FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Vol. 13, No. 5 September/October, 1967 13th Year of Publication



These marks were found in a clover field in France. There were no tracks leading to them from the road . . .

WAS IT A LANDING AT MARLIENS?

See Page 11

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The bi-monthly Journal of SPACE

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 13 No. 5 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

SCIENTISTS AND SAUCERS

IN an editorial article which appeared on May 15 this year, the *East Anglian Daily Times* chided a member of the small but growing body of scientists who concern themselves with the problem of UFOs. The leader writer considered that Dr. James McDonald of the University of Arizona, whatever the reason for his recently evinced interest in flying saucer reports, would be better advised to get his feet back on the ground and tackle one of the great scientific problems of our times. A suggested subject for Dr. McDonald—the population explosion.

We suspect the reason for this admonishment was the attention accorded by Mr. John Davy, in *The Observer* on May 7, to Dr. McDonald's talk to the American Society of Newspaper Editors on April 22 last. This was the talk, already mentioned in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, where Dr. McDonald revealed that, during the course of the twelve-month investigation of the UFO problem, he had discovered in the files of Project Blue Book a disquieting directive from the Central Intelligence Agency. This was a secret recommendation, which had been added to the report of the Robertson Committee of January 1953, that "Flying Saucers must be debunked . . ."

Dr. McDonald states that he saw this recommendation only because it had been de-classified under the 'twelve-year rule'. Ufologists will recall that after a four-day examination of selected cases, the Robertson Committee had reported that UFOs presented no threat to the United States; that they were not artefacts of a hostile foreign power; that the public should be educated regarding the kinds of natural phenomena known to man.

In January 1953, the United States was still heavily engaged in the Korean War; C.I.A.'s probable reason for calling for UFOs to be debunked was the need to keep intelligence channels free from unwanted clutter of UFO reports—reports which, during the 1952 wave, had swamped the wire services. Project Blue Book acted to the letter, and, as it has never been told to do otherwise, has continued to debunk flying saucer reports throughout fourteen long years. The mounting stupidity of the explanations led to public disquiet, to the Washington Hearing on UFOs, and to the establishment of the Condon Committee at the University of Colorado.

It is significant that soon after he had displayed an interest in the notorious fourth clause, Dr. McDonald was informed that it had been re-classified.

In his talk Dr. McDonald went on to quote examples of explanations and debunking. He also criticised the unscientific attitudes of certain of his scientific colleagues, and called for the establishment of a full Congressional Investigation of UFOs with more far-reaching powers than those accorded the Condon Committee.

Now Dr. McDonald is an atmospheric physicist, and is head of the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona. We suggest to the *East Anglian Daily Times* that this learned gentleman would probably be out of his depth if he devoted his time to a study of the population explosion. The persistent UFO phenomenon, however, is very much in his province.

Again, the ludicrous explanations offered by both Project Blue Book and certain science writers demand the attention of experts in the field of atmospheric physics. We think, for example, of that hoary old veteran: "UFOs are ball lightning, or plasmas". Dr. Vallée informs us that a university colleague of his, when told of this idea, observed that if stable plasmas of 30 ft. diameter and upwards were invading the lower regions of our atmosphere, then it was high time we considered evacuating our planet.

Irresponsible and misleading explanations on the part of experts *should* be uncovered and denounced by specialists. At the same time, common sense dictates that everyone should devote himself to his appointed chore: doctors, nutritionists, agriculturists, demographers, botanists, and geographers are, for the present, better qualified than atmospheric physicists, electronics engineers, astrophysicists and specialists in radiation medicine to tackle the immediate problems of the population explosion. There is little doubt, however, that the last named categories will find flying saucers and their effects intruding more and more into their spheres of activity. Indeed, there are many scientists in these fields who are already quietly surveying the flying saucer mystery.

The *East Anglian Daily Times* feels our scientists should employ their talents on the really great scientific problems of our time. May we remind them that the human race has survived so far—despite many mistakes—because there has always been someone somewhere who has been prepared to tackle the seemingly insignificant problem while the rest muddle through on the big, ever-present tasks.

One scientist who is a specialist in radiation medicine, an astronomer, and, amongst other things, an electronics engineer, is our consultant Maxwell Cade. A wartime airman, Mr. Cade has distinguished himself with his invention and development of the Pyroscan heat camera, which is now being used with heartening success in the diagnosing of otherwise unsuspected breast cancers in women. He is also a member of the Royal Meteorological Society, and of the Psychical Research Society.

A speculative suggestion in an article on British landing and occupant cases in *The Humanoids* was of such interest to Mr. Cade that it prompted the ideas presented in the series of articles he has been writing for FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.* The result is a suggested avenue of research, a new and very real challenge, which should attract probing scientific minds. An avenue of research which requires, as this REVIEW has always insisted, that we examine all aspects of the problem. Not only the aerial visitations, but also the reported landings, the creature reports, the 'good' and 'evil' contact claims, and the 'messages' must all be subjected to searching scrutiny by responsible and highly trained scientists, and the sooner the better.

* *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligences:* Parts I II, and III appeared in the three previous issues; Part IV is scheduled for our November/December issue.

CONE-SHAPED UFO PASSES *BELOW* AIRLINER

A "Stop Press" report by Sqdn.-Ldr. Alastair Prevost

An interesting account of a cone-shaped object, seen by a British airliner crew when flying near the Pyrenees Mountains, appeared on the front page of the *Daily Express* on September 11, 1967. A few telephone calls elicited important facts not mentioned in the newspaper account.

The aircraft was a DC-6 of Air Ferry Lines, one of two companies operating charter flights from Manston aerodrome in Kent, which is shared with the R.A.F. Manston won fame during World War II as the "Hell-fire-corner" air base during the Battle of Britain. The pilot was Captain Underhill.

At 11.0 a.m. on Sunday, September 10, the DC-6 was flying at 16,000 ft., 65 miles north of Reus in North-Eastern Spain en route from Majorca to Manston. The sun was shining brightly on the port side although there was a slight haze. Suddenly Captain Underhill's attention was caught by what first appeared to be a black patch some 60 miles ahead of the plane. The "patch" was travelling from starboard to port at what was estimated as a supersonic speed. When almost dead ahead of the plane, the object appeared to slow down, and its shape then seemed elongated. Thinking it might be a formation of aircraft, Captain Underhill spoke to his co-pilot, and also called Flight Engineer Brian Dunlop to take a look at the object. At this point it turned towards the plane, and was travelling nowhere near so fast as when first seen.

The skipper then called the steward to join them on the flight deck as an additional witness. He arrived just as the shape began to be seen clearly. It was not unlike an ice-cream cornet, its attitude being that of an inverted cone, silvery on top and with a curved base. It appeared to be metallic, solid, or *almost* solid. It left no trail as it passed about half a mile below the plane. The sighting lasted for approximately 2½ minutes, and all four witnesses state categorically that the object was not a balloon or any aircraft known to them.

None of the 96 passengers saw the object, and they were not told about it. Spanish control at Madrid was alerted, but the response was vague and none too interested. When the skipper reported at Manston, however, R.A.F. were *very* interested.

As part of my personal enquiries I telephoned the Air Attache at the United States Embassy in London. He too was interested in the case, but at that time knew of no reports of an unidentified object from U.S. Radar bases in Spain.

REPORT ON A VISIT TO WARMINSTER

by John Harney and Alan W. Sharp

Our contributors are committee members of the Merseyside UFO Research Group*, and Mr. Harney edits the group's lively MUFORG Bulletin. This article was taken from the July 1967 edition of the Bulletin.

WE arrived in Warminster on the afternoon of Saturday, May 27, 1967, and soon discovered that there were other ufologists staying there that weekend.

That afternoon we learned that one party had claimed to have sighted two reddish cigar-shaped objects the previous night from a vantage point on Battlesbury Hill. This sighting took place, we are given to understand, in fulfilment of a prediction obtained during a sort of table-turning session. As we were not present at these events and have no further details at the time of writing, we have no comments to make on them.

During the Saturday afternoon and evening there was talk of a general expectation that "something big was going to happen" that night. We did not share this feeling, so the reason for it remains obscure to us.

Arthur Shuttlewood and his friend, Bob Strong, had organised a skywatch for the Saturday night. Apparently their intention was to take advantage of the Army ranges being open that weekend and to make an excursion to the deserted village of Imber. We joined the convoy in Warminster at the appointed time and soon perceived that some sort of argument was going on. It was not made clear to us what the trouble was, but it seemed that either Arthur Shuttlewood or Bob Strong thought there were too many people in the convoy and, presumably, that the UFOs would be put off by the presence of a relatively large number of skywatchers all concentrated in one group.

The leading cars in the convoy drove off unexpectedly and were soon lost to view, so the rest of us decided to drive up Cradle Hill, which was near at hand and, by all accounts, as good a place as any for observing UFOs. Arriving at the top of Cradle Hill, we found that the rest of the party had gone there after all. A great argument was taking place: apparently some proposed to stay at Cradle Hill and others wanted to go to Imber, and among those who wanted to go to Imber there was a disagreement over which route to take. Also, various wild rumours were being bandied about, one of them being that "the Army would shoot Shuttlewood if he drove on to the ranges". The whole business was very confusing and we would hesitate to pin the responsibility for this muddle on to any particular person or persons.

Distant lightning

Eventually some of us left Cradle Hill and drove up to the ranges. When we reached the guardhouse, Shuttlewood and his friends were already there, having taken a short cut. We then followed some cars across the range to Imber and drew up about half a mile beyond the village to commence skywatching. The sky was rather cloudy and only a few stars were visible. Nothing unusual was seen for a time until one of us noticed a flash of lightning on the horizon in an easterly direction. The flashes continued to the east and south-east. No thunder was heard, so the storms must have been a long way away.

The other cars went away, one by one, so we finally returned to the guardhouse to see if we could learn if Mr. Shuttlewood was having any luck. There were several cars parked there when we arrived and we were told that Shuttlewood had got quite excited when the lightning commenced and said that it was definitely not lightning, but a manifestation of the "Thing." He had then driven off into the night, hoping to view it at closer quarters.

After some time, Shuttlewood's car returned and he was soon giving the most extraordinary description of what, to us, was mere lightning[1] produced by distant thunderstorms. His car then drove off. We remained a while longer and left about 1.30 a.m., when it began to rain.

Shuttlewood's reactions to the display of lightning did nothing to diminish our scepticism concerning many of the UFOs allegedly seen during Warminster skywatches. If ordinary lightning can be transformed, when seen with the "eye of faith", into something out of this world, one might perhaps be forgiven for supposing that other phenomena, both natural and artificial, are regularly being misinterpreted in similar fashion during such skywatches.

However, when this was suggested, in a review of Mr. Shuttlewood's lecture at last year's BUFORA Northern Conference[2], great indignation was aroused. The opinions expressed in that review were based on information received from people with experience of skywatching at Warminster. For example, one report received from a reliable source[3], was an observation of a certain, very well-known ufologist pointing at a star and calling it "a definite UFO".

Overworked imaginations

That weekend there was some discussion about a report by Arthur Shuttlewood and Bob Strong of a landing at Starr Hill. An account of this alleged incident had been published in the latest issue of SUFOA[4]. We learned that since this incident, different groups of enthusiasts had been to Starr Hill and had investigated a house from which "strange" lights were said to emanate.

* MUFORG address: 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire, England.

Some said the house was deserted and some it was not. So, on the Sunday (May 28) Alan Sharp visited the place in question and found it to consist of a settlement of several farms and about half a dozen workers' houses. It was discovered that the "deserted" house was merely not regularly lived in by the owner, who has a place elswhere, but employees keep an eye on the premises and he pays visits. The rest of the dwellings in the vicinity are occupied.

The owner of the nearest farm to the east of the "deserted" house was interviewed and he said that he had never observed anything odd in the vicinity. He regarded the stories of strange lights, etc., with tolerant amusement and seemed to regard the army as the source of genuine unknown "observations".

Various startling incidents are said to have happened in the vicinity of a copse known as Calloway Clump. We visited this area and Alan Sharp enquired at New Farm, only a few hundred yards away from the Clump and in full view of it. The farmer and his son said that they had never seen anything unusual in the vicinity of the copse and suggested that some well-known locals were overworking their powers of imagination. They also said that of all the people who had been poking around in the vicinity, not one had approached the farm for permission to investigate

A visit was made to one of the houses where strange noises (the "Warminster sound") have been heard. The occupants were interviewed and samples taken from the garden and the gutters[5]. By all accounts, these reports of strange noises appear to be genuine. Some people have attempted to explain them away as being due to the activities of helicopters, but this theory is unconvincing in view of the descriptions given. On the other hand, it would seem to be somewhat rash to accept the popular notion that the noises are due to the activities of alien space craft before other possibilities, such as atmospheric electrical phenomena of an unusual nature, have been adequately explored.

Contact caller

On Sunday evening we learned that Mr. Shuttlewood claimed to have had a "contact" that afternoon. Apparently, one of the "Aenstrians" telephoned him and Shuttlewood told him something to the effect that he would have to see him in the flesh if he was to be absolutely certain that the "Aenstrians" were not just hoaxers, and slammed the phone down. A few minutes later there was a knock at the door and a spaceman was duly admitted. This being had a very high forehead, blue lips, and one or two things to say, including the prediction that a third world war would break out shortly. The apparition was also seen by other members of Shuttlewood's family.

Earlier in the day, Alan Sharp had been treated to a demonstration, by a sceptical Warminster resident, of the technique of making local calls from a coin-box without putting any money in the box. The reason for this demonstration was Shuttlewood's statement that the space people claimed to telephone him from a public box, but he never heard any money going in[6]. However, Mr. Shuttlewood's latest claim would seem to dispose of the necessity of studying the technicalities of the telephone system. At this stage there is no useful comment we can make on the new contact claim.

Later that Sunday evening we went skywatching on Cradle Hill, accompanied by Ken Rogers and Nigel Stephenson. It was a clear night and we saw one aircraft, four meteors and a satellite, but no UFOs.

To sum up, then, the strange noises which originally drew attention to Warminster were almost certainly genuine observations. Also, it would appear that there have been other observations in the area which are worthy of further investigation. However, there can be little doubt that the majority of UFO reports from Warminster are spurious. Our own experiences and a careful reading of published reports indicate that many ufologists seem to leave their critical faculties at home when they go to Warminster.

NOTES

1 According to the Daily Weather Report of the British Meteorological Office (No. 38538, May 28, 1967), lightning, but no thunder, was reported during the period 2100-0300 GMT on the night of May 27-28 at Boscombe Down. A glance at the midnight (GMT) reports from other stations revealed that thunderstorms had been widespread in the southern half of the British Isles that evening.
2 *Warminster's Contactee*, MUFORG Bulletin, October, 1966.
3 Private communication to J. Harney.
4 Harry W. Woodgate, *Return to Warminster*, SUFOA, March/April, 1967.
5 It is hoped to publish more about these observations in a future issue of the MUFORG Bulletin, (J.H.)
6 Arthur Shuttlewood, *The Warminster Mystery*, page 187.

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BUFORA NEWS

NORTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 4th November, 1967. Central Hall, Renshaw Street, Liverpool 1. Full details from: R. D. Hughes Esq., 86 Trouville Road, Liverpool 4.

SIGHTING REPORTS should now be sent to: Nigel Stephenson, 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey (until further notice) or the nearest regional information officer.

The BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION will send details of its aims, BUFORA JOURNAL, and London Lectures, on receipt of a 9" x 4" S.A.E. Write to: Miss Christine Henning (FSR), 99 Mayday Gardens, London, S.E.3.

DYING GIRL SAVED BY HUMANOID SURGEONS

Remarkable cure in Brazil reported to Flying Saucer Review

by Olavo T. Fontes, M.D.

ON May 17, 1958, my friend Joâo Martins, who at that time was publishing in the magazine *O Cruzeiro* a series of articles on the Brazilian UFO "flap" of 1957, received the following letter, datelined Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1958:

"Dear Sr. Joâo Martins,

"I have seen your articles and I wish to congratulate you.

"I believe in the existence of the so-called 'flying saucers' because I was a witness to an occurrence related with them. I don't know if you are going to believe me, but I swear for everything that I am telling only the truth. I am poor but honest, and I am not going to mention the true names and you will understand.

"My name is Anazia Maria*, I am 37 years old and living now in Rio de Janeiro.

"I worked with Sr. X (my ex-master) until December 1957, he is a rich man from this city, forgive me for not giving the name.

"The daughter of my master was with cancer in the stomach. She suffered too much, and I was engaged to serve as a kind of housekeeper and mostly to look for Miss Laiz, the sick girl.

"She had been submitted to all treatments, but the doctors had said there was no hope. In August, 1957, my master took all the family to his little farm close to Petropolis hoping to see Miss Laiz better in that good climate, but the days passed and nothing happened. She couldn't eat, the pains were horrible and she was always taking injections of morphine.

"On the night of October 25, I remember well, Miss Laiz's pains were terrible, the injection was valueless, we were thinking that she was going to die, my master was crying by the corners, when suddenly a strong light illuminated the right side of the house (at the little farm close to Petropolis). We were gathered in Miss Laiz's room, which window was placed exactly on the right side, the room was lighted only by the small table-light. Suddenly it got so much light as if the beam of a searchlight had been pointed to the inside of the room.

"Sr. Julinho, son of my master, ran to the window first and saw the so-called saucer. It wasn't very big, I have no study to be able to tell what was the diameter and width. I know it wasn't very big, the upper part was involved by a yellow reddish light, and suddenly an automatic hatch opened out and two small figures came down. They walked in the direction of the house and another figure stayed in the hatch of the saucer. It became dark, and inside it—through the hatch—appeared a light-greenish light like we see in a nightclub.

"The men entered the house, they were small in size, they should have 1.20 metres in height, smaller than the youngster son of the master who was 10 years old. They had long hair reaching the shoulders, yellow-red hair, small eyes slanted like the Chinese, but of a strong green colour. They had things on the hands, I think they were gloves, the cloth was white and seemed thick. The clothes were all white, but the chest, the back and the wrist glowed—I don't know how to explain. They approached the bed of Laiz, who was groaning with pain with her eyes wide open and not knowing what was happening around. No-one was moving or talking, in a horrible expectation. I was in the room together with Sr. X and his wife, Sr. Julinho and his wife, and Otavinho who was the ten-year-old son of the master.

"The men looked silently at me and stopped beside the bed of Laiz, spread on the bed the things they carried, made a gesture to Sr. X, and one of them put his hand on the forehead of Sr. X who started to tell them all the case of Laiz, the disease, everything in *telepathy*. The room was in absolute silence.

"The men began to illuminate the belly of Miss Laiz with a bluish white light, which showed everything inside; *we all saw* what was inside the belly of the girl. With another instrument that was making a creaking sound, 'he' pointed in the direction of the stomach of Miss Laiz, and we could see the ulcer in the stomach.

"That operation lasted for almost half an hour. Miss Laiz slept, and they went away, but before leaving the house communicated to Sr. X, through telepathy, that he should give a medication to Miss Laiz during a month; then they gave to Sr. X a hollow ball which was of steel, I think, and inside we found 30 small white balls, they were the capsules to be taken one each day, and she would be cured.

"Really Miss Laiz was cured, and Sr. X, according to the agreement he had made with those men, avoided any publicity.

"In December, a few days before I left their house, Miss Laiz went back to the doctor who verified she had no cancer anymore.

