and arranged in a different style. Neither did he recognise any similarity in the clothing.

The Sketch of the Machine

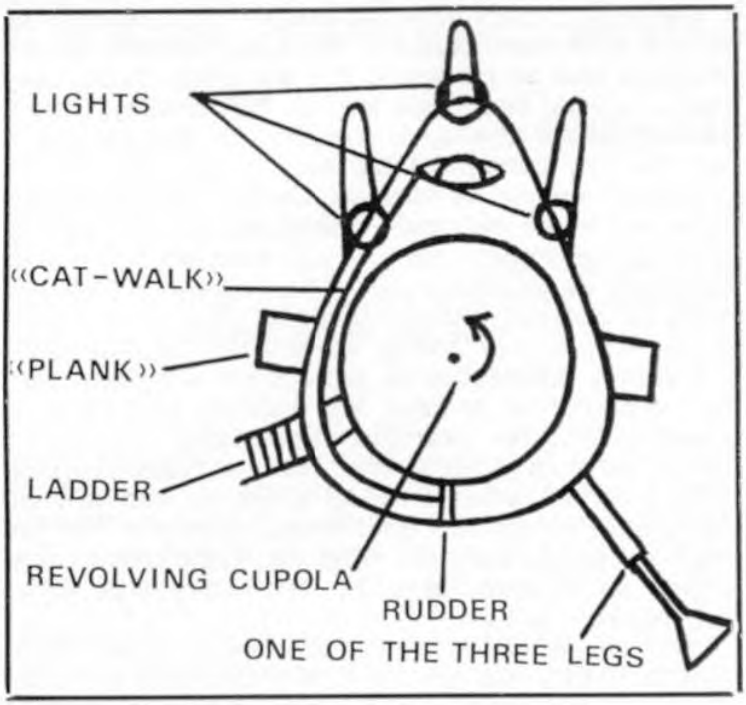
This sketch was made by Villas Boas himself in my consulting rooms in order to help us to understand the details about the craft as furnished in his deposition. This sketch must be interpreted in terms of the description given by Villas Boas, which is quite detailed. (See p. 24 for sketch)

On the following day (October 17) Villas Boas returned to the place where the strange craft had landed and he measured the distances between the three marks that were there in the ground, corresponding to the feet of the tripod on which the machine stood. These measurements give an approximate idea of the actual dimensions of the craft.

II. ADDITIONAL NOTES

by Gordon Creighton

We have now given in translation almost the whole of this most important text, the photostatic copy of the report of the interrogation of Antonio Villas Boas, and there now remains only that section of it which contains what is indubitably the most significant part



Dimensions of the Machine
Scale : 1 metre = 4.5 hand-spans or palms (palmos in Portuguese).
Length. 48 palmos (10.66 metres) = 35 feet.
Width at rear. 32 palmos (7.11 metres) = 23 feet 4 inches.

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of all, namely Dr. Olavo Fontes' medical report on A.V.B., and this will appear as the concluding instalment, in the next issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

As for Dr. Olavo Fontes' own comments, given above, we see clearly that the doctor is in a real quandary. He and Joao Martins are obliged, as honest men, to admit that A.V.B. is no psychopath or visionary, but they are then forced by the logic of their position to go on to explain to us that not only is he extremely intelligent but that he is endowed with a power of original imagination and a phenomenal memory that take him out of the category of ordinary folk altogether. All of which, as you may admit, is not bad for a farmer from the great Brazilian Hinterland (where such educational facilities as do exist in the countryside are pretty poor, so that the primary education that A.V.B. received there is most unlikely to have been anywhere near to the standards prevailing in the advanced urban areas of Brazil or in other countries).

But why is it that they feel obliged to portray A.V.B. as a mental superman who has succeeded in creating a totally new kind of story and of retaining all the minute details of it in his memory for months, indeed for years, with almost no alteration ?

It is purely and simply because, as we have just read in the foregoing section, *" the very content of the story is the biggest argument against its veracity "*.

In other words, *A.V.B.* had *to be a liar and a hoaxer because the story couldn't be true.*

(Let us remember how Captain Ruppelt of the U.S. Air Force told us, in his book, that all reports of UFO landings and of contacts with UFO entities in the USA in the early years after 1947 went automatically into the " C.P.F."—the crackpot file. Which probably means that no records of many valuable cases now remain).

But do we have to *accept* the statement that Dr. Olavo Fontes and Senhor Joao Martins really did believe that their man was romancing ?

Without going so far as to reveal all that we know about this, I may say here and now that there are excellent grounds for thinking quite otherwise. The eminent doctor and the eminent journalist knew very well indeed that A.V.B. was not lying or making it up.

Their failure to divulge the A.V.B. story had an altogether different reason, and I have the best of grounds (though I do not propose to reveal them) for asserting that there was a pact or agreement between them that they would not publish it.

