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Aerobatics in a blizzard

MYSTERY AEROPLANES OF THE 1930s

See page 10

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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CHANGING CLIMATE?

THE quiet times are upon us once again. Not that there is a dearth of UFO reports, but rather that they are less spectacular, and that they are receiving little or no publicity in the press. This may well be due to the line adopted by Dr. E. U. Condon in his conclusions to his Report, and to the resultant withdrawal from the scene of the U.S. Air Force—which, allegedly, had been investigating UFO reports—and with the closing down of Project Blue Book, the Air Force "front." (We may rest assured, however, that an official someone, somewhere, is still interested in UFO reports!)

These, then, are times for consolidation. Yet, when we survey the scene, we find that as there is no longer an official "Aunt Sally" (Blue Book) to be shied at, there are a few who, having particular axes to grind, busily hurl them at others who endeavour to take a responsible, all-embracing line. It remains a mystery how the performers in these pantomimes expect official bodies and serious, qualified people—be they scientists, doctors, historians or philosophers—to take notice of them.

Remarkably, in spite of the pettifogging side shows, and possibly because of the alleged official loss of interest, there is a detectable change of climate. We have seen the success of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in giving a hearing at their 1969 winter meeting to scientists who wished to discuss the subject. More than a few, finding the subject has not been resolved—when they had been led to believe it had—are sitting up and taking notice: there remain, after all, intriguing question marks after several cases considered by the Condon Committee. Again, Dr. Pierre Guérin, the prominent French astronomer, wrote an important letter to this journal, which was published in our March/April 1970 issue. Thus there emerges from the shadows, to join us, an astrophysicist who, in October 1969, at the Pic du Midi Observatory, obtained the finest photographs ever taken of the planet Saturn, and in so doing discovered the existence of a fourth ring, hitherto undetected.

With men of the calibre of Dr. Guérin taking a long, cool and enquiring look at *all* aspects of this subject, and openly joining our ranks, it is to be hoped that others among his colleagues around the world will follow. They will find many of the facts recorded in the volumes of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, in *Lumières dans la Nuit, Phénomènes Spatiaux, APRO Bulletin,* and a few other journals; in books and pamphlets like those by Jacques Vallée, Aimé Michel, James McDonald and the Lorenzens, and in *The Humanoids.* Let us hope they will not be deterred by the antics of publicity-seekers, axe-grinders and cultists around the fringe of the subject.

The climate will continue to change only if we all help in the recording of the facts. If one diligent researcher discovers a new clue, or another wishes to speculate or express an opinion contrary to popularly-held views, disagreement should be quietly and reasonably expressed. There is no merit in howling like hungry wolves for his blood.

THE 1957 GULF COAST RB-47 INCIDENT

James E. McDonald

Here is another of the illustrative UFO cases which Dr. McDonald prepared to support his address to the AAAS Symposium at Boston on December 27, 1969. Dr. McDonald is Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

LET us begin with a brief summary of this intriguing case. An Air Force RB-47, equipped with ECM (Electronic Counter-measures) gear, manned by six officers, was followed over a total distance in excess of 600 miles and for a time period of more than an hour on September 19-20, 1957, as it flew from near Gulfport, Miss., through Louisiana and Texas, and into southern Oklahoma. The unidentified object was, at various times, seen visually by the cockpit crew (as an intense white or red light), followed by ground-radar, and detected on ECM monitoring gear aboard the RB-47. Simultaneous appearances and disappearances on all three of those physically distinct "channels" mark this UFO case as especially intriguing from a scientific viewpoint. The incident is described as Case 5 in the Condon Report and is conceded to be unexplained. The full details, however, are not presented in that Report.

1. Summary of the Case

The case is long and involved and filled with well-attested phenomena that defy easy explanation in terms of present-day science and technology. The RB-47 was flying out of Forbes AFB, Topeka, on a composite mission including gunnery exercises over the Texas-Gulf area, navigation exercises over the open Gulf, and ECM exercises in the return trip across the south-central U.S. This was an RB-47 carrying a six-man crew, of whom three were electronic warfare officers manning ECM (Electronic Counter-measures) gear in the aft portion of the aircraft. One of the extremely interesting aspects of this case is that electromagnetic signals of distinctly radar-like character appeared definitely to be emitted by the UFO, yet it exhibited performance characteristics that seem to rule out categorically its having been any conventional or secret aircraft.

I have discussed the incident with all six officers of the crew:

Lewis D. Chase, pilot, Spokane, Wash.
James H. McCoid, co-pilot, Offut AFB
Thomas H. Hanley, navigator, Vandenberg AFB
John J. Provenzano, No. 1 monitor, Wichita
Frank B. McClure, No. 2 monitor, Offutt AFB
Walter A. Tuchscherer, No. 3 monitor, Topeka

Chase was a Major at the time; I failed to ask for information on 1957 ranks of the others. McClure and Hanley are currently Majors, so might have been Captains or Lieutenants in 1957. All were experienced men at the time. Condon Project investigators only talked with Chase, McCoid, and McClure, I ascertained. In my checking it proved necessary to telephone several of them more than once to pin down key points; nevertheless the total case is so complex that I would assume that there are still salient points not clarified either by the Colorado investigators or by myself. Unfortunately, there appears to be no way, at present, to locate the personnel involved in ground-radar observations that are a very important part of the whole case. I shall discuss that point below.

Date of the incident

This flight occurred in September, 1957, just prior to the crew's reassignment to a European base. On questioning by Colorado investigators, flight logs were consulted, and based on the recollection that this flight was within a short time of departure from Forbes to Germany (plus the requirement that the date match a flight of the known type and geography), the September 19, 1957 date seems to have emerged. The uncertainty as to whether it was early on the 19th or early on the 20th, cited above, is a point of confusion I had not noted until preparing the present notes. Hence I am unable to add any clarification, at the moment, in this matter of the date confusion found in Thayer's discussion of the case (CR, pp. 136-138). I shall try to check that in the near future. For the present, it does not vitiate case-discussion in any significant way.

The incident is most inadequately described in the Condon Report. The reader is left with the general notion that the important parts occurred near Fort Worth, an impression strengthened by the fact that both Crow and Thayer discuss meterological data

only for that area. One is also left with no clear impression of the duration, which was actually over an hour. The incident involved an unknown airborne object that stayed with the RB-47 for over 600 miles. In case after case in the Condon Report, close checking reveals that quite significant features of the cases have been glossed over, or omitted, or in some instances seriously misrepresented. I submit that to fail to inform the reader that this particular case spans a total distance-range of some 600 miles and lasted well over an hour is an omission difficult to justify.

From my nine separate interviews with the six crew members, I assembled a picture of the events that makes it even more puzzling than it seems on reading the Condon Report—and even the latter account is puzzling enough.

First signal

Just as the aircraft crossed the Mississippi coast near Gulfport, McClure, manning the No. 2 monitor, detected a signal near their 5 o'clock position (aft of the starboard beam). It looked to him like a legitimate ground-radar signal, but corresponded to a position out in the Gulf. This is the actual beginning of the complete incident; but before proceeding with details it is necessary to make quite clear what kind of equipment we shall be talking about as we follow McClure's successive observations.

Under conditions of war, bombing aircraft entering hostile territory can be assisted in their penetrations if any of a variety of electronic countermeasures (ECM techniques as they are collectively termed) are brought into action against ground-based enemy radar units. The initial step in all ECM operations is, necessarily, that of detecting the enemy radar and quantitatively identifying a number of relevant features of the radar system (carrier frequency, pulse repetition frequency, scan rate, pulse width) and, above all, its bearing relative to the aircraft heading. The latter task is particularly simple in principle, calling only for direction-finding antennas which pick up the enemy signal and display on a monitorscope inside the reconnaissance aircraft a blip or lobe that paints in the relative bearing from which the signal is coming.

The ECM gear used in RB-47s in 1957 is not now classified; the No. 2 monitor that McClure was on, he and the others pointed out, involved an ALA-6 direction-finder with back-to-back antennas in a housing on the undersurface of the RB-47 near the rear, spun at either 150 or 300 rpm as it scanned in azimuth. Inside the aircraft, its signals were processed in an APR-9 radar receiver and an ALA-5 pulse analyser. All later references to the No. 2 monitor imply that system. The No. 1 monitor employed an APD-4 direction finding system, with a pair of antennas permanently mounted on either wing tip. Provenzano was on the No. 1 monitor. Tuchscherer was on the No. 3 monitor, whose specifications I did not ascertain because I could find no indication that it was involved in the observations.

Returning now to the initial features of the UFO episode, McClure at first thought he had 180-degree ambiguity in his scope, i.e., that the signal whose lobe painted at his 5 o'clock position was actually coming in from the 11 o'clock position perhaps from some ground radar in Louisiana. This suspicion, he told me, was temporarily strengthened as he became aware that the lobe was moving *upscope.* (It is important here and in features of the case cited below to understand how a fixed ground-radar paints on the ECM monitor scope as the reconnaissance aircraft flies towards its general direction: Suppose the ground radar is, at some instant, located at the 1 o'clock position relative to the moving aircraft, i.e., slightly off the starboard bow. As the aircraft flies along, the relative bearing steadily changes, so that the fixed ground unit is *"seen"* successively at the 2 o'clock, the 3 o'clock, and the 4 o'clock positions, etc. The lobe paints on the monitor scope at these successive relative azimuths, the 12 o'clock position being at the top of the scope, 3 o'clock at the right, etc. Thus any legitimate signal from a fixed ground radar must move *downscope,* excluding the special cases in which the radar is dead ahead or dead astern. Note carefully that we deal here only with direction finding gear. Range is unknown; we are not here speaking of an airborne radar set, just a radar-frequency direction-finder. In practice, range is obtained by triangulation computations based on successive fixes and known aircraft speed.)

As the lobe continued moving *upscope,* McClure said the strength of the incoming signal and its pulse characteristics all tended to confirm that this was some ground unit being painted with 180-degree ambiguity for some unknown electronic reason. It was at 2800 megacycles, a common frequency for S-band search radars.

However, after the lobe swung dead ahead, his earlier hypothesis had to be abandoned for it continued swinging over to the 11 o'clock position and continued *downscope* on the port side. Clearly, no 180-degree ambiguity was capable of accounting for this. Curiously, however, this was so anomalous that McClure did not take it very seriously and did not at that juncture mention it to the cockpit crew nor to his colleagues on the other two monitors. This upscope-downscope *"orbit"* of the unknown was seen only on the ALA-6, as far as I could establish. Had nothing else occurred, this first and very significant portion of the whole episode would almost certainly have been forgotten by McClure.

First visual sighting

The signal faded as the RB-47 headed northward to the scheduled turning point over Jackson, Miss. The mission called for simulated detection and ECM operations against Air Force ground radar units all along this part of the flight plan, but other developments intervened. Shortly after making their turn westward over Jackson, Miss., Chase noted what he thought at first were the landing lights of some other jet coming in from near his 11 o'clock position, at roughly the RB-47's altitude. But no running lights were discernible and it was a single

very bright white light, closing fast. He had just alerted the rest of the crew to be ready for sudden evasive manoeuvres, when he and McCoid saw the light almost instantaneously change directions and rush across from left to right at an angular velocity that Chase told me he'd never seen matched in all of his flight experience. The light went from their 11 o'clock to their 2 o'clock position with great rapidity, and then blinked out.

Immediately after that, Chase and McCoid began talking about it on the interphone and McClure, recalling the unusual 2800 megacycle signal that he had seen over Gulfport, now mentioned that peculiar incident for the first time to Chase and McCoid. It occurred to him at that point to set his No. 2 monitor to scan at 2800 mcs. On the first scan, McClure told me, he got a strong 2800 mcs signal from their 2 o'clock position, the bearing on which the luminous object had blinked out moments earlier.

Provenzano told me that right after that they had checked out the No. 2 monitor on valid ground radar stations to be sure it was not malfunctioning and it appeared to be in perfect order. He then checked on his No. 1 monitor and also got a signal from the same bearing. There remained, of course, the possibility that just by chance, this signal was from a real radar down on the ground and off in that direction. But as the minutes went by, and the aircraft continued westward at about 500 kts. the relative bearing of the 2800 mcs source did *not* move downscope on the No. 2 monitor, but kept up with them.

Ground control radar involved

This quickly led to a situation in which the entire 6-man crew focused all attention on the matter; the incident is still vivid in the minds of all the men, though their recollection for various details varies with the particular activities they were engaged in. Chase varied speed, to see if the relative bearing would change but nothing altered. After over a hundred miles of this, with the 2800 mcs source keeping pace with the aircraft, they were getting into the radar-coverage area of the Carswell AFB GCI (Ground Controlled Intercept) unit and Chase radioed that unit to ask if they showed any other air traffic near the RB-47.

Carswell GCI immediately came back with the information that there was apparently another aircraft about 10 miles from them at their 2 o'clock position. (The RB-47 was unambiguously identifiable by its IFF signal; the *"other aircraft"* was seen by *"skin paint"* only, i.e., by direct radar reflection rather than via an IFF transponder, Col. Chase explained.)

This information, each of the men emphasized to me in one way or another, made them a bit uneasy for the first time. I asked McClure a question that the Colorado investigators either failed to ask or did not summarize in their Report. Was the signal in all respects comparable to that of a typical ground radar? McClure told me that this was what baffled him the most, then and now. All the radar signature characteristics, as read out on his ALA-5 pulse analyser, were completely normal—it had a pulse repetition frequency and pulse width like a CPS-6B and even simulated a scan rate! But its intensity, McClure pointed out, was so strong that *"it would have had to have an antenna bigger than a bomber to put out that much signal."* And now, the implications of the events over Gulfport took on a new meaning. The upscope-downscope sweep of his No. 2 monitor lobe implied that this source, presuming it to be the same one now also being seen on ground radar at Carswell GCI, had flown a circle around the RB-47 at 30-35,000 ft. altitude while the aircraft was doing about 500 kts.

Shortly after Carswell GCI began following the two targets, RB-47 and unknown, still another significant action unfolded. McClure suddenly noted the lobe on the No. 2 monitor was beginning to go upscope, and almost simultaneously, Chase told me, GCI called out that the second airborne target was starting to move forward. Keep in mind that no visual target was observable here; after blinking out at the 12 o'clock position, following its lightning-like traverse across the nose of the aircraft, no light had been visible. The unknown now proceeded to move steadily around to the 12 o'clock position, followed all the while on the No. 2 monitor and on the GCI scope at Carswell near Fort Worth.

Huge red glow

As soon as the unknown reached the 12 o'clock position, Chase and McCoid suddenly saw a bright red glow *"bigger than a house,"* Chase said, and lying dead ahead, precisely the bearing shown on the passive radar direction-finder that McClure was on and precisely the bearing now indicated on the scope. **Three independent sensing systems** were at this juncture giving seemingly consistent indications: two pairs of human eyes, a ground radar, and a direction-finding radar receiver in the aircraft.

One of the important points not settled by the Colorado investigations concerned the question of whether the unknown was ever painted on any radar set on the RB-47 itself. Some of the men thought the navigator had seen it on his set, others were unsure. I eventually located Maj. Hanley at Vandenberg and he informed me that all through the incident, which he remembered very well, he tried, unsuccessfully to pick up the unknown on his navigational radar (K-system).

I shall not recount all of the details of his efforts and his comments, but only mention the end result of my two telephone interviews with him. The important question was what sort of effective range that set had. Hanley gave the pertinent information that it could just pick up a large tanker of the KC-97 type at about 4 miles range, when used in the *"altitude-hold"* mode, with antenna tipped up to maximum elevation. But both at the start of its involvement and during the object's swing into the 12 o'clock position, GCI showed it remaining close to 10 miles in range from the RB-47. Thus Hanley's inability to detect it on his K-system navigational radar in altitude-hold only implies that whatever was out there had a radar cross-section that was



A Boeing B-47E Stratojet (1953) in flight: the photo-reconnaisance version RB-47E followed soon afterwards.

less than about 16 times that of a KC-97 (roughly twice 4 miles, inverse 4th-power law). The unknown gave a GCI return that suggested a cross-section comparable to an ordinary aircraft, Chase told me, which is consistent with Hanley's non-detection of the object. The Condon Report gives the impression the navigator did detect it, but this is not correct.