"I left the house, but made the promise to keep absolute secret about the case. However, I am telling you about it, and I ask you to keep the secret. If the case is mentioned in your articles there will be no consequences because I will never disclose their names. However, I swear to you that everything really happened; my darling Miss Laiz was condemned to die of cancer of stomach and almost at the end she was saved by an instrument that looked like a flashlight, that

* The lady's full name has been withheld at her request. It *is* known to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

emitted some rays that took off the cancer and she was cured. And those men have done many things of this kind to the people of the earth (planet), to show us that we must have no fear of them.

"They saved Miss Laiz, and in the same night went back to the saucer and were gone forever.

"*Confidentially*, they are indeed from Mars and come here to search for magnesium, which they purify there in their planet, and this magnesium is used for their constructions and for the so-called flying saucers.

"They have no intention of fighting against the people of earth, this I was informed hearing what Sr. X was telling the family. Please, don't put me in a bad position; if you mention the case, never tell in your articles that you know about it from Anazia Maria.

"I don't want to pass for a blackmailer or be in a bad position with my ex-master. I am telling you this only to help you in your investigation of the problem.

"Forgive me for not giving my address. I live in Rio, in a suburban district. I am honest and sincere but I don't want no press interviews because of my ex-master.

"Thanks for your attention,

Anazia Maria."

The writer was obviously a person of little culture, but in spite of that, her letter is *alive*. Despite her bad use of the Portuguese language, which I have tried to convey in this translation, she tells her tale so well that we can almost re-live the scene as if we were there ourselves. In my opinion, this means that the letter was written with emotion; the emotion of something that might really have happened.

There are also technical details which are very interesting, such as the bluish white light which showed everything inside the body of the patient (an advanced form of X-rays); like the instrument looking like a flashlight, which evidently was emitting some kind of radiation capable of killing the cancer cells (an advanced form of cobalt ray therapy?); and like the chemical treatment to complete the cure, which also makes sense. Another interesting thing is the telepathy through physical contact. There is also the description of the humanoid occupants of small size with yellow-red long hair, light eyes slanted like the Chinese—which we have seen in other cases with disturbing frequency.

However, I was ready to reject this case mostly because of the part involving telepathy (in which I don't believe). I didn't, only because of another case (also in my 'reserve') which happened in the night of October 10, 1957 (15 days before). I will describe only a small part of it: "Then a door was opened in the object automatically (like a Convair door). There appeared two persons, then two more, then still two others and finally a seventh one, who passed between the two groups formed by the others. They watched the truck for three minutes, all of them; all those people looked like men of Earth but they were smaller in size, had long hair on the shoulders and the clothes were luminous at the chest. "When those small men were looking at me I went into a trance-like state and had the strange feeling that they were saying: We come in a peaceful mission . . ." (unquote).

As the case of the "operation" was never published, the coincidence of another incident at the same period with similar details on the occupants, clothes, and mental communication again, is evidently disturbing. I decided to put both cases in the "special file" for future reference. The case of the "operation" is not closed yet. As a medical doctor, living in Rio, I still hope to find some clue (among my patients and other doctors) about someone who was cured from a gastric cancer in some unexplainable way.

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Some Unfamiliar 'PSUFOs'

The Phosphorescent Wheels*

by Richard Turner

IT is generally agreed that between 90 and 95% of alleged UFO sightings can be explained, with greater or lesser certainty, as natural or man-made phenomena. Indeed, a large part of the time of those engaged in UFO research has, in the past at least, been devoted to the evaluation and elimination of such reports. Although this is in itself a fascinating (and, arguably, useful) occupation, it is unfortunate that so much energy must be dissipated on 'irrelevances'. Nevertheless, given that the evaluation of quantities of heterogeneous phenomena reports is inevitable, we must ensure that is carried out in the most efficient and scrupulous manner. This obviously involves a thorough knowledge of the phenomena which may be confused with UFOs, and since information on some of the more unusual forms is often unavailable to the non-specialist, it may be useful to present accounts of them to readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

* * *

'Bioluminescence' may be defined as the production of light by living animals and plants. Glow-worms and fire-flies are familiar examples on land, and in the sea myriads of planktonic organisms may combine to produce the often spectacular luminous displays known as 'phosphorescence'. It is not generally realised that this term covers a number of visually very distinct phenomena, whose precise appearance depends on the species of organism involved, their concentration in the sea, and on the environmental factors which provoke them to emit light. For the majority of creatures do not luminesce continuously, but in discrete flashes in response to a specific external stimulus.

Most forms of phosphorescence are quite unmistakable, and very likely to generate UFO reports[1]. However, one very spectacular type, the 'phosphorescent wheel', mystified seamen and scientists alike for many years, its bioluminescent origin not being initially recognised. Instances were gleefully and uncritically recorded by curiosity collectors like Fort, and it is probably through these channels that they have found their way into the 'historical files' of UFO chroniclers such as Leslie and Vallée.

It is perhaps best at this point to give a sample account of a phosphorescent wheel: the following is taken from a letter dated Bahrein, May 17, 1879, sent by Commander J. E. PRINGLE, captain of H.M.S. *Vulture*, to his superiors, and subsequently published in *Nature*[2].

". . . at about 9.40 p.m. on May 15, when in lat. 26°26″N and long. 53°11″E . . . an unusual phenomenon was seen from the vessel. I noticed luminous waves or pulsations in the water, moving at great speed and passing under the ship from the south-south-west. On looking towards the east, the appearance was that of a revolving wheel with centre on that bearing, and whose spokes were illuminated, and looking towards the west a similar wheel appeared to be revolving, but in the opposite direction. I then went to the mizen top (fifty feet above water) with the first lieutenant, and saw that the luminous waves or pulsations were really travelling parallel to each other, and that their apparent rotatory motion, as seen from the deck, was caused by their high speed and the greater angular motion of the nearer than the more remote part of the waves. The light of these waves looked homogeneous, and lighter, but not so sparkling, as phosphorescent appearances at sea usually are, and extended from the surface well under water; they lit up the white bottoms of the quarter-boats in passing. I judged them to be twenty-five feet broad, with dark intervals of about seventy-five feet between each, or 100 from crest to crest, and their period was seventy-four to seventy-five per minute, giving a speed roughly of eighty-four English miles an hour . . . The phenomenon was beautiful and striking, commencing at about 6h. 3m. Greenwich mean time, and lasting some thirty-five minutes. The direction from which the luminous waves travelled changed from south-south-west by degrees to south-east and to east. During the last five minutes concentric waves appeared to emanate from a spot about 200 yards east, and these meeting the parallel waves from south-east did not cross, but appeared to obliterate each other at the moving point of contact, and approached the ship, enclosing an angle about 90° . . . The ship passed through oily-looking fish-spawn on the evening of the 15th and morning of the 16th inst. . . ."

I have records of nearly 100 phosphorescent-wheel-type phenomena, dating from 1875 to the present day, and from these a list of characteristics can be assembled. It is first of all interesting to note that their geographical distribution is restricted, instances, with very few exceptions, being confined to the shallower seas bordering the Indian Ocean—the Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, Andaman Sea, the Straits of Malacca, the South China Sea and so on. As to their appearance, the essential feature is the swift passage of waves of light: their configuration whether radiating 'spokes' (the true wheel), parallel formations, expanding concentric circles etc.—is variable, as is the spacing and brightness of the beams and the overall extent of the phenomenon, though this is always very large and often a matter of miles.

Accumulations of plankton were often described by non-biological seamen as 'fish-spawn'; one frequently finds such evidence of high plankton concentrations immediately preceding accounts of spectacular phos-

* PSUFO = pseudo UFO.

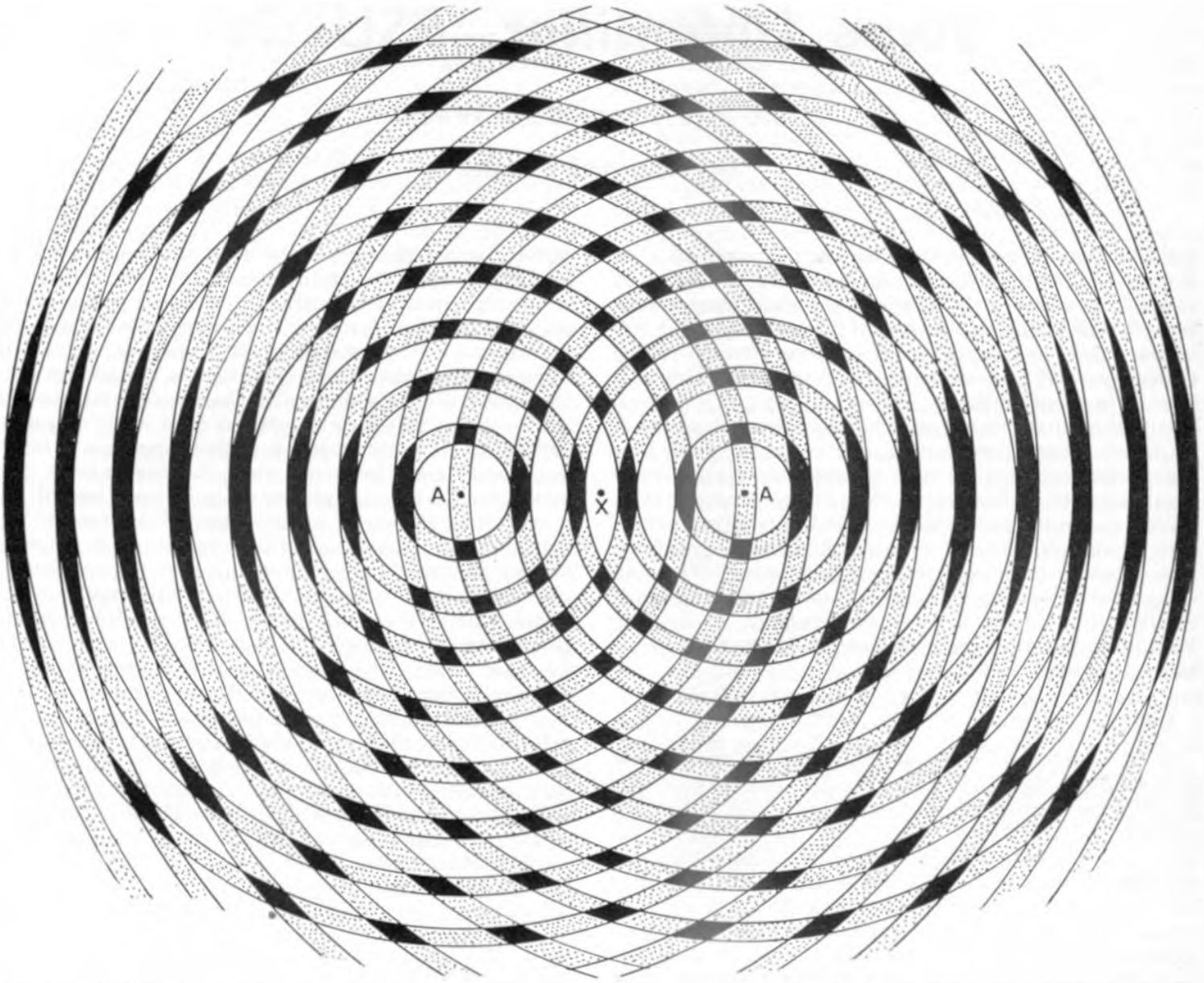


Fig. 1. Pattern resulting from the interference of two sets of concentric rings. In the case of phosphorescent wheels the latter represent shock-waves expanding from points A, A[1]; if plankton is stimulated only at places where the waves are in phase (dark areas) a luminous 'wheel' with centre X will be produced. (Figure should be viewed obliquely).

phorescence displays to which they give rise. One final point is that phosphorescent wheels are occasionally reported as moving through mist-layers above the sea surface. Where corresponding light-waves are specifically stated to be absent from the water, a simple reflection effect must be discounted, and this remains one of the more inexplicable features of the phenomenon.

The question of cause is not one of direct relevance to ufology, but some space may perhaps be devoted to it. Fort envisaged the wheels as 'vast super-constructions' rolling through space; caught in the Earth's gravitational field, they apparently become over-heated by friction with the atmosphere and were forced to plunge into the sea to cool down! More conventional commentators suggested that they were due to a combination of bioluminescence, regular sea-waves and optical illusion, but this is unsatisfactory on many counts. The precise mechanisms are not wholly understood, but the most acceptable current theory involves an interference pattern generated by the interaction of two or more sets of expanding concentric pressure waves of seismic origin, made visible by the stimulation of potentially luminescent plankton at the points where two waves are in phase, (see Fig. 1). Rotation, curved and concentric light-waves and so on can be accounted for in terms of the relative differences in velocity and wavelength of the waves generated by the seismic sources[3].

I would like to emphasise that investigators are unlikely to be confronted by modern reports in which a phosphorescent wheel has been mistaken for a UFO. Indeed in first-hand accounts they are manifestly neither flying nor objects. Nevertheless it is clear from a study of 'saucer' literature that they constitute a pitfall for the enthusiast seeking to establish the an-

tiquity of the UFO phenomenon. This is particularly so where a researcher relies on reports of reports of reports. It should not, but regrettably does, need emphasising that so much error and misunderstanding can creep into a story in transit from hand to hand that the final product becomes unrecognisable. Witness the Vulture incident, quoted quite fully above, but rendered in one highly reputable book :"On May 15th, 1879, at 9.40 p.m. from the "Vultur" (sic) in the Persian Gulf two giant luminous wheels were observed spinning and slowly descending. They were seen for thirty-five minutes, had an estimated diameter of forty metres and were about four diameters apart." Two very plausible UFOs indeed, when dimensions, circularity, implied solidity and a vertical motion are added to the original account!

In conclusion I have appended a list of sightings of bioluminescent phenomena which have in the past been claimed as possible UFOs. There may be others but these are the 'classics', and I offer them in the hope that they may never be "unidentified" again!

NOTES

[1] For those interested, a classification and brief description of the various phenomena of this type is given in the Meteorological Office journal *The Marine Observer* Vol. 36, pp. 20-29 (January, 1966).
[2] *Nature*, Vol. 20, p.291
[3] Those who wish to pursue the matter further are referred to the article in Reference (1) and to Kalle (1960): *Dt. hydrogr. Z.* Vol. 13, No. (2), pp.49-77. (In German.)

Obituary

Richard Turner

It was with utter dismay that we learned of the sudden illness of Richard Turner, Chairman-elect of the Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of UFOs, and then, at the age of 21, of his tragic death on June 25, 1967.

This cruel blow deprived Science of the services of a marine biologist of outstanding promise, and ufology of a researcher of quiet good humour and wisdom.

We know readers will join the Editor and Directors of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in extending an expression of their sympathy to Richard's family and to his many friends at the University.

Date	*Ship*	*Area*	*Reference*
April, 1875	*Bulldog*	N. of Vera Cruz	*Nature, 20*, 428
May 15, 1879	*Vulture*	Persian Gulf	*Nature, 20*, 291
January 5, 1880	*Shahjehan*	Malabar Coast	*Nature, 21*, 409
May, 1880	*Patna*	Persian Gulf	*Knowledge, 4*, 396
October, 1890	*Guthrie*	China Sea	*L'Astronomie, 10*, 312
April 4 & 9, 1901	*Kilwa*	Persian Gulf, etc.	*Q. J1. R. met. Soc. 28*, 29-31
? 1906	*Patrick Stewart*	Gulf of Oman	*Q. J1. R. met. Soc. 32*, 280
March 14, 1907	*Delta*	Malacca Strait	*Q. J1. R. met. Soc. 33*, 294
June 19, 1909	*Bintang*	Malacca Strait	*Naut.-Meteorol.* Aarborg, No. 41, (1910)
August 12, 1910	*Valentijn*	China Sea	*Zee, 32*, 890

Note: This was to have been first of a series of articles dealing with pseudo UFOs.

For close on thirteen years Flying Saucer Review has fearlessly presented the mounting evidence of UFO visitations and landings. In *The Humanoids* (see inside front cover) we have documented and studied the staggering evidence of flying saucer landings and occupants. Whatever the future holds in store we will continue to search for the truth behind these strange visitations. You have enjoyed reading what we have to say; we are sure there are many others who would like to join you, so . . .

PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

A LANDING IN FRANCE IN 1790

IN Alberto Fengolio's article *Ancient Visitors from the Sky* in CLYPEUS, Anno III, No. 3, page 13 (given also in a French translation in GEPA's *Phénomènes Spatiaux** No. 10, December 1966—p. 32), we read a most interesting account. It seems that . . . "Near Alençon in France, in 1790, there occurred so strange a happening that a police inspector named Liabeuf was sent from Paris to investigate. His report is as follows:

'At 5 a.m. on June 12, some peasants observed an enormous globe which seemed to be surrounded by flames. At first they thought it might be a Montgolfier balloon on fire, but its great speed and a whistling sound coming from it puzzled them. The globe slowed down, made a rocking motion, and then dashed on to the top of a hill, uprooting the vegetation growing on the slope. The heat which emanated from the object was so great that the grass and shrubs caught alight shortly afterwards.

'The peasants managed to isolate the fire which might otherwise have spread over the whole area. By evening the globe was still warm, and there occurred an extraordinary—indeed not to say unbelievable—thing.

'The eyewitnesses of this event were two mayors, a physician, and three other local authorities who confirm my report, not to mention the dozens of peasants who were present.

'The sphere, which was large enough to have contained a carriage, was intact after all this flying about. It had aroused such curiosity that people came running from all directions to see it.

'Then, suddenly, a sort of door opened, and (here is the interesting part—G. C.) *there came out a person*, just like us, but dressed in a strange manner, in clothes adhering completely to the body, and, seeing this crowd of people, this person murmured something incomprehensible and ran into the wood.

'The peasants backed away instinctively, in fear, and this saved them, for, shortly afterwards, the sphere silently exploded throwing pieces in all directions, which pieces were consumed until reduced to powder.

'Searches were undertaken to find the mysterious man, but he seemed to have dissolved in thin air, for up till now not the tiniest trace of him has been discovered. Unless he has vanished from our plane of existence so as to leave behind no trace of himself.

'Was this a being who had come from another world in this strange means of conveyance? I am no savant; but such is the idea that has suddenly come into my mind . . .'

"This report subsequently reached the French Academy of Sciences and was greeted with the sarcasms of the eminent savants who denied in the most absolute fashion the possibility that a living being could arrive in this way on the earth. They considered the report to be the product of an imaginative mind fed by the fanciful talk of peasants who had seen something though without knowing exactly what. These learned personages of the Acadamy were not even willing to put themselves out to the extent of proceeding to the spot and seeing for themselves the hole made in the ground by the sphere, and yet this hole remained visible for years."

It is a pity that Signor Fenoglio has apparently not indicated the precise source of this extraordinary story, which now strikes us as presenting a number of features that are familiar, although it could not possibly have been taken seriously by anybody in 1790.

Who, at the time of the French Revolution, had ever heard of tightly-fitting space suits?

I will try to ascertain the source, which, as one may well believe, might be the Transactions of the French Academy itself. G.C.

* Edited by René Fouéré, 69 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e, France.