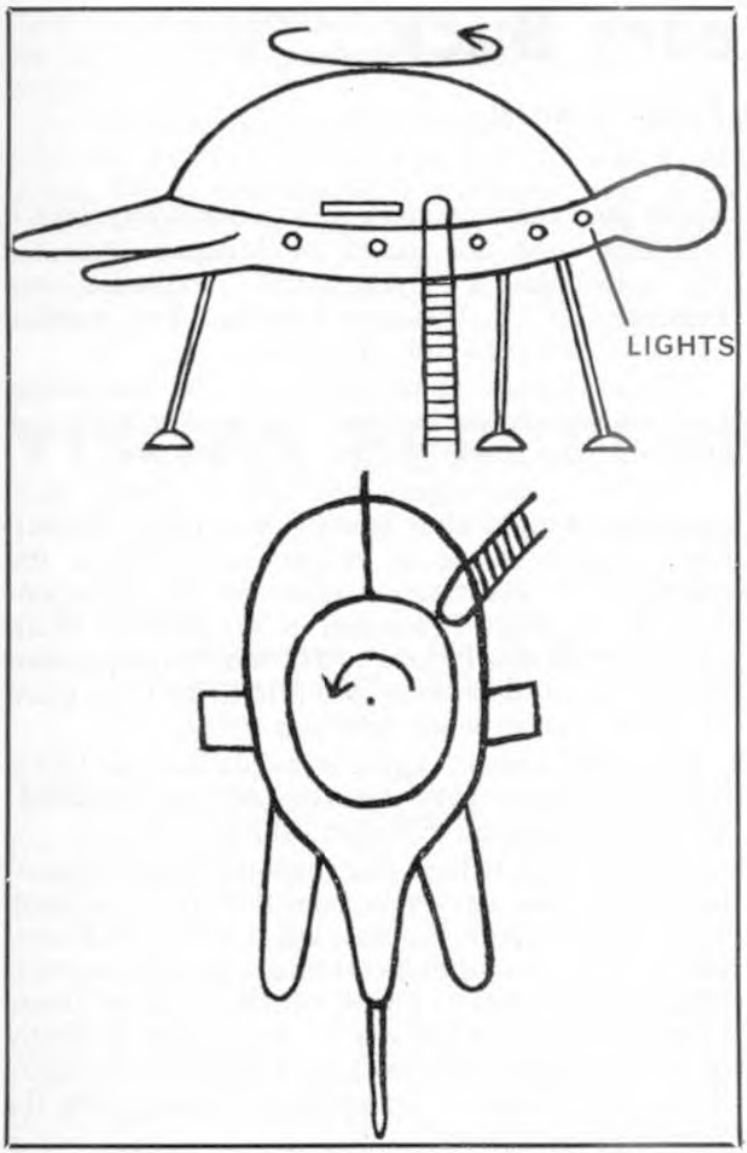
Brazil in 1958 was very close, politically, to the United States, which possesses today no more loyal or more efficient ally in the South American Continent. Indeed for this fact all true lovers of peace—in contradistinction to those others who jabber so much about peace while harbouring very different intentions—have every reason for satisfaction. We may be sure then, that as loyal Brazilians, the eminent doctor and the eminent journalist will have been in touch with the Security and Intelligence Services of their own country. Are we very far off the mark, then, if we enquire whether the suppression of the A.V.B. case took place on the express instructions of the Brazilian Intelligence and their close friends and allies, the Intelligence authorities of the USA ? I have said enough and will leave it at that.

Finally, if the doctor and the journalist consider A.V.B. to have been lying in 1958, do they think so still ? If so, why has Dr. Olavo Fontes now sent this complete photostatic copy of his remarkable document to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW ? Is this not clear proof that they know the story is true ? Since the REVIEW had received the main skeleton of the story long ago from Dr. Buhler and published it in 1965, would it not be reasonable to assume that Dr. Fontes thinks we might as well now have the whole account, in all its details, to round off the picture ?

Had the story not been brought out into the open by Dr. Buhler and FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, it is legitimate to think that the non-publication pact might still have been in force today. And, indeed, I am informed that Joao Martins still resolutely refuses to show the original—or photos—of the wooden model of the strange craft sent to him by A.V.B.

The Sketches of the Machine

For the benefit of readers who did not see the first account of the A.V.B. story in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Numbers 1, 2, and 4, of 1965, I consider it useful to reproduce again the two sketches of the machine which A.V.B. made for Drs. Buhler and Mario Prudente Aquino when they visited him, in his home district, in July 1961, that is to say about 3½ years after the date when he made his first sketch in Dr. Olavo Fontes' consulting rooms in Rio de Janeiro. The source for these sketches is SBEDV Bulletin No. 26/27, April-July 1962, edited by Dr. Buhler.



POSTSCRIPT

The writing over the Door

On page 16 of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for November/December 1966 I gave a reproduction of Antonio Villas Boas's attempt to memorise the luminous inscription, traced out in red symbols, which he saw over the door of the smaller squarish room in which his encounter with the lady took place.

As A.V.B. has told us, he tried to memorise the inscription, and when he got home he put it on to paper and sent it to Joao Martins (one of whose articles on flying saucers A.V.B. had seen in the magazine *O Cruzeiro*). By the time of his interview with Dr. Fontes and Senhor Martins in Rio de Janeiro in February 1958, A.V.B. had, so he tells us, entirely forgotten what his attempted reproduction looked like. Moreover, he does not seem to have retained a copy of it (this point sounds very authentic !) for he apparently did not mention the inscription to Dr. Buhler and Dr. Mario Prudente Aquino when they visited him in July, 1961, and they did not then know about it.

The version of the inscription already published in the REVIEW is the one that I received from Dr. Buhler in a letter dated January 12, 1966. Dr. Buhler had received it from Dr. Mario Prudente Aquino who, in turn, had obtained it from Dr. Olavo Fontes.

However, it seems that it was not an entirely accurate version, and in a letter dated December 27, 1966, Dr. Olavo Fontes now writes to me as follows :

" Concerning A.V.B.'s description of the writing seen by him over a door, the specimen reproduced in the FSR is not an accurate reproduction of the original. In fact, Dr. Mario Prudente Aquino appeared one day in my office and asked me about it. I told him that I could give a copy of the original any time he wanted, but that, at that moment, I could only try to reproduce the writing, which I had memorised. He asked me to do it, and left with the copy which was later sent to you. I never imagined that he wanted it for publication, because he never came back to ask for the copy I had promised him. As you see, he made a mistake, because my memory is not so good, so that the specimen you have reproduced is somehow different from the original inscription sent to Joao Martins by Antônio. This original is reproduced below."



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Twenty Years Back

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench

IT is now twenty years since Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting on June 24, 1947, of nine gleaming discs near Mt. Rainier, State of Washington. His subsequent description to reporters of the motion of these objects as " being like saucers skimming over water " caused the press to headline them as " flying saucers " and the name has stuck, for better or worse, ever since.

Most people take the Arnold sighting as the starting point for modern UFO activity. This is not an accurate assessment. The *intensive* observation of our planet by the visitors (whoever they may be) began after the end of World War II and after the atom bomb had gone off in 1945. To set the record straight it really started in 1946.

It is interesting to note that though the concentration of activity was over Denmark and Sweden, there was sporadic activity over Belgium, France, Ireland, Switzerland and the United States.