I have in my files many pages of typed notes on my interviews, and cannot fill in all of the intriguing details here. Suffice it to say that Chase then went to maximum allowable power, hoping to close with the unknown, but it just stayed ahead at about 10 miles as GCI kept telling them; it stayed as a bright red light dead ahead, and it kept painting as a bright lobe on the top of McClure's ALA-6 scope. By this time they were well into Texas still at about 35,000ft. and doing upwards of 500 knots, when Chase saw it begin to veer to the right and head between Dallas and Fort Worth.

RB-47 closes with object

Getting FAA clearance to alter his own flight plan and to make sure other jet traffic was out of his way, he followed its turn, and then realized he was beginning to close on it for the first time. Almost immediately GCI told him the unknown had stopped moving on the ground-radarscope. Chase and McCoid watched as they came almost up to it. Chase's recollections on this segment of the events were distinctly clearer than McCoid's. McCoid was, of course, sitting aft of Chase and had the poorer view; also he said he was doing fuel-reserve calculations in view of the excess fuel-use in their efforts to shake the unknown, and had to look up from the lighted cockpit to try to look out intermittently, while Chase in the forward seat was able to keep it in sight more nearly continuously.

Chase told me that he'd estimate that it was just ahead of the RB-47 and definitely below them when it instantaneously blinked out. At the same moment McClure announced on the interphone that he'd lost the 2800 mcs signal, and GCI said it had disappeared from their scope. Such simultaneous loss of signal on what we can term three separate channels is most provocative, most puzzling.

Putting the aircraft into a left turn (which Chase noted consumes about 15-20 miles at top speed), they kept looking back to try to see the light again. And, about halfway through the turn (by then the aircraft had reached the vicinity of Mineral Wells, Texas, Chase said), the men in the cockpit suddenly saw the bright red light flash on again, back along their previous flight path but distinctly lower, and *simultaneously* GCI got a target again and McLure started picking up a 2800 mcs signal at that bearing! (As I heard one after another of these men describe all this, I kept trying to imagine how it was possible that Condon could listen, at the October, 1967, plasma conference at the UFO Project, as Col. Chase recounted all this and shrug his shoulders and walk out.)

Securing permission from Carswell GCI to undertake the decidedly non-standard manoeuvre of diving on the unknown, Chase put the RB-47 nose down and had reached about 20,000 ft., he recalls, when all of a sudden the light blinked out, GCI lost it on their scope, and McClure reported loss of signal on the No. 2 monitor! Three-channel consistency once more.

Low on fuel, Chase climbed back up to 25,000 ft. and headed north for Oklahoma. He barely had it on homeward course when McClure got a blip dead astern and Carswell radioed that they had a target once more trailing the RB-47 at about 10 miles. Rear-visibility from the topblisters of the RB-47 now precluded easy visual check, particularly if the unknown was then at lower altitude (Chase estimated that it might have been near 15,000 ft. when he lost it in the dive). It followed them to southern Oklahoma and then disappeared.

2. Discussion

This incident is an especially good example of a UFO case in which observer credibility and reliability do not come into serious question, a case in which more than one (here three) channel of information figures in the over-all observations, and a case in which the reported phenomena appear to defy explanation in terms of either natural or technological phenomena.

In the Condon Report, the important initial incident in which the unknown 2800 MC source appeared to orbit the RB-47 near Gulfport is omitted. In the Condon Report, the reader is given no hint that the object was with the aircraft for over 600 miles and for over an hour. No clear sequence of these events is spelled out, nor is the reader made aware of all the "three-channel" simultaneous appearances or disappearances that were so emphatically stressed to me by both Chase and McClure in my interviews with them. But even despite those degrees of incompleteness, any reader of the account of this case in the Condon Report must wonder that an incident of this sort could be left as unexplained and yet ultimately treated, along with the other unexplained cases in that Report, as calling for no further scientific attention.

Actually, various hypotheses (radar anomalies, mirage effects) are weighed in one part of the Condon Report where this case is discussed separately (pp. 136-138). But the suggestion made there that perhaps an inversion near 2 km altitude was responsible for the returns at the Carswell GCI unit is wholly untenable.

In an Appendix, a very lengthy but non-relevant discussion of ground-return from anomalous propagation appears; in fact, it is so unrelated to the actual circumstances of this case as to warrant no comment here.

Chase's account emphasized that the GCI radar(s) had his aircraft and the unknown object on-scope for a total flight-distance of the order of several hundred miles, including a near overflight of the ground radar. With such wide variations in angles of incidence of the ground-radar beam on any inversion or duct, however intense, the possibility of anomalous propagation effects yielding a consistent pattern of spurious echo matching the reported movements and the appearances and disappearances of the target is infinitesimal. And the more so in view of the simultaneous appearances and disappearances on the ECM gear and via visible emissions from the unknown.

To suggest, as is tentatively done on p. 138 of the Condon Report, that the "red glow" might have been a "mirage of Oklahoma City," when the pilot's description of the luminous source involves a wide range of viewing angles, including two instances when he was viewing it at quite large depression-angles, is wholly unreasonable. Unfortunately, that kind of casual *ad hoc* hypothesizing with almost no attention to relevant physical considerations runs all through the case-discussions in the treatment of radar and optical cases in the Condon Report, frequently (though not in this instance) being made the basis of "explanations" that are merely absurd. On p. 265 of the Report, the question of whether this incident might be explained in terms of any "plasma effect" is considered but rejected. In the end, this case is conceded to be unexplained.

Bluebook not informed

No evidence that a report on this event reached Project Bluebook was found by the Colorado investigators. That may seem hard to believe for those who are under the impression that the Air Force has been diligently and exhaustively investigating UFO reports over the past 22 years. But to those who have examined more closely the actual levels of investigation, lack of a report on this incident is not so surprising. Other comparable instances could be cited, and still more where the military aircrews elected to spare themselves the bother of interrogation, by not even reporting events about as puzzling as those found in this RB-47 incident.

But what is of greatest interest is the point that here we have a well-reported, multi-channel, multiple-witness UFO report, coming in fact from within the Air Force itself, investigated by the Condon Report team, conceded to be unexplained, and yet it is, in final analysis, ignored by Dr. Condon. In no section of the Report specifically written by the principal investigator does he even allude to this intriguing case.

My question is how such events can be written off as demanding no further scientific study. To me, such cases seem to cry out for the most intensive scientific study—and the more so because they are actually so much more numerous than the scientific community yet realizes. There is a scientific mystery here that is being ignored and shoved under the rug; the strongest and most unjustified shove has come from the Condon Report. "Unjustified" because that Report itself contains so many scientifically puzzling unexplained cases (approximately 30 out of 90 cases considered) that it is extremely difficult to understand how its principal investigator could have construed the contents of the Report as supporting a view that UFO studies should be terminated.

THE ITALIAN SCENE

Roberto Pinotti

Signor Pinotti is the Secretary of the newly formed *Centro Unico Nazionale UFO* (UFO National Unified Centre) which aims to bring together and centralize all the serious groups now conducting investigations and research in Italy. His address is: Via Roma 102/D, 47037 Rimini, Italy.

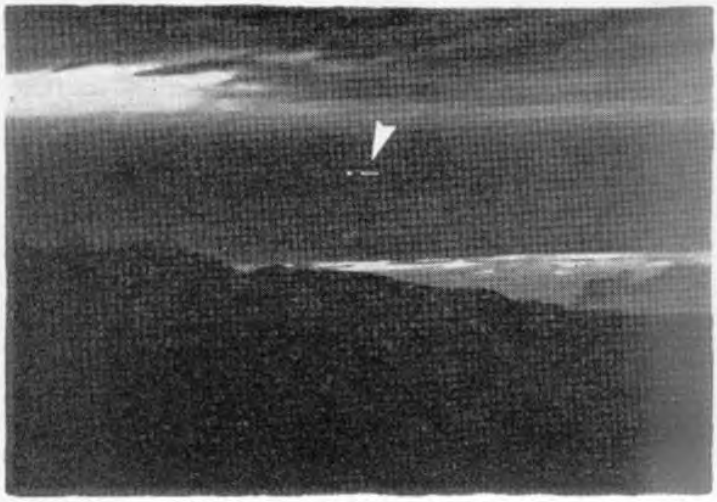
IN his *Anatomy of a Phenomenon,* published in 1965, Jacques Vallée wrote as follows of UFO research in Italy:

> *"In Italy, the few groups of enthusiasts we know of are not worthy of mention; their only activity is merging one into the other every two or three years."*

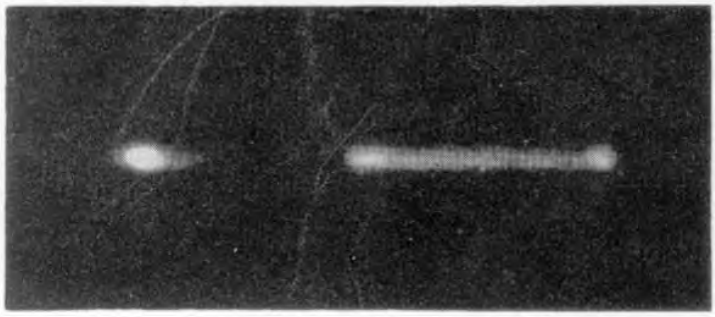
Today I am happy to say that our situation is a very different one. As a result of much hard work in the five years since then, we have now reached the point where the Italian authorities and Italian public opinion regard our unified national Centre as the most serious, most important, and most authoritative UFO research organization in our country. In 1967 we were able to hold Italy's first National UFO Congress, at Rimini, and we now have a regular bi-monthly bulletin, *Notiziario UFO,* which is firmly established and becoming widely known as the Italian mouthpiece.

It is our earnest hope that we shall enjoy close cooperation with responsible and authoritative investigation groups in other countries, for Italy has a very important contribution to make and many interesting things to say on the UFO theme.

As evidence of the status now enjoyed by our Centre, I might mention for example that on December 18, 1969, an article by me entitled *Resteranno*



The Gargano Photograph (For details see p.8) object arrowed



Enlarged detail from Gargano photograph

Un Mistero? (*Will They Remain a Mystery?*) appeared in the Italian illustrated weekly magazine *L'Europeo* which, in view of its very large circulation, is counted as one of the most important and authoritative publications of its kind in contemporary Italy. In that article I recapitulated for the general reader the astonishing and well known French case at Oloron where, on October 17, 1952, at high noon, Monsieur Yves Prigent and his family observed a large tubular object sending forth a swarm of metallic globes which travelled in pairs, and observed a fall of a quantity of the mysterious substance known popularly as "angel's hair."

The Oloron case and the case at Gaillac ten days later are well known to readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and there is no need to devote further space to them here. The next case in my article was, however, an Italian one and, as I think few people outside of Italy know it, I will quote it in full.

UFO interrupts football match

The date was October 27, 1954, and the place Prato. Two men, Gennaro Lucchetti and Pietro Lastrucci, were standing on the terrace of a hotel on the piazza San Marco, when they noticed in the sky two "luminous spindles", followed by a vivid white trail. Both objects were moving in line ahead at a staggering speed, with a short distance between them. Then the rear one accelerated and drew level with the lead object, both objects did a 45° turn, and vanished towards Firenze (Florence).

A few minutes later, there was a dramatic interruption of a game of football between teams from Florence and Pistoia. First the 10,000 spectators, then the players, and finally the referee himself,

stood with their gaze riveted on two mysterious spherical objects passing over the stadium. Between 2.20 and 2.29 p.m., this pair of objects passed over Florence three times. Strange hairy filaments rained down upon the city, and the newspaper offices were inundated with excited phone calls.

It will be recalled that at both Oloron and Gaillac, witnesses had been unable to make an analysis of the enigmatic strands of "angel hair" before they dissolved into thin air. At Florence, however, an engineering student named Alfredo Jacopozzi had the presence of mind to clap some of the fibre into a sterilized glass tube and hasten with it to Professor Giovanni Canneri, director of the institute of chemical analysis in the University of Florence.

Aided by his colleague Professor Danilo Cozzi, Canneri made a rapid microscopic and spectrographic analysis of the enigmatic substance, and his verdict ran: "It is a material of fibrous composition possessing notable resistance to traction and torsion. When subjected to heat it turned to a darker shade and volatilized, leaving a fusible transparent residue. Spectographic analysis of the residue showed its principal constituents to be: boron, silicon, calcium, and magnesium.* Hypothetically, the substance examined by us microchemically could have been a boron-silicon glass."

As an authoritative Florentine paper commented at the time, "the scientist was unwilling to say more. All that *we* can say, as objective and faithful chroniclers of the matters—and we do not wish to add one word more—is that the "waste material" in question was seen falling from the sky at the same time as certain residents of the city saw something strange occurring in the heavens above them."

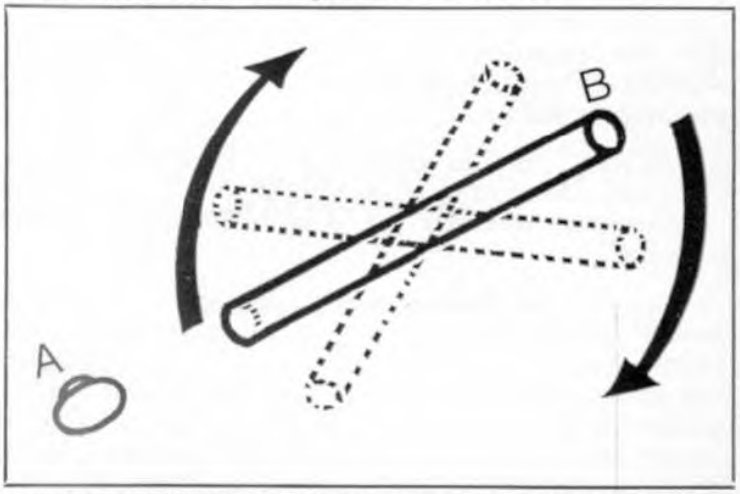
Gargano photograph

Associated with the next case which I gave—also from Italy—there is a remarkable colour photograph, reproduced herewith. The date of the incident was a day early in September 1966, and the place Gargano. The man who took the photograph is a bank official, and I regret that, as it is his express request, we must ask FLYING SAUCER REVIEW not to divulge his name.

The sun was just setting when the witness, who was on a pleasure outing with members of his family, saw two objects moving through the sky. He had his camera in his hands. He managed to take several shots before the objects were lost to sight. His pictures show the two luminous objects. The first object presents features that recall the reports of the small discs seen at Oloron, Gaillac and Florence, and when enlarged it revealed clear analogies, in respect of colour, with the Oloron and Gaillac cases. The second object, cigar-shaped, bears on the other hand a marked resemblance to the great tubular structures also seen at both those places.

The bank official watched until the spectacle vanished on the horizon towards the north-west. Commenting upon his experience, he said: "I am not in a position to express any opinion, since I have never occupied myself with such objects, nor do I propose to do so, my interests lying in other directions. All the same, the experience certainly made a profound impression upon me, inasmuch as any question of any sort of optical illusion is most categorically ruled out."

Our Research Centre has made discreet and thorough enquiries, but we have found no evidence of any kind such as might tend to cast doubt upon the genuineness of this colour photograph taken in 1966 at Gargano by the bank official. It is, on the contrary, our opinion that, considered in conjunction with the French cases at Oloron and Gaillac in 1952 and the Italian case of the two "luminous spindles" over Prato in 1954, this photograph may prove to be a highly important piece of evidence.



THE GARGANO UFO, based on the Author's drawing.
A. Yellow-red light.
B. Blue-green light.
Direction of movement, from right to left (S.E. to N.W.)