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WAS IT A LANDING AT MARLIENS?

by Alain Rifat

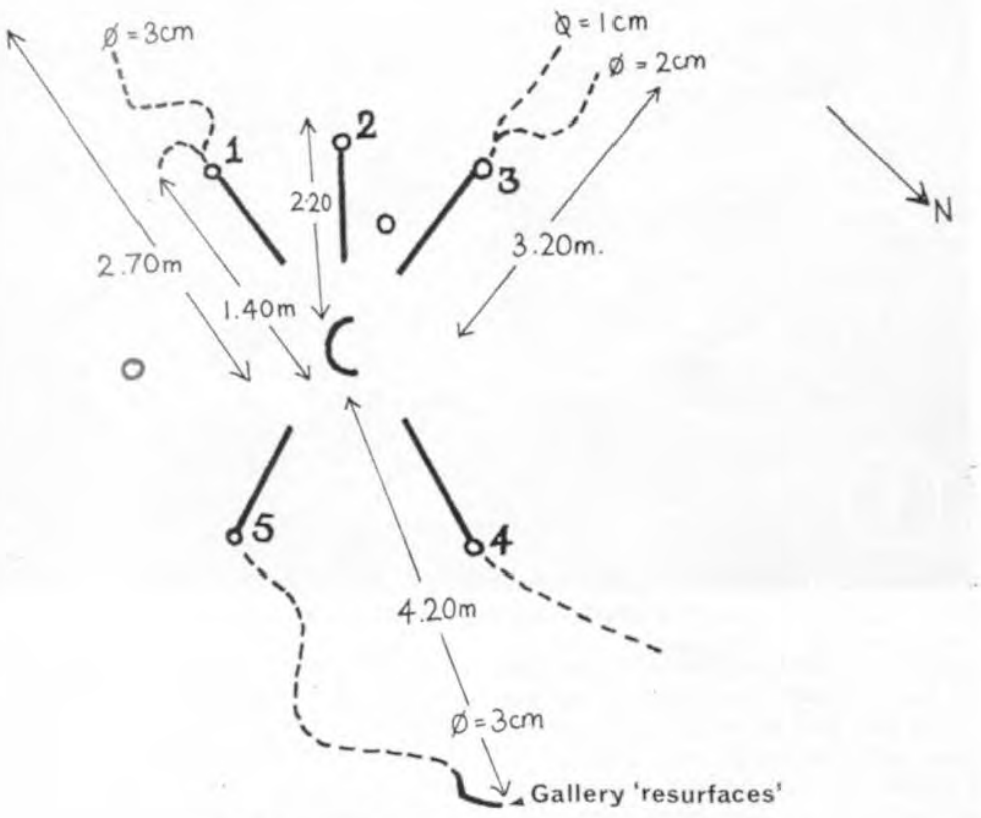
Our contributor, a reader who lives in Geneva, reports on the strange hole and associated marks found in a clover field in France, marks which remind one immediately of the Charlton crater of 1963, and Valensole of 1965.

ON Tuesday, May 9, M. Bretin, an employee of M. Maillotte, the Mayor of Marliens, a village near Genlis in the Cote d'Or, discovered some curious imprints in the edge of the field where he was working. He told M. Maillotte, who did not think it necessary to advise the official authorities. On the other hand, M. Bretin told the Secretary at the Town Hall, who is a correspondent of the journal *Le Bien Publique*, and who in turn told the Genlis police. The latter passed on the discovery to Captain Thepenier of Police Headquarters at Dijon, and to Captain Troubat at the air base at Longvic.

On Wednesday a helicopter and some specialists were despatched to the spot on authority from Dijon and Paris. The imprints were for the most part in a track running alongside a field of lucerne, 550 metres from Route CD25. We were only able to get to the place four days after the official enquiry, but we were able to gather information about its condition thanks to the local papers of Thursday, May 11, and Friday, May 12, as well as from the Genlis police, the Mayor's Secretary and the Mayor himself.

The police found an imprint in the form of a star with five well-defined points and a sixth less easily visible. The points radiated from a central excavation which, it seems, was of a diameter of about 30 cms and of a depth also about 30 cms. "It was made by a cylindrical object, rounded at its extremeties and very heavy, because all the pebbles in that vicinity were broken" (*Les Dépèches* May 12). We also found numerous pebbles which had been recently broken.

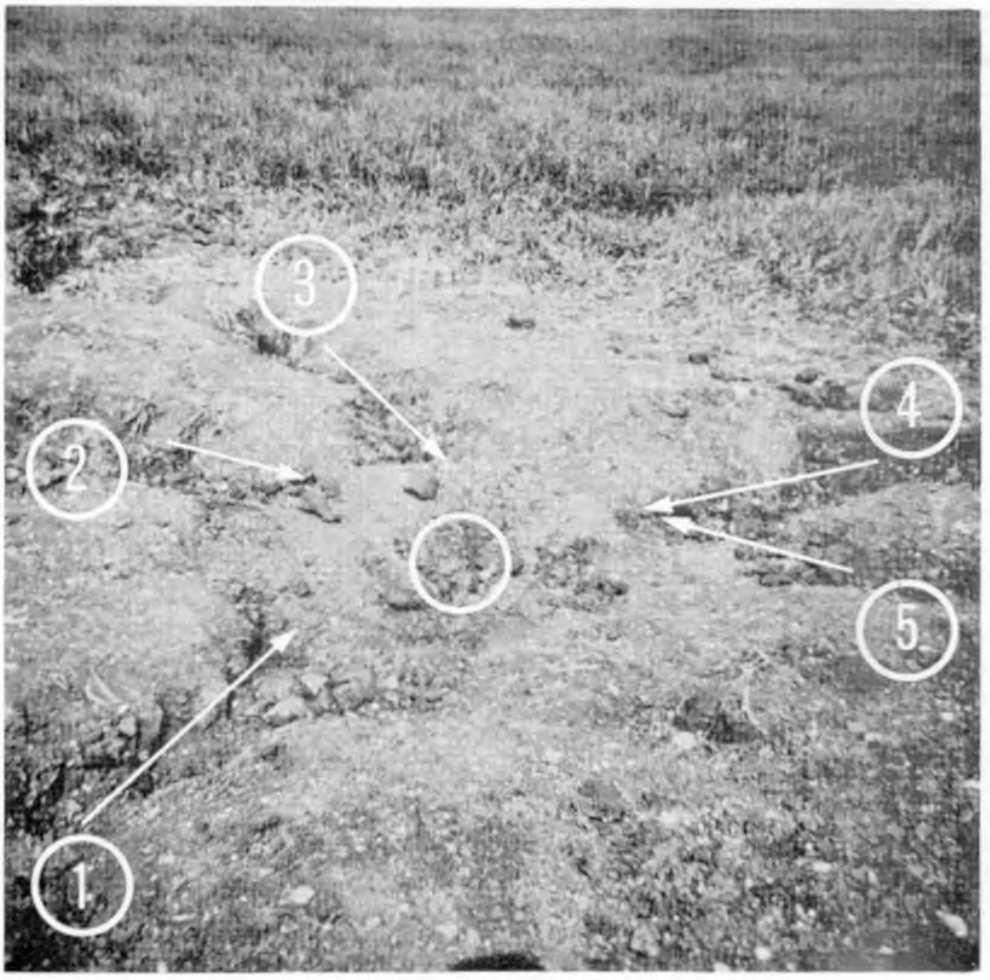
As regards this excavation, a Genlis policeman who took part in the enquiry compared it to that which would have been made by a very heavy cone falling on to a flat surface, but slightly at an angle, because the imprint was clearer on one arc of the circle. The five radiating imprints (see sketch 1 made by the Genlis policeman) were made up of holes of about 20 cms in diameter at the base, and narrowing the farther away they got from the centre to end, after about 30 cms of travel underground, in a gallery 3 cms in diameter and perfectly round.



1. Diagram provided by the Genlis police

Plaster casts of these imprints were taken by the Dijon police. They revealed that the imprints were round at the end but in the shape of an open shell; that is to say, that apparently a meridional vertical depression separated two rounded "bays" which penetrated into the earth.

The police established that when the objects hollowed out these galleries they followed a winding course which enabled them to pass through the earth at a shallow depth. At these points the earth was "bloated" on the surface as if it had been stuffed (see sketch 2). The windings were round in section and we were able to establish this for ourselves. In effect, we followed the course of two galleries. We found that to begin with, and for a distance of about 30 cms, the gallery was perfectly round and smooth, and then it divided. The pebbles seemed to be thrust upwards when M. Maillotte, who was one of the first on the scene, found a clod of earth had been pierced by the gallery as if by a gimlet. It is



The marks, as seen from the West

possible, therefore, that the opening of the galleries was drilled (we got there too late to be able to answer this question with any certainty). Farther on, the gallery was not as smooth as at the beginning. We followed the gallery over a distance of about one metre to a depth of about 20 cms. It ended in a point.

Here is another interesting discovery: A Genlis policeman told us that there were lumps of earth sticking up weighing up to one kilogramme and about 10-15 cms in diameter along an arc more or less orientated from east to west and at a radius from the centre of about 30 metres (see sketch 1).

All these lumps of earth, as well as the galleries and the excavations. were covered with a very fine deposit of pale mauve crystals which became grey/blue in the dry state. All the witnesses and we ourselves are agreed in affirming that the earth was extremely hard and crusted. We dug beside a mole hill about 8 metres away from the imprints and established that the earth was much lighter there.

No trace of burning was found. The roots of the crushed plants were also not burnt. The Dijon police had taken samples of the powder for analysis and had already established that there could be no question of an insecticide. We also took samples in the galleries, and under the microscope it looked like blue mineral crystals, for the most part in droplet form.

Theories explaining this phenomenon have been numerous. One of them favoured an explosion: the arguments in favour of this are furnished by the radiating symmetry of the imprints starting from a central excavation as well as by lumps of earth sticking up. The authorities, however, quickly rejected this idea since in the first place they knew that no aircraft had dropped any projectiles in the neighbourhood, and secondly, the specialists thought that "the marks do not correspond to those which would have been made by any kind of explosive. Besides, in such a case one would have found metallic debris or pieces of wadding and there were none" (*Les Dépèches* 12.5.67.). Furthermore, an explosive would not have dug winding and perfectly symmetrical galleries.

The investigators are equally doubtful that there is any question of a land or air machine. The Dijon Chief of Police said "An armament specialist from the air base at Longvic has checked whether it could possibly have been an aerial machine, and has established that this was not possible. As a final hypothesis one must support lightning as the cause" (*Le Bien Publique* 12.5.67.). On the other hand, we may think like Mr. Maillotte that "a lightning stroke would not have dug hollows in the ground nor disturbed the soil without burning it". For one must be very insistent on this point: the earth was very hard and dry, but bore no trace of burning, not even on the grass nearby.

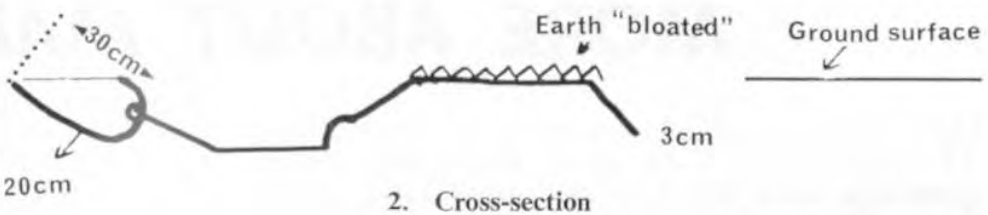
Mr. Maillotte also removed a piece of earth which had been pierced by one of the galleries: he established that the round hole was coated with a mauve deposit and that "on one of the edges a flint, a very hard stone, had been cut as a nut might have been by a razor blade". In fact, the soil is composed for the most part of clay containing very numerous small pebbles, but the latter did not prevent the gallery from being perfectly round and smooth, at the beginning at any rate.

Soil specialists have been to the site and according to them: "The holes cannot have been dug by any land object, drill or other similar machine. They are not of natural origin and make one think somewhat of what might have been produced by the tariere (sorry don't know translation of tariere) of a giant insect! Another strange discovery is that they carefully dug along a natural fissure in the soil which adjoined the central cavity. All along this fissure at 20 cms below the surface and over a width of 3 cms the famous grey/mauve powder was found again. There can be no explanation here either, for if a gas or powder had been injected it would have marked the fissure from top to bottom." (*Les Dépèches* 12.5.67).

Personally, I think that a very heavy gas could have penetrated

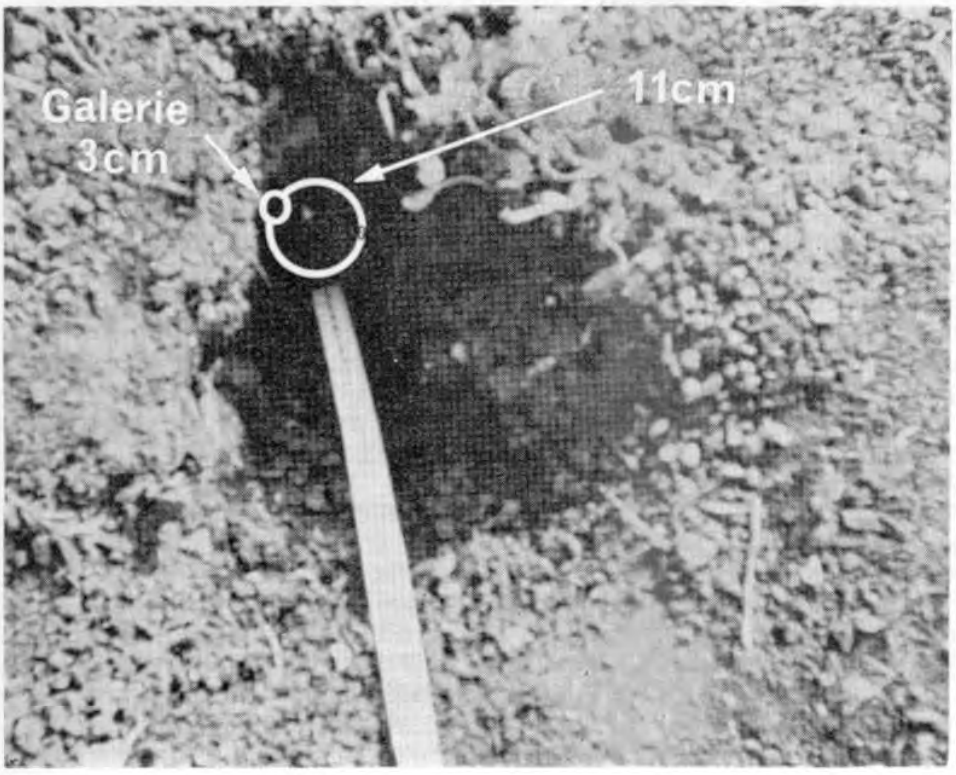
into the fissure but would have very quickly dispersed as a result of cooling: it would have been in some way precipitated by contact with the cold earth which would serve to trigger off crystallisation: as the gas would have entered by one of the galleries, that is to say, through the bottom of the fissure of which the top portion would have been closed by the compression of the soil, it would only have been the lower part which would be covered with crystals, the substance being exhausted before reaching the top of the fissure. Now, while exploring a gallery, we established that towards the end the mauve powder did not cover the whole surface, but only the lower face of the gallery.

Furthermore, the clods of earth which were sticking up and covered with mauve powder make one think of the same explanation: the machine would have pushed up the soil as it went along (along the east-west arc) loosening it and releasing the gas which would have crystallised on the clods as they fell back to earth. In other cases of UFO landings it has already been noted that the earth appeared to have suffered the effect of inverse gravity generated by the machine: that is to say, that it would be lifted up to fall back to earth a little farther away, so marking the trajectory of take-off. To confirm this hypothesis, it would have been necessary to examine the distribution of the lumps of soil, but the investigators had removed them as they were covered in mauve powder. In fact, the weight of the lumps should have decreased in proportion to their distance from the centre because the inherent inertia of mass would bring it about that at the same distance and the same speed of displacement, the smaller masses would be carried furthest. Coming back to the galleries, the investigators think that they have been dug by some sort of "antennae" seeking their way through the soil for reasons unknown to us (stopping, steadying the machine, or taking samples?).



2. Cross-section

Geiger counters reveal nothing, and no one in Marliens saw a UFO. Finally, one should remark that this is not the first time that similar traces have been found. Indeed, at Valensole in the Basses Alpes on July 1, 1965, a machine landed in a lavender field. An agriculturist of the neighbourhood, M. Masse, a man of serious and sober reputation, saw it and observed two small beings getting out of it. One of them paralyzed him with a sort of weapon which he took from his belt when M. Masse had approached to within eight metres of the machine. The saucer was resting on a sort of central pivot which was burying itself in the soil and which was surrounded by six rods, also resting on the earth. The marks found at the spot indicated by the farmer were exactly comparable to those at Marliens with the same round holes 30 cms deep and 20 cms in diameter, ending in small galleries of a much smaller diameter. These facts have been established by Commandant Oliva and Captain Valevet of the Digne police. There was an identical phenomenon in Argentina on July 19, 1965, on the beach at Ciudad Colonio where dozens of witnesses saw a round machine take off. On the sand they found the same marks of furrows in the shape of an X.



Furthermore, according to Aimé Michel, on September 29, 1954, an object was seen along a line from Rigney (Doubs) to Nevers; on October 2, 1954, along a line Jeumont (Nord) Morestel (Isere); on October 3 along a line Montbeliard (Doubs) to Chateau Chinon (Nievre); on October 7 along a line Jettingen (near Mulhouse) to La Chatre (Indre). Now these four lines intersect in the neighbourhood of Marliens (*Les Dépèches* and *Le Bien Publique* 12.5.67.).

Furthermore, a mysterious phenomenon has already been seen in the neighbourhood which dug a cavity of cylindrical form (*Le Bien Publique* 11.5.67.).

All this leads one to think that a UFO landed at Marliens on May 6th or 7th. The reason for this landing is unknown: it should be noted, however, that it took place near a road, in a field not far from some power lines.

Translation: J. Hugill

MORE ABOUT MARLIENS

WE have received another report on the Marliens marks, in which **M. Roger Perrinjaquet** quotes extensively from the Lausanne newspaper, *Feuille d'Avis*. The detailed description in this account was obviously prepared during preliminary enquiries, so it is essential that it goes on record. This description of the marks is as they were soon after discovery, and therefore some days before M. Alain Rifat was able to visit the site.

"On May 9, 1967, on a vast agricultural plateau beside the tiny (ten farms) hamlet of Marliens, some 17 kilometres south-east of Dijon in East-Central France, a farm worker found a curious hole in a field of clover. The hole, 25 cms wide, gave the impression that a wheel-shaped object had been rammed down on edge with very great force into the ground. Radiating from this

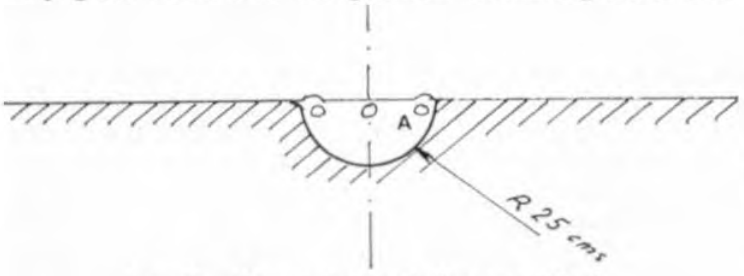


Fig. 1. The central hole (cross-section)

central hole in an irregular star pattern were six arms consisting of meandering, slightly raised tunnels, all of which terminated in extraordinary twin shafts cutting downwards into the earth. The longest of the meandering raised tunnels was between 2½ and 3 metres; four were about 2 metres, and the shortest was 1 metre in length. (See Figure 1) . . .