This, of course, is a familiar pattern that was to be followed in subsequent years. For example, in the latter part of 1954 there was a wave of activity over France and Italy, but at the same period saucers were observed in other parts of the world.

Reports appeared in the press during July, 1946, that the populace of Sweden had been disturbed chiefly at night by bright " meteors " travelling at tremendous speeds across the skies. It was soon to be realised that what the good people of Sweden were seeing could not be classed as meteors. Witnesses described them as products of technology and the objects, according to *L'Aurore* of July 27, indicated that they were guided by remote control.

By August every one in Sweden was talking about the " luminous bombs " flying at low altitudes over the country. No fragments of any bombs or rockets were found and no one was hurt. Jacques Vallée, who has done such splendid research on this opening modern phase of the saucer saga wrote :

" Their range is fantastic, compared with the technological state of development of the time. Still the idea of war is so present and so strong (1946—B. Le P.T.) that all descriptions are made in terms of destructive technology : bombs, shells, rockets. The terminology, however, will slowly change. "

At about this time the phenomenon was spreading to other countries in Scandinavia. The Danish press reported a " rocket " seen by numerous witnesses over Copenhagen and a " rocket-projectile " exploded over the island of Malmoe. Another object, this time a " flying bomb ", exploded over Tammersfors in Western Finland. Yet another " rocket " was seen over Helsinki.

Jaques Vallée commented on the interesting fact that the objects had been reported to land, and quoted from *Epoque,* August 28, as follows :

" Some of the objects are said to change their direction of flight after landing, when they go back towards their place of origin, according to the results of an investigation made by the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in Stockholm." Mark you, I would dearly love to ask that correspondent how he knew they were going back to their place of origin and in what direction it lay.

It is from about August onwards that the UFOs began to appear over countries outside Scandinavia. Vallée quoted *Epoque,* August 29 :

" Other objects have been reported from Switzerland and, a few days ago, from Waterford, Ireland. The objects seen in Sweden left a trail of fire similar to the trail of a comet. Others, on the contrary, have a light in front. The American General James Doolittle has just arrived in Stockholm, officially on a business trip for the Shell Company. In reality he is to conduct an investigation along with the Swedish authorities."

Soon afterwards, the phenomena began to be seen over Belgium and France, as well as over Scandinavia. It was stated by *Le Figaro* that over 2,000 ghost rockets had been seen over Sweden in the previous few months. The newspaper added that the Danish and Swedish military authorities were taking the whole matter very seriously.

All the Scandinavian ghost rockets were reported to be cigar-shaped, so this sighting in early August over the United States is of particular interest . . .

At about 6 p.m. on August 1, Captain Jack E. Puckett was flying a C-47 plane from Langley Field, Virginia, to MacDill Field, Florida.

The aircraft was at 4,000 feet and about 30 miles north-east of Tampa when Captain Puckett and his crew were startled to see a cigar-shaped object hurtling towards them in horizontal flight at the same altitude.

When the cigar was about 1,000 yards distant it swerved to avoid them and as the UFO passed

them the crew could see that the object was twice the size of a B-29 bomber and had luminous portholes.

In addition to Captain Puckett, both his co-pilot Lt. Henry and his engineer witnessed the object. When they landed a full report was given to the Base Operations Section of MacDill Field. A signed report from Captain Puckett's remarkable sighting is on file at NICAP headquarters.

As you can see the flying saucer era had well and truly begun before Arnold's sighting the following year.

SOURCES

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VISUAL PERCEPTION OF UFOs... Part I

by Anthony Durham and Keith Watkins

Mr. Durham is a joint Secretary of the Cambridge University Group for the investigation of UFOs (CUGIUFO), and Mr. Watkins is a member of the same very active Group.

THE major part of the evidence so far gathered about UFOs came originally through the human eye. Therefore, as UFO research grows in stature as a serious and systematic scientific study, the process of human visual perception will require close attention. The authors do not pretend to be experts on the subject; rather, we hope to illustrate its vital importance to UFO investigation and to stimulate investigators to go away and read up about it. A cheap and simple book is M. D. Vernon: *The Psychology of Perception* (Penguin, 5/-). More authoritative is R. H. Forgus: *Perception* (McGraw-Hill). Best of all is R. L. Gregory : *Eye and Brain* (World University Library, 14/-)—almost a must for the serious investigator. At the last BUFORA Congress we were very pleased to hear briefly from Dr. Gregory himself on the subject, and for many of the succeeding ideas we are indebted to him. The whole study of perception is rapidly developing and a lot of what is written here has only been learnt recently. Possibly some of it may have been even more recently contradicted. We should be very willing to supply more detailed references to anyone who wishes to pursue the subject further. Many of the effects described are easily verifiable by experiment, without any specialised apparatus.

The human eye may be crudely approximated by a sphere, with a lens near the front and a light-sensitive surface called the Retina, spread out like a photographic plate over the back. The action of the curved front surface of the eye produces an inverted image on the retina, just like a camera, and the lens " accommodates " to keep the image in focus, according as the object is close or far away. From now on the analogy with a camera ceases. Photons with wave-lengths between 4000 and 8000 Angstrom Units falling on specialised receptor cells in the retina, called Rods and Cones, stimulate them to produce nerve impulses, which pass through a series of interconnections and then down nerve fibres to the visual centres of the brain. The important point to be reiterated again and again is that the action of the eye is quite inseparable from that of the brain : in fact, the cells of the retina have grown up in evolution as an outgrowth of the brain. The human brain is really only a particularly special computer, and it is helpful to think of the processing of visual information in the same way as for example the production of a salary cheque by computer. Both systems take in information, which is converted to a string of electrical pulses travelling along nerves or wires, and then process it according to a certain pre-arranged logic. In the case of the computer, this logic is the " software " written in by the designer and in the case of our brains it is the result of our total experience to date. We have to enquire into the workings of our brains when they describe something as a " Flying Saucer " in rather the same way that a cost accountant might start probing if his firm's computer produced unusually large salary cheques.