The technical details relating to the taking of this photograph are as follows: It was taken with a Zeiss Symbolica camera, with Tessar 1:2.8 lens, reduced rate of exposure and the maximum of aperture, using an Agfa film for slides. The photograph reproduced here was developed through an internegative directly from the original colour slide.

Incidentally, in case any readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW may feel that the object shown on the right hand side of the picture is not a tubular-shaped object but is simply a second disc which has moved more rapidly than the disc on the left-hand side, I must explain that the eye-witness states quite definitely that it *was* cigar-shaped. He could see this clearly.

This links the sighting very closely with those at Oloron and Gaillac in 1952 and the sighting at Prato / Florence in 1954.

That the two objects seen by the bank official at Gargano were not two discs but a cigar and a disc is moreover suggested by the fact that, as he states, their colours were quite different. The disc was a reddish-yellow, while the cigar was bluish-green (just as the cigars at Oloron and Gaillac were).

Describing them to me, the witness said that the disc was "shaped like a Roman Catholic priest's hat," and that the tubular object was apparently "oscillating" around its barycentre (see my sketch).

The two objects were moving slowly, and going from south-east towards the north-west.

He does not remember the exact date, but it was during the first half of September 1966, and was at sunset.

NOTE

* See also, in FSR Vol. XV, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1969), Part II of Professor Húlvio B. Aleixo's article *Humanoids Encountered At Baleia*, where this particular case and this laboratory analysis are mentioned, along with analyses of substances allegedly left by UFOs at various places.

Comment by Gordon Creighton. I hope Signor Pinotti will forgive me for the way in which I have translated and compressed all this material into an article, as it comes partly from his article of December 18, 1969, in *L'Europeo*, partly from a recent letter circulated by the *Centro Unico Nazionale* to other investigatory groups, and partly from his letter to me dated February 2, 1970.

MORE UFO CAVE DRAWINGS ?

Gordon Creighton

IT should perhaps be mentioned now for the record that a Brazilian chemist named Hernani Ebecken de Araujo, published, in 1965, a book[1] in which he claimed that, while engaged in archaeological research in the interior of his country, he had discovered (in 1963) a cave near Varzelândia containing six wall drawings which he has interpreted as a Sun, a Moon, a cigar-shaped UFO, and two flying saucers of the conventional "Adamski cupola" or "Mexican hat type."

Varzelândia, a small town, is in the State of Minas Gerais, and lies at about 16.00 S. 44.50 W., 157 kilometres from Montes Claros and 40 km. from Januária, on the banks of the great River São Francisco. The drawings are said to be on the roof of the cave, and the cave to be at a height of 735 metres above sea level, well sheltered from weathering, in a range of limestone mountains.

Commenting briefly upon the discovery of these alleged drawings, Dr. W. Buhler[2] has given their possible age as between 8,000 and 12,000 years. Sr. Ebecken de Araujo had determined the date of the actual formation of the caves, by natural processes, as probably the time of the Second Glacial Period, 20,000 years ago.

The drawings—or, to describe them more accurately, the paintings—are executed in red. Sr. de Araujo's little book contains a number of photographs of the exteriors and surroundings of the caves, and ten photographs of the areas of cave roof bearing the paintings, but, as so often happens, the reproduction of the photographs is so poor that it is utterly impossible to form any opinion as to whether or not the author has a good case. Moreover, as he admits, some of the images on the photographs have been retouched so as to show up better. One picture shows another of the caves, said to contain more than forty reproductions of flying saucers, eighteen of them being lens-shaped marks in the familiar "Lubbock Lights" type of formation.

The caves have been found to bear traces of occupation by early man. I am afraid however that in this story, as in Aimé Michel's[3] recent account of the drawings in the caves of France and Spain, I am obliged to record that *Sex once more raises its ugly head.* For the images which Sr. Hernani Ebecken de Araujo sees so confidently as flying discs and flying cigars have been pronounced by the archaeologists to be nothing more than portrayals of leaves or of the female sexual organ!

NOTES

[1] *Einstein—Espaço—Tempo* (1965).
[2] SBEDV Bulletin No. 42/44, January/June 1965 (pp. 2 and 4).
[3] Aimé Michel. *Palaeolithic UFO-Shapes*, in FSR, Vol. 15, No. 6 (November/December 1969).



UFO-shape on the rocks ?

MYSTERY AEROPLANES OF THE 1930s

Part 1

John A. Keel

THROUGHOUT the 1930s thousands of people in the isolated villages of northern Scandinavia saw, and were puzzled by, the repeated appearances of large grey aeroplanes which bore no markings or insignia. These aeroplanes became the object of massive searches by land, sea and air, grimly launched by the military authorities of Norway, Sweden and Finland. The Scandinavian Press commented on these events at great length and the mystery even attracted the attention of the New York *Times*. Recently Mr. Åke Franzen, a researcher in Stockholm, Sweden, Mr. B. Hogman of Gothenburg, Sweden, and others, sifted through the newspapers of the period and located over 100 reports on the "ghostfliers" as the mystery planes were known, and Lucius Farish and his team of researchers located other reports in the American press for the same period. We have collected together all these reports, indexed them, charted the courses of the sightings on detailed maps, and attempted to analyse the behaviour of the objects. Additional research has been conducted into the aviation lore of the period and the various historical elements have now been assembled. It has been impossible, of course, to cover all the material in these articles but the data is on file and, as usual, can be viewed by serious researchers who might become interested in this particular phase of the UFO mystery.

Mystery aeroplanes are an important but grossly neglected aspect of the overall phenomenon. After we published an article on the subject in a popular magazine[1] we were inundated with new, valid reports, many of which were identical in description and behaviour to those reported in the early Scandinavian wave. Both FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and APRO have independently published mystery aeroplane reports in the recent past.[2]

Before we attempt to outline some of the more interesting Scandinavian reports we must review a few of the reports which came from elsewhere during that period. On the surface, these reports seem easily explainable and irrelevant to the flying saucer mystery. But, in actuality, these mysterious aeroplanes were able to out-perform any known aircraft of the period, could fly in inclement weather—even blinding snowstorms — and the patterns of their flights defied military analysis.

Although there were sporadic ghostflier reports in 1932-33, the subject did not create interest until Christmas week, 1933. Other great waves, such as the flap in the northeastern United States in 1909, have occurred during Christmas week. Many ufologists have already commented on the fact that innumerable seemingly important UFO events have tended to occur on the 24th of the month. The 24th day of March, April, June, September, November and December apparently play an important part in the UFO time cycle. Thorough researchers will find that so-called occult events follow this same pattern.[3]

The "airship" wave of November 1896 was centred around November 24th, the week of the Thanksgiving holiday that year. But, of course, UFO events can and do occur at other times. A massive study of thousands of sightings of *all types* would be necessary before any true significance of this particular factor could be established. Unfortunately, practical studies of this kind have not been attempted by anyone other than the U.S. Air Force.

We attempted superficial examination of these factors in recent FSR articles[4] and noted that a high percentage of Type I sightings in 1966 seemed to take place on Wednesdays. In our study of the 1934 ghostflier reports we find that the majority of the known *landings* occurred on Wednesdays. However, the Scandinavian press referred to them as "Sunday fliers" because the majority of the sightings took place on Sundays. Overflights of high altitude LITS (lights in the sky) are separate and distinct from low-level Type I sightings and could represent an entirely different aspect of the phenomenon. "Hard" sightings of seemingly solid machines may, in many cases, be only tenuously related to the more numerous "soft" sightings of lights.[5]

During 1934, the "hard" sightings took the form of aeroplanes accompanied by engine noises, but reports of "soft" and LITS types outnumbered the "hard".

"Decoy" sightings have been widely prevalent in the U.S., particularly in areas where auto pursuits and animal mutilations have been common.[6] It is probable, therefore, that "hard" objects—whether they be aeroplanes or discs—are less important to our understanding of the overall phenomenon than we have led ourselves to believe. The cunning use of decoys and "hard" landings has been a mere diversion, and these events have seemed to follow patterns of psychological warfare. Some of these patterns become self-evident in the 1934 material.

The operations of these mystery aeroplanes have

simply been too blatant to be meaningful. In December 1969, the citizens of St. Louis, Missouri, were upset because a mysterious aeroplane, grey and *sans* markings or lights, twice flew under the recently erected Gateway Arch in that city (Associated Press dispatch, December 22, 1969). The mystery plane first performed this hair-raising manoeuvre on Friday, December 12. It returned on Wednesday, December 17, to repeat the performance.

One of our earliest mystery aeroplanes chose to indulge in nightflying directly over New York City in 1910. Like similar craft of later years, it performed hazardous manoeuvres at tree-top level over crowded Madison Square Park. According to the New York *Tribune* of August 31, 1910, "It was heard before it was seen. The whirring sound of a motor high in the air caused many necks to be craned toward the Metropolitan tower at 8.45 o'clock when a long black object was seen flying through the air toward the tower. The vague bulk, as it came into nearer view, took on the semblance of a biplane. It swung past the tower, then turned and described one graceful circle after another around the illuminated structure, its outlines standing out clear in the lights from the many windows."

The *Tribune* went on to describe how the object executed a "series of swooping circles . . . and dipped down so that it seemed to brush the tops of the trees."

The next night, Wednesday, the aeroplane returned to the very same park at 9.00 p.m. and repeated the manoeuvres. In a lengthy story on September 1, 1910, the *Tribune* discussed the whereabouts of all the known pilots and planes in the vicinity, and concluded that none of them were the culprit. Indeed, the primitive open biplanes of that day could hardly risk fighting the dangerous updraughts around Manhattan's towers and few pilots were willing to attempt nightflying at all. "Persons who saw the flying mystery last night differ as to the number of lights it carried," the *Tribune* reported. "Some say it carried two red lights, others lean to the three green theory."

Apparently the phantom flier of Manhattan was never identified despite the *Tribune's* wishful "if he comes again tonight the aviator may drop his name to earth in an otherwise empty bottle."

Three weeks later, on Wednesday, September 21, 1910, "a fleet of balloons" passed over New York City in broad daylight. The *Tribune* noted (Sept. 22, 1910): "Some persons said they must be at least five thousand feet in the air, and few thought they could discern two or three passengers in each. Others said they were just toy balloons used as advertisements. These latter proved to be right as to size, but, if the balloons were used for advertising purposes, there was nothing in their appearance to show it. The last of the balloons passed over the lower city about 5 o'clock, floating in the direction of Long Island. While the spectacle lasted, the police had their hands full keeping the streets and sidewalks clear."

The next evening Mr. Dennis Ready, an engineer at the Dunkirk Waterworks, reported to the police that he had seen "a large cigar-shaped balloon hovering over the lake, about two miles from shore. . . . The balloon appeared to be unmanageable. It gradually disappeared and he believes it dropped into the lake." A fishing tug was sent out to search for it. The story appeared in the New York *Tribune* on September 23, 1910. Dunkirk, N.Y. is on the shores of Lake Erie, approximately 500 miles northwest of New York City. It is about 25 miles west of Sinclairville, N.Y. and Cherry Creek, N.Y., sites of UFO landings and low level activity in 1965-66 . . . a very active "window" area.[7]

The Snow Phantoms

On Tuesday, August 24, 1909, "an unknown controllable airship" caused great excitement in the Estonian city of Tallinn (Reval) as it circled twice before disappearing in the direction of Finland. A report published in *Dagens-Nyheter* of August 25, 1909, stated that "the population is frightened and is urging the formation of a defensive air fleet." Newspapers speculated that the object was "probably Swedish" even though no such craft existed in Sweden at the time.

Exactly one month later, on Friday, September 24, 1909, a winged object passed over the Castle Forest near Gothenburg, Sweden, at an altitude of about 100 metres. Earlier in the day, a "dirigible" of the "Percival type" flew low over the eastern part of Grason and Osthammar. It came from the northeast, and disappeared in a westerly direction.

We now have a number of mystery aeroplane and unidentified dirigible reports from northern Europe throughout the 1920s and 1930s. We also have a few interesting subsidiary mysteries to research and contemplate. On Friday, December 21, 1923, the French dirigible *Dixmude* vanished forever somewhere over the Mediterranean or the Sahara desert. Extensive searches failed to locate any debris or any sign of the 52 passengers.

One of the first ghostflier reports to appear in *Dagens-Nyheter* (Stockholm) in 1933, came from Kalix on December 24, 1933. It stated simply: "A mysterious aeroplane appeared from the direction of the Bottensea at about 6.00 p.m. Christmas Eve, passed over Kalix, and continued westward. Beams of light came from the machine, searching the area."

These "beams of light" became a familiar feature in the 1934 reports, just as they are common in modern UFO descriptions. The beams were often described as "blinding." They illuminated the ground over which they passed "like daylight." Such searchlights were also reported in the flaps of 1896-97, and 1909.[8] Arc lights had come into use in the 19th century but these required heavy, powerful energy sources. Any flying craft using an arc light would have necessarily been overloaded with batteries or a large generator. We tend to forget now just how primitive the flying machines of the 1920s and 1930s

were. Night flying was still rare and daring in 1934. Conventional aeroplanes were equipped with landing lights very similar to automobile headlights. These would not have been bright enough to provide a satisfactory explanation for the brilliant UFO lights. Customarily, landing lights are not kept on while the plane is aloft.

Instrumental and navigational aids were also crude in 1934. Only a few hardy pilots dared to venture into even a mild rainstorm in those days. Most of the planes then in use were clumsy biplanes with open cockpits. They were short-ranged and quite inefficient machines. Airborne radios were not widely employed, being heavy, expensive and cumbersome to handle by a single pilot in a small plane. Nevertheless, the ghostfliers were equipped with radios and their broadcasts were intercepted throughout Scandinavia. Some of the planes described by the witnesses were obviously larger than any known aircraft of the period, with the exception of the China Clipper which was then in the early stages of development.

Unlike conventional pilots, the ghostfliers were seemingly fond of operating in impossibly difficult weather. One even circled over New York City during a heavy snowstorm on Tuesday, December 26, 1933. The New York *Times* devoted nearly a full column to the story on December 27, naming witnesses and giving the full details.

The plane was first heard circling above Park Avenue and 122nd St. at 9.30 a.m. Numerous witnesses began to call the National Broadcasting Company. Reports continued until 2.25 p.m., meaning that the mystery plane had circled low over Manhattan in a blinding snowstorm for five full hours. An amazing endurance feat, if nothing else. "All airports were notified," the *Times* said, "and at Newark Airport the radio operators from the Department of Commerce and airlines joined in offering what help they could. Beacons on the field were lighted and searchlights flashed through the white smother of snow. . . . All fields in the Metropolitan district reported there had been no flying during the day, and no stray plane had dropped down from the snowy skies."

There were other puzzling incidents of this type. Researcher Charles Flood found the following item in the Portland, Oregon, *Oregonian,* February 15, 1936:

"MYSTERY PLANE BATTLES SNOW—Cody, Wyoming, Feb. 14 (AP). An unidentified airplane tonight battled a raging blizzard and 20 below weather over Cody as residents here attempted to guide it to the local airport, about three miles from town.

"The ship was heard roaring over the city at about 6 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time). After it circled several times, the sound of its motors faded and it was not heard again for almost an hour.



ARE UFOs RELATED TO PSYCHIC EVENTS?

"UFOs aren't fun anymore. Once you divest yourself of the nonsensical beliefs, and recognize all the manifestations for what they really are, you are confronted with the awesome realization that the subject is much more vast than you had ever imagined it to be. And that the UFO source is far beyond our comprehension . . . We are trying to cope with something which has the ability to manipulate time and space and the human mind." (John Keel in Issue No. 1 of E.S.P. Magazine).

Stimulating articles by John Keel, Brad Steiger, Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, Dr. R. Regis Riesenman, Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, Gray Barker, Jim Moseley, and others.

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At approximately 7 p.m. it was heard over the town again, the pilot accelerating his motor as he circled for several minutes.

"Residents of the city fought their way through heavy snows to the airport, and circled the field with flares. Before the flares could be lit, however, the sound of the unknown plane's motor had again faded."