"The Gendarmerie found that the mysterious hole 'looked just as though a cheese 25 cms in diameter had been rammed down into the ground edgeways'. The soil in and around the basin thus formed was so hard that they had to use a hammer to knock off samples of it. (At Valensole too the soil around the central hole was as hard as cement). From this central hole, the six meandering tunnels, more like blisters or swellings, or mole-workings, and only slightly raised above the surface of the field, led out irregularly. The tunnels were only slightly beneath the surface, and about 20 cms in diameter. At the termination of these tunnels, and also at intervals along the course of four of them, were some strange open marks 'like the imprints of a camel's foot'. But now comes the most extraordinary feature of all. For, from each of the ends of these superficial meandering tunnels there ran a pair of completely straight and regular round shafts, 15 cms in diameter and some 120 cms in length, separating off with an angle of about 45° degrees within each pair, and cutting downwards at an angle of about 45° into the ground. (See Figure 2).

"From the ends of all except the shortest of the six meander-tunnels there were also much finer threadlike tunnels, only about 1 millimetre wide and 1 centimetre high, which continued on in the same general direction. These were at a depth of some 10 cms from the surface

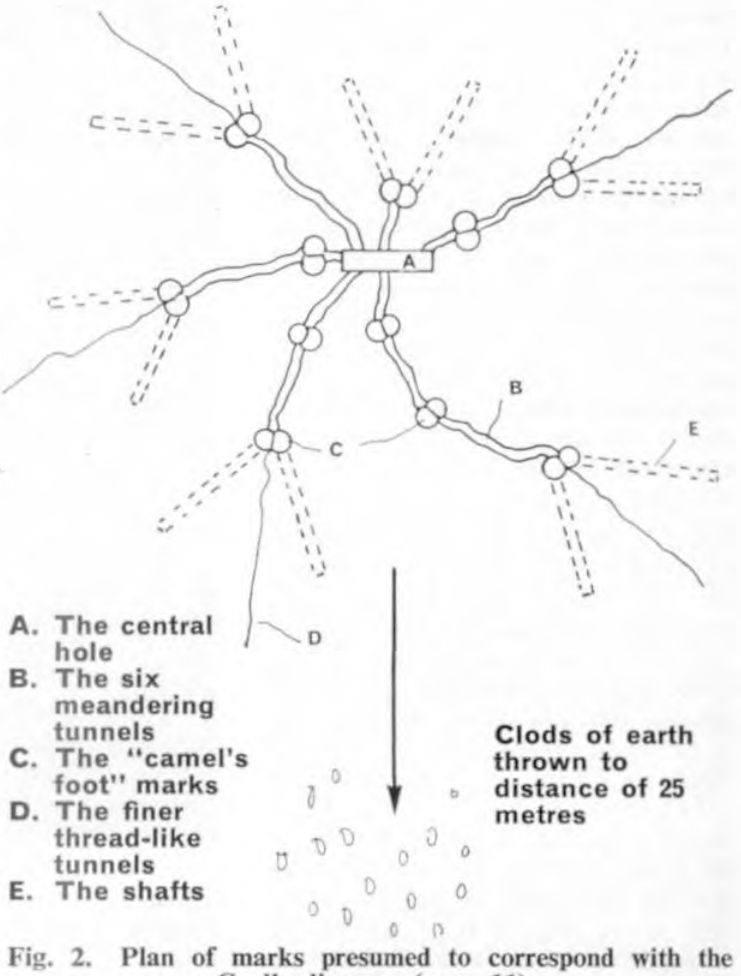


Fig. 2. Plan of marks presumed to correspond with the Genlis diagram (page 11)

of the field, and ran parallel with the surface.

"These five threadlike tunnels were found to be full of a grey powder resembling cigarette ash, which however turned to a violet-mauve colour over the next few days. Some of this powder was also found in other places, particularly beneath the many clods of earth that had been flung away to a distance of some 15 to 25 metres towards the east, i.e., roughly in the same direction as the longest meandering tunnel . . ."

Caused by lightning?

At Dijon, French Air Force authorities were satisfied that lightning was the cause of the hole and associated marks. However,—"as everyone knows, a charactistic feature where lightning has struck is a persistent 'sulphurous smell'. The gendarmes detected no such smell at the site.

"As regards the argument that the storm and the lightning caused the marks and holes, it is the general opinion of everybody who has viewed the marks that they can only have appeared *after* the date of the big storm, May 3. For the rainfall was extremely heavy, and all are agreed that it is out of the question for these marks to have been there throughout any part of the storm and still have retained their clear and sharp outlines, which were completely unimpaired.

No radioactivity

"At this point it should also be mentioned that, alarmed by a certain queer prickling feeling that they experienced after taking their soil samples from the site, the Gendarmerie sent to the Dijon Air Force Base for a Geiger counter. The Geiger counter revealed no radioactivity at the site. Nevertheless there is still the prickling to be accounted for, and to be remembered, for 'pricklings', 'tinglings' and many odd skin conditions are encountered frequently enough in UFO phenomena, as every student of this subject knows . . ."

Analysis called for

M. Perrinjaquet had a suggestion to make:

"A friend of mine visited Marliens and brought back specimens of the soil and the mauve-violet powder, and a private laboratory in Switzerland has made a rapid analysis, more particularly of the earth. This analysis was done by gas chromatography, and the results show that the essential elements in the powder had not been destroyed. Traces were found in it of sulphur, carbonates and metals. The presence of the carbonates is thought to indicate clearly enough that at any rate no fusion or calcination could have taken place, so that the theory of an explosion of some device—perhaps dropped from an aircraft—would seem to be eliminated.

"I myself have made an analysis, with special papers, to detect the gamma rays of Cobalt 60, and the result was negative.

"If FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has access to the services of a laboratory able to make an analysis of the powder, I can send you some."

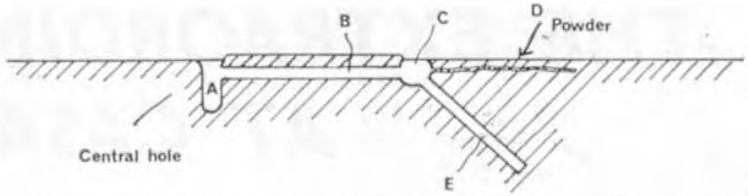


Fig. 3. Showing one of the finer threadlike tunnels containing the violet-mauve coloured powder (grey on discovery.)

STRATFORD-ON-AVON LANDING WITH OCCUPANTS: JANUARY 1959

by John D. Llewellyn

Our contributor is a B.U.F.O.R.A. area investigator.

THIS is a report of a personal investigation of statements by Mr. Leonard Hewins of Tredington, Nr. Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, conducted on July 12, 1967. The witness is employed as a general labourer with Stratford-on-Avon Corporation.

Here verbatim is his statement:—

"I had finished work at 5.15 p.m. one night in January 1959 and had gone to collect my bike from the rear of refuse tip near car park in Arden Street—close by is a tennis court seen in the direction of North West—when my attention was attracted to a fiery round red object, size of the setting sun, coming from the East. I watched it travelling slowly and falling, coming to rest approximately 100 yards away. As it stopped the glowing light went out. I then noticed a blue haze forming, approximately 12ft high, which seemed to hover just above the ground where the object was. The bottom of it could not be seen as it was quite dark, but there were some lights from the town. I then saw three figures, human-like in appearance, moving in the blue haze. If these were inside whatever it was, it must have been transparent. They were quite tall relating their height to the depth of the haze and height of the wire of tennis court, perhaps 10ft. One of them faced towards me and I could see heads and arms which they raised up, and they then appeared to step up, lifting themselves as if sitting on something. This, they did with a clumsy bulky movement. At this point, to my surprise, I saw a fourth figure of similar appearance, and they had seated themselves two in the front and two in the rear. During this time I was quite frightened and was staring, feeling unable to move. The blue haze rose slightly then faded gradually. The object then began to glow and brighten to the same brilliance it had been before; the bottom of this red colour was seen to touch the ground. Then it changed to an extremely bright light, rising swiftly. A trail of multi-coloured, very beautiful stars shot out from the rear. I then heard a sound like rushing water, the same that you hear when pressing your ears in and out with your fingers when at a waterfall. The object then disappeared towards the west."

Elaborating on his sighting report statement, Mr. Hewins then told of seeing the same type of object when a boy of 14 in 1930, with the same description and noise, approximately 50ft up, travelling from east to west. This occurred at the same time of the year, sky dark but very clear. The object did not stop.

In 1953, with another witness, he had observed three star-like objects travelling very fast—thought to be meteors—and watched them descend to the horizon, "getting larger as they came down".

In the opinion of this investigator, Mr. Hewins is considered to be a reliable witness of the above sightings. He was subjected to the usual ridicule when relating the above facts, which he states firmly to be true. He has no desire for publicity in any form, this investigator being given brief details indirectly. Impression of witness as being a man of simple philosophy, uncluttered by a too formal education. Of interest therefore, is his reply to the question: "In your opinion what was the object?"

"Something that do not belong to this Earth just yet."

THE EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENINGS AT CASA BLANCA

by Gordon Creighton

IN her excellent contribution to our special number, *The Humanoids*,[1] Mrs. Coral Lorenzen gave a brief outline of this strange affair, identifying the place as Riverside, California, though if one wishes to be very exact it seems that it actually took place in the adjacent residential district of Casa Blanca. As Mrs. Lorenzen observes, the matter does not appear to have been properly investigated by an experienced student of UFO phenomena. It should be placed on record, however, that in addition to the version[2] quoted by her, there is also an account[3] which appeared in 1955 in the Journal of the Borderland Sciences Research Association. It seems necessary that we consider both these accounts for each contains something absent from the other.

According to the author of the BSRA version, Mrs. Winona Cromwell of Hemet, California, two of her own friends, Mrs. Jean Rowland and Mrs. Mary Starbuck, had learnt of the occurrence from a report in their local paper.[4] These two ladies therefore went to the house where the happenings had allegedly occurred, and managed to interview all the witnesses, who were a group of about eight or nine children ranging in age from four up to fifteen years.

The BSRA report was quoted at length in the valuable and, unfortunately, now defunct British bulletin *Uranus*[5], but until the publication of *The Humanoids* there has never been any mention of the case in the pages of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and it is very likely quite unknown to most of our readers. I have now come across something else which possibly deserves to be considered in association with the Casa Blanca case, and so the present seems an opportune moment for recording here the additional data and sketches to supplement Mrs. Lorenzen's account.

The series of truly extraordinary happenings at Casa Blanca began at about 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 22, 1955, while the group of children were playing in the garden of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, parents of one of the boys (Kermit Douglas).



fig.1

Kermit and another boy were wrestling on the lawn when, looking up, Kermit noticed a curious object in the air above them, as in Figure 1.

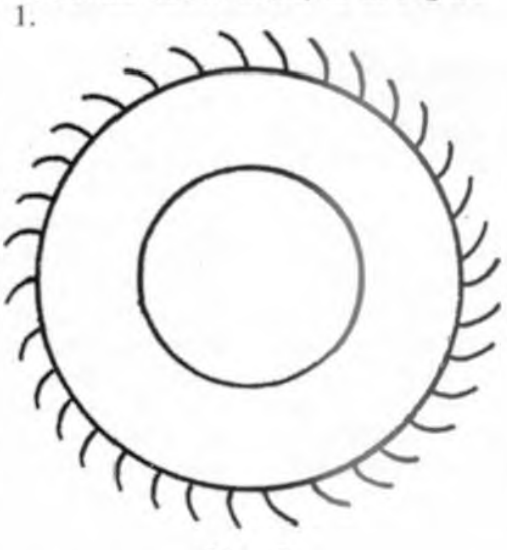


fig.2

As they watched, it disappeared. and object No. 2 appeared.

This was a hovering disc, which at times seemed to be spinning. When it did so, the lines emanating from it were "bent round", as shown in the sketch. (All sketches are based on those by Mrs. Jean Rowland, from the descriptions given by the children.)

It was not long before more of the children were seeing the objects. which were of various colours but mostly silver. In addition to the shapes shown in Figs. 1 and 2, there were also those shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

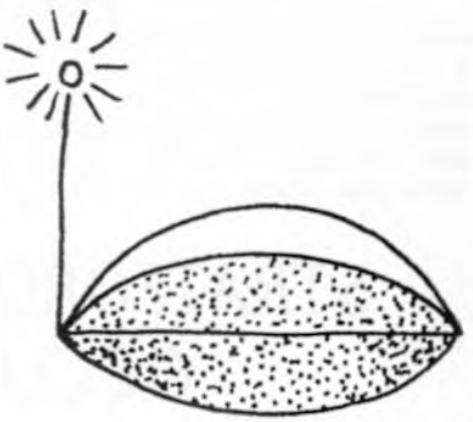


fig. 3

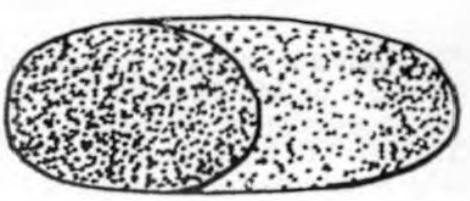


fig. 4

The objects all seemed to be "semi-transparent," and were continually vanishing and re-appearing. Each time one of them vanished or reappeared, the children heard a high musical "ping". This went on for some time, but whenever a child went into the house to call the parents the objects disappeared. So we have no adult witnesses[6].

The first reactions of the children to these phenomena had been joyous, but now things were happening that began to frighten them.

One of the objects, very beautiful and brightly coloured (Figure 3), had landed in a field about half the distance of a city block from the children, and two of the boys suddenly became aware of something else near the house next door. Looking more closely, they saw that this was an extraordinary

creature of about the size of a four-year old child (Figure 5).



fig. 5

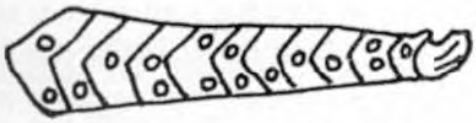


fig. 6

This creature was transparent, and the boys could see the wall of the house right through him. The round disc[7] on the creature's belt shone like a bright mirror, and dazzled the boys. The creature had "round objects on his face which sparkled like diamonds", and the boys stated emphatically that *it was not standing on the ground, but hovering above it*. In confirmation of this, Mrs. Lorenzen's version mentions that the children saw a being 3½ft. tall emerge from the landed craft, and that this being "had a big red mouth, big red eyes. and four diamond-shaped things where his nose should be". And now, something that is very interesting, Mrs. Lorenzen has at this point an item which is missing from the BSRA account. Her version, taken from *Saucer News*[2], says that another boy had told reporters that he saw that this "strange man" *was carrying two guns, with which he paralyzed the two boys.*

Continuing now with the BSRA account, we read that the children told Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Starbuck that the strange craft in the sky and in the field bore very bright sources of light (see the "antenna" as shown in Figure 3), "which seemed to emit some kind of ray[7]".

One of the boys, aged seven, started walking towards the object that had landed in the field, saying that it was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. But two of the older boys, seeing this, ran after him and tripped him up and so prevented him from getting any nearer to the craft or whatever it was.

Another boy saw an "arm" (Figure 6) suspended in the air about twenty feet from him, and beckoning to him. Questioned as to its size, he said it was about as big as the arm of a child of four or five.

A second and even more extraordinary creature (Figure 7) appeared to one of the boys, and "spoke to him".

This creature was evidently more solid looking than the other one, for the boy said that it was wearing clothing that looked like satin. The creature told him to climb up into a nearby tree, adding that he would be picked up from there in fifteen minutes time.



fig. 7

He and one of the other lads accordingly climbed up into the tree and sat there waiting. The rest of the children must have sensed the danger in this, for they urged them to come down and, when they still refused, forced them down from the tree by turning the garden hosepipe on to them. One may well imagine that it is fortunate that they did so, for a few minutes later one of the mysterious craft came over and flew about around that particular tree before disappearing for the last time.

Meanwhile, however, after one of the vessels had landed in the nearby field, another boy had climbed a tree and, from the tree, had gone on to a roof, no doubt in order to get a better view of things. This boy was about to climb down again, via the tree, when he suddenly turned and walked straight off the side of the roof. The other children watched him land on his head, but with no apparent injury. It is however important for us to note that this boy had no subsequent recollection of having fallen from the roof, and absolutely refused to believe[8] it when the other children told him what had happened. (According to Mrs. Lorenzen's version, this boy had also seen "a silver arm which beckoned to him".)

Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Starbuck concluded their account with the statement that they felt certain that the children were telling the truth, "for they have been, and still are, very frightened, so that it will be a long time before they forget what they have experienced".

So much then for the Riverside or Casa Blanca case, which looks suspiciously like an attempt at child-kidnapping by totally mysterious creatures possessing the power of hypnosis or of casting a "glamour" upon their intended victims. I fully agree with Mrs. Lorenzen that it calls for further investigation, and I am glad that one of APRO's Advisers, geologist Dr. Philip Seff, is going to undertake this.

I am particularly glad that it is a scientist who is to probe the case. For, having no scientific reputation

of my own to lose, I venture to assert that—if authentic—this case yields to none in importance for it may involve contact with beings of a substance and a nature that are totally inconceivable to the mind of a modern scientist and that may derive from realms that cannot even be grasped intellectually by our brightest brains (though writers of bygone days suffered no such handicap). As I have endeavoured to suggest, many times, the so-called "UFO Phenomenon" seems to be something of enormous and growing complexity, involving many "creatures" and many "vessels" of totally disparate natures and origins.

Following on from Casa Blanca, I want to touch now on another matter about which I wrote in 1965 in an article entitled *A Russian Wall Painting and Other 'Spacemen'*[9]. Figures 1 and 2 in that article were from Henri Lhote's book[10] on the prehistoric frescoes found in the Sahara, and I suggest that, whatever those two strange figures might represent, there hardly seemed to be grounds for thinking, as some people did, that the creatures portrayed might have any bearing on the "UFO Problem".

I have recently been taking another look at Lhote's book, and particularly at his coloured reproduction (between pages 104 and 105 of the English edition[11]) showing what he calls "The Great God, with Praying Women".

None of these creatures look much like human beings, and the most extraordinary of all is the "Great God" himself, which I reproduce here (Figure 8).

This creature, painted between 6,000 and 8,000 years ago, is every bit as outlandish as those allegedly seen by the American children at Casa Blanca in 1955, and I particularly wish to draw attention to a certain resemblance between it and Casa Blanca Figure 7.



fig. 8

The Casa Blanca creature of Figure 7 has, in addition to its four "legs", an extraordinary "doubling" of the forearms, so that two of these emerge at each elbow, one going upwards and one downwards.

I am well aware, of course, that, as the critics will not fail to point out, "this is just the sort of thing that kids draw". Indeed, I think I recall finding, some years ago, some of my own earliest scribbles in which much the same sort of "four-armed" creatures appear. But the fact remains that the "Great God" of the Tassili frescoes in the Sahara also has some very odd projections sticking upwards from his elbows, and while nobody would maintain that he is identical with Mrs. Rowland's drawing of what the Californian children say they saw, I have found the resemblance between Tassili and Casa Blanca haunting my mind.

If there are strange creatures in the Universe that are totally unknown to our science, and that appeared to the children at Casa Blanca, then it may well be that creatures of the same order were familiar to the unknown people who made the Tassili frescoes. Let us not forget the wise old Gurdjieff's dictum that *for every new piece of knowledge acquired by modern Man, ten old pieces of knowledge are lost.*

I am nowhere suggesting, of course, that either Tassili or Casa Blanca has necessarily anything remotely to do with our pet hobby, the search for Life in Outer Space. Possibly they both have. But it is equally possible that they have not. Perhaps they relate to something else, something that is even more fantastic to our current ways of thinking, something that contemporary Man is not particularly well equipped to contemplate in view of his arrogance and his contempt for what passed for knowledge in earlier times.