Interpreting the picture

Given that the picture our eyes receive can only travel to the brain as a limited number of pulses along nerves—how does the brain interpret the picture ? Evolution has had to solve essentially the same problem as the computer designer : how to make the most economical use of all the components and connections available. The compromise adopted by the human brain may be explained as follows. The actual light receptors in the eye are specialised into two main classes. The rods are fairly evenly distributed over the whole retina and are very sensitive to low light intensities after a period of adaption to the dark ; they can receive a broad band of colours, but cannot perceive colour differences ; they have

low powers of discrimination between shapes, but are very sensitive to movement. The cones, in contrast are connected into a central spot, called the Fovea (amongst other names), and can discriminate colours and shapes, but are less sensitive to light. Therefore the cones provide mainly our normal, acute daytime vision, whereas the rods provide our peripheral vision, sensitive to movement (and hence danger), and our vision on a dark night. In fact, this shape and motion discrimination is a product of the interconnections between cells rather than their basic structure, and recent work has emphasised the amount of " data processing " that goes on in cells actually in the retina. For example there are specialised systems that recognise corners, straight lines at various orientations, etc. The predigested information goes down a strictly limited number of nerves to the brain. There it is interpreted in the light of previous experience, preconceived notions and particular physiological factors inherent in the system. The work of the great Russian scientist, Pavlov, emphasised how strangely dogs, and by analogy humans, can behave under stress, and a fine subject for another whole article would be the physiological influences at work on an excited person seeing a UFO. More important here is the way the brain receives only a very little new information about an object and supplies a lot more from past experience. The precise figure for the information-carrying capacity of the sensory pathways into the brain, as so many bits per second, varies according to the situation, but it is remarkably small. Therefore, the amount of detail about an object that is taken in newly is quite small compared with the amount supplied by the brain drawing on its store of previous experience. To illustrate this, consider the fact that a blind man has actually to learn to see things that are ridiculously obvious to other men, if he regains his sight ; or the way in which one reads a book, recognising the meaning of sentences without examining all the individual words in detail. All this was applied to everyday happenings, but its relevance to UFO research is obvious. A witness cannot be expected to see a lot of detail in a short time and he may utterly unconsciously interpret it in terms of objects familiar to him, and may quite literally and honestly see things that are not there.

The same may be true of a prolonged sighting too—first impressions are very tenacious. The same sort of process of filling in unperceived details occurs in time as well as space ; the brain integrates the information it receives over a period of time to build up a picture of what is going on. It has to do this anyway because the eyes are in continuous motion, never still for more than a few tenths of a second. How many people realise that they have a blind spot, not far off the centre of the field they are looking at ? It is effectively filled in by the brain, as a result of the continual motion of the eyes. What sometimes passes for a sixth sense, for example the uncanny way a well-drilled orchestra understand their conductor's every intention, is merely this capacity to integrate the meaning of all his gestures over a period of time, and predict his intentions for the future.

Perception of Colour

The eye perceives colour by having three different kinds of cones, with sensitivities stretching over broad bands of colour centred on red, green and blue respectively. Overall sensitivity is highest for orange. Night vision using rods, however, cannot distinguish colours but is most sensitive in the green colour region of the spectrum. Colour perception may not be accurate under the conditions of many of the less interesting UFO sightings, with dull lights in the sky, when cone vision is only just beginning to operate. Probably red is the first actual colour perceptible as a colour in a very dim light. Colour, like shape, is interpreted in the light of experience. For example a monochrome picture of a landscape, that might be expected to show a range of colours naturally, does indeed appear to have some of them. Certain colours, such as brown, grey, silver or gold, cannot be made up from a simple mixture of the colours of the spectrum, but are a product also of the apparent texture of the object. Furthermore, colours can only be judged relatively, by comparison with some other colour. For example, an ordinary old light-bulb gives a perfectly adequate white light, but the moment you compare it with a "daylight" fluorescent tube, it looks positively yellow. In the same way, a light coloured a sort of sea-green turquoise might be seen as quite blue by one witness and green by another, according to what they looked at last. The number of people who are actually colour-blind is surprisingly high—about 10 per cent for men, but only one hundredth as many women. In the extreme form of colour-blindness, the world is seen as mixtures of only two colours; the commonest such deficiency leads to an inability to distinguish red and green. However, the major proportion of men have only a partial deficiency (which may be unknown to the person himself) and see most shades as only slightly different from what normal people see. Another problem that may be mentioned here is the production of after-images, when the receptors are overloaded by bright lights. Immediately after the stimulus has ceased the receptors carry on reporting to the brain for a brief moment, giving a positive after-image the same colour as the original object. Then fatigue sets in, and the receptors for the colours of the object are worn out while the rest can still function O.K. The result is a negative after-image complementary in colour to the original object. Obviously, just like colour, brightness can only be measured relatively, so that what appears bright by night need not appear so by day. In almost every respect, our sense of sight is incapable of making absolute measurements. Except at the threshold of sensation, only measurements by comparison are possible.

Several fine details of the structure of the eye may be relevant to UFO research. The limit of resolution (i.e. the angular separation of the closest two objects that can be seen as separate) is of the order of one minute of arc (1/30 of the moon's diameter). This limit is imposed mainly by the closeness of the receptors in the retina, but for particularly appropriate objects, the brain manages to improve this to about

ten seconds of arc. Like any measuring instrument, the eye has a definite amount of noise (in the sense of random spontaneous signals) over which the genuine signal must be perceived. Visual noise is the subject of much current research, but we know too little yet to put down in print anything authoritative. However, it bears thinking about : how often does the eye/brain system generate a really splendid spurious signal ? Could some of the UFO reports that one would like to explain as hallucinations, be perfectly honest reports of what the witness did actually " see "? For a demonstration of one kind of visual noise, try focusing your eyes on infinity and looking at a featureless blue sky : you should be able to see fine white points of light flashing about continually like minuscule shooting stars. This is caused by blood corpuscles moving about in the blood vessels of the retina. Distinct from these are the Floaters—bigger, slower, soap-bubble-like ghosts that drift lazily across your view of the sky. These are bits of cellular debris floating about in the fluid in front of your retina. It is difficult to imagine them giving rise to UFO reports though. Actual disorders of the eye, such as a Detached Retina, could quite likely remain undetected except for occasional flashes of light across the sky, or hovering balls of light, or (as in the case CUGI-UFO recently investigated) blue-white tear-drops shooting around. This last report illustrates what we are getting at: the witness has seen these tear drops on at least 50 occasions and claimed he could make them move by " thought projection ", very much suggesting a subjective origin for these objects.