Two days later the *Oregonian* carried a follow-up report: "Cody residents today still had no explanation for, and no further information on, a mysterious aeroplane heard circling over the town last Friday night."

Approximately 35% of all the known sightings of the 1934 Scandinavian wave took place during severe weather conditions. Heavy snowstorms, blizzards and dense fog were mentioned in many of the accounts. The aircraft even operated at very low level during snowstorms, hedge-hopping with great skill and circling low over villages, ships and railway stations in hazardous mountain regions remarkably similar to the rugged terrain around Cody, Wyoming.

The ghostfliers' abilities to operate in the most apalling weather remains one of the more puzzling aspects of this flap. One witness, a lighthouse keeper named Rutkvist, claimed that he observed a mystery aeroplane during a blizzard which included winds measuring 16 metres per second. From his lighthouse at Holmogadd, Sweden, he saw the object on at least two occasions. On Monday, January 8, 1934, he reported watching it manoeuvre over the nearby island of Grasundet. He said that it would hover and then slowly spiral down toward the island. When it neared the water it would ascend again and repeat the manoeuvre. It continued to do this for an hour. "I have never seen anything like it," he said in a story published in the Stockholm press on January 9. "It was a very strange action for an aeroplane."

Very strange, indeed! The governments of Sweden, Norway and Finland took the ghostflier reports very seriously and launched massive investigations.

In a widely published story datelined Oslo, Norway, March 10, 1934, General Henriek Johannessen of the Norwegian Air Force was quoted as saying, "Reports still trickle into the newspapers. We can't reject all of these observations as illusions."

Other officials and aviation experts were interviewed by the press and unanimously expressed the opinion that the ghostfliers were far more expert than any pilots in northern Europe, that they were superbly equipped with advanced radio and navigational equipment, and seemed to represent "an extraordinary organization." Authorities were particularly disturbed over the mystery planes' penchant for flying over forts and "strategic areas."

On April 30, 1934, Major General Reutersward, commanding general of upper Norrland, made this statement to the press: "Comparisons of these reports show that there can be no doubt about illegal air traffic over our secret military areas. There are many reports from reliable people which describe close observations of the enigmatic flier. And in every case the same remark can be noted: no insignia or identifying marks were visible on the machines. . . . It is impossible to explain away the whole thing as mere imagination. The question is: Who or whom are they, and why have they been invading our air territory?"

END OF PART ONE

Part Two will outline the events preceding the 1934 wave, and the action taken by the Scandinavian military authorities.

Part Three will summarize the general sighting data, occupant sightings, landings and overall patterns found in the wave.

NOTES

1. "New UFOs Buzz World Airports" by John A. Keel, *MALE* magazine, December 1969.
2. See "UFOs Over the Americas" by Coral and Jim Lorenzen, Signet Books, 1968, Chapter VI, *The Hertzke Case*.
   FSR, November/December 1968, "UFO Over Airport", page iii.
3. In his article, "Liquidation of the UFO Investigators", *SAGA*, January 1970, Otto Binder points out that several well-known UFO personalities have died on June 24th, including Frank Scully, Richard Church, Arthur Bryant and Willey Ley. Frank Edwards died suddenly on the evening of June 23, 1967. In a control study of coincidental deaths, I found that the deaths of American Presidents also followed non-probable patterns. For example, two early presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both died on July 4, 1826. President James Monroe died on July 4, 1831. July 4 is a major American holiday . . . Independence Day. It is uncanny that these three men, all contemporaries, should have the same death date.
4. See "The Flap Phenomenon in the United States" by John A. Keel, FSR Special No. 2, *Beyond Condon* . . . (1969). And "The Time Cycle Factor" by John A. Keel, FSR, May/June 1969.
5. See "The Principle of Transmogrification" by John A. Keel, FSR, July/August 1969, for a fuller definition of these terms.
6. Decoy sightings, animal mutilations, etc., are discussed at great length in *Strange Creatures from Time and Space* by John A. Keel, Fawcell World Library, 1970.
7. For a summary of the Cherry Creek landing of 1965 see NICAP's *UFO Investigator*, August/September 1965, page 7.
   Details of the Sinclairville sightings (April 1966) included a case of actinic ray burns and will appear in *Operation Trojan Horse* by John A. Keel, G. P. Putnams, 1970.
8. For a discussion of the UFO light beams see *Passport to Magonia* by Dr. Jacques Vallée, Regnery, 1969.

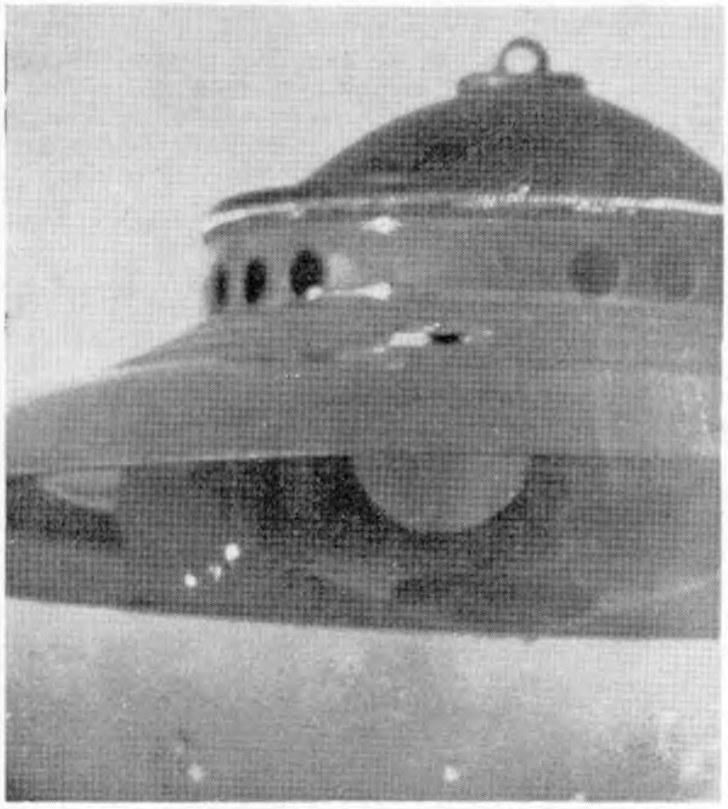
YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

THE BOOK THAT WAS DYNAMITE

Charles Bowen

CLOSE on seventeen years ago there appeared a book which, so far, is probably the second-best-seller ever on the subject;[1] a book which caused such a rumpus among those who study UFO reports and associated phenomena, that its rumblings have reverberated down the years. The book, **Flying Saucers have Landed,** by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, has lately reappeared, and is offered, "Revised and Enlarged," in 280 pages, by Neville Spearman Ltd., at 42s.

The original *Flying Saucers have Landed* is a



"Tobacco humidor and ping-pong balls" (USAF), "operating theatre lamp" or UFO ?

classic in the UFO literature. The bold decision to publish it was taken by Waveney Girvan, who in 1953 was editor-in-chief of the publishing firm T. Werner Laurie. I say *bold,* because he knew, after his experience with Gerald Heard's *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers,* that the manuscript handed to him by Desmond Leslie was dynamite, and that merely to expose it to the public gaze could cause an explosion. When it appeared in September 1953, the book had obviously benefited from Waveney Girvan's editing skill—during our years of close association he told me of the difficulties he had faced, and how he overcame them.[2]

The explosion soon followed. As is often the case with explosions, some of the blast effects were unpredictable.

Desmond Leslie's provocative delving into the history of the subject and his speculations thereon were one thing; the Adamski story of his encounter, and telepathic "conversation" with a "Venusian" out of a landed "Scout craft" saucer, and his photographs, were another. A predictable blast effect was the instant raising of the voices of protest among reviewers. The general implication was that Adamski was a liar, a cheat and a hoaxer; others, later, thought he may have been hoaxed by someone else. Some, more charitable, were of the opinion that Adamski had seen, and photographed, a strange aerial object, and that he had suffered an hallucination which gave rise to the sensational story he told.

An unpredictable blast effect was the enthusiasm with which the public rushed to buy the book, in spite of the reviews. Another effect was the way a "contactee" cult sprang into being around the person of George Adamski, an effect which, according to some, has done more damage to the possibility of serious research on UFOs than could have resulted from the pontifications of a thousand Menzels! While this may well be true, it is equally true that many thousands of reasonable people first met the subject through the agency of this book, and thereafter decided, in a rational way, to find out more about UFOs. These people did not join the ranks of the vehement protesters, and they did not become cultists. In fact many of them eventually became readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, for another of the effects of the dynamite blast was the founding of this journal late in 1954 by Waveney Girvan and a handful of friends.

The success of the Leslie/Adamski book prompted these dedicated people to think the time was ripe for establishing a serious journal on the subject. (This is contrary to a view sometimes expressed that the FSR was founded to disseminate the cultist beliefs of the "contactees" and their followers.)[3]

The new edition of *Flying Saucers have Landed* has not been enhanced by the "Revising and Enlarging"—the writing of a new Introduction, the insertion of commentaries and the addition of a somewhat rambling third part. Obviously some revision was necessary. It is a pity Mr. Leslie did not just substitute a new Introduction and add a postscript

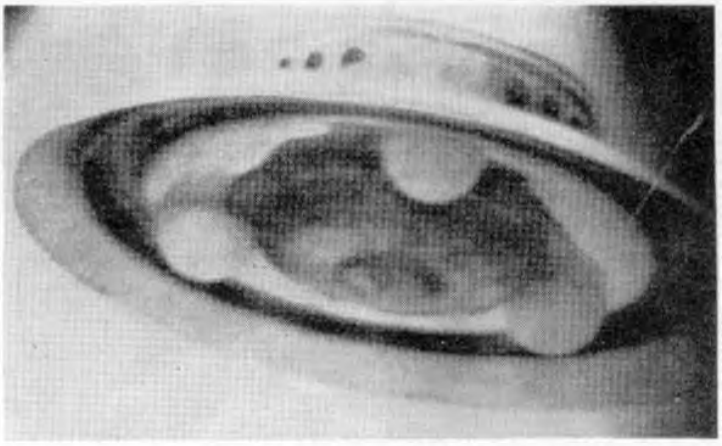
note on his late collaborator, George Adamski, who died in 1965. As it is, some 90% of the original text remains, and this will no doubt be read with interest by a new generation of adherents.

Now that the book has been given a new lease of life, it is to be expected that more voices will be raised against it. Once again, most of these voices will be from the ranks of the "pro-UFO" people, both the serious and the rank and file researchers, which is understandable, for the Adamski story, seemingly ridiculous, makes the subject laughable. However, I have long felt that although the story seems ridiculous, and the chief witness created a poor impression of himself, the greatest danger to the subject lay in the subsequent cultism. The story itself is no more "ridiculous" than the bulk of the contact stories.[4]

Fortunately, like Waveney Girvan,[5] I am not alone among the FSR team in thinking that this alleged incident, shorn of the attendant cultism, should be regarded in the same light as the hundreds of other cases of encounters with humanoid, or human-type, entities.

During the past four years I have frequently speculated[6] on the possibility that there could be solid machine-like objects and, maybe, solid occupants from somewhere unknown, landing on our *terra firma;* that these could also be responsible for projecting into the minds of chance witnesses other visions of aerial objects ("soft" sightings?) or landed "craft", or of various types of entities ranging from the gorgeous to the gruesome. (Such things could also be projected into the minds of certain clairvoyant percipients, and we should not forget that radiation medicine specialist C. Maxwell Cade has pointed out that hallucinatory effects — the same effect in more than one person is possible—can be induced by the beaming of ultra high frequency radiation at people.)[7]

Together with hallucinatory-type, or psychic-type visions such as these, is it equally possible that imaginative "messages" and conversations, or even illusions of having been taken for a ride aboard a "craft", could be induced in receptive minds, and objects like overgrown chicken feeders, monstrous lampshades or oversize operating theatre lamps drummed up for the ready camera to record? If the reader asks why, all I can suggest is that such actions could be a form of *deception,* or *deterrent:* if certain entities *are* keeping us under surveillance, or carrying out strange tasks on our planet, it is possible that they may not wish to be observed.[8] They could, by use of techniques even within our ken, frighten off chance human witnesses by projecting into their minds alarming pictures of monstrous creatures or little characters like gargoyles; they could also plant "phoney" messages of the kind given to contactee percipients to make the subject sound so silly to down-to-earth types that they shun it for ever! Could a logical step from such activities be *control,* of some, if not all? I hope not, but it is a possibility that should not be overlooked.



"Chicken feeder" (Blue Book official), "Lampshade and bulbs," flying model or an incomprehensible "something"?

For these reasons, speculative as they are, I suggest we should look dispassionately at the Adamski story. It could be dynamite—of a different kind to that expected by Waveney Girvan in 1953—and we certainly should not laugh at it, any more than we laugh at the other "occupant" claims. After all, someone, or something, may have *intended* him to do more damage than a thousand Menzels!

NOTES

[1] Pride of place must go to *Flying Saucers, Serious Business* by the late Frank Edwards.
[2] Waveney Girvan gave an account of the less intimate details of the publishing of the book in his *Flying Saucers and Common Sense* (Frederick Muller, 1955).
[3] Echoed by Aimé Michel in *Les Soucoupes Volantes* (Collection Pour ou Contre—Berger-Levrault, Nancy, 1969) and refuted in FSR, Vol. 15, No. 2, page 28.
[4] As opposed to the "contactee" claim, with its "messages for mankind", rides round the Moon and other frolics, the "contact" claim covers reports of encounters with alleged occupants of unconventional aerial objects where no intelligible conversation takes place, and where the events are generally incomprehensible.
[5] Waveney Girvan was editor of FSR from November 1959 until his death in October 1964.
[6] These speculative essays commenced in *The Humanoids* (first published in October 1966) and were summarised in *Thinking Aloud* in FSR, Vol. 15, No. 6.
[7] C. Maxwell Cade, *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence*, Part 4 (FSR, Vol. 13, No. 6) and Part 5 (FSR, Vol. 14, No. 2).
[8] See Luis Schönherr's article elsewhere in this issue.

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OBSERVATIONS OF A SCEPTICAL BELIEVER

A study of observer's influence upon systems, contacts, Occam's Razor and signal and noise.

Luis Schönherr

AN objection often advanced against the hypothesis that UFOs may be craft operated by an extraterrestrial intelligence, is that if this be true "they" would certainly establish official contact at governmental level.

Proponents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis have in turn given various reasons why such contact would be avoided.[1]

There is, however, one reason which as far as I know has never been given adequate attention, either by the proponents or by the opponents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis, although it is in accordance with scientific experience and principles, and is by no means speculative.

If we take the position that we are being visited by an extraterrestrial intelligence, we can in principle think of only three possible reasons:

1) Pure scientific curiosity,
2) Friendly contact,
3) Hostile contact.

In any of these three cases the first step would be a thorough scientific surveillance. In case 1 this would be an end in itself; in cases 2 and 3 it would precede other actions as a necessary means of self-defence. The choice between the three alternatives mentioned above could have been made in advance, but it could also depend on the result of the surveillance.

Dangers of observer's influence

From the scientific viewpoint, a surveillance is an examination of a system. It is an accepted principle of scientific methodology that precautions have to be taken, and that the instruments or methods of examination should have no undue influence upon the observed system. Otherwise the results might be distorted, and, during a following examination—although carried out properly—the system might exhibit other properties as a result of an undue interaction with the instrument, or the observer, during the first examination.

If, for example, one wants to measure the level of a fluid in a tank, one may use for this purpose a sounding-rod. But as the sounding rod itself has a certain volume, it will displace some fluid, and the level will therefore be slightly higher during the measurement than it was before.

Another example. If the electrical potential of a circuit is measured with a voltmeter, an additional load is applied. As a result the voltage will drop, and the instrument will indicate a lower potential than that actually present (i.e. without the instrument). In extreme cases—when the internal resistance of the instrument is too low—the applied additional load may even cause permanent damage to the components of the observed system (the circuit).