Perhaps this something is a matter about which we are going to have to think about quite seriously. For, make no mistake about it, Sunday, August 22, 1955, was evidently a decidedly queer and special sort of day. It was the date not only of the Casa Blanca episode but also of the astonishing business of the "armour-plated goblins" seen at Kelly-Hopkinsville in Kentucky. Charles Fort would no doubt have agreed that some very strange creatures were abroad in our world on that day.

NOTES

1. *The Humanoids*, FSR, Special issue, October/November 1966 (p.55). Coral Lorenzen: *UFO Occupants in United States Reports.*
2. *Saucer News*, October/November 1955.
3. From "Clips, Quotes and Comments," *Journal of Borderland Sciences Research Association* (BSRA), Vista, California, 1955. (At that date under direction of Dr. Meade Layne).
4. *The Riverside Enterprise*, August 30, 1955.
5. *Uranus*, London (Ed: E. Biddle) Vol. II, No. 4 (10), February 1956, p.67.
6. This absence of adult witnesses could of course suggest that the children had fabricated the story. But it might equally well suggest that some crafty creatures intended to kidnap children without benefit of adult witnesses.
7. Perhaps these shining discs and antennae points have a hypnotic purpose.
8. This suggests that the boy's mind had already been conditioned in some way and amnesia induced, though it might perhaps also have been simply due to striking the ground with his head.
9. Gordon Creighton: *A Russian Wall Painting and Other "Spacemen,"* FSR, July/August 1965, p.11.
10. Henri Lhote: *A La Découverte des Fresques du Tassil* (Paris, 1958).
11. Do. English edition: *The Search for the Tassili Frescoes.* Hutchinson, London, 1959.

Personal Column (Rate; first three lines 5/-, additional lines 5/- each).

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DO THE CHERUBIM COME FROM MARS?

A preliminary study based on the Gary Wilcox Contact Story

by Peter Gilman

IN A RECENT issue of the New York *Herald Tribune* I was aghast to read that nuclear physicist Edward Teller had seriously proposed exploding a hydrogen bomb on the surface of the moon to find out what that heavenly body is made of. Now it may well be that the moon is only a lifeless rock, despite what Mr. Adamski and others have said, just as it may also be only an effect of blind mathematical chance that our satellite makes exactly one complete turn on its axis every month, instead of one half a turn or ten or thirteen. But it is the possible extensions of the Teller principle that tends to shock. Most scientists also believe that Mars is devoid of any but the lowest forms of life. Will Professor Teller next be suggesting that we use his delicate little method on Mars? If the Siberian explosion of 1908 was some Martian physicist's idea of a handy way to find out what the earth was made of, we should be very glad that they didn't try their experiment on New York or London!

In fact, I personally think there is cause to believe that Mars *is* inhabited by an advanced civilisation—and far more so than our own. So partly in the humanoiditarian interest of protecting whatever society is there from the mad bombers of Earth who may decide to put Professor Teller's ideas into practice, I shall set forth my 'new evidence for life on Mars' in this present article.

To begin with, let's recall briefly the classical old dispute about those canals. Are they real? Or just illusions? Solid lines? Or fortuitous alignments of spots—a kind of problem in Martian orthoteny, so to speak? Schiaperelli, who discovered the alleged network, thought that it was due to natural geological forces but declined to say just which ones and left open the possibility of intelligent origin. Percival Lowell spent most of his adult life gazing—or thinking that he was gazing—at the canals through his telescope and making careful maps of them. He was convinced that they were real canals and that they had been built by intelligent beings in order to bring water from Mars' Poles into its desert regions—which he reckoned were pretty extensive.

But though there are probably many people today who'd be willing to agree with Lowell as to the canals' intelligent origin, there are very few of us indeed who seriously think that the builders are still there. For our scientists have measured and analysed the Martian atmosphere in a variety of ways in recent years and on all accounts it seems far too thin to support any but the hardiest and shallowest-breathing lichens—to say nothing at all (if you please!) about little men. As a compromise solution, then, we 'canalists' have concluded that Mars is a dying planet, with practically nothing left on it to die. But the question then becomes: *how* did Mars lose its atmosphere and *when*? Was it a long, slow process, geared only to the largely imperceptible rhythm of causes and effects now governing the evolution of our solar system? Or was the loss sudden and cataclysmic, the result of vast and brutal exterior forces acting on the planet at a given moment in its history and at that moment alone? In simpler terms, could Mars have been involved in a kind of celestial traffic accident?

In *Worlds in Collision*, published in 1952, Immanuel Velikovsky[1] goes a very long way to proving just that. In the words of Mr. Mossman's very timely and excellent review of a recently published book defending Dr. Velikovsky's theories[2]: "An intensive study of ancient sources, of early astronomical records and of universal legends and folklore brought him to a revolutionary concept: that vast and sudden changes have taken place in the Solar System within historical times, and that these have twice resulted in world-wide catastrophes in the last 4,000 years."

Dr. Velikovsky shows that the first of these two catastrophes was a series of near-collisions with Venus in the second millenium B.C. and that the second—and last—was a series of similar, though less disastrous, near-collisions with the planet Mars in the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. It was at this time, and in the course of previous 'brushes' with Venus (which as a comet trying to become a new member of our solar system was responsible for all of the catastrophes) that, according to Velikovsky, Mars lost the better part of its atmosphere to its two larger neighbours.

Dr. Velikovsky, commenting on the tradition of belief in a Martian civilisation, draws from his own revolutionary evidence the following conclusion: "After the contacts between Mars and planets which were larger and more powerful than itself, it seems very improbable that any superior forms of life could have managed to survive there, if they ever existed at all. Mars is most probably a dead planet. Any form of higher life must have been completely annihilated."[3]

Velikovsky doesn't himself believe that the canals were built by Martians. Like their discoverer Schiaperelli, he attributes the observed network to geological forces. But what is of interest to those of us who do believe the canals to be of intelligent origin is the great economy of Dr. Velikovsky's way of massacring the Martians, when compared to the old explanation which supposed (and that's the word for it) a steady-state, no-change solar system. For on the older view, the Martians had to die slowly because the oxygen seeped away slowly—but why the oxygen did go away, no one could imagine. In Velikovsky's greatly-improved version, Mars lost its atmosphere and its civilisation at the same time and due to the same catastrophic accident.

Now anyone who flatly accepted Velikovsky's theories on the basis of what Mr. Mossman or I say about them would be very gullible, let's admit that at once. But as Mr. Mossman has pointed out, "implications of (Velikovsky's) theories which looked fantastic 15 years ago are being verified by more advanced techniques." Among them Mr. Mossman cites: "The high surface temperature of Venus, the presence of hydrocarbons in the Venusian atmosphere, the emission of radio waves by Jupiter, the extent of the Earth's magnetosphere." And Velikovsky is, very slowly but surely, gaining recognition in the scientific community, as the *Velikovsky Affair* has shown.

Now I have been going along, so far, almost as if I were myself a devout 'canalist' of the modern school—that is, believing that the canals were built by Martians, but at the same time being very sure that these Martians were, every manoid-jack of them, dead. But in fact, of course, I don't believe anything of the sort. I've only pretended to, a little bit, in order to present the dead-Martianist viewpoint as forcefully as I could, Velikovsky and his catastrophes à l'appuie. For, paradoxically, as I hope we'll all soon be persuaded, it is precisely the Velikovsky annihilation theory that is going to provide us with perhaps our first serious grounds for belief that the Martians have survived and are still going strong—canals or no canals!

Although the Gary Wilcox story has appeared in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and has been reprinted subsequently in *The Humanoids*, where it is apparently the *only* contact story in which we have to do with little men claiming to come from Mars, I myself first read it in a paperback collection of true (or allegedly true) stories from *Fate* magazine,[4] and it is on this very detailed and excellent version of the story, written by Olga M. Hotchkiss, that I shall be basing my present résumé.

On a Friday morning towards 10 o'clock, April 24, 1964, 28-year-old Gary Wilcox, who was working on his 300-acre farm on Wilson Creek Road in Newark Valley, New York, "saw a bright flash" in a nearby field. On going to investigate, he was startled by the sudden appearance of an object which resembled the "wing fuel tank from a plane": the thing just seemed to pop out from nowhere when "he was about 150 feet away from it . . ." "It appeared to be about 20 feet long, 12 to 15 feet wide, and about 4 feet thick, with both the front and rear ends rounded off" and "appeared to hover a few feet above the ground. He approached it and put his hand on it. It was 'just like touching an automobile' and was not hot to his touch. He could hear a sound like 'a motor idling'."

When Wilcox touched the UFO, "two (human-like) figures about 4 feet tall dropped to the ground from beneath it. Both . . . were completely encased in silvery, one-piece suits. Their heads were completely covered with the same fabric . . . No facial features were visible. One of the figures approached him—the other stayed close to the ship." The two "were holding . . . trays about a foot square, filled with specimens of soil and sod. Their hands were completely covered, and he was not able to see any fingers."

Only the one who had stepped forward spoke. He did so with a "deep voice that seemed to come from somewhere within the suit, though not from the creature's head." He told Wilcox not to be afraid, that they had "talked with people before". He asked what Wilcox was doing and was told "spreading manure". This seemed to interest the little man, who then proceeded to ask a lot of questions "mainly about soil, crops and fertilizers", and even ended by asking if he could have a sample of this marvellous fertilizer to take with him. Wilcox "said he would get it for them"—however, he didn't do so immediately and the conversation, which lasted over two hours, continued.

"'We are from the planet known as Mars,' said the visitor, who then went on to explain that *although they had been obtaining their food from the atmosphere, they had to find a way to rehabilitate their soil to raise food crops.*" (My italics—P.G.)

Let's pause at this point in the résumé and ask a question. Namely, if the alleged Martians "had been obtaining their food from the atmosphere" but couldn't any more, wouldn't that seem to indicate that something drastic had happened to that atmosphere in fairly recent geological times (geological, in a Martian sense, of course)? In fact, wouldn't it be reasonable to infer that the atmospheric change alluded to was a *thinning* of the atmosphere, seeing that food used to be obtainable from it but less so now? And since it was recent, wouldn't it also be reasonable to suspect that that thinning must have been the result of a catastrophe? In short, I suggest that the passage contains an implicit confirmation of Velikovsky's theory, according to which Mars lost most of its atmosphere due to catastrophic near-collisions with the Earth and Venus only about 2,700 years ago—not very long ago when one is considering such a large-scale event as the partial loss of an entire planet's atmosphere!

But as we shall see next, that isn't the only, or even the clearest, confirmation that crops up in the Wilcox story. For in the course of the conversation which continued, we learn that Gary Wilcox "was told that they (the Martians) had *a theory about coming changes in the Universe which would also affect our solar system*, and that '*Mars may be where Earth is now.*'" (My italics—P.G.)

What is happening here? Isn't this an explicit reference to the same catastrophe that we indirectly inferred from these same alleged Martians' earlier remarks concerning their agricultural problem? For notice that although they are apparently only referring to a theory about possible future events, it must nonetheless be a theory extrapolated from definite knowledge of past and similar events. In other words, such changes in the solar system would have had to be predicted on the basis of a record of similar changes already effected—so that Wilcox's alleged Martians are apparently already familiar with truths we are now very slowly and hesitantly beginning to piece together on the basis of scattered and previously unheeded records: in short, they are familiar with Velikovsky's theory— a must for genuine Martians if Velikovsky is right! Furthermore—what is also necessary, under the same conditions—these same alleged Martians have indirectly, though still clearly, given us to understand that they themselves, or their ancestors (who can say what is a Martian longevity?), were directly and catastrophically involved in one or more of these vast interplanetary shuffles which form

the subject of their theory. But if the little men Wilcox said he spoke to may be said to have confirmed Velikovsky's theories, at least in part, isn't it at least equally true—and certainly (though with all due respect to Velikovsky's undeniable genius) far more important—to say that in so doing they tend to confirm their own objective existence?

I think so! But let's not go too fast!

The rest of the Wilcox account is not without its own interest, but what I have already quoted terminates the parts of it we need to consider here. The little man "volunteered a great deal of other information about space and other subjects", most of which Wilcox found too much "over his head" even to remember. They took leave of him towards noon, and he never saw them again. But, faithful to their agreement, he did carry out to the field a bag of fertilizer which he left for them—and which was gone the next day. "When asked if he thought that the Martians had returned for it, Gary said: 'Well, anybody who would walk all the way to that field to get an 80-cent bag of fertilizer would be crazy'."

The first question we might feel tempted to ask about Wilcox seems almost to have been foreseen and answered in advance by that same good-humoured remark. For Wilcox is plainly not the type of man to go pulling crazy stunts for no reason—no more than he could seriously imagine someone willing to walk miles for a bag of fertilizer. He has been content to go on milking his cows, just like before, and leave the Adamskis and Menzells to milk us. Consequently, he hasn't made any money out of his story. But if he wasn't money-hungry, he wasn't subject to recurring hallucinations, either: he'd never seen a UFO or Martians before that day and he hasn't seen any since. As for publicity, Wilcox did all he could to avoid it and for a long time refused to tell anyone except his mother about what he had seen and heard. As Olga Hotchkiss informs us: "No report was made to the authorities at the time of the incident; nevertheless, the story spread rapidly and an influx of curiosity-seekers invaded the site. Any reporter or interested individual who wanted to question Gary was hard put to get much out of him, as he worked continuously while answering questions . . . Eventually the story was reported to the office of the Tioja County Sheriff in Owego, N.Y., and Gary was called in for questioning.

"'I don't care whether anyone believes me or not,' Mr. Wilcox said. 'It doesn't mean anything to me one way or the other. I told them what I saw and heard. I thought I should'." And in Newark Valley, Mr. Wilcox's brother, Floyd, said that he believes his brother is telling the truth. 'If Gary said the thing happened, it really happened. He has nothing to gain and a lot to lose by telling a story like this. I know it is true'." All of which, taken together, seems to indicate clearly enough that suspicions either about Wilcox's sanity or about his honesty are unfounded.

But of course the most significant difficulty in the way of our freedom to reject Wilcox's testimony is that although the alleged Martians' comments bear out Velikovsky's theories remarkably well, Wilcox himself does not call our attention to this verification—worse yet, he does not even render explicit the cause-and-effect relationship between their remarks about a changed atmosphere, on one hand, and a theory about changes in the Universe affecting our solar system, on the other. Instead, we are obliged to find out that connection ourselves—and it is pretty well camouflaged, for (1) the thinning of the atmosphere must be inferred indirectly from a context ostensibly having only to do with agriculture, whereas the theory about the solar system is spoken about only later and as a purely scientific matter "over (Wilcox's) head", as he puts it; and (2) the business about the food problem seems to relate to past and current events, whereas the theory about the solar system is treated in an abstract and hypothetical light—something that only affects an unknown future.

Is it reasonable to think that Wilcox first put this fantastic scheme together after a good deal of reading which he seems never to have the time to do, and then subtly chopped it all up into apparently unrelated bits for us to piece together later on, and at our own leisure, like a jig-saw puzzle?

One believes what one can believe, in this sort of predicament! Or: you puts yo' money and you takes yo' choice! But for those still straddling the fence. . . .

Almost a year after I'd read this nettlesome story about little men from Mars, I happened to ask myself another question about it, half unconsciously—and the 'answer' jumped into my mind so fast that it gave me goose bumps.

Quite possibly some of the readers of this article have already asked it, and 'answered' it, themselves. The question is: "What would food taken from the atmosphere be likely to resemble?" The 'answer' that occurred to me at once was that it would *not* resemble any *earthly* foodstuff: it would be like no edible substance we knew, for it would be, not animal, nor vegetable, but purely chemical and synthetic. Most likely it would be formless and easily malleable, like some kind of weird, extra-light plastic; probably also it would have no real colour, but rather would be transparent—or white; and it might have properties we weren't used to—for example, it might not even be stable in the air from which it was extracted and so it might evaporate or volatilize on being exposed to it for any length of time. Of course, all these properties evoke irresistibly and almost automatically that weird and sensational phenomenon which Ufologists have come to refer to as 'angel hair': the light, silky-white strands of unknown substance that have so often been seen drifting down to the ground—and then disappearing into the air within a few minutes or hours—during and after reported sightings of UFOs. But then: edibility?

In *Exodous*, the famous 'Pillar of Cloud and Fire' which is said to have moved through the air before the Hebrews during their entire 40-year sojourn in the Sinaii desert, was associated with (a) the angel of the Lord—or his angels, who were said to have transmitted the Moral Law to Moses; and (b) the fall of celestial bread—or manna—which was described as raining from Heaven on to the ground. The manna, needless to say, reportedly possessed all the attributes of angel hair, including volatibility, plus one more (at least, so far as we know): to whit, it was a *nourishing foodstuff*, thus *intended* as such. And all the natural explanations that

(*continued on page 30*)

A SURVEY OF FRENCH UFO RESEARCH GROUPS

by Jacques Vallée

The UFO controversy in France has produced a situation unusually rich in contradictions. *Private* interest among professional scientists, engineers and military men is possibly greater there than in any other country. On the other hand, there has never been any effort on the part of the French government to promote active research on unusual aerial phenomena. The official reason, of course, is that the U.S. Air Force has already done this, and has found little significance to the whole question. This being the general attitude, some officials, in typically French fashion, behave in apparent contradiction to it. It is not rare to see two or three truckloads of gendarmes arriving within hours on the site of a reported landing, soon followed by intelligence specialists who gather samples, take photographs, then vanish: the 'fact sheet' of Project Blue Book is one thing. But somebody in Paris is not taking any chances.

Under the current conditions, however, it is doubtful whether the official follow-up to such cases as the Valensole or the Bar-sur-Loup landings, which were carefully investigated by the French, is anything more than routine. There is a precedent for this: immediately after the 1954 wave, public pressure was such that the French Air Force did create a temporary clearing house for sightings of aerial phenomena made by its personnel. Although the reports centralised by this organisation were numerous, they were sketchy and poorly documented. They were never submitted to a scientific panel. From what this writer has seen, the reliability of the observers was generally above average. The reports came from control tower operators, pilots, meteorologists in France and the territories of Africa. Most witnesses were on duty on military airfields at the time of the sightings, but there was no follow up, and no organised research. A few elementary studies of the report frequently were included in the files, but the overall scientific value of the entire operation was less than sophomorish.

Fortunately, several groups of serious amateurs exist in France, and they have saved from oblivion much valuable data. Their contributions are marked by bold, original attacks on the problem. In recent years, there has been a strong re-activation of the controversy, and therefore it may be useful to review the background, motivations and objectives of the groups and individuals who have kept UFO research alive in France, despite official neglect and journalistic ridicule.

Ouranos

Until the early sixties, one organisation had dominated the scene. It is a group called *Commission Internationale d'Enquêtes Scientifiques Ouranos*. It is often known only by its initials C.I.E.S.O. or by the name of its magazine, OURANOS.

The group was founded in 1951 and may be the oldest UFO group currently in operation (in the United States, the oldest group, APRO, was created in 1952). It had published twelve issues of its journal before booming into a major organisation when the 1954 wave swept the country. Directed by an extremely able researcher, M. Marc Thirouin, and actively served by a popular science-fiction writer, Jimmy Guieu (himself the author of two early books on UFOs), OURANOS set a standard that few publications in this field have approached. Professionally edited, dynamically written and enjoying a perfect presentation, the magazine was packed with results of field investigations carefully conducted by such people as Charles Garreau, Jimmy Guieu and Thirouin.