CRAWLING LIGHTS—A New Development

by Dan Lloyd

The Editor is indebted to reader John Fuhrmann for sending him cuttings from the Oregon Journal **of last October dealing with the strange case of the " crawling lights " and " walking stumps ", which he mentioned in his talk last March to a London gathering of B.U.F.O.R.A. after seeing the case reported in Coral and Jim Lorenzen's** APRO Bulletin. **The following is a summary of the known facts :**

FOLLOWING a rash of UFO reports in the Newport area, the *Oregon Journal* sent a three-man news team to interview witnesses. The team talked to 32 people, 25 of whom had seen strange objects varying from two types of spaceship-like craft to doughnut-shaped pulsating lights that ' crawled ' along the walls of a house. Five people insisted they had seen moving, stump-like creatures east of Toledo.

The story of the ' crawling lights ' began in March, 1966, when 15-year-old Kathy Reeves was walking up Pioneer Road, near Toledo, with a girl friend. The two girls saw a ruddy glow in the distance behind some trees which they believed to be a neighbour's field on fire. As they approached, they could make out a dome shaped object that appeared to be burning. According to Kathy : " It was like smoke boiling all round, making a dome shape as high as a room." There was no fire in the field.

Perplexed, the girls decided to carry on home, but suddenly they saw what appeared to be a flashlight with a cover over the end so that there was no beam.

" I thought it was somebody playing a trick, so I threw a rock at the light," Kathy said. " A lot of big ones went on all around it and we ran home."

Thereafter, according to Kathy and her mother, Mrs. Evelyn Reeves, their home on Pioneer Mountain was increasingly visited by pulsating ' wall doughnuts ' and they heard strange noises, including a high-pitched whine.

At one time, a member of the family went for a gun after he saw something outside a living room window. When he pointed the gun, however, the ' thing ' appeared to back away—and then the inside of the house suddenly sparkled with a multitude of crawling lights.

According to Mrs. Reeves: " One morning about 2 o'clock, I woke up and my whole bedroom was a rosy glow so bright you could read a newspaper by it. I was scared to make a noise . . . I happened to turn toward the door leading into the living room and I saw this red thing—like a cloud—just hanging there. It was water-melon coloured and you could see through it. It was just a kind of hazy mass there for a couple of seconds, and then it disappeared, like that ! "

The lights were seen by other visitors to the Reeves house, including Delbert Mapes, the present owner and occupier who bought the house when the Reeves family moved out.

Said to range in size from an inch to 30 inches across, the lights became so troublesome that sheets were tacked over the windows in a vain attempt to keep them out.

A further development in this strange story occurred when the deputy sheriff of Lincoln County, Thomas W. Price, was awakened by a telephone call on March 30. On the other end of the telephone was a friend of the Reeves family, a chemist called Max W. Taylor, who said that he had agreed to camp on the front lawn of the Reeves' house to see if he could find an explanation for the mysterious lights. According to Taylor, at that very moment there were two pulsating spots of bluish light on the Reeves house. One spot, said Taylor, was on the living room end of the house. The other spot was at the opposite end—almost as if a beam of light had penetrated the house

and was showing at each extreme. Only there was no apparent source for the light and no beam in between!

The deputy sheriff arrived on the scene at 1.20 a.m. to find half a dozen perturbed witnesses in the Reeves' yard.

"I just happened to look up," said the deputy, "and I saw this orange object I couldn't identify. It wasn't a plane or a meteor or anything like that. It was manoeuvring. We didn't know what it was."

After some 90 seconds, Price said, there was an eerie, high-pitched whine "like a giant spinning top" and the object disappeared. The object's colour was unlike any aircraft the deputy had seen at night Its size and colour were unlike the satellites that occasionally can be seen and it did not move with the usual speed of meteors. Also it changed direction in flight, unlike a slow moving fireball, the deputy said.

When he made his official report, the deputy listed the object as an unidentified flying object.

Subsequently, an attempt to explain the 'crawling lights' as poltergeist manifestations came from Duke University's parapsychology department. Dr. J. B. Rhine, head of the department, said the Toledo case bears some similarities to a number of well-documented poltergeist cases in Europe.

Dr. Rhine said that so called 'spirit lights' were more commonly reported in European cases than the American-style poltergeist phenomena of self-propelled crockery or furniture.

"But I can't think of a case involving spirit lights in this country in recent times," he added. He also added that he knew of no case in which poltergeist phenomena were associated with reports of UFO landings.

No further information is given about the 'walking stumps', which appear to have been dismissed as not worth considering.

Other UFO sightings in the Toledo area were made by a 38-year-old secretary who related the following incidents on the understanding that her name would not be used, as she was afraid of being called a 'crackpot':

"Recently I was driving near South Yaquina Bay Road with my daughter and a friend when a ball of light appeared just above us and to the rear of the car. It was as big as a house. I thought it was going to hit the car and I was frightened and put on the brakes. It went on ahead of us, very fast. It was bluish-white, like a welder's arc."

On another occasion she was leaving a residence in Toledo when she and others happened to look up and see what appeared to be a revolving string of Christmas tree lights which moved slowly and noiselessly across the sky. A paper mill worker confirmed this sighting.

Six youngsters, ranging in age from 13 to 18, had a story to tell of an oval-shaped object topped by a dome that blinked red, blue and green lights, which they could see through their binoculars.

"It was like there was a searchlight inside and you'd see first a red light, and then a blue one and then a green one, and then it would start over again," said 17-year-old Barbara Corliss, a Siletz High School senior, one of those making the report. Prior to this, Barbara and Douglas Whitlow (another witness of the former sighting) said they had seen, while driving on the Toledo-Siletz Road, a large 'zig-zag' white UFO whizzing above the treetops.

The descriptions which witnesses in the Lincoln County area have furnished agreed in many cases with alleged UFO sightings in other parts of the country.