Nowadays, for the calculation and compensation of the instrument influence upon systems, a whole science of its own has developed. For most practical applications it is therefore possible to obtain a sufficient degree of accuracy.

It must be emphasized, however, that this presumes a thorough knowledge not only of the instrument, but also of the system, and of the possible interactions between both. Practically, a researcher will always try to keep the instrument influence beforehand as low as possible, rather than correct the measured results by calculation.

A reduction of the instrument influence, however, is only effective if—to put it in general terms—the instrument's energy consumption can be made negligible when compared with the total energy in the observed system.

In the physics of elementary particles, for example, this condition cannot be realized. It was this insight which ultimately led to the concept of the *uncertainty principle* by Heisenberg.

The instrument influence presents difficult problems in mechanical or electronic systems, yet those problems are simple when compared with those encountered in the observation of living, and/or intelligently controlled, systems. In such cases one cannot consider a possible influence on the part of the observer only in terms of the relative amounts of energy involved.

If the observer of a living system uses an insufficiently sterilised probe, the influence is negligible on a pure energy level, yet it may alter the system to such an extent that it is no longer available for observation—at least not as a living system. When an animal smells an observer, the amount of energy or substance conveyed between them is immeasurably small, but none the less it may cause violent reactions.

A new factor we have to take into account in the observation of the living and the intelligent is information. Genetic information enables a bacteria to multiply and to exert a fatal influence upon a living system. Information guides the be-

haviour of the animal in the same way as, in a computer, a certain condition may cause the programme to branch to a sub-routine, although this condition may be represented only by the presence (or non-presence) of a very small amount of energy.

The same principle applies to the examination of sociological systems. The anthropologist knows very well that he must hide if he wants to observe the secret fertility dance of some native tribe—otherwise he would be shown an insignificant substitute. It is a common experience that people behave differently if they know they are being observed, and it is well known that the mere fact that a man is being interviewed may influence his answers.

There are, in fact, few principles which apply so universally to all fields of science, as well as to everyday life, than that for which I have just given some examples.

One can say that:

1) Observation is impossible without interference with the observed system;

2) This interference in turn distorts the results of the present, or even of a future observation (depending on the degree to which it is irreversible);

3) For this reason an observer will always try, as much as possible, to reduce any interference with the observed system.

It is therefore somewhat astonishing whenever scientists readily regard the absence of official contact as an argument for the non-existence of an extraterrestrial surveillance. This in spite of the fact that scientific criticism always seems to be well aware of the principle (as demonstrated above) in the evaluation of UFO-reports, as one may gather from the frequent references to the possibility of observers' influence—or bias—on perception and reporting.[2]

There is no doubt that a scientifically advanced extraterrestrial intelligence would be cognizant of the above principle, and would apply it. One should just remember that even our present scientific and technological achievements would never have been possible had we ignored it.

Considering our sociological structure (about which a lot of information could already be obtained by a mere high altitude reconnaissance) in which power and brains are concentrated in a few hands, an extraterrestrial intelligence would almost certainly avoid in the first phase a contact with those who direct the world's scientific and industrial efforts. If it did not, we, the system under observation, would soon alter our behaviour, thus distorting the observer's measurements or samples, or even endangering the observer himself. The more pronounced the difference between the extraterrestrial intelligence and ourselves, the more careful it would be to avoid interference with us. We must bear in mind that we humans are also more cautious if we are dealing with things and persons unknown to us. And if the surveillance were a long-term programme, the intelligence would be particularly uncommunicative for reasons given above.

If there is really a surveillance behind the UFO-phenomenon, it is very probable that every aspect of it that we are able to observe is either (1) an interaction by mere chance, or (2) a necessary interaction with our system in order to obtain data or to maintain the surveillance as such.

Although one cannot *a priori* exclude the first possibility, one could well argue that in an advanced scientific research programme nothing would be left to chance, particularly if it were conducted by a superior intelligence. Certainly this possibility would play a minor role—if any at all—and we would be well advised to consider the UFO-phenomenon in terms of the second possibility.

In this connection it is very interesting to consider the cases of the car and plane pursuits. If they were indifferent, or friendly towards us, they would carefully avoid giving any impression of hostility, and if they had hostile intentions this avoidance would be all the more pronounced. As the evidence for such cases is pretty strong, although the alleged behaviour is in direct contradiction to the principle discussed above, one might say as it were, that this behaviour could be a presupposition for the surveillance as such.

This also supports the suggestion which I made in a recent article, that such cases could possibly be regarded as more or less successful attempts by UFOs to enter our space from another dimension, thereby using the electromagnetic radiation from our ignition systems as a sort of beacon.[3]

A reason for single contracts ?

On the other hand, our hypothetical extraterrestrial observers may well have decided that the influence of their sampling and sounding techniques upon our system may be kept under control if they only contact single individuals. This could explain why the contact is not completely avoided, but it poses a new question. Although our scientific community has, up to now, maintained a rather sceptical attitude concerning UFOs, our hypothetical observer could never be sure whether or not even an alleged hidden contact would trigger a violent reaction in our system. It seems, therefore, conceivable at least that he would apply some sort of counter measures in order to prevent a witness from spreading dangerous information.

The most simple means would be to eliminate the witness himself. If considered in terms of observer's influence upon the system, however, this would be better avoided, because it could bring about a contrary effect. This may be the reason why there are indeed witnesses to such events.[4]

Another possible method could be the obliterating of memories. There are more and more cases on record in which close-up witnesses of UFOs have suffered from amnesia or a derangement of their feelings of time, which could be related to this possibility.[5]

It would be quite unjustified to conclude from the

number of close-up and contact reports that there is apparently no such influence, or at least that it does not work very well. By now it is possible that the one point of agreement of opponents and proponents alike, is that only a minority of the sightings which actually occur are reported to an official project or to private UFO research groups.

If 87% of all UFO sightings are never reported, as a recent study has disclosed,[6] then the number of sightings in the above-mentioned category is actually eight times greater. However, as the natural inhibition against reporting such things is the greater the more private the intimacy concerned, and the more ridiculous an alleged experience may appear to others, one must suspect that the hidden cases of close-ups and of little men episodes are far more numerous than would appear at first sight.

If, for example, a number of people saw an inexplicable craft in the air, and an equal number were to undergo an experience as alleged by Antônio Villas Boas, it is pretty certain that there would be more reports from the first group than there would be from the second.

More interesting, however, is the fact that 56% of those who have never seen a UFO thought they would report it if they saw one. It seems that natural inhibitions, such as ridicule or the publicly-known treatment that has been accorded some witnesses, should have the same effect, quantitatively, upon the answers given by the non-sighters and on the actual behaviour of the sighters.[7]

Additional inhibition

One could say, therefore, that it looks as if a UFO sighting itself would produce an additional inhibition against reporting it! Without being categorical, it would seem that suggestions that UFOs or their occupants might derange observers' memories at least are not completely unsubstantiated. An artificially created amnesia could make a witness uncertain as to the reality of certain parts of his experience. It is even conceivable that he may forget it completely, or, if he remembers some part of it, he doesn't connect it with UFOs.[8]

Far more could be hidden even than those who are concerned with the "conspiracy" aspect could imagine. There is even a good chance that UFO-reports, as a whole, will show a considerable decrease if certain proposed "methods for establishing observers' creditability" become known to the public.[9]

In the above connection there is another possible point of interest. Counter intelligence is often faced with the problem that the dissipation of certain significant information simply cannot be avoided. By issuing a lot of non-significant or conflicting information about the same thing, however, the value of the significant information for the enemy may be considerably reduced. An example of this is the radio traffic between the American Polaris submarines and their base. Naturally all messages are coded, but the mere fact that a message is being transmitted could warn an enemy that something is afoot. Radio traffic is therefore kept on a steady level by transmitting meaningless information in the intervals between the orders.

If we do not wish to grossly underestimate our hypothetical extraterrestrial observer, we must take into account the fact that he may intentionally add "noise" to the inevitable signal. In the case of close approaches, and the various degrees of contact, this could be done, for example, by appearing in different guises, by making ridiculous or contradictory statements to witnesses, or, in a more sophisticated manner, by mental conditioning.[10]

Hallucinatory elements

It seems that there may be pronounced hallucinatory elements in some reports, but it is by no means evident that in all of these cases the explanation could be found in the psychopathology of the witness. We have to face in principle, therefore, two possibilities:

> 1) Hallucinations are a side effect caused by the conditions (force field) in the vicinity of the UFO. It is at least conceivable that the human brain could be affected by these conditions in such a way that subconscious or unconscious images may reach the centre of perception, and become indistinguishable from a real experience. Maybe, however, this side effect is quite intentionally applied.
>
> 2) The hallucinatory effects are transmitted from the UFO to the observer by some form of thought-transference.[11]

Again, however, as in the hypothetical case of UFOs affecting the memory, we are on extremely dangerous ground. From my own experience, I know very well that there is a strong inclination, especially on part of sober technicians, to discard such possibilities out of hand.

Commenting on Occam's Razor, R. V. Jones wrote: "Of all the possible explanations for a set of observations, the one with the minimum of supposition should be accepted, until it is proved wrong. Otherwise one lives in a fearsomely imaginative world in which rational conduct becomes impossible."[12]

There is no doubt that we who are interested in UFOs, and who are often engaged in rather wild speculations about their nature, would be well advised to consider this advice—and yet. . . .

As Occam's principle is often presented in arguments by opponents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis simply as a sort of justification for being sceptical, I feel that a few remarks are indicated.

The emphasis in the above quotation is on the words "possible" and "set".

The "impossible" explanations (i.e. those that do not account for all facts of a given set) must have been ruled out before applying Occam's razor. It does not mean that it is permissible to reject one fact after the other until an explanation does fit. It means only that if more than one explanation

is known, and that each one accounts for all facts of a given set, then that with a minimum of suppositions should be held to be true for the time being, until further facts come to light. Again, it does not mean that this explanation must necessarily come true.

It so happens that there is an ever increasing number of reports for which so-called conventional explanations can only be accepted by grossly ignoring certain scientifically disreputable aspects of the phenomenon. In other words the number of facts in the set is reduced. In such cases I feel that Occam is the wrong argument.[13]

However, his principle may be applied to the various hypotheses which fall beyond the present frame of science, in order to select those with the minimum of supposition.

In this article I have tried to show that one of the major objections to the extraterrestrial hypothesis is invalid, and that possibly, it could be a mistake to deal only with the technological aspects of the UFOs without worrying about the motivations behind them.

It has often been said that logic is adaptation to environment. If, for example, an animal receives a certain signal, after which comes food, and another signal, after which comes punishment in the form of an electrical shock, the animal will learn to associate the first signal with food and the second with punishment, and to act correspondingly. It has adapted itself to its environment by a sort of logic (it does not matter whether this logic consists of a mere reflex, or of a higher function). But if the two signals are interchanged completely at random, so that the environment no longer corresponds with the animal's logic,* the animal becomes mentally disoriented, often to such an extent that it develops neurotic symptoms and does not even touch the food, even if it is within its reach.[14]

A good deal of counter intelligence work consists of causing a similar disorientation on part of the enemy and—as one is tempted to say—to prevent him from making conclusions that may be within reach.[15]

Certainly an intelligence which wants to conceal its own activities, and remain unrecognised, would act similarly in order to prevent us from deducing a common denominator from our observations, knowing all too well that science is helpless if there is no logical order and system in the facts. Moreover, the present tendency, on the part of many members of the scientific community, to regard problems which defy treatment by the approved tools of science simply as pseudo-problems would only favour such intentions.[16]

Commenting on our subject, scientists sometimes imply that we are fooling ourselves. But if an extraterrestrial intelligence should really be present, there is a good chance that we are being fooled by it to such an extent that the difficulties of separating the signal from the noise may become insurmountable.

* (and if it is impossible to restore adaptation)

REFERENCE BOOKS QUOTED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTES

(A) *"Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects."*
Committee on Science and Astronautics U.S. House of Representatives, Ninetieth Congress.
29th July, 1968.
Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Va. 22151.
No. PB 179 541.

(B) *"Final Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects."*
Conducted by the University of Colorado, under Contract to the United States Air Force.
Dr. Edward U. Condon, Scientific Director.
Bantam Books, New York, 1969. No. 553-04747-195.

(C) Coral and Jim Lorenzen.
"Flying Saucer Occupants."
Signet Books, New York, 1967.
T 3205.

NOTES

1. One of the least anthropocentric considerations of the contact problem was presented long ago by Aimé Michel (*"Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery,"* Criterion Books, New York, Part 6, *The Sword of Damocles*). However he misses one argument completely, as also does Prof. McDonald, when he suggests that it would "certainly be unjustified to extrapolate human motives and reasons to any other intelligent civilisation." [see Book (A): pages 23 and 83.]
The present article is intended to show that, based on a universally valid scientific principle, such an extrapolation may well be permissible.

2. Two recent examples of this attitude may be quoted:
2/1 In a paper published in Book (A) Dr. D. H. Menzel asks: "Is it not natural that beings from outer space should exhibit interest in us? But when we consider that these beings—if indeed they are beings—have been bugging us for centuries, why should not one have landed and shown himself to the president of the United States, to a member of the National Academy of Sciences or at least some member of Congress?"
[see (A): page 199.]
2/2 The Condon Report (B) contains approximately 40 pages on the influence of the observer on perception and reporting (Section VI, Chapters 1 and 2) and numerous hints on that possibility in the case stories (Section IV). Yet with regard to a hypothetical extraterrestrial intelligence, the same problem is disposed of in one single sentence: "It is also obvious that if an extraterrestrial intelligence were assumed to be present, there is no logical reason to assume that it would not, or did not, make contact with a human being."
[See (B), Section III, 8. Remarks and Recommendations, page 74.]

3. See my *UFOs and the Fourth Dimension, Part IV*, FSR Nov./Dec. 1968. The application of the concept of a fourth dimension to the UFO-phenomenon has been subject to some criticism (C. M. Cade: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence*, FSR March/April 1968, page 9, also Ivan T. Sanderson: *"Uninvited Visitors,"* Cowles Education Corp. page 181). I know that most scientists hold the opinion that the concept in question is of little or no heuristic value. Time will tell whether or not this is correct. Presently I am more convinced than

ever that if we are to understand this phenomenon, such a concept will be forced on us sooner or later whether one calls it "fourth dimension," or, more cautiously, a "manipulation of space time continua." (A. Michel: FSR Nov./Dec. 1965, page 8). [Or, perhaps, we may even be unguarded enough to refer to it as a "parallel universe"—Editor.]

4. Such considerations may sound a bit cynical. Not only saucer cultists comfort themselves with the idea of a "higher" moral standing of extraterrestrial visitors. However I feel we would be on the safe side if we made no such assumptions.

I do not imply that the intelligence behind the UFO-phenomenon is necessarily hostile. But even if its motive is only scientific curiosity, its methods could well be directed by pure considerations of utility. Almost, I should like to say, that if it be a superior scientific intelligence, it could well be beyond good and evil in the Nietzschean sense.

With regard to the possibility that UFOs might be time-machines, the present editor of the FSR once made the interesting suggestion that "it is unlikely that time travellers would want to say or do anything calculated to upset or unbalance that time, in our future, in which their society exists in three dimensional surroundings" (Charles Bowen: *Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension*, FSR May/June 1963, page 13).

5. Or could such symptoms perhaps be the after-effects of a sampling or scanning on a mental level?

6. See (B), Section III, Chapter 7.

7. See (B), Section II, 16. *Public Attitudes.*
The discrepancy between the 87% of UFO sighters who did not report, and the 56% of the non-sighters who felt they would report in case of a sighting, is simply called "puzzling" (page 45).

8. See (C), Chapter IV, *The Interrupted Journey Continued* (Betty and Barney Hill case).

9. Sydney Walker, II. M.D.
Establishing Observer Creditability: A Proposed Method. Journal of Astronautical Sciences, Vol. XV, No. 1, pp. 31-36 Jan.-Feb. 1968, reproduced in (A) page 185.
For case history see (A) pages 152-174.