Aimé Michel (left) at his home in the beautiful French Alps with the Editor, Charles Bowen

After its issue No. 25, published early in 1960, OURANOS felt severely the impact of the censorship of the national press and of the negative publicity given to the observations. The French public lost interest in the problem, and until recently it seemed that Marc Thirouin was courageously fighting a losing battle. There was a long eclipse in the distribution of OURANOS after its number 31, published in 1964. Efforts are currently being made to start the magazine again on a regular publication schedule. The group itself is still alive and has a network of about a hundred correspondents and investigators in France and abroad.

Gepa

At the end of 1962, a group of engineers and other persons interested in starting a new organisation held a series of meetings in Paris and decided to publish a



General Lionel Chassin

bulletin. They placed their organisation under the leadership of General Lionel Chassin. Popular composer Paul Misraki (Paul Thomas), the author of *Flying Saucers through the Ages*, became one of the Vice-Presidents. This group took the name *Groupement d'Etude de Phénomènes Aèriens*, or GEPA.

The new organisation had as secretary a very active researcher, M. René Fouéré, who emerged as the driving force of the group. The first issue of the Bulletin *Phénomènes Spatiaux* was published in 1963. Today the GEPA organises regular meetings in Paris and appears to be growing both in popularity and experience. A definite effort has been made to separate fact from theory and to include in the pages of the Bulletin nothing but scientifically sound material. The current presentation of the publication is of very good quality, and *it is without question the best reference on the UFO Phenomenon available in the French language.*

LDLN

A third journal whose creation was essentially the work of one man, but which is not connected with a tightly-organised group, is Raymond Veillith's *Lumières dans la Nuit*. It was published in a mimeographed form until the end of 1962, then became a neatly-printed journal. It has been issued bi-monthly since 1964 with remarkable punctuality. It contains valuable information on current sightings, because Veillith devotes much attention to incidents which have received little, if any, coverage in the national press; articles by Aimé Michel and Serge Hutin, an authority on Hermetism, have appeared in its pages.

Raymond Veillith created his journal because he had long been aware of the failure of the press to fulfil its mission of factual information. As he wrote to the author of this survey: 'It seemed to me that the major newspapers were worthless to the man who placed all his soul in the search for the truth.' When he first heard of flying saucers, Veillith was convinced that they were nothing but known phenomena. The great European wave of 1954 made him change his mind. After a meeting with Aimé Michel, the UFO problem became one of his major interests. The first number of LDLN appeared in February 1958 and 85 issues have been published to date (free complimentary copy on request).

A major achievement of Veillith is the network of magnetic detectors (see map), an idea which he launched in 1963, and which will be discussed below.

C.I.

Another publication which has linked UFOs with traditional ideals is the organ of the Mondialist Moveemnt which has its headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland). The journal is called *Le Courrier Interplanétaire* and is directed by one of the earliest European students of UFOs, Alfred Nahon. Nahon is an authentic pioneer of the cause of world peace and has long advocated the creation of a Federation of all nations under a single planetary government.

The journal started as a monthly in 1955. It is now published quarterly (see address below in the summary) and has about one thousand subscribers.

CEREIC

In 1965 and 1966 several articles by Guy Tarade and André Millou of Nice appeared in Paris magazines. They were announcing the creation in Provence of a private group called *Centre d'Etude et de Recherche d'Eléments Inconnus de Civilisation*. This is an organisation with no open membership, whose primary interest is not the UFO problem itself, but its possible connection with the history of early human civilisations. They claim, for example, that Extraterrestrial visitors may have occupied South America before the Christian era and may have left throughout the Earth the traces of their visits. This theory has long been studied by a brilliant Soviet writer, Alexander Kazantsev; Guy



M. Marc Thirouin, the founder of *Ouranos*

Tarade proposes to extend these researches and try to find a link between these civilisations of the past and the UFO Phenomenon.

Conclusion

The five major organisations we have mentioned represent the nucleus of a growing movement of

interest in the French public towards the UFO problem. This renewal of serious interest is also reflected in the establishment throughout the country of a network of magnetic detectors, shown by black dots on the attached map. At the time of the compilation of the survey, there were 75 such detectors in operation. The number has now reached over one hundred. The network was organised by Raymond Veillith, of LDLN, and is maintained by volunteers. Veillith periodically reviews the results in his journal. The creation of this network in 1963 is an interesting and original contribution made by the French amateurs, and it indicates their determination to approach the UFO question as a scientific, rather than a philosophical or metaphysical problem. It may permit to submit for the first time to a practical test the many hypotheses that have been put forward concerning the secondary electromagnetic effects con-



The French network of magnetic detectors

nected with UFOs.

Generally speaking, the author of the present survey has consistently found better investigations and a more scientific attitude in the *GEPA Bulletin*, while LDLN and the C.I. were of interest due to the large number of reports they publish, very often in translation form. Most of these translations have been made by M. Christian Vogt for the C.I. and by M. Jean Vuillequez for LDLN.

If we take an historical view of the French situation, then OURANOS emerges as an extremely interesting group. Even in the earliest issues of the magazine we find the significance of the landings fully recognised, the correlation with Mars seriously studied. We find that foreign sightings share the pages with the investigation of local incidents. Even annotated bibliographies of current articles and books (a luxury which is only appearing now in the American UFO journals) were kept up-to-date: all this combined to give a very fine publication.

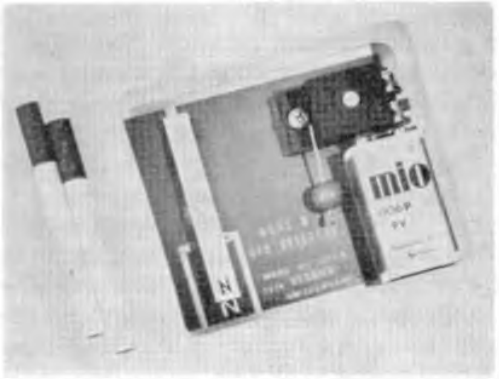
To summarise our impressions, French UFO research is original in two respects. The first of these is the amount of scientific and technological talent which has been brought to bear on the problem, and the number of professional scientists who have taken an active, if often anonymous, interest in UFO observations. These scientists were primarily responsible for encouraging the formation of civilian groups dedicated to active research. Considerable work is done by private researchers (Aimé Michel first among them) who are not identified with any particular group and exchange their findings through informal channels.

The second is the unanimous rejection of the 'contactee' myth. While in Anglo-Saxon countries an important fraction of the public tends to put credence in stories of alleged meeting with 'The Space Brothers'—even sometimes in rumours of 'crashed saucers'—the French researchers (who have in their files the largest number of landing reports) have generally rejected such views, claiming that science, not personal revelation, held the key to the mystery. They continue to regard with considerable scepticism the prophets of the 'New Age'.

ADDRESSES

OURANOS	M. Marc Thirouin 51 rue des Alpes, VALENCE (Drôme) 26 No fixed schedule, mimeographed, 30 pages 8½ x 11 Yearly subscription: 30 F.
GEPA	M. René Fouéré 69 rue de la Tombe-Issoire PARIS 14 Quarterly, 34 pages 6 x 9½, excellent letterpress printing, photographs. Yearly subscription: 30 F.
LDLN	M. Raymond Veillith Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire) 43 bi-monthly, printed, 16 pages 10 x 12½ Yearly subscription: 14 F.
C.I.	M. Alfred Nahon Ferney-Voltaire (Ain) 01 Bi-monthly, printed, 4 pages, 12 x 18½ Yearly subscription: 6 F.
CEREIC	M. Guy Tarade—no official address.

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THE EXETER INCIDENTS

by Jean Fuller

Our contributor, who lives in Texas, is relatively new to the subject of UFOs, having approached it by way of Dr. Jacques Vallée's books and the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Mrs. Fuller is not related to the author of the book which she analyzes so brilliantly in her article.

THE correspondence from *Aviation Week* on the plasma theory[1], and the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW editorial on "explanations"[2], prompted me to take a second look at *Incident at Exeter*[3] by John Fuller, since I understand that Mr. Klass (of *Aviation Week*) used the book to help work out his plasma explanation of the UFO problem. Mr. Fuller interviewed some sixty witnesses before writing his book, and described some twenty-one of these cases in detail. I have made a summary of these twenty-one cases, and I imagine readers of the REVIEW might be interested in the results.

Most of the sightings were made in the vicinity of Exeter, New Hampshire, in the late summer and the fall of 1965.

Muscarello Sighting

September 3. A huge red glowing object was seen to follow a car prior to the sighting, which occurred around 2 a.m. when an object 80ft to 90ft in diameter dived from the sky towards the witness, backed off, and hovered over a house. Later, when officers Hunt and Bertrand observed it with Muscarello, it was seen to rise from behind trees. One hundred feet in the air, the length of a football field away, it was observed as a huge red glow with lights around the rim which pulsated in a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, pattern. When it left, it flew towards Hampton, where a badly frightened man only minutes later reported that a flying saucer came right at him. Said police officer Bertrand: "In fact, the first reaction I got was that it was a huge red fireball. But then I could immediately see that it wasn't. It was a huge, compact, round thing, with lights going back and forth." Said Patrolman Hunt: ". . . it was definitely a craft—a big one. . . ."

Smith Sighting

September. At 11 p.m. a white glow with a red light was seen to come out of the sky and pass over the car four times. About ¼ mile in the air, larger than a B.52. Sighting lasted 15 minutes, ended as object "zoomed right off".

Shipman and Kalogeropoulos Sighting

On a foggy morning at 4 a.m. two boys were badly frightened by object which came in from over the ocean, buzzed their car, and "shot off out of sight". Sighting investigated by Coast Guard.

Davis Sighting

September. At 2 a.m. witness thought she was observing an aircraft until one small green light changed to a large red light "too big for a plane". Sighted from a hill three miles distant, object travelled from south-east, hovered, changed direction. Observed from five to eight minutes.

Spinney Sighting

September 27. Object seen at 10 a.m. on a clear day one mile away, nearest approach 200-300 feet. Described as "definitely metallic", no wings, no glow, about 30 ft in diameter, 200 ft in the air. It flew slowly, hovered, then "went furiously off" upon departure.

Hale Sighting

October. At 6.25 p.m. witness observed bright, dome-shaped object, flat underneath, with a tail or fin, twice the size of a B.47. Came in slowly from over the Atlantic, hovered over the house at distance only three times the height of the chimney, then left at great speed. Kept in sight nearly twenty minutes.

Pearce Sightings

1. October. Seen at night at treetop height, object with dome, fins, appearing to be of hammered metal and of "enormous span". Had small lights all over it, red lights around rim, and square white lights, or ports, on the bottom. Big as a jet, it hovered 8 ft to 10 ft above the car, illuminating pavement. Several witnesses present in car, and one witness present in another car, who saw it over the first car.
2. July. Object "big as a car" with bright red lights, seen hovering below treetop level beside road, 30 ft from witnesses (2) as they approached, thinking it was a wreck. Seen to take off.
3. September 17. Object with red, green and white lights seen hovering over house for two or three minutes, during which time its lights went out twice as jet passed over, to come on again as plane passed by. Seen to depart. Several witnesses.
4. October. Seen by a neighbour of the Pearces. Object with two white lights the width of a wingspread crossed the road, dipped, flew over the car, and went up into the sky.

Healey Sighting

September. At 6.15 p.m. witness and her husband observed large, round, red object with several "silvery things hanging down from it". High in the sky at first, it came down towards power lines, hovered just over them, as plane circled area. Upon departure it "moved away—fast".

Jalbert Family Sightings

1. September. At 6.45 p.m. a bright glowing object the apparent size of the full moon, with several silverish things hanging down from it, was seen in the sky, later departed slowly. It was seen for 30 minutes by the Jalbert family. It occurred the same evening as the Healey observation.
2. September or October. At 10.45 p.m. an object "as big as a car", with red lights and white lights, "like a house window when its lit", came from the end of the power line in the distance, going over trees. It was seen to go up over a large tree in its path.
3. October or November. Reddish, cigar-shaped object seen in the air, from which emerged a small reddish disc. Approaching from a quarter of a mile away to within a few hundred feet of the witness, it hovered over power line, extended a silvery, pipe-like protrusion which touched the wires, remained in contact with them for one minute, and

was withdrawn. Object then rejoined larger one in sky. Mother of witness reported seeing similar phenomenon several days previously.
Observations 1 and 2 were part of repeated sightings in this area. The object was said to arrive around 6.45 p.m., remain nearly an hour. Stayed near power lines, appeared and disappeared, with small red lights on top and bottom, which went on and off. A plane was sometimes seen to circle the object as if in pursuit. Seen in unusually clear weather. Of departure, witnesses said: "It goes way up in the sky finally."

Bolduc Sightings

Fall, 1965. Object or objects seen several times by Bolduc family near their house. Appeared football-shaped with lights around middle. Twice a plane was seen circling when object in vicinity. Once caused photoelectric cell lights to go out because of its brilliance.

Lucci Sighting

August 8. The Lucci brothers photographed a "saucer", which appears on the cover of INCIDENT AT EXETER, at 11.30 p.m., when their camera was set to photograph the moon. Large white disc-shaped light was seen to come up over the trees, hovered here and there 50 to 60 ft above power lines. Weather described as misty. In sight only long enough for two photographs to be taken, it "shot straight up in the air and was gone".

de Turca Sighting

August 11. Five miles away from the Lucci home, only three nights later, at midnight, a huge (60-70 ft diameter), humming, disc-like object with brilliant red lights whirring around its rim, came in from the west, stopped over a neighbour's house, where it hovered and moved about, three or four rooftops high, for half an hour. When it left it "took off faster than a jet". In this case the weather was described as "beautifully clear."
(These two sightings occurred in Beaver, Pennsylvania).

Blodgett Sighting

September 21. Between 1.30 and 2.00 a.m. an object, red on top and glowing on bottom, 100 ft diameter, seen from witness' bedroom window. Hazy night. Object spun, "went zoom—and it was out of sight".

Bunker Sighting

Fall, 1965. At 10.45 p.m. an object was seen approaching from north-west. Red green, white lights, silent, treetop level, object made "a long, graceful bounce" ¼-mile from the witness. Continued towards south-east.

Doughty Sighting

October 1965. Between 9 and 9.30 p.m. a lighted object with red and green lights around it was observed stationary in the sky. Two witnesses stopped car to observe it. Object began to move, dived directly at car, causing witnesses to depart with haste.

Mazelewski Sighting

September 1965. Wakened by light at 2 a.m., witness called husband. Both observed humming object covered with lights like a Xmas tree which blinked, hovering low over field 15 ft from their window. They observed it for 15 minutes. Witnesses left window, noticed that humming had stopped, looked out to find it gone.

Analysis

Of these 21 sightings I noted the following:
1. Size: from "as big as a car" to 100 feet in diameter. Extremely large objects described in seven cases.
2. Distinct and separate lights, as opposed to simply a "glow" described in 13 cases. Two were daylight sightings.
Michel's "jellyfish" described twice. (Probably the same sighting from different witnesses.)
Colours diffused or object all one colour: 3 cases.
No description: 1 case.
3. Two cases describe repeated sightings over a small area. In the Jalbert case we have "ball lightning" which repeatedly appears in the sky and descends to keep a 7 o'clock appointment with power lines on clear nights, remains over power lines for one hour, and zooms off into the sky when power lines cease to attract it.
4. In the Jalbert "cigar" case we have a large "plasma" from which a small bit is seen to detach itself, descend to the power line, touch it, presumably find it less attractive than supposed, return to the sky, and merge with the larger "plasma".
5. In two cases we have daylight sightings of large objects at fairly close range.
6. Out of the whole book I counted seven cases in which jets and other aircraft were scrambled to chase "ball lightning" across the sky.
7. The weather is described in two cases as clear, in two foggy. No mention of any thunderstorm associated with any of these sightings.
8. Duration of sightings: from ½-minute to over one hour. In the Muscarello case, the object was seen at different times over a two hour period. In five other cases the object was kept in view for 15 minutes or longer.
9. Arrivals and departures: there is mention of only one case (very briefly, and not described by original witness) of a sighting described in this way: "There was a big white flash from the thing and it was gone." However, this does not necessarily mean that the object disintegrated, and may only indicate rapid departure.
On the other hand we find:
Approaches from the sky: eleven (two of these from over the ocean).
Approaches from over trees: one.
Approaches from over road: one.
Approach from over power line in the distance: one.
Witness came upon object when it was stationary: six.
Not indicated: one.
Departure from vicinity of witness described: fifteen.
Witness left first: two.
Actual departure not described: four.

Mr. Klass's suggestion that "cornea discharge" formed along power lines, became detached, and floated and zipped about, finds no confirmation in these reports, wherein the object was seen approaching. manoeuvring and departing.

There is no report in *Incident at Exeter* describing an object materializing on power lines and later disintegrating. And the Jalbert case is the only one in which an object was described as in actual contact with the power lines.

As you will see from these accounts, we have "ball lightning" described as giving the appearance of: an aircraft, an auto wreck, an object with square windows or ports, a red object with silvery cables hanging from it, and a metallic craft 30 ft. in diameter (definitely a craft,

with lights pulsating in a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, pattern.) There was also an object flat underneath with a tail or fin, an object of hammered metal, and an object with two lights the width of a wingspread. (One wonders what scientists would say if such descriptions of ball lightning appeared in an encyclopedia!).

To me, however, one of the most remarkable things about this whole series of sightings is this: of the more than 60 persons interviewed, not one mentioned physical harm done by the "masses of charged particles". Not one person was hurt, not one car damaged, no grass or forest fires started, no trees or rooftops set afire by these huge globs of plasma which were floating around so freely in Exeter and vicinity for several months in the fall of 1965. This dangerous phenomenon called ball lightning, in spite of its durability, great size, and apparent attraction to a variety of objects, always managed to stop short of actual contact with environment, while one on a collision course with a tree was seen to go up over the tree.

This bafflement in the face of the explanations is probably "old hat" to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and its readers, but I am still new enough to the field to be bewildered by it. Consistent testimony from so many would seem to indicate the phenomena was accurately described. I am not saying ball lightning cannot show the appearance and behaviour described here, but I do believe any explanation based on the "plasma theory" must account for the features demonstrated in these accounts, without any attempt to minimise or distort them.

One last point—about those "cloud cigars" and the tornado theory. Anyone living close to the "tornado belt" of the midwestern U.S.A. would know better than to compare the awesome but dignified "Type II" appearance and behaviour with the rampaging fury of one of nature's most terrible spectacles. Whether or not they touch the ground, tornadoes are not the kind of thing you just stand and watch! They do not remain stationary in the sky so that you can watch them for half an hour, wondering what they are. You know what they are—the accompanying clouds (black), hail, lightning, and noise leave little room for doubt. Nor do I recall any news account describing a fall of "angel hair" in the wake of a tornado.

NOTES

[1] Refer to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW January/February 1967 p. iv of cover.
[2] FSR January/February 1967
[3] John G. Fuller, *Incident at Exeter:* Putnam.

TWENTY YEARS BACK

by Brinsley Le Poer Trench

This is the third contribution in the present series by a former Editor of Flying Saucer Review, reminding us of some of the classic sightings of two decades ago.