BOOK REVIEW

Flying Saucers—The startling evidence of the invasion from outer space. Under that alarming title, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's well-known 1962 book, *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* has made a successful reappearance, revised and augmented, in paperback form (Signet: 278 pages. 75c.).

Mrs. Lorenzen and her husband are, of course, the guiding lights behind the vigorous Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation.

Many of the additional cases in this book are well known to our readers: A.V.B., Valensole, the Barney Hill story, the Cisco Grove case (which the author told for the first time in our special edition, *The Humanoids*), and some new ones from the files of Dr. Olavo Fontes in Brazil. One of these latter cases (still only partially investigated) is the story of a Brazilian who claims he was captured early in 1965 by entities from a saucer and taken to another planet. He did not know where he was, but he was certain it was not the Moon, although the atmosphere was thin, and the surface was cratered. His captors lived in specially conditioned quarters, and they put him through rigorous physical tests. He claims he saw thousands of craft like the one in which he travelled. Mrs. Lorenzen adds an ominous note about the Mariner IV photographs.

This story takes its place in the author's carefully developed theme that the invaders of our air space may well have hostile intentions. She suggests, for example, that the vast UFO interest in reservoirs and rivers could mean that a takeover bid would be preceeded by an attempt to drug us into submission through our water supplies. Grim? Certainly. So much so that I, in my misguided way, prefer to hope that the UFOs just need water.

C.B.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Burghfield UFO

From the *Reading Evening Post* of March 18, we learn that—

"Another Unidentified Flying Object—UFO—has been spotted over Berkshire, over Burghfield Common, and the description ties in almost exactly with a similar series of reported sightings last November.

"Last night's sighting was made by hospital nurse Mrs. Helen Rowberry, of Wilderness Road, Earley, who was driving her friend, Miss Wendy Keep, back to her home in Recreation Road, Burghfield Common. Together they watched a cigar-shaped object with a greenish glow and no wings or propellers flying low over the earth at a speed far slower than an aeroplane.

"Today Mrs. Rowberry said: 'I looked, thinking it was a plane, and saw it was moving quite slowly. It was far too bright to be a plane, and its course came down right in front of my car's direction, and was getting lower.

"'Both my friend and I could see it clearly. The object was roundish and long, like a cigar-tube, but was pointed at the back. I am not sure how far away from us it was, but it was not far—perhaps a bit less than half-a-mile. It was moving about as fast as a helicopter, but it certainly was not a helicopter we saw.'"

Van Driver's Experience

The following is the text of report made by Messrs. Malcolm Bull and John Stear of Halifax Branch of BUFORA:

In the early morning of Friday, April 28, 1966, Mr. Peter Rushton and his driver's mate, Mr. Derek Robinson, both of Lincoln, were asleep in the back of a van which they were bringing back from London, having taken the vehicle into a side-road off the main Stamford-Lincoln Road near Sawtry and parked for the night. At about 5 a.m. Mr. Rushton was suddenly aroused; he had an acidic taste in his mouth and experienced great difficulty in breathing.

He went to the back of the van and threw up the sliding shutter. Outside, the birds were screeching, and Mr. Rushton saw a large spherical orange object in the sky and moving away from the parked vehicle. He aroused Mr. Robinson and they both watched as the object hung motionless. Then both men became aware of a second identical object hovering about half a mile away to their left. Suddenly the two objects changed places at a 'fantastic speed' by moving clockwise along semi-circular paths. Then both objects, which appeared to be about the size of a sixpence at arm's length, faded from the men's view.

The birds quietened down and nothing more was seen of the two objects.

Mr. Rushton, who was in the R.A.F. for nine years until May 1965, was quite disturbed by the sighting and has since woken on several occasions after having 'relived' the incident in his dreams.

Wandsworth Common Phenomenon

The following account was telephoned in to Gordon Creighton by a friend, Mr. Tony Brown.

On Saturday, January 28, Mr. Brown was travelling from Streatham to London (Victoria Station) by Southern Region electric train. At about 9.45 p.m. the train was halted at signals in the section where the line crosses Wandsworth Common (an open recreation area) just past the railway station of the same name. Mr. Brown looked through the window towards the west when his attention was drawn to a circle of pulsating green and white lights. The phenomenon was watched for some 10 seconds. At an estimate, it appeared to be at an altitude of about 300 to 500 feet.

Cylinder over Bridport

The *Bridport News* of January 6 carried the following report:—

"Strange cylindrical objects were seen in the sky between 4.15 and 4.20 p.m. on Monday by a Bowhayes, Crock Lane, Bridport, Dorset, family. And they would like to know what these were. . .

Mrs. Williamson told the story to a *Bridport News* reporter thus: 'With my husband, my son Thomas (22) and nephew, Richard Barker (18) I was having tea when I saw an intense flash and a pinpoint of light. Another flash followed. Both were seen by my son and my nephew. We then saw what appeared to be eight objects in the sky, forming a pattern and remaining in one position. My son rushed to get some binoculars but he said he could not get a clear picture. 'I think they are disappearing,' he said.

"'My husband looked through binoculars and said he got a clearer picture of an object wide at the centre and tapering off to the ends. Otherwise the object could be described as cylindrical. We are completely mystified and are wondering whether the phenomena was created by jet planes seen from a long distance and travelling south. But we heard no sound.'"

—Credit: Miss B. M. Hunt, Bridport.

Sheffield Activity

The Steel City of Sheffield which is surrounded by the hills and dales of the Southern Pennines, and many lakes and reservoirs, and which was the scene of vigorous UFO activity in 1962, had another small 'flap' in January. From *The Star,* Sheffield, of January 11, we learn how—

"Student Nicholas Slater, aged 19, of Whirlow Park Road, Ecclesall, first reported seeing a red and green light in the sky through binoculars shortly after midnight on Friday. They appeared to be suspended at a height of about 2,000 feet, said Nicholas.

"Since then three more sightings of similar objects have been reported.

"Lumberjack Mr. A. E. Pitts, of Woolley Lane, Silkstone, near Barnsley, said he had seen an unidentifiable object moving slowly across the sky at Silkstone. It was shaped like a revolving star, changing colour from red to yellow and blue.