Certainly the value of the proposed method will not be debated if, for example, the subject belongs to a specially trained elite, or is for some other reasons himself interested in such an examination.

But if this method should be generally applied to average UFO-witnesses, thereby becoming publicly known, I fear, it would soon furnish us with a perfect example of how an observation may influence a system to such an extent that further observations become impossible. There is little doubt that most people (psychologists perhaps not even excluded) would restrain from testifying even to the most common experience if they knew that they then had to pass an examination that "strips the poor fellow bare" (R. H. B. Winder: *Turning Point*, FSR Jan./Feb., page 18).

As far as the situation in Europe is concerned, the psychological part of the proposed examination may be highly debatable. Psychological tests widely used in the USA (such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personal Inventory) are often completely useless in other countries and could at best provoke some sarcastic answers. (When asked what he would best like to be if he were not a human being, contactee Reinhold Schmidt—Kearney, Nebraska 1957—allegedly answered "a psychiatrist." See Weltraumbote No. 38/39 Zürich.)

10. It would seem that with respect to such possibilities, even sober scientists may sometimes have uneasy feelings, as the following comment on contactees may show:

"It is interesting to consider the possibility that the contactees are genuine. When considering the UFO-phenomenon all sort of wild alternatives come to mind. If the extraterrestrials wanted to be ignored by the scientific community on earth, they could hardly choose a better and more effective way than the delivering of profound messages to the souls who presently claim contact."
[See Frank B. Salisbury, Utah State University: *The Scientist and the UFO*, Bio Science, volume 17, No. 1, 1967, pages 15-24, reproduced in (A) page 236.]

11. In speculations on telepathy, the problem of coding is frequently overlooked. It would seem that the transmitter has to use the same code as the receiver. While one might with some justification presume that thoughts and memories in every human brain are expressed in the same code, this would not necessarily be the case if a completely alien intelligence is concerned (be it a living brain, or a computer). Therefore, the first possibility may be more probable. However, see also C. M. Cade: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence, Part IV*. FSR Nov./Dec. 1967, page 15.

12. See R. V. Jones: *The Natural Philosophy of Flying Saucers*, in (B) Section VII/V, page 930.
See also A. Michel: *A Note on William of Occam*, FSR March/April 1968, page 10, and René Fouéré: *On the Theme of "A Note on William of Occam" by Aimé Michel*, FSR Sept./Oct. 1968, page 30.

13. The physiologist Hj. Öhrvall used to say that if some strange phenomenon was put before a scientist, his first task was to assure himself of the falseness of the assertions.
It seems that this advice is often taken rather too literally.

14. Lidell: *"Emotional Hazards in Animal and Man."*

15. Years ago, in the school I was then attending, we learned somehow that one of our favourite teachers, an ex-officer of the Austrian Army, had done intelligence work during the First World War. Naturally at that time we had rather romantic ideas about such things, and so we pressed him to tell us something about it.

"Really, there isn't much to be told," he remarked dryly. "You start by thinking about what the enemy may think. Some day it will occur to you that this isn't enough, and you begin to think about what the enemy may think you are thinking. Suddenly you find yourself thinking about what the enemy may think you are thinking he may think. Then you develop the habit of rejecting everything that is logic, for it may be a trap laid by the enemy, and finally you go crazy!"

Needless to say we were rather disappointed, but I must confess that since I have been interested in UFOs (and UFO-literature!) I have often remembered his words.

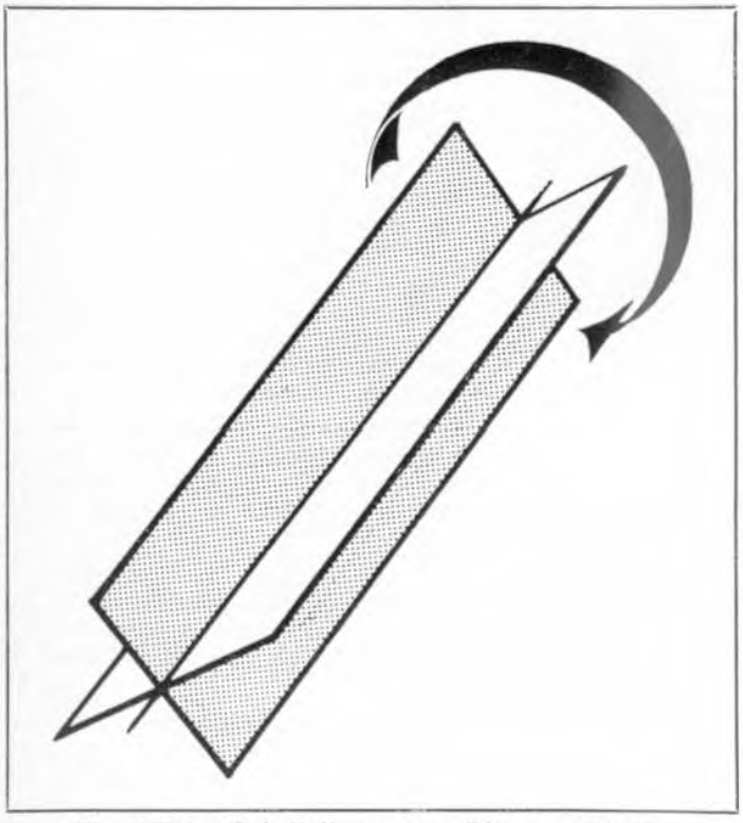
16. It would, however, also favour the maintenance by our own counter-intelligence of a cover-up programme, in order to assure a possible extraterrestrial intelligence that we are unaware of its presence, an idea that has been suggested by APRO.
[see (C) Chapter IX, *The Censorship Situation.*]

Of course one could object that possibly not even the CIA could afford to keep the majority of the best brains away from such important facts, especially if there should be the slightest indication of hostility. That could be quite a risky game.

THE FLYING SPINDLE

A. M. Richmond

ON a summer's day in the year 1930 in the town of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa, I was working in my garden when suddenly I heard Comprehend, our native servant, call out in wonder. I looked up to see him pointing at a shining object in the sky.



The "Flying Spindle" seen over Pietermaritzburg.

It was a particularly clear day, so clear that every detail of this giant object was visible. It appeared to me to be a massive sheet of shining metal, revolving on a spindle so leisurely that I expected it to stop rotating at any moment. With each turn a great flash was thrown off each side of the "sheet" section of the spindle machine which hovered over a heavily wooded area beyond the boundary of my property.

My first reaction was to run into the house and call the rest of the family out to see this unusual craft. In those days, it was indeed rare to even observe aircraft in that area, and when an aeroplane was heard we used to run into the garden to gaze up at the vibrating intruder. My fear that I might lose sight of the spindle-machine overcame my initial intention, so I continued to watch with Comprehend who expressed his opinion, one which I did not share, that it was a visitation from the land of the spirits.

The machine stayed roughly in the same area for some forty minutes rotating at an even speed. Suddenly, at the time I was beginning to despair of a change in the situation, the rotations increased, the machine lifted upwards at incredible speed as if plucked by some giant hand, the flashes melting into each other giving a star-like appearance to the spindle-machine. Soon it was lost to sight on its way no doubt to the place (was it another planet?) from whence it came.

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World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

UFO over Southampton Water

The Isle of Wight *Chronicle & Guardian* of January 29, 1970, told of an object seen on Monday, January 26. (The incident was also confirmed by Mr. C. Jeanes of Frost-lane, Hythe, and his letter was published in the *Southern Evening Echo* of February 5, 1970.)

The report ran as follows:

"A flame-smothered 'unidentified flying object' was reported seen hovering over Southampton Water and the Isle of Wight on Monday night.

"It was spotted by four men working at Hythe at 11.20 p.m.

"Said one of the men, Mr. G. A. Jolliffe: 'We followed it for about 15 minutes while it hovered in the sky, travelling downstream from Hythe about 1,000ft. above ground level. It moved in a strange manner, up and down and sideways. Eventually it broke in two and terrific flames came off it. It then disappeared altogether somewhere over the Isle of Wight.' "

Tate and Lyle Cigar

The *Stratford and Newham Express* of Friday, February 13, 1970 carried a remarkable story (by reporter Rod Gilchrist):

"Two teenage girls collapsed in tears this week—only minutes after they were 'hypnotised' by a strange night sky 'air ship.'

"They spotted a 'bright shiny object' with flashing lights while walking down Silvertown-way, Canning Town.

"The flying machine was cigar-shaped and quite small. It was about 600 feet in the air and hovering near the Tate and Lyle building.

"It happened at 9.30 p.m. on Thursday. For more than a minute the girls—Gillian Turpin, 15, Christine Francis, 14, and Sharon O'Brian, 13, stood hypnotised while the 'space machine' hovered in the air. Then it disappeared almost as suddenly as it had arrived.

"For seconds the girls stood stunned. Then they ran to Christine's home in nearby Camel-road and burst into tears.

"Said Christine's father, Mr. Herbert Francis, a policeman with the Port of London Authority: 'The girls had certainly seen something that gave them a real fright. When I asked my daughter what the matter was and she told me I cracked a joke. But she was quite serious. Whatever those girls saw should be taken seriously. I am convinced this isn't a case of imagination. It was quite a job to calm them down.'

"This week Gillian, who lives in Parker-close, Canning Town, said: 'I don't know what attracted my attention to this thing in the sky. I think it was the flashing lights. It looked a bit like what I think a flying saucer would look like. It was sort of silvery and cigar-shaped.

" 'It just seemed to be suspended in the air. Then suddenly it hovered above the Tate and Lyle building and was gone. I was really scared. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I'm almost frightened to tell people about this in case they think I'm 'nutty'."

Credit: **J. Hall** of Bethnal Green.

CANADA

Humanoids visit hospital

A strange "UFO and Occupants" story comes to us in the following item from the *Cowichan Leader* (Duncan, B.C.) kindly sent to us by **Mrs. O. Beaton** of Vancouver. (We are grateful, too, to the **Rev. H. D. L. Thomas** of Oxford for sending the same cutting.)

The account, signed by Sharon Currie, runs:

"Fortunately Mrs. Doreen Kendall, a registered nurse at Cowichan District Hospital, is not a nervous person.

"Because what she saw at 5 a.m. New Year's Day might have been the most unnerving sight she will ever experience in her entire life.

"What Mrs. Kendall saw was a brilliantly lighted, circular object with a glass dome, occupied by two human-like men, which was stationary in the air about 60 feet away from CDH, above the second floor where she was working in the extended care unit.

"Mrs. Kendall, a nurse for the past nine years, who commutes from Nanaimo, said she was checking on an elderly patient in the extended care unit wing on the second floor and went to draw back the curtains.

" 'I was so taken with the flying saucer that I didn't call anyone. I felt mummified and fascinated, and stood there for about five minutes, watching, before I called another nurse, Mrs. Freda Wilson.'

"The craft, which was slightly tipped downwards toward her, was about 60 feet off the ground and was about 50 feet in diameter, 'or about the width of five hospital windows.'

"While the ship hovered above her, Mrs. Kendall could see only the upper halves of the figures inside, but when the vehicle tilted she saw their full profiles.

" 'They had nice physiques, more than six-feet tall, and their hands were the same colour and shape as ours. Their faces were covered and they wore dark suits, like a pilot's uniform, of soft-looking material.

" 'Maybe its because I'm so mechanically-minded, but I suspect they were having mechanical trouble and had stopped to make repairs.'

"She said one 'man' stood over an instrumental panel, made of chrome, and the other stood behind him. There were stools for them to sit on.

"She described the saucer-shaped craft as silvery, metallic and with a 'necklace of lights' around the middle. The vehicle made no sound while it hovered above her or later when it took off towards the south-east.

" 'I asked myself later did it have mechanical trouble and is that why they had all those lights on?'

"While she stood watching, one man turned and looked directly at her and then put his hand on the back of the man sitting down. Mrs. Kendall said the headgear covered his face.

"The other man then pulled back 'a joy stick' similar to those in a big airplane, going from first, into second and then into third gear, and the object tilted sideways giving Mrs. Kendall an even better view of the instrumental panel and interior.

"She then noticed that the dome seemed to be lit from below rather than above.

" 'When it started to pull away I realized no one would believe me and I ran and called Mrs. Wilson to come and look.'

" 'She asked what on earth was it, and I said it's a flying saucer. By this time five other nurses ran to the window and watched.'

"They watched the craft circle about five times and then slowly disappear towards the south-east.

" 'I was completely oblivious to anything else and felt no fear. In fact I would have loved to have gone for a ride and if the men had spoken to me I would have answered quite naturally.'

" 'The reason I was so terrifically interested was because I always believed there were unidentified flying objects, but now I am absolutely convinced.'

"Mrs. Kendall said the saucer almost touched the patio outside the hospital and added, 'if I could have got out on to the patio I would have talked to them.'

"It was pitch black outside when she pulled the curtains.

"Later she entered her experience in a hospital working schedule which stated: 'At 5 a.m. I saw a flying saucer as low as the third floor of the hospital when I pulled the curtains. There were two men or figures in the dome flying towards Victoria way. The bottom of the saucer was brilliantly lit and also the dome . . . New Year's morning.'

"Monday, Mrs. Kendall said the experience had left her with a placid feeling, but, regardless of what people said, she would never change her story about what she saw."

Another New Year's UFO

In the same issue of the *Cowichan Leader* (January 7, 1970) we find the following item:

"On New Year's Day, Jim Drummond, 22, and his wife Dianne, 18, reported they studied a bright light in the sky at Mill Bay, through a telescope.

" 'It was brighter in the middle and I could see four distinct lights of the same colour that looked like tips of candles only a bit bigger,' he said.

"The couple said they observed the object for about five minutes before it disappeared.

"Drummond said he had no idea what the object could have been but he believed it was not an aircraft because there were no coloured navigation lights.

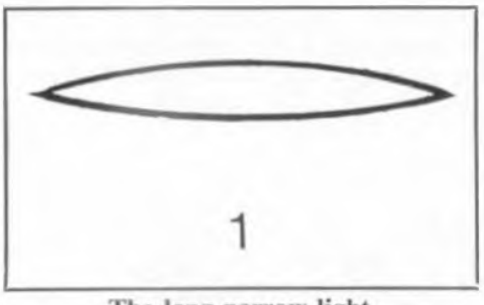
" 'I have never heard of anything that could manoeuvre that slow and that fast without making some sort of noise,' he said."

FINLAND

Strange events in the snow

The following report has been sent to FSR by **Sven-Olof Fredrikson,** a member of a Gothenburg, Sweden, group called GICOFF. The aim of this group is to do follow-up investigations of cases reported in the press, by letter if there is no member of the group living in the vicinity of the alleged UFO incident. Mr. Fredrikson is a university student, reading physics.

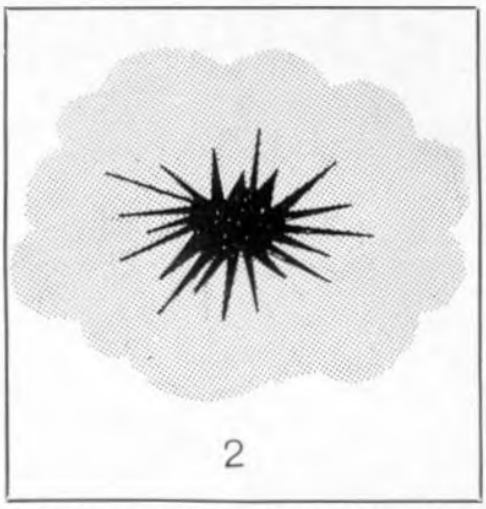
"In the middle of January 1970 we came across an observation in



The long narrow light.

Finland which we think may be of interest to you, or to your readers. We wrote to the two witnesses, and below you can see how they experienced the phenomenon and what happened concerning their health after the observation.

"The occurrence took part at a place in a forest, 16 km. north of the town Heinola, 130 km. northeast of Helsinki. It was January 7, 1970, and the time 4.45 p.m. The two witnesses, Mr. Heinonen, 36 years old, and Mr. E. Viljo, 38 years old, are both down-to-earth



The phenomenon 'exploded' into a cloud

workers and have never experienced anything like this before.