A FEW days after Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of nine gleaming discs near Mt. Rainier, State of Washington, another remarkable one occurred involving a United Airlines plane.

On the evening of July 4, 1947, a DC-3 commanded by Captain E. J. Smith, a greatly respected veteran pilot of considerable experience, took off from Boise, Idaho. His co-pilot and First Officer was Ralph Stevens.

Captain Smith was a sceptic about flying saucers before the sightings as you will see from the following extract of his account related afterwards to Kenneth Arnold.

"We landed our DC-3 at Boise, Idaho, shortly before nine last night and, afraid to be late in our schedule, we took off promptly at 9.04. The weather was perfect. It was a funny thing, but just before take-off as I was climbing aboard our DC-3 someone in the crowd piped up and asked me if I had seen any flying saucers. Up to this time I not only hadn't seen any, but really didn't believe there were such things, though I was polite to the inquirer and yelled back at him that I would believe them when I saw them."

Eight minutes later he saw them!

Captain Smith and his crew saw not just one saucer but nine, just as Arnold had a few days earlier.

Eight minutes after take-off five 'flat and circular' discs appeared in formation. Captain Smith contacted over his radio microphone the Ontario, Oregon, C.A.A. radio communication station, and asked if they could see anything. He was given a negative reply.

His co-pilot, Ralph Stevens, then reported that the five saucers had gone. However, four more came into view. Three in a group together and the fourth off on its own.

These objects then appeared to merge, disappear and then re-appear. Finally, they left and in the words of Captain Smith "and fast!"

Captain Smith stated that the objects were circular, flat on the bottom and bigger than any aircraft that we had on Earth.

The saucers were under observation for over ten minutes and were watched not only by Captain Smith and his First Officer but also by Martie Morrow, the DC-3's stewardess, who was specially called on to the flight deck.

Were these the same nine discs that Arnold had seen a few days earlier? Possibly not, as Arnold described the objects he had seen as crescent-shaped, but a lot depends upon the angle from which the craft are seen.

SOURCES

The Coming of the Saucers, by Kenneth Arnold & Ray Palmer, Amherst, Wisconsin, 1952.
The Riddle of the Flying Saucers, by Gerald Heard, Carroll & Nicolson, London, 1950.

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.

Essex re-revisited

Sir,—Is the following a further device of the kind that I described in my article *Essex Revisited* in the July/August issue? Last evening an acquaintance from a hundred yards down the road knocked at my door to ask if I had seen the object in the S.E. sky. His wife had first seen it at about 2015 and they had been looking at it ever since. It was then about 2115 and he took me back to look at the object which to the naked eye looked like a slightly brighter edition of Venus which is in the evening sky and very bright at this time.

Through his telescope (of x 8 magnification) it proved to be a vast egg-shaped object but with an apparently flabby exterior which seemed to move about as if a wind were blowing it. It had a yellow look with a bright centre and a bright 'lump' underneath (Fig 1). Once again a sky-hook balloon illuminated by the sun would seem to be the obvious answer—until you inquire further.

By 21.40 the object had sunk slowly towards the west of south and was only visible as a sort of ghostly grey-white 'disc' through the telescope. It had moved sideways over the span between my index and middle finger in about half an hour. The elevation during the whole 1½ hours or more of viewing was about 1°.

If it were a balloon then this motion indicates a wind at its level of 5-10 knots towards the S.S.W. The wind at 9 miles up was 320° 20 kt, i.e. the 'balloon' should have been travelling away from us at this height. At lower levels the winds were from the same direction 50-80 kt which would have taken the object miles away in 1½ hours and in another direction from that observed. The table following shows distances away, estimated true diameter at this distance, and drift speed to the S.W. assuming the height to lie between 6 and 15 nautical miles. This is done because there is a decrease of wind with height to the zone where the tropospheric westerlies change over to the stratospheric easterlies.

At the observed elevation if the height were . . .	. . . then the distance away would be . . .	. . . and from the apparent diameter the real diameter would be . . .	. . . and the drift speed would be . . .
6 n.m.	18 n.m.	100 ft	4 kt
9	27	150 ft	6 kt
12	36	200 ft	8 kt
15	45	250 ft	10 kt

So once again as reported in *Essex Revisited* we have an object which looks like a balloon but which does not drift with the wind, but across it at a very slow speed, or in an impossible direction compared to the upper winds.

Was this the same object which once again came back to us one year later than the one reported in *Essex Revisited*?

Alan Watts B.Sc., F.R.Met.S., Elmstead Market, Colchester. (July 10, 1967).

P.S. Figures were slightly revised on rechecking elevation with an alidade. A.W.

[The "East Anglian Daily Times" of July 10 reported that the Meteorological Office at Mildenhall said that the time and position of the UFO coincided with one of their balloons (released from Hemsby, near Great Yarmouth) designed to discover the direction and speed of the upper wind. If Mr. Watts' figures are correct, then this particular 'balloon' was singularly inefficient!—EDITOR]

"Unmarked" Aircraft

Sir,—I would refer to an article in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 13, No. 2. March-April 1967, on page 10, titled *The 'Silencers' at Work.*

I read the above article with some interest, in particular the latter section wherein various claims had been made of 'unmarked' aircraft flying over 'UFO' areas. Of course the U.S. authorities denied the employment of 'unmarked' aircraft.

Within a matter of hours of reading the above article I was glancing through the American Aviation publication *Aviation Week* and at first glance I saw some 'unmarked' aircraft which were very definitely claimed to be American Air Force aircraft. [Cutting received—Editor.]

Now on close examination the aircraft are properly identified and carry international markings but by comparison with the accepted lavish U.S. identification colour schemes a quick glance of a fast flying aircraft could, I suggest, lead an untrained observer to say that the aircraft he saw was 'unmarked'.

If I may add, I feel the more sinister implication is that the relatively unmarked aircraft as depicted in *Aviation Week* of 17 April 1967 are high performance combat aircraft and if these are being used—in combat dress as it were — by the U.S. to investigate and 'chase' UFOs such actions could lead to disastrous consequences.

I submit that the U.S. authorities involved are 'playing on words' and are concealing or distorting evidence to suit themselves in this matter.

Ian B. Wright, 194 Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts.

The Cloud Cigar/Tornado controversy

Sir,—Aimé Michel (letters May-June) is having a little fun at my expense, but unfortunately his basic assumption is 100% wrong, so let me put the record straight. I did not say the that the cloud cigars are tornadoes. The tape recordings of the BUFORA Congress will confirm this.

What I did do was to draw attention to the report by Vonnegut and Weyer *Science 153*, 1213, (9/9/1966) that they had photographed a tornado, noctilucent by virtue of an electric discharge down its centre. This report has stood the test of subsequent criticism, has received theoretical and experimental backing, and has one particularly interesting piece of observational confirmation. This, a paper by Dessens, "Quelques tornades Françaises récentes" *Journal de Recherches Atmosphèriques 2*, 91 (1965), whose most interesting passage I translate here: "It is in fact undeniable that often (about one time out of two, according to the table above) either the tornado is furrowed by lightning or else the tornado "vomits" balls of fire, or in short, the tornado is luminescent in one place or another."

Purely as an exercise in friendly retaliation for the "cow and steeple" jibe, I will here argue that cloud cigars *are* tornadoes. Both tornadoes and lightning are ill understood phenomena, but it is clear that both are much more common than is generally realised. Destructive tornadoes occur once per year or two in Britain, and more often in France. Smaller atmospheric vortices frequently arise out of a cloudless sky. I have myself seen a dust-devil form quite unexpectedly over a field in Greece, and Mr. Smith's letter in that same issue presents two more examples. Large electrical gradients in the atmosphere are the general rule, even under cloudless conditions, and a tornado might well generate its own field like a Van der Graaf machine with air as its working fluid. The effect of an electrical discharge up a tornado funnel full of air, water and organic detritus sucked up would be expected to produce a lot of transient high energy polymers, which might take the form of "Angel Hair". (Of the work on the effect of electrical discharges through gas mixtures approximating the Earth's primordial atmosphere.) Tornadoes would be opaque by day, hence casting shadows, and if sufficiently regular refractive index gradients were set up could appear quite silvery. This should be enough to show that M. Michel's flippant riposte is a poor substitute for a reasoned justification of his original negative conclusion about a connection between cloud cigars and tornadoes. Personally, on the basis of the evidence I have seen, I do not think the resemblance good enough, and suggest that cloud cigars are not tornadoes However, the possibility must be entertained when attempting to put all apparent cigars into one class, that contamination with natural phenomena has taken place.

* * * * * *

There are two further points raised in recent issues that I can answer. Mr. Ronnebeck mentions the article by Carl Benedicks on Ball Lightning. This is a

fascinating and pioneer article, but one which has been rendered obsolete by later theories of ball lightning. The present best theory envisages a continuous D.C. excitation process and is discussed by Uman and Helstrom *J. Geophysical Research 71*, 1975, (1966). A recent survey by Rayle (NASA Technical Note D-3188) showed that ball lightning is much more common than customarily imagined, that there was little evidence for large amounts of energy associated with them, and that the term ball lightning does in fact include a heterogeneous collection of objects. These facts must modify some of the conclusions Maxwell Cade reached in his recent article on "Fireballs". The subject of ball lightning and UFO reports is one of considerable interest and offers a very real possibility of actually demonstrating some useful knowledge gained as "fallout" from UFO research. I am currently engaged in a project to collect together reports of ball-lightning-like objects, and would be grateful to hear of any reports of fairly close, self-luminous rounded objects of finite size, that might perhaps fall into this category.

* * * * * *

W. T. Powers in his interesting analysis of the Socorro landing, argues (*Humanoids*, foot of p.50, that: "[if] . . . the centre of gravity of the alleged vehicle was directly over Burn No. 1 . . . equal weight would be supported by each midpoint . . . [and] each vortex". This is a non sequitur, (though it may be true, and the converse is necessarily true). Indeed, the top left, or the bottom left, or the top right pad need not have supported any weight at all. A fine point, but one that must modify the conclusions drawn about the design of the vehicle.—
A. C. H. Durham, B.A., Clare College, Cambridge.

[In the editorial article of the January/February 1967 edition of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW it was mentioned that "Mr. Anthony Durham . . . feels that the great 'cloud cigars' of 1952, 1954 and so on, were probably tornadoes." EDITOR.]

When a "Meteorlogical balloon" buzzed an airliner

Sir,—I enclose a copy of an old but interesting sighting report sent to me following my lecture to the London Airport Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society on March 10th this year:

"The date of the sighting described here cannot accurately be determined at this distance in time. When it occurred I knew of no-one to whom I could sensibly report it. Accounts I had read of sightings in other parts of the world had spoken of saucer or humming top UFOs whilst the thing I had seen was quite different.

"Beyond mentioning from time to time that 'I have seen one', an announcement met usually with varying degrees of incredulity, I have let the matter drop until the lecture on 10.3.67.

"To recapitulate, the nearest estimate I can get to the date is that it was after 1956, when I moved to my new bungalow, and took place whilst B.O.A.C. were still operating Boeing Stratocruiser aircraft during the run-down of those machines. So far as I recall, though this is not clear in my mind, it was just before I took up my present appointment. This would fix it at 1958.

"I was working in my garden, the weather was good, with blue sky, wispy cloud quite high, sunny, not much wind. A Stratocruiser came over, climbing after take-off from London Airport which lies eight miles away to the North (straight line).

"The aircraft's direction was from north to south, it was at about 1,000 to 1,500 feet up, and between a quarter and a half mile away from me to the west and climbing slowly. The distance away from me is established by the aircraft's position between me and the spire of Ottershaw Church, which is exactly one mile away to the west of my home across a shallow valley.

"I stopped digging to watch the aircraft, looking north west to do so. As I watched, a sphere appeared some 1½ to 2 aircraft lengths to the rear of the aircraft and began to follow it, maintaining its distance.

"I turned my head as the aircraft proceeded south. When I was looking south west the sphere halved the distance between it and the aircraft in one swift dead-beat movement, paused there momentarily, moved to a point quite close above the aircraft's fin, again in one swift dead-beat movement, paused again, moved similarly to a point quite close above and slightly to the rear of the flight deck, paused and then shot vertically upwards to disappear into clear sky in what seemed a very short space.

"The diameter of the sphere was about half the depth of the fuselage of the Stratocruiser from keel to white top. It was a delicate silvery white with a hint of translucent blue about it. It appeared from nowhere and vanished like a stage illusion.

"The whole episode could have lasted only some ten to fifteen seconds.

"There have been occasions when newspapers reported that the Air Ministry (when we had one) had announced that 'sightings' reported to them had been due only to meteorology balloons. This is a plausible explanation for them to offer, for the sphere I saw looked just like such a balloon except that no meteorology balloon I have seen ever behaved like that."

The report is signed by Mr. A. L. Gilder, who lives near Addlestone in Surrey. I don't think he is a flying man.
—R. H. B. Winder, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks.

DO THE CHERUBIM COME FROM MARS?

(*Continued from page 22*)

have been proposed for this miraculous bread are out of court for the plain—but enormously significant—reason that it fell only six days out of every seven during the entire period of forty years.

As for the angels most commonly referred to in association with the Pillar and with other Biblical UFO manifestations, M. Paul Misraki (Paul Thomas), in his wonderful *Flying Saucers Through the Ages*, has gathered an impressive amount of evidence to show that they were a kind of pint-sized extra-terrestrial pilot known as the Cherubim. Certainly I wouldn't want to suggest that all little UFO pilots are Cherubim and vice-versa—nor, I'm sure, would M. Misraki—but it doesn't seem at all unlikely to me that certain overlapping exists. And if we are willing to admit that angels may be material beings, we are hardly in a position to baulk at the notion of assigning to them particular homes on particular planets . . .

Do the Cherubim come from Mars? And did Gary Wilcox perhaps have a conversation in his field with the descendants of beings who spoke to Moses?

One of these days we may find out! But at least now I think we can admit that the Wilcox contact story can no longer be regarded as unimportant—it is either an amazingly subtle and pointless fraud, or the greatest piece of news in modern times: 'the planet Mars is inhabited'.

NOTES

1. *Worlds in Collision*, Immanuel Velikovsky (I have the French translation by Henri Morisset and printed by Librairie Stock, Delmain et Boutellean 6, rue Casunis Delavigne, Paris, 1961; French title is: *Mondes en Collision*).
2. *The Velikovsky Affair—Orthodox Reaction at Work*, by K. Mossman; FSR March-April, 1967, pp.27-28.
3. Velikovsky, p.305 (my retranslation into English).
4. *Strange Fate*, Paperback Library Edition, 1965. (Copyright (c) 1963, 1964 by Clark Publishing Company) *New York UFO and its 'Little People'* by Olga Hotchkiss, pp.151-154.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Alarming visitation over glassworks

The *St. Helens Reporter* of June 10 told how—

"Fifteen terror-filled minutes early on moonlight Wednesday morning has changed the life of security officer Bob Marsh. Together with colleague Mr. Harold Saddler and six workmen, he witnessed a 'rugby ball' shaped 'flying saucer' hovering only 150 feet above the yard at Forsters glassworks.

"And yesterday 62-year-old former military policeman Mr. Marsh took the first steps to trace the identity of the mysterious object.

"During the war, Mr. Marsh, 210 Scholes Lane, Thatto Heath, was an aircraft tracker. During his career handling radar he has received dozens of eye witness accounts of unidentified flying objects. In those 15 minutes while the object was in sight he made a log of times and bearings. Yesterday he took his findings to be analysed at the Liverpool radar headquarters.

"This is Mr. Marsh's story: 'It was 12.20 a.m. when Mr. Saddler and myself were on tour of duty near the workshop at the Merton Bank Section.

"'I looked towards Pilkington's and saw a phosphorous light about 150 feet from the ground. We took a bearing and while we were watching, a small object dropped from the bottom of the shape.'

"He said: 'The smaller object had a light on it and it circled round and then disappeared into the top of the bigger object. I dashed into one of the shops and called out as many people as I could. Later, we all saw it. It seemed to be just above St. Mark's Church in North Road. It was like looking straight into the sun. As we looked the glowing light went out.'

"He added: 'It began going up in jerks. There is nothing at all in this world that could keep up with that thing at the speed it was travelling.'

"Mr. Marsh is determined to find the answers to what he saw. 'I am convinced this was the real thing. It was certainly no aeroplane or an hallucination. There were seven people besides myself who saw this terrifying thing.'"

—Credit: Peter Haythornthwaite, Read, Burnley.

UFOs over Portland

Reader **F. E. Marshall**, of Weston, Portland, Dorset, has kindly sent us the following report of recent events over that sombre-looking promontory, Portland Bill:

"There are, at Portland, several Ministry of Defence establishments, one of which is believed to be experimenting in the field of Hydromagnetics. All witnesses listed in this letter are patrolmen employed at one of these places, which is situated on the southernmost tip of Portland, almost adjacent to the Lighthouse.

"Mr. H. Hayes was going to work on his auto-cycle at approximately 5.45 a.m. on or about the 20th April, 1967. As he entered the coast road, which follows by the sea to the Bill, a very large green object suddenly flashed by on his left, without sound, and disappeared towards the Lighthouse. His description was of 'a very large bright green triangular object like a V-Bomber with a tail. [Victors and Valiants *do have* tails—EDITOR]. It was apparently about 500 yards or so out to sea at quite a low elevation, and travelling roughly East to West.

"At the same time another patrolman, a Mr. T. Davis, was opening the gate as he was coming off duty, when a glow in the half light of early morning made him look up. Travelling at great speed, from roughly the North, a huge triangular object, bright green and with a tail or vapour trail coloured red orange, shot over at about 70° to him and between him and the coastguard houses opposite. From his description it was not more than 1,000 feet up, and seemed to be heading South in a sort of parabolic

CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE

By Jacques and Janine Vallée

The long-awaited British edition of this important book by Dr. Vallée and his wife has now appeared. Complementary to the successful *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, the first version of **Challenge to Science** was written, in French, some four or five years ago. Few realise that it was Waveney Girvan—at that time editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW—who suggested to Gordon Creighton that he should arrange with the Vallées to translate the work. The task was completed at about the time of Waveney Girvan's death in October, 1964.

The original French version of the book appeared as *Phénomènes Insolites de l'Espace* (Table Ronde, Paris) soon after the publication of *Anatomy*. The Creighton translation was then augmented and brought up-to-date, and appeared, with a noteworthy foreword by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, as *Challenge to Science, The UFO enigma*,* first in the United States of America (H. Regnery, Chicago), and now in the United Kingdom. The book was reviewed in the January/February 1967 issue of this journal.

Challenge is a *must* for all readers, for all serious researchers, and will be studied with great interest by many who are new to the subject. I have read remarks that the Vallées only consider the extraterrestrial hypothesis: it should be remembered, however, that the main part of this book was written at a time when it was very courageous of a scientist to consider *any* hypothesis relating to this subject—in other words, during the dark ages of ufology, in the early 1960's.

Charles Bowen

*Published by **Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield Street, London, W.1.** Price 25s. 0d.

curve; again there was no noise at all. When I asked him if there were any vapour trace left in its wake, he said no, but kept saying how big it was and how solid it looked. This object again suddenly vanished as it passed near the Lighthouse.

"A Mr. H. Pitman, also of Portland, was looking for Satellites on the night of Tuesday, May 9, 1967, at 10.30 p.m. when he picked out a bright green object, travelling very fast West to East, at about 70° elevation from him. Apparently he lost it deliberately, but it was travelling in such a straight line, that he picked it up again later on the same course. When I mentioned that it was difficult to pick anything up with binoculars and keep it steady, he mentioned that he used the top of his gate to rest them on, and as some sort of swivel.