"Mr. Pitts said he and his family had seen the object on several occasions last week.

"'It moved slowly south-south-

east of Silkstone at an elevation of about 25 degrees,' claimed Mr. Pitts.

" School caretaker Mr. W. H. Leary, of Maltby Street, Sheffield, saw a similar object before the first one was reported. ' For a moment I thought it was the tail light of an aeroplane. Then it stayed stationary before forming a circle of red and green lights.

" ' I have not mentioned it to anyone before but I am sure it could be the same thing as Mr. Slater saw,' said Mr. Leary.

" Mrs. F. H. Crossland, of Guildford Walk, Norfolk Park, Sheffield, was out walking with her son on Thursday when she saw a ' red-orange coloured thing moving silently across the sky.' "

—Credit : C. Maxwell Cade.

FINLAND

Sky Voices over Turku

The following story was given wide publicity on Finnish radio, in newspapers and in magazines. This account was taken from *Keski-Suomen Iltalehti* of October 13, 1966—

" Mysterious voices were heard from the sky on Sunday evening (October 9, 1966) in Finland Proper (the South-western part of Finland is known thus to Finns), over Turku and Tarvasjoki. The sound was heard at twenty minute intervals. Almost at the same time in both Turku and Paimio a mysterious light phenomenon with a tail like that of a rocket was seen.

" A schoolboy was walking along a lonely road at 8.30 p.m. when he heard odd speech sounds from up above. There were no other people, and no cars, but the voice came directly from above. The schoolboy explains that the voice spoke in some strange language.

" Twenty minutes earlier, voices were heard from up above in Tarvasjoki. Two women heard the sounds, which resembled the cry of a flight of cranes.

" A lady observed a light phenomenon near the Polar Star, when she was walking along Eastern Coast Street in Turku. At the same time fragmentary sounds of human speech were heard. At 8.45 p.m. a man who was walking in another street, heard a voice speaking, but he could not distinguiish the words. The voice, however, came from the sky.

" Mr. Martti Tiuri, professor of radio technology, in a comment to a newspaper points to the possibility of a flying saucer.

" Professor Gustaf Jarnefeldt from Helsinki University says that it cannot have been a satellite, because they fly too high. He also remarks that at the Berlin Olympic Games as long ago as 1936, they were so advanced technically that a voice from the sky bade nations welcome to the Games."

[*Turku, third largest city in Finland, with 130,000 inhabitants, lies beside the Baltic Sea*]

—Credit: Pertti Oksanen, Lannevesi.

IRISH REPUBLIC

Kilmacud Swinging UFO

This account was taken from the *Irish Independent* for January 19—

" A Co. Dublin man, Mr. James Carroll, of Dale Close Estate, Kilmacud, has reported seeing a mysterious object flying slowly through the sky over Kilmacud on the night of January 9.

" He said the object was below cloud level and was ' moving from side to side in a swinging motion.' It had a greenish-purple tinge and was definitely not an aircraft."

MALAYSIA

Domed Object over Penang

From *The Straits Budget* of January 25 we learn how—

" A lawyer and his accountant son today claimed that they saw an object resembling a flying saucer hovering over the North Channel in the harbour here at about 7.30 p.m. yesterday.

" Mr. Ong Huck Hong, and his son, Liang Chee, said today they took a closer look at the object through binoculars and saw a pancake-shaped thing with a dome on top.

" Mr. Huck Hong said that it was going up and down and travelling at a very slow pace. ' It was fairly bright and kept changing its shape once in a while,' he added. ' At first I thought it was an aeroplane.'

" Liang Chee said he at first thought the object was a falling star but on examining it through binoculars, he could see ' whirling lights and bars on its dome resembling windows.'

" He watched it for about 15 minutes before it disappeared towards the south. His sister also had a look at the object and confirmed their description.

" The Ongs live in Tanjong Tokong Road which faces the North Channel.

" The public relations offi;cer of the RAAF base at Butterworth, Squadron Ldr. N.D. Tanswell, said the RAAF base had received no report of any flying object. We did have an aircraft taking off at about the time the object was reported to have been seen and it might be our aeroplane," he added.

—Credit : Mrs. E. Riddoch of London, N.W.3.

MEXICO

Sky Object Crashes

The *Evening News of India* of March 30, carried this account from Central America—

" A mysterious cigar-shaped flying object, the size of a bus, has crashed on a hillside, some 250 miles south-west of Mexico City, the daily *Ultimus Noticias* reported on Tuesday.

" The paper's correspondent reported that at least 1,000 inhabitants of the nearby town of Ochilava saw the object fall from the sky and heard a thunderous crash as it hit the ground. Many of their houses were shaken by the shock, said the paper.

" Several of the town's inhabitants told the reporter that the object was cigar-shaped, giving off a blinding light and impossible to confuse with a meteorite.

" An infantry unit has set out to try and locate the wreckage."

—Credit : Jal N. D. Tata of Colaba, Bombay.

Airliner's near miss

The following story from *Ultimas Noticias* (Mexico) was reprinted by the Karachi *Dawn* of February 13—

" A Guatemalan airliner narrowly missed hitting a ' flying saucer ' as it was coming in to land here, the evening newspaper *Ultimas Noticiais* reported on Saturday, February 11.

" Col. Alfredo Castaneda, pilot of the plane, reported to Mexico City airport that a round silver object with a sort of red ball on top sped past him in the opposite direction while his plane was flying over Oaxaca state, 240 miles southeast of the capital. Col. Castaneda, with 20 years' flying experience, and his co-pilot, Capt. Carlos Samayoa, said the object was about 33 feet in diameter.

" The plane's stewardesses reported that it passed within 66 feet of the aircraft and several of the passengers reported sighting the " saucer " for about ten seconds.

"'Mexico City airport confirmed that the object could not have been a weather balloon due to the plane's position and altitude at the time of the sighting.

—Credit : R. A. MacEwen, Karachi.

Watkins

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MOZAMBIQUE

Disc and Beam over Beira

The *Cape Argus* of January 16 told how—

"Beira residents are keeping a wary eye on the sky after week-end reports of a flying saucer in the area.