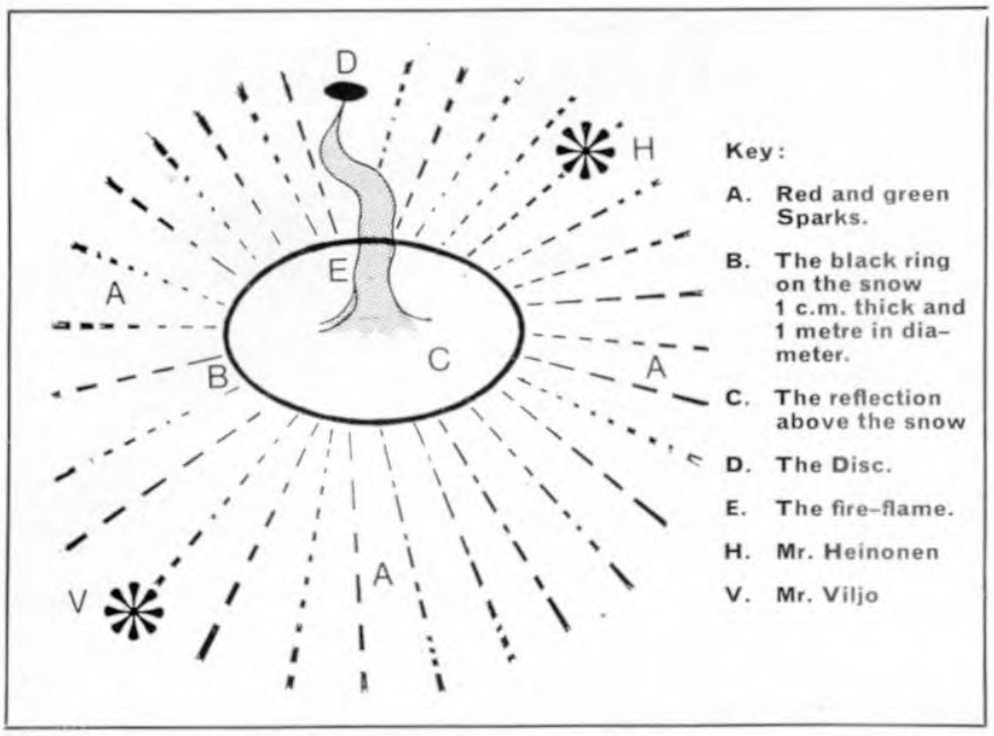
"This is Mr. Heinonen's story:

" 'The sky at the time was clear, and a few stars were visible; sunset was beginning. I halted when I heard a weak buzz, and then came a light above the snow which became stronger. I saw red and green sparks which were about 10 cm. in length around the phenomenon. The phenomenon created a ring on the snow about one metre in diameter. It was red like fire in the middle, and black at the edges, and seemed to be a solid body, for its outlines were sharp, and it wasn't transparent. It was self-luminous.

" 'The phenomenon began to shrink, starting from the edges, and at the same time it rose up about 50 cm. Its size was then 20 cm. It was standing still for 1 to 2 seconds, changing magnitude, then went upwards, increased its speed and disappeared quickly. When the phenomenon was just above the snow, my position was about half a metre from it.'

"This is what Mr. E. Viljo told us in his letter:

" 'From the high point in the forest I caught sight of a long narrow light coming from the south. When it travelled towards me, the narrow light was broken into parts now and then, and its colour was red like fire. The phenomenon halted high above me, and seemed to explode into a cloud which was brighter than the moon and the stars. After that there was a buzzing sound and a reflexion on the snow was seen. The reflexion or the phenomenon itself had a diameter of about one metre. Around the phenomenon there was a dark ring, or edge, about one centimetre thick, and outside it there were



red and green sparks. I was standing right among the sparks. The phenomenon was about one metre from me. Its colour varied. Above the snow the circular phenomenon started to decrease, the sparks began to wane and so did the fire-flame, and before it disappeared I could see at the top of the fire-flame a disc as big as the flat of the hand. The phenomenon was at a standstill for 1-2 seconds, and then there was a sharp click and an upwards rush, and it disappeared. There were no signs in the snow. The whole observation lasted only about 5 seconds. The phenomenon and the sparks covered an area with a diameter of about 6 metres.'

Symptoms of disease

"Mr. Heinonen: 'Immediately after the light phenomenon disappeared, my right side, which had been towards it, felt hot. My body went numb, and I became sick. Ten minutes later every limb became sore, and it was difficult for me to breathe. The same day I went to a doctor at the hospital in Heinola, where I arrived at 8.00 p.m. The doctor looked at me and prescribed sleeping pills. The pills didn't help and the symptoms continued. On January the 8th I visited the same doctor once again, and he told me the symptoms should be gone in 10 days. The doctor prescribed a sedative, but the symptoms continued. My limbs are sore and I have problems with my balance. I feel cold, but haven't any fever. On January the 14th I once again visited the doctor, who then prescribed medicine for the blood-circulation. He told me there was nothing wrong with me. The symptoms continue; I can't work and I can't do anything else either.'

"Mr. E. Viljo: 'About one hour after the observation my face became swollen and reddish in colour. According to other people, I walked in an unbalanced way. At 8.00 p.m. I went to the hospital in Heinola. I got two sleeping pills from the doctor. On January the 8th, in the morning, I had difficulties with my balance and I felt light, particularly in my legs. My hands and my chest became red. On January the 9th I visited the doctor once again. He thought an electrical explosion was the cause. He gave me a sedative. I had a headache for a couple of days. On January the 12th I visited an eye specialist in Lahtis, because I had pain in my eyes. There I was given eye-drops. On January the 14th I visited the doctor in Heinola, who gave me medicine for the blood-circulation. On January the 17th I visited the same doctor once again. He could not find anything wrong. I have now and then problems with my left foot concerning the circulation and the nerves. When I have my sauna bath, my body becomes more reddish in colour than normal.'

"The answers to our questions were written down by the two Finns around about February 10, 1970. We have not yet completed our investigation of this case, and we hope to receive more facts from Finland soon.

"According to a specialist at the Chalmers Institute of Technology, it could not have been an electrical discharge in the atmosphere. One theory is that it was a fireball, but the green sparks do not fit into that theory, or any other theory."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Occupant enters car

We are indebted to *Canadian UFO Report* (Editor: John Magor, Box 758, Duncan, B.C.,) for permission to quote the following extract from an article in the November/December 1969 issue dealing with the 1967 "Cariboo Flap":

"The locale was Idaho which, with sections of Washington and Oregon, might be considered the U.S. continuation of Canada's Cariboo country. As reported by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, which gave considerable attention to the case, it was about 9.30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 1967, when two Navajo Indian youths, Will Begay and Guy Tossie, were blinded by a sudden brilliant flash as they were driving on Highway 26 outside Ririe. Although Begay, driving, did not apply the brakes, their car stopped and a small domed UFO appeared just above the highway ahead of them. Flashing green and orange lights seemed to be revolving around its rim, and through the transparent dome the startled young men saw two small humanoid figures.

"After a moment the dome swung open, and one of the creatures drifted lightly to the ground. Then, to quote NICAP: 'His height was a little over three feet. His face had a rough look—like *scars, deep scars,* as one of the Indians said. He had large *high ears;* his eyes were round, and his mouth was a slit with very thin lips or none at all. No nose could be seen in the roughness of the face."

"To the horror of the witnesses, the creature approached the car, opened the driver's door without apparent difficulty and climbed in as the frightened Indians huddled towards the other side. Whether the humanoid then actually drove the

Continued page iii of cover

ON UNIPEDS AND ASPARAGUS

and not to mention penguins

Gordon Creighton

WHILE researching recently in the library of the Royal Geographical Society in London on the early Irish and Norse voyages, and settlements in North America, I came across a peculiar little item which may be thought of some interest.

The Icelandic collection of Sagas known as the *Flateyarbók*[1] contains various accounts of these voyages. The best known of them is of course the Saga of *Eirík the Red*, who sailed to, and explored, parts of the New World around the year 1,000 A.D. Less well known perhaps is the *Saga or Thorfinn Karlsefni*, an Icelander who in 1010 carried out a voyage of exploration from Iceland to the shores of what are now Greenland, Baffinland, Labrador, Newfoundland, and New England. (The last-named three regions, or parts of them, constitute in the opinion of many scholars the famous *Vinland* of the Norsemen. However there are still considerable differences of view as to the precise extent of Vinland and the actual spots where the Norse landed, brought their cattle, and where, for a very long period of time probably, as many as several thousands of them had their dairy farms and their settlements in America, centuries before the arrival of Columbus.)

These Greenlandic and Icelandic Sagas contain detailed accounts of the Norsemen's frequent encounters and fights with both the kinds of native peoples who were already in what we today call Greenland, Canada, and the USA, namely the Eskimos and the Red Indians. The Norsemen were entirely familiar with them and invariably described them by the same somewhat derogatory term *Skraelings*.[2]

The Uniped

On one occasion, however, in the *Saga of Thorfinn Karlsefni*, we read that, as the Vikings were sailing along a part of the North American coast, they met a mysterious *something else*, and it is to this that I now wish to draw attention:

> "One morning . . . , they saw something glittering in a clearing above them, and they shouted at it. As it moved, they saw it was a Uniped. It darted down towards them. Thorvald Eiríksson was at the helm. The Uniped then ran back northward, having shot an arrow[3] into Thorvald's vitals. He drew out the arrow, saying: 'There is fat about my entrails. We have found a good land, but we shall hardly be able to make use of it'. A little later he died of his wound.
>
> "The others ran after the Uniped, catching occasional glimpses of him, but at last he jumped into a pool[4] and vanished. They returned, and sailed back northward, thinking they had come to the Land of the Unipeds and being unwilling to risk losing more men."

For this puzzling passage which crops up right in the middle of a perfectly straightforward factual account of a Norse voyage to North America, geographers and Old Norse experts, understandably embarrassed, generally clutch at the handy explanation that it is a piece of mythology which has somehow crept in here through a scribe's error. There was of course already a well diffused belief in a (mythical) single-horned animal, the *Unicorn*, so that the emergence of a parallel set of beliefs about a *Uniped*, a mythical creature with only one foot, might no doubt be quite understandable. On the other hand, while we do know today precisely which existing animal it was that gave rise to the idea of the *Unicorn*,[5] however hard we search in the existing or recent fauna of the North American Continent it is not a bit easy to theorize as to what on earth the Norsemen could possibly have had in mind when they talked of a *Uniped!*

What caught my attention in this story was the statement that the Norsemen, coasting along in their longboat, saw *"something glittering* in a clearing above them." In our investigations into the mysteries of the UFO Phenomenon, we are quite used to hearing about *"something glittering"* which is also in the habit of landing in clearings. And the strange name *Uniped* inevitably at once recalled to mind an extraordinary account of a meeting with *one-legged UFO entities* given in one of the recent books by Coral and James Lorenzen.[6]

Described by the Lorenzens as "a flesh-crawler" —and it certainly is—the affair is alleged to have occurred in Peru between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m. one afternoon in February or March of 1949, at a spot called Lomo de Ballena, about six miles south of Lima, Capital of Peru, and beside the Pan-American Highway which in this region runs in a north-south direction roughly parallel with the shore of the Pacific Ocean.

For quite understandable reasons the percipient in this case, Señor C. A. V.-, a Peruvian (at the time aged 30) employed by a large oil corporation,

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has been most unwilling that his identity be revealed. However, he came forward quite voluntarily, in October 1967, and told the whole story to Mr. Richard Greenwell, an English businessman domiciled in Lima, where he was at that date engaged in importing industrial machinery. Mr. Greenwell (the Lorenzens mention that he speaks Spanish like a native) was, in 1967, APRO's representative in Peru, and is today working with Mrs. Lorenzen at the APRO headquarters in Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Greenwell interviewed Sr. C.A.V. for several hours, the whole conversation being tape-recorded. Mr. Greenwell states that he found the percipient honest and sincere and that he is quite unable to believe the man invented the story. The only alternative explanations are consequently either that the episode was a hallucination or that it was a true experience.

In their book the Lorenzens mention plans to have Sr. C.A.V. go to the United States to submit himself for psychiatric analysis and tests with a view to getting to the bottom of the matter. The percipient was quite willing to co-operate in such a course, but so far I have not heard whether anything has come of the scheme.

Mr. Greenwell's account is lengthy. The following is the barest substance of what Sr. C.A.V. claims befell him.

Lomo de Ballena incident

He was driving northwards to Lima on the Pan-American Highway between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m. On his left was the Ocean, and on his right a great expanse of desert and sand-dunes. The Pan-American Highway had far less traffic in 1949 that it does today, and he saw no other vehicles on the road at the time.

Suddenly, away on his right over the desert, he saw a greyish, shining metallic disc suspended a few feet above the ground. He stopped the car and ran over to it. No door or porthole or other opening on it was to be seen, until suddenly an opening appeared and from it came three "mummy-like" creatures about 5ft. tall, with humanlike profiles and arms and torsos, but with legs joined together "like twin bananas" and ending in a single large foot. No mouth, nose, ears or other facial features were visible, "except for an oblong substance like jelly, with a sort of bubble in the centre,"[7] located at about the height where one would have expected to find eyes. This "jelly substance" was "a sort of transparent plastic, or jelly, with a bubble in the middle that moved around." The "bubble" was about 2 cms. wide and of almost the same transparent shade of colour as the rest of the "jelly".

The three beings (one of them a little shorter than the other two) wore no clothing, but were covered in a strange "towely skin." Their bodies, which he touched several times (he even hugged one of them in an attempt to detain it!) were hard and "biscuity". He got the impression that they had no bones, but were all cartilage.

They "spoke" to him, in English, the "voice" seeming to be mechanical and to come from somewhere other than the head. They seemed at first not to know where they were and asked him (in English) if it was North America. When C.A.V. explained that it was *South America,* the voice at once switched to Spanish. Neither the English nor the Spanish bore any trace of accent or "localisms," whether of "American English," "English English," "Spanish Spanish," or "South American Spanish." It all sounded "as though learnt."

The creatures at once began asking C.A.V. to "take them to his Chief." He explained that his particular 'Chief' was the President of the Republic of Peru, and that it would not be all that easy for him to arrange this sort of thing.

They said that they came from a planet in orbit around a certain star, and named the star, though the word meant nothing to C.A.V. They explained that they knew all about us and our primitive ways and had had our planet and our species under observation for a long time, but were now extremely concerned as to what we might do to jeopardize not only our own planet but the entire Universe, since with atomic energy we were "playing about with a new substance that could endanger it all" and could "create some sort of chain reaction."

They said they extracted humidity from the atmosphere and drew all their power and energy from their Sun. They said they had long ago overcome all the wretched defects and weaknesses that beset us, *and no longer even had sex.* They were in fact immortal and eternal, reproducing themselves by simple division,[8] and in fact before the weird meeting was over one of them stretched out on the ground and did just that, so that from then on there were four of them.

No feeding problems

Among the many other strange things that they told him was this: that they were able to transmit liquid food from one to another simply by standing shoulder to shoulder.[9]

Next they invited C.A.V. into the disc and took him for a flight down the coast. He heard them talking among themselves: it sounded "like microphone noises."

Inside the disc he was astonished by many things. First by the fact that all the walls were transparent and he could see the surrounding countryside perfectly, and he could no longer see any trace of the outline of the door through which they had just entered.[10] Secondly, he was amazed to find no sign of any instruments or buttons or levers or other equipment whatsoever.[11] The whole space in the disc apparently contained nothing but a sort of padded ledge, at the height of one of our tables, which ran right round the inside of the compartment. And they told him that they possessed some method of accumulating energy from the Universe into this ledge, and it was by means of this ledge that they propelled their craft.

Such, in brief, are the main details of Señor C.A.V's mind-boggling story. We must make of it what we can, though perhaps only a few amongst us will fall for the "E.T. theory" spread, as usual, by the creatures themselves. But I think that at this point I should also recall the no less fantastic story of Fred Reagan to which I have referred in a recent article.[12] In July 1951, Fred Reagan was allegedly flying a Piper Cub light aeroplane somewhere over one of the southern states of the U.S.A. when his machine was struck by a large, pulsating, lozenge-shaped UFO and he was sucked up into the interior of the latter, where he found that his hosts were some "small glistening beings about 3ft. high" that "looked like huge sticks of metallic asparagus" and also displayed an uncanny facility in the English language. In my view both the Peruvian and the Reagan cases, if genuine, relate to some of the many species of "Earth Elementals", and to look outside our planet for their source could be futile.

As for the Norsemen's *Uniped* with which we started out, it is so odd that the only conceivable explanation would have to be bracketed in the same category. Whatever it was, I find the story intriguing, so I have made this brief record of something that is surely curious however we look at it.

Is it possible, for example, that the "glittering" thing first noticed by the Norsemen was *not a creature itself but its craft?* Señor C.A.V.'s creatures seemingly did not glitter, but their machine did. In Fred Reagan's case both the machine and the creatures glittered, and although we are not actually told that the latter had only one leg each, the fact that he described them as like "large metallic sticks of asparagus" makes it sound quite possible that they too qualified for the title of "Unipeds".

As regards the scene of Thornfinn Karlsefni's encounter with the "Uniped," this was somewhere either in Newfoundland or Labrador or the more icy regions to the north. As all students of our subject know, there is plenty of evidence in our own days of UFOs frequenting both Polar Regions of our planet and there have been many UFO reports from these northern areas of Canada.

Penguins and Commonsense

Whatever the Norsemen's "Uniped" was, I do hope at any rate that nobody will write to me saying that it has all been explained: that the glittering thing seen by the Vikings was simply *the white shirt-front of a penguin* which then dived into the water, while the "arrow" shot into poor old Thorvald Eiríksson was merely a sharp nip from the beak of one of these birds. (Unfortunately for such a theory, no member of the family of the Penguins, *Sphenicidae,* inhabits the northern Polar or Sub-Polar regions, and none is in fact found further north than the Galápagos Islands, which lie on the Equator, at 89° West.)

On the other hand I readily concede that the Galápagos Islands are not too far to the north-west of the coast of Peru where Señor C.A.V. allegedly had his hair-raising experience. So, if you don't like the Elementals as an explanation but are hell-bent on "commonsense" answers, then perhaps we might have to agree that what Señor C.A.V. met *really was* a party of Emperor Penguins (*Apterodytes Fosteri*), or King Penguins (*Apterodytes Longirostris*), wrapped in some old towels that bathers had left behind on the local beach. Anyway, it is probably as good a "commonsense explanation" as we shall ever get for the Peruvian case, though some readers may feel as I do that it has not quite accounted for Señor C.A.V.'s UFO. Nor has it told us precisely how one of our penguins managed to stretch out and unzipper itself down the middle.

NOTES

1. There is a copy in the Royal Library in Copenhagen.
2. To tell the sad truth, they seem to have had no *Race Relations Board* in those less "progressive" days, and this splendid-sounding word *Skraeling* covered a wide band of meanings such as "miserable", "wretched", "barbarous", or just plain "scruffy".
3. Is this bit about the "arrow" perhaps a conventionalization of something a lot more complex? In other words, was poor Thorvald Eiríksson 'clobbered'—as the Brazilian Inácio de Souza was, in August 1967—*by a ray from a landed UFO?* (See Charles Bowen's *A Fatal Encounter,* in FSR for March/April 1969.)
4. Could it have been not the *Uniped* but the UFO itself that vanished into a pool? In our own days we have seen not a few reports of UFOs splashing down into lakes and reservoirs as well as into the open sea.
5. All our stories of the *Unicorn* derive from the Greek historian Ctesias (Vth century B.C.) who attempted, in his books on India and the other fabulous lands of the East, to reproduce somebody else's description of a *rhinoceros,* an animal quite unknown to the Greeks of that time.
6. See *UFOs Over The Americas,* by Jim and Coral Lorenzen. Signet paperback, May 1968. (pp. 122-148).
7. This lone optic sounds horribly like a spirit-level! Compare with the One-eyed Humanoids at Belo Horizonte (FSR Special Edition No. 3, *UFO Percipients,* pp. 28-32).
8. *Mitosis,* cell-division, is of course a familiar feature at present in our world, but only on the lowest levels of existence.

   Enthusiastic advocates of our current *swinging* and permissive trends will unquestionably be horrified by the mere thought of the possibility that—as at least one *"Contactee"* is claimed to have learned from an *"Advanced Space-Brother"*—our own sex-ridden and sex-raddled species is scheduled to revert, in the not too distant biological future, to this somewhat "austere" way of life.

   One feels the *frisson* sweeping through the ranks of the compulsive addicts of *Playboy* and *Penthouse,* and one sympathizes with them.
9. Very handy when you are in line at the cafeteria.

A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

The effects of UFOs on Animals, Birds, and smaller creatures

Part 3

PREPARED by Gordon Creighton, this catalogue, which will appear in several sections, will list more than 170 cases. We now put on record episodes from 1954, one of the busiest years in the annals of our subject.

THE CATALOGUE—(iii) 1954

31. Isle of Grain and Gravesend Marshes, England (January 3, 1954) 200 sheep stampeded and found drowned in dykes.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p.311.

32. Todd River Downs, Australia (February 1954)

An Australian aboriginee herdsman was riding across a low ridge when a spherical object about 40 feet in diameter terrified him and his steed. "It nearly skittled me off my horse, and lifted sharply as it passed, causing a heavy wind. It rumbled and there were four columns of smoke on each side of it."

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p.203.

33. Missouri, U.S.A. (4.00 p.m., July 30, 1954).

Buck Nelson was alerted to the presence of UFOs over his secluded home by speech in an unknown language cutting in on his radio, and by his pony making excited noises outside and his dog barking and scratching frantically at the door.

A Strange Tale From Missouri, FSR, May/June 1955, p.4.

34. Quarouble, France (10.30 p.m. September 10, 1954)

Attention of Marius Dewilde was attracted by the howling of his dog outside. "Howling enough to awaken the dead." When he opened the door, the dog came crawling towards him on its belly in abject terror. (UFO and creatures were then encountered by him outside the house.)

Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.44.

Continued from Page 27

10. It is interesting to note how these features of the invisible door and the walls that are transparent from within while opaque from without still continue to crop up in the stories told by those who claim to have encountered UFO denizens.
11. Compare however with Case No. 54 of my *Humanoids in Latin America* (in *The Humanoids*, Edited by Charles Bowen: hardback version published by Neville Spearman, 1969) where the UFO allegedly contained plently of instruments but they were all *operated by thought*.
12. See Case No. 2 in *Healing From UFOs*, in FSR for Sept./Oct. 1969.

35. Chabeuil, France (September 26, 1954)

Mme. Leboeuf encountered a small plastic-clad "scarecrow" entity and shortly afterwards saw a disc take off. Meanwhile her dog Dollie, and all the other dogs in the village, were barking frantically.

Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.82.

36. Prémanon, Jura, France (8.30 p.m., September 27, 1954)

Hearing their dog barking furiously four children came out of their house and saw a small being ("tin ghost") in the yard and a strange large luminous object near by.

Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.90.

37. Bry, Nord, France (4.00 p.m., October 1, 1954)

A man and his dog were "paralyzed" as a luminous white object dived toward them and climbed away again into the sky.

(Personal communication)
Jacques Vallée: case No. 171 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, No. 101 (November 1969) and *Passport To Magonia*.

38. Poncey-sur-l'Ignon, France (8.00 p.m., October 2, 1954)

Mme. Guainet was milking her cows in the byre, when her dogs, which usually stayed near her while she milked, rushed out towards the woods, baying. She followed, and saw a vast illuminated "cigar" craft, flying low.

Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.109.

39. Chaleix, France (October 4, 1954)

A farmer, M. Garreau, observed the landing of an object as big as a car, from which there emerged two men of normal stature, of European type and wearing khaki overalls. They shook hands with him and said something, variously interpreted as either "Paris? Nord?" or something incomprehensible. They patted his dog before re-entering their machine and taking off at amazing speed.

Jacques Vallée: Case No. 190 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, No. 102 (October 1969) and *Passport To Magonia*.

40. Bauquay, Calvados, France (dawn, October 11, 1954)

A Normandy farmer was on his way across the fields to milk his cow. With two other witnesses, he watched a huge red elongated object, brightly illuminated, sweep towards them at tree-top height. The terrified cows in

the various fields around scattered in all directions, their bells jangling wildly. When the UFO had vanished and the farmer had caught his cow, neither he nor the other farmers could coax a drop of milk out of her, and she gave none until the morning of the following day.

Aimé Michel: *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery*, p.159.

41. Perpignan, France (October 15, 1954)

Near the swimming-pool at Saint-Assiscle, Monsieur Damien Figuères was walking with his dogs when a reddish luminous sphere landed 30 metres from them and an individual in a "diving suit" emerged and walked around it. The dogs barked at him. He then re-entered the craft, which took off silently.

Jacques Vallée, Case No. 261 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

42. Boaria, Rorigo, Italy (October 15, 1954)

A farmer leading cows to a pond suddenly saw a dark, egg-shaped object, surrounded by short blue and yellow flames and emitting an intense heat, fly over his house. The cows panicked and ran away, throwing a girl to the ground, while the object emitted a burst of light. The witness ran into his house and fainted; three other persons saw the craft depart, flying at 15 metres above the ground. The little pond was found desiccated, haystacks caught fire as the object flew over, and the cattle suffered burns.

Jacques Vallée: Case No. 262 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

43. Cier-de-Rivière, France (October 16, 1954)

Guy Puyfourcat, aged 22, was coming back from the fields, leading a mare by the bridle, when he was surprised to see the animal suddenly become restless. Rising from the side of the road, a grey object about 1.5 m. in diameter flew over them. The mare rose about 3 m. into the air, and he had to relinquish the bridle. Then the mare fell in a heap, and for ten minutes was unable to move. Then it rose, and attempted to walk, but was still trembling and stumbling with fear. The witness himself was unaffected.

Jacques Vallée (personal communication): Case No. 272 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

44. Cabasson, France (2.30 p.m., October 17, 1954)

A 65-year-old man was hunting with his dog, near the junction of the Brillance Canal and the Durance River, when he saw a grey object, about 4 m. long and 1 m. high, standing on the ground at a distance of 40 m. It had a dome, from which two helmeted figures emerged. The witness fled, but his dog started toward the object. The dog soon retreated, walking awkwardly as though partially paralyzed.

Jacques Vallée (personal communication): Case No. 279 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

45. Ranton, Staffordshire, England (4.45 p.m., October 21, 1954)

Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg had been feeling strange since midday with a "peculiar tingling sensation in the nose and throat, as if a cold were impending." At about 4.15 the sensation left her, but at 4.45 she and her two sons, Anthony aged eight, and Ronald aged six, heard a tremendous hissing noise outside—"as though a huge kettle was pouring water upon a mighty fire." Rushing out they saw a large aluminium-coloured, disc-shaped craft 'stationary' very low right above their house. The upper part of the disc was revolving and the lower part stationary, while the upper part was surmounted by an unmoving aluminium-coloured dome with two transparent panels on the side facing them. The craft was hanging, tipped slightly downwards and forwards, and gazing at them through the panels were two men very similar to Earth men, with white skins, very high foreheads, and long hair down to their shoulders. Their heads were enclosed in what appeared to be transparent helmets and their clothing looked like turquoise-blue ski-suits. "The expressions on their faces was unsmiling. Sternly they gazed down at the Roestenberg family," though "not in an unkindly fashion, but almost sadly, compassionately."

Terrified, mother and both boys had the immediate impression that these were not beings from this world, and the boys threw themselves upon the ground. Their dog, which had run out into the garden with them, dashed away, howling and yelping, and it is understood that the animal was never seen again.

As Mrs. Roestenberg stood there transfixed with fear, the machine flashed a purplish-blue beam of light from the front and began to move up and away, silently and rapidly, at an angle of 45, flashing the purple-blue beam the whole time. It circled the house one and a half times, and streaked away skywards.

Gavin Gibbons: *The Coming Of The Space Ships*, pp.64-75. (pub. Spearman, London, 1956)

46. Melito, Italy (October 21, 1954)

A young man walking in a field heard a rustling noise and saw a strange craft land nearby. A being "dressed in a diving-suit" emerged from the machine, which emitted bronze-green rays of light, flooding the whole countryside. The witness was paralyzed. A barking dog about 100 m. distant caused the being to re-enter the craft rapidly and take off.

Jacques Vallée: Case No. 297 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

47. Near Winchester, England (night of November 5, 1954)

"I met an ex-airwoman who said that, on this very night (on which 200 yards of turf had been mysteriously removed from a former 'pagan' hill near Winchester), about 20 miles distant from this hill her radio set suddenly went dead at about 9.00 p.m. Her thoroughbred bull-terrier rose and growled. This has also happened before."

Personal account by H. T. Wilkins, in his *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p.237.

48. Monza, Italy (10.30 p.m., November 8, 1954)

A crowd of about 150 people broke down the gates of a sports field, a passing cyclist having given the alarm that there was an intensely luminous body standing in the field, with small shadowy objects moving about near it. Approaching the object, the crowd saw "figures in white trousers, grey jerkins, and transparent helmets," and heard them emitting guttural sounds. One of the creatures seemed to have "a black face with a sort of trunk"—possibly a breathing-apparatus. The disc-shaped

craft was in two sections, and was resting on a tripod. From a dome-shaped cabin on top came a blinding silvery-white light, and on the dome was a thing like an antenna.

Rushing towards the craft, some of the crowd threw bricks, which struck the machine but produced no clang, suggesting that it was made of some soft material. One member of the crowd put his boxer dog on to pursuing the entities, which were now retreating towards the craft. But the dog turned and bit its own master, as though telepathically influenced by the entities. With a shrill siren-like whistle and a "whuffing noise," the machine rose up vertically from the field and vanished.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p.238.

49. Isola, La Spezia, Italy (afternoon of November 14, 1954)

Amerigo Lorenzini, a farmer, saw a bright, cigar-shaped craft land near him and took cover. Out of it came three dwarfs dressed in metallic "diving suits." They centred their attention on some rabbits in a cage, while speaking among themselves in an unknown language. Thinking they were going to steal the rabbits, he aimed his rifle at the intruders, but it failed to fire and he suddenly felt so weak that he had to drop it. The dwarfs took the rabbits, and re-entered their machine, which departed leaving a bright trail.

Jacques Vallée: Case No. 339 of *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* and *Passport To Magonia*.

50. Linha Bela Vista, Brazil (evening of December 9, 1954)

Animals in a nearby field panicked as farmer Olmiro da Costa e Rosa saw a landed machine shaped "like a tropical helmet," cream-coloured and surrounded with haze and making a noise like a sewing machine. Three crew members were seen, men of average height, with broad shoulders, long hair, very white skin and slanted eyes, and wearing brown coveralls with heel-less shoes.

Coral Lorenzen: *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*.

51. Linha Bela Vista, Brazil (5.00 p.m., December 11, 1954)

Two days later, but in the same area of southern Brazil as Case 50, farmer Pedro Morais was alerted by a commotion among his fowls. Going to investigate, he saw a hovering craft, its lower part "shaped like an enormous polished brass kettle." It was making an oscillating motion and emitting a noise like the noise of a sewing machine. He saw two beings "dressed in yellow bags" take one of his chickens and a tobacco plant and then re-enter their machine.

Coral Lorenzen: *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*.

52. Near London, England (December 1954)

Mrs. Jean Macdonald-Gregory wrote to H. T. Wilkins that she had been logging many mysterious interruptions to her radio, and added: "My dog's antics are peculiar. These past two nights he has woken me up at 2.00-2.30 a.m. He is very intelligent. Next