"Needless to say all these gentlemen are accustomed to all known types of aircraft in this area, and although knowing very little about UFOs, nevertheless apparently on night duty make a point of looking out for the various satellites now in orbit."

That Brixham sighting

We are indebted to **Jonathan M. Caplan** of Bedford Park, London, W.4., who, after correspondence with the official concerned, sent us a copy of the report of the sightings;—

"BERRY HEAD, BRIXHAM, DEVON, April 28, 1967. Weather: Fine warm day; wind NE 10 knots; Sky ⅛ths thin cirrus cloud at 20,000 ft.

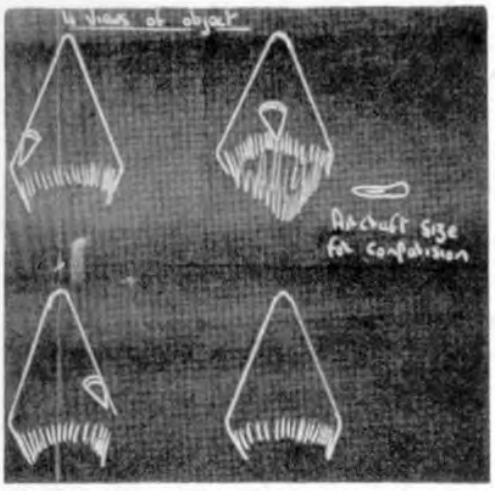
"At 11.25 person from nearby quarry reported object in sky directly above him. The object was then observed through Doppel 25 x 105 Binoculars.

"The object was at about 15,000 ft. and appeared to be stationary. During the next hour and twenty minutes it slowly drifted in a NW direction, rising to about 20,000 ft. and slowly revolving anti-clockwise. It disappeared from view at 12.45 in a thicker patch of cirrus cloud that had formed by then, at about 22,000 ft. and about 8 miles distant.

"At 12.40 an aircraft with thick vapour trail approached object from NE, flew above it and passed it, then turned and dived and approached object from below, slowing down as it approached until its vapour trail faded, and aircraft was lost from sight. A few minutes later the object was lost in cloud".

Mr. Caplan observes that from the final paragraph it would seem that the R.A.F. have some very interesting photographs. He also asks whether the UFO's delayed presence was a lure, and points out that it disappeared soon after it had been "inspected."

[Although the man's name was published in half the newspapers of the S.W. and some Nationals, his employers have since insisted that he keeps "mum"—hence I just call him an official. C.B.]



Dome looked like glass but not transparent. Arch above opening was very white and reflected the sunlight. Curtain-like structure below was crumpled and very white and appeared to change shape as drawing shows

Marton ovalloid

The Blackpool *Evening Gazette* of July 21, 1967, told how—

"Seventeen-year-old civil servant Beverly Pattison's evening stroll became a sky-watch last night—she saw a flying saucer! . . .

"Beverly, of Hawes Side-lane, Marton, who was with her boy friend, said that they were walking in Moss House-road, when they saw it. She described the saucer as large and oval with a bright gold colouring. 'It was moving slowly out to sea' she said, 'and we watched it for some 10 minutes before it disappeared.

'It later reappeared in three sections. We continued watching it until it faded into the distance.'

"Beverly said that they kept observations for half an hour, from 10.20 pm, before the saucer's final disappearance. . . ."

—Credit: I. Grinmette of Blackpool.

Runcorn noise and lights

From the *Runcorn Weekly News* of July 6, 1967, we read how—

"It was at 2 a.m. that 20-year-old Mr. Michael Baker, an electrician's labourer, of 25 Pine Road, was awakened by a noise. 'I was lying in bed listening to this noise, a whirring or burring sound,' he said 'and then I went to the window. I was there maybe 15 minutes trying to fathom it out, and was just returning to bed when I saw it; it just looked like it was on the roofs of the new houses.'

"His young wife, 17-year-old Janice, who was awakened by her husband, also saw the object. 'The noise seemed very close, almost as if from the gardens, and it was loud. As soon as the object—it was just like a glow—went, so did the noise. Michael heard the noise first and got up to the window. He saw a light like a moonbeam on the path. When I got up, the light vanished, then slowly came back like a big bowl of fire.'

"Mrs. Baker roused her mother, Mrs. Betty Bennett, who went quickly to the window, as by this time the 'sighting' was beginning to diminish in size.

"Mrs. Bennett said it was definitely unnatural. It was too early for the sun to be coming up, she said. 'Everyone hears noises along here, it's a whining noise.'

"The object she described as similar to a quarter moon with the top cut off; 'As it moved away it changed shape to an oval It left the sky pink too. It looked as if it were glowing mad hot.'

"Her thirteen-year-old daughter, Geraldine, a pupil at Grange Secondary School, was also brought to the window—but by now the light had lessened to a dot . . . then to everyone's surprise it seemed to approach, growing in size. It did not regain its previous size, and this time was unaccompanied by sound.

"Mr. Baker commented: 'It could have been farther off towards Halton, but from where we were it seemed to be over the houses. When it came back there was no noise.' By this time it was 2.30, they recalled, as Geraldine was sent to check the clock . . .

Mr. Baker concluded: 'No one can explain these noises over the last three years. They could be different things.' They may not be the only people who saw the light, for Mr. Baker said that at the time he could see a bedroom light on across in Grangeway, as though someone was at the window.

"Mrs. Bennett recalled how a friend of her daughter's had left their home very late one evening to walk to her own home in Weston The girl, who is now in the forces, was passing the I.C.I. Heath offices when she saw something. She was so terrified she fled to a nearby house and knocked. The householder let her in but he himself admitted something was wrong, for the pet dog's hair was standing on end, the animal was obviously scared . . ."

—Credit: John Harney of Merseyside UFO Research Group, who writes to say that he and Alan W. Sharp interviewed the witnesses on July 11th. His note continues: "Witnesses said that the press report was accurate, except that Janice heard the noise first, not Michael. Also, object appeared as quarter moon with *bottom* cut off, not top, Colour of object was compared to sodium street lights. Witnesses confirmed that strange noises had been heard in their terrace at times during the past three years. This was confirmed by a neighbour who called in during the interview."

Cylindrical UFO over Prime Minister's constituency

On July 9, 1967, at 1.45 a.m., MUFORG member G. T. Woods was skywatching when he saw a cylindrical object moving in a north-westerly direction over Huyton. The ends of the cylinder were a bright red. The apparent size of the object was that of a sixpence at arm's length. The object was travelling in a series of dips, its altitude varying between 5° and 10°. Its speed was estimated as about 400 mph, increasing by about 50 mph on the ascent.

—Credit: John Harney (Editor of MUFORG Bulletin) of 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire.

UFO in the approaches to London Airport

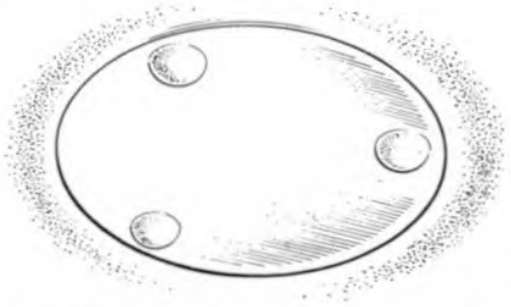
An interesting report has been received from **Mr. S. H. Willey** of Putney, a south-western suburb of London, on the River Thames:—

"During the late evening of Friday May 12, 1967. I had just retired for the night, when, at 11.10 p.m., my son Leonard called to me from his room that he had spotted a UFO flying below the clouds, and that if I got up I could see it passing over the house, travelling from South to North.

"I immediately ran to the front of the house, and my first sight was of a very large bright star travelling fairly fast towards the North of London.

"There was absolutely no sound of any engine and its passing was completely silent. My son than handed me a pair of binoculars 7 x 50 magnification, for a better view and I could then see the object quite clearly.

"It had the shape of a large disc, which glowed with a bright golden light, and from the underside which was now quite clear,



I could see the outlines of three round globes, spaced triangularly which could have been landing gear.

"Whilst the disc was passing over, an aircraft flew below it, travelling towards London Airport at around 3,000 ft. By comparison for size, the disc, by reason of its greater height, was equally as large as the wingspan of the conventional aircraft.

"We were both able to watch this flying saucer (which I am convinced this is what it was) for approx. 4½ mins. To assist you further, I enclose a small sketch of my impressions of the flying disc."

—Credit: S. H. Willey. 39 Howards Lane, Putney, S.W.15.

Nottingham landing?

Can a large group of people, who must be spread out over a considerable distance, experience the same optical illusion? Or was the item reported in the *Daily Mirror* of July 6 an instance of a "damned fact" being hastily swept under the carpet by a rash "explanation"?

"There was, it seems, a mystery at Clifton, Nottingham, where 100 people claimed to have seen a flying saucer landing. The crowd of adults and children had gathered on high ground near Fairham Comprehensive School after a report swept the area about a flying saucer.

"They all claimed to have seen a disc-shaped, silvery saucer about 30ft. long landing.

"But police who went to investigate said that the saucer must have been an optical illusion."

—Credit: J Haughey of Colchester.

New Forest looping UFO

The following item appeared in the *Southern Evening Echo* of July 6, 1967. The story was given wide coverage in other newspapers—

"An unidentified flying object—looking like an 'orange ball in the sky'—was seen last night in the New Forest at Stoney Cross. This is the second night running that a similar object has been seen in that area.

"The 'orange ball' was first spotted at about 1.30 a.m. by a Mr. Gallagher, of Ashley-road, Parkstone, Dorset, who was driving with a friend. He telephoned the Police at Lyndhurst.

"Pc. David Holloway, of Shaggs Meadow, Lyndhurst, went to the scene and he reported that the object was 'like an orange ball and was seen to loop the loop.' It travelled from Southampton towards Salisbury."

—Credit: Miss S. K. Puntis, of Bitterne, and Peter J. Kelly of Hythe.

SCOTLAND

Glamis UFO?

From the *Dundee Courier* of July 17—

"What was thought to be a flying saucer in the vicinity of Glamis Castle was reported to the police at Forfar on Saturday.

"Shortly after 7.30 a.m. a Dundee baker's van-boy spotted an object a few yards past Glamis Castle on the road to Kirriemuir.

"Fifteen-year-old Methven Forbes, 32 Finavon Street, watched the grey, round object hover towards him from a wood then disappear towards the clouds. Another van-boy, Andrew Lawson (15), Finavon Street, also saw the object.

"After inquiries police said the object was, in all reasonable probability, a weather balloon which had been caught in a downdraught.

"'They are grey and three to four feet in diameter,' said a police spokesman. 'There have been three in this area in the last few months, including one at Arbroath.'

"Later Methven said, 'Nobody would believe me when I said I had seen it. I was sure it was a flying saucer. It didn't make a noise, but I got quite a fright when I saw it coming out of the wood and over the top of the van.'"

John Ogilvy of Inshewan, Forfar, who kindly sent us this account, added the following comment: "They don't say anything about the direction of the wind. Actually there was practically no wind that morning."

DENMARK

Boy reports saucer and occupants

The following account is condensed from a news item which appeared in *Report from Denmark*, Volume 1, No. 3, The item is itself a translation by Steen H. Jensen from *Holbaek Amts Venstreblad* of April 15, 1967—

Two young boys who saw a flying saucer at a low altitude over Sjaellands Odde, and one of them later told how he had seen 'boxes' fall from the object. He also spoke of a gondola-type device containing eight 'persons'.

The observation took place some time ago, but the boys' parents would not release the news because they feared their sons would be subjected to teasing by their schoolfellows. However, as the boys stuck rigidly to their story, the parents became convinced that they were telling the truth. So that the case could be investigated, one of the mothers reported the story to Rude Skov Satellite tracking station, and she was recommended to consult the Scandinavian UFO Information publishers of the magazine UFO-NYT, in which the story first appeared.

The boys were playing in front of a big haystack, and, as it grew dark, were about to go home when one of them looked up to see a dark grey object in the sky. He shouted a warning that it was a waterspout, and ran home. His mother said there was not enough wind for a waterspout. Meanwhile, the other boy had slid into a ditch for protection, and continued to watch the object.

He maintained that he saw it come very close to the ground, when three 'legs' were lowered. The object slowed down and appeared to be about to land, when suddenly the legs were pulled up again. It began to move away, and continued towards Kattegat (the sea between Denmark and Sweden) at low altitude. When it was over the shore, the young witness said it 'threw' out something that looked like 'boxes'. (A very heavy, strange lump of material was later found on the shore.)

The object changed course when out over the sea, and the boy saw a box, a sort of gondola, lowered on a rope or cable as thick as an arm. Judging from the movements, this was flexible. Next, eight persons came out through a hole in the bottom of the flying object and climbed down the rope or cable. They had things that looked like binoculars, or cameras.

The boy says he was not afraid because the occupants of the object looked friendly. They even waved to him—but not in the usual manner, for they held their palms vertical and made quick horizontal movements.

As the object disappeared the boy heard a sound which he said was like a battery tape recorder. There was no heat from the object.

The witness says the occupants were about the same size as himself; that one of them wore a blue suit, while the others had striped suits; that they all wore striped 'caps'. Apart from the person in blue, they all had 'containers' on their backs from which tubes led to their mouths. Also, according to the boy, they had lights—double-ended torches—on their shoulders.

While there is no guarantee as to the truth of this story, the UFO-NYT representative points out that there was no-one in the boy's family who had the slightest interest in the UFO phenomenon and who could have inspired the boy's imagination.

A piece of the lump of strange material found on the shore was later sent to a technological institute for examination. The report was to the effect that never before had the analytical chemists come across the constituent elements mixed in such a fashion. According to the account in *Report from Denmark* these included lime and inorganic coal.

—Credit NØRREBRO UFO KREDS, Copenhagen.

This is an interesting account, but it would benefit from greater detail. The boys' ages are not mentioned, nor is the type of literature they read. Again, it would help if the name of the Technical Institute were given, and some detail from their report on the substance found on the beach.—EDITOR

NORWAY

UFO near Atomic Plant

The following account is taken from a letter received from **Bjoin Overlye** of Fjellhamar, Oslo, during July 1967—

"I live in a suburb of Oslo, known as Fjellhamer. Nearby, at the other side of some wood-covered hills, there is another suburb called Lillestrom (10,000 inhabitants). At Lillestrom there is an army airfield and an army research laboratory (F.F.I.). There is also an atomic plant just outside Lillestrom (one of the two existing in Norway). Last autumn (1966), at the

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beginning of September, (he was not sure of the date) a friend of mine was standing at the balcony outside his house watching the sky above Lillestrom. He suddenly became aware of two lights moving at constant speed just above the hills, one in front of the other. The first of these lights was red, the other whitish.

"Having watched the objects for about 20-30 seconds, my friend saw the red one become very intense, so intense that he could no longer see the white one clearly. Then both objects stopped momentarily, and then disappeared behind the hills at a tremendous speed, the red one still intense. He was able to give this information based on the sighting:

1. Time: about 2000 in the evening local time.
2. Direction: from south to north.
3. Distances from observer to objects: 3-4 miles.
4. Estimated speed: 1,000-1,200 m.p.h.
5. Both objects followed straight trajectory and disappeared, the following one having an angle of 60°-70° with the ground!

"The observer told me that the nature of the lights was totally new to him, and he at once ruled out the possibility of aircraft. The following day he again checked the possibility of aircraft, but was informed that none had been seen at that time.

"It might be possible that the objects were meteorites, but a duration of 10 seconds in such cases is most extraordinary. Weather balloons would not be visible at night. Ball lightning is impossible as an explanation because of the season of the year and the intensity of light.

"I hope this may add another piece of information to the puzzle. It fits the theory of Coral Lorenzen which predicts UFO intensity near important industry, and further it is interesting because of the relatively few UFO observations made in Norway."

GREECE

Pyrgos UFO

The following account appeared simultaneously in two Athens newspapers of July 7, 1967. They are *Vima* and *Apogevmatini*, and the story goes that—

"At 0110 today, a luminous object was seen over our town. [Pyrgos, in the northwest Peloponesus, Greece.] It appeared from the East—the ancient Olympic region —and took a northwesterly direction. It was extremely brilliant, and left a luminescent trail behind it. Its speed was astounding, and it made no noise at all. An hour earlier, people in Katacolon [a part to the west of Pyrgos] had observed a similar object noiselessly moving at a great speed from south to north. The objects were seen by many people, who said they were flying saucers."

—Credit to Mr. John Boumis of Athens, who furnished both the clippings and a welcome translation.

Mr. Boumis, who is a journalist, comments: "The nearby northern region (Cephallonia Island) was repeatedly visited by flying saucers in past years, according to reliable reports—one from a high school principal, and author. This region, it should be noted, is at least twice mentioned as important in some unusual way, in very old prophesies of eschatology by Greek Fathers of the Church."

SOUTH AFRICA

The Durban UFO again

From the Natal *Daily News* of July 5, 1967, we learn how—

"An Undentified Flying Object . . . was seen over Durban last night and studied through binoculars by four different people, including a former United States Air Force major with considerable experience in tracking missiles.

"From the side the object appeared egg shaped and glowed with a bright orange light.

"'At first I thought it was a missile,' Mr. Lawrence Bennett, the former Air Force major said. 'But my experience soon told me this was not so. I spotted it while walking back to my flat in Silverton Road, on the Bera. It was moving in a straight line, but suddenly stopped and hovered approximately over the Pinetown area. This sent me running for my binoculars.

"'With these I was able to identify it as a UFO. It glowed so brightly that I was unable to discern its exact outline. After hovering for a while it suddenly started moving again, but in a very erratic manner, forwards, backwards and sideways; all the time climbing and descending.

" It also seemed to flash on and off and disappeared for short periods at a time.

"My fiancee watched it with me and so did some neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Ray McLaughlin.'"

—Credit: D. S. H. Montgomery (who, with Waveney Girvan and others, was a founder of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, before moving to South Africa, where he now lives in Kloof, Natal).

INDONESIA

Disappearing UFO over Sumatra

No indication of the name of the newspaper from which this cutting was taken was furnished by the sender—

"People from Palembang, in South Sumatra, think they may have seen a 'flying coconut' from outer space.

"A sparkling black object circled rapidly over the area for about two hours on July 11, puffing out a trail of thick white smoke before it dispersed and vanished like a cloud.

"The reports added the unidentified object was round and looked about the size of a coconut."

—Credit: W. E. Moser, J.P., UFOIC, Sydney, Australia.

VIETNAM

Da Nang cylinder

The *New York Post* of June 15 carried the following account—

"The U.S. Air Force is investigating numerous reports that an unidentified flying object was sighted Sunday northwest of the big Da Nang military base.

"The Air Force has made no report of the incident or its findings, but informed sources say many U.S. military men reported seeing the object. They said it was cylindrical and silver coloured and was visible for several minutes.

"Two F102 Delta-Dagger jets were sent up but the pilots were unable to locate the object, these sources said. They said they knew of no photographs taken of the object."

—Credit: Louise Amsden, New York City.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

The Heysham photograph by P. K. Haythornthwaite

A small "Experiment"? by Gordon Creighton

A suggested Scientific Investigation of the UFO Problem by Olavo T. Fontes

Why UFOs are Hostile by Jerome Clarke

and many other interesting items

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November/December

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by R. H. B. Winder

1967

March/April

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