"On Friday morning January 13 several people are reported to have watched a strange white disc-like object in the sky over the Pungwe Bay in Beira.

"They described how a white beam flashed down from the object. Where the beam passed through clouds it turned them violet. After some minutes the beam turned bright red, sped across the sky and disappeared.

"Portuguese Air Force pilots, on routine flights in the area at the time, did not see anything out of the ordinary."

—Credit: Philipp Human.

SOUTH AFRICA

East London objects near radio station.

In the East London newspaper *The Daily Dispatch* of March 24, we read how—

"Another unidentified flying object has been sighted over East London by two men, Mr. S. J. Baard and Mr. Crosby Introny.

"Mr. Baard, a supervisor at the East Bank Location Bus Service, was travelling home from work on the Douglas Smit Highway near Duncan Village on Tuesday night. Mr. Introny, an African bus inspector, was with him.

"'Suddenly I saw this colossal round light hovering in front of us, orange-red in colour,' he said. 'It seemed stationary for a few seconds then it vanished in a coloured streak, red on the outside and blue-red in the middle. It was moving in the direction of Cambridge. The object might have been five or ten miles up, but it was so big it looked closer. When I realised what happened, I developed gooseflesh. I have seen enough planes and meteorites to know this definitely was neither.

"'I have never seen anything like it,' he said. 'It was frightening.'

"Two other 'flying saucers' have been sighted in East London in the past two weeks. On March 14, Paul Trigg of Beaconhurst saw an object tying in with Mr. Baard's description, over the micro-tower. On March 17, Miss Lynde Lund of Cambridge, saw an object also hovering over the micro-tower."

—Credit: Philipp Human.

SWEDEN

Another Lappland Report

A family living outside Vilhelmina in Southern Lappland has related the following account which has appeared in *Dagens Nyheter* (March 9, 1967)—

The sighting occurred on March 4, 1967 and Tommy and Lenny Soderstrom were the first ones to observe the strange objects. They had just arrived home after a motor trip. At midnight they ran into their house and called their parents and sister who were asleep. When standing on their court-yard they estimated the saucers to be at a distance of about 100 metres.

According to Erik Soderstrom, a yeoman-farmer, the objects were at an altitude of 25 metres. One of the saucers was between 30 and 40 metres in diameter and its breadth was about 5 metres; the second object was smaller. The witnesses turned on the light of their car and directed it towards the bigger object which was approaching Vojman, a small river just below the house. As the saucer apparently intended to land they switched off the light of the car and saw how the huge disc rose till it was at an altitude of 40 metres over its earlier position. The two objects were then motionless for about a quarter of an hour, before they disappeared with a whistling sound. A somewhat red light came from the objects. The Soderstroms, who live at a distance of 3 km. from their nearest neighbour, are convinced that they have seen flying saucers.

—Credit: Tommy Helmer of Bromma, Stockholm.

[*We are indebted to Mr. Helmer for kindly translating this item for us, and also to Mr. Rudolf Schönberg of Alosjö who sent a translation of an item in* EXPRESSEN *of March 8, about the same incident.*]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Illinois Police Sightings

The *New York Post* of March 10, relates how—

"Two Unidentified Flying Objects have been reported over Moline about 45 miles north of where alleged sightings were made Wednesday night.

"A policeman, William Fisher, said he spotted a UFO about the size of a boxcar, hovering for four or five minutes some 3,000 feet above ground.

"A second UFO appeared while he was watching, Fisher said, then both sped out of sight. The objects also reportedly were sighted by two nuns and about 40 students at the Sacred Heart elementary school.

"Fisher said he photographed the objects, using motion picture colour film. He said the film was sent to a laboratory for processing.

"Last night, a Knox County deputy sheriff, Frank Courson, said he watched a UFO for several hours near Galesburg. He related that the object appeared to be some 2,000 feet above the ground and resembled an upside-down bowl."

—Credit: Louise Amsden of New York.

School Report

From Florida, via *The Miami Herald* of April 8, we learn how children at Crestview Elementary

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School saw, on April 7, an object which—" appeared in a tree-dotted field behind the school a little after 10 a.m. The next 10 minutes were chaotic.

" ' There was a lot of excitement,' said Mrs. Virginia Martin, a sixth grade teacher. ' I didn't pay any attention to what the children were pointing to at first, I was trying to get them lined up.'

" ' Most of the 200 girls and boys at morning recess were running towards the school ground fence, yelling and pointing . . .

" What Mrs. Martin, fourth grade teacher Bob Apfal and sixth grade instructor Miss Marian Waters spotted, appeared to be hovering behind a pine tree in an open field.

" It was oval shaped. It seemed to hover. I realised that an aeroplane doesn't do that, I thought, my gosh, this couldn't be happening. It seemed to move in toward the school, then went straight back and dropped below a pine tree. It came up again and went westward. I don't know what it was '.

" Teacher Bob Apfal exhibited no qualms. ' It was a flying saucer,' he said, matter-of-factly. The fourth grade teacher said Friday was the second consecutive day he and his class saw similar, metallic like objects north of the school grounds.

The teachers spent Friday afternoon talking to three Air Force investigators who drove to the school from Homestead Air Force Base.

" Andy Cohen (who said there were two objects) became the closest to a concensus spokesman for the kids. He sat in a car and told what he saw : ' They looked like long cigars. They were flying apart one at a time. Some of the girls got hysterical when they saw them. Jeff Moore's sister ran into the class and grabbed Jeff."

" Later in the day, it was discovered that the UFO sightings were not limited to the children and teachers at Crestview. Mrs. Mary Troesser, called at the *Herald* to inquire about any ' strange sightings ' Mrs. Troesser had been out in the yard and happened to glance in the direction of Crestview Elementary School. ' There was this oval object with red lights just over the trees . . .' "

—Credit : F. Martin of Miami.

MAIL BAG (continued)

This was merely a figure of speech, since there was no actual ' tail '. Seeing the photographs on page 29 and in a previous publication, it occurs to me that it is feasible that the two objects may have collided on landing, and would separate again at a greater height. The impetus as it shot upwards, definitely came from the centre circle of red light.

—Bertha Humphris, 83 Mundesley Road, North Walsham.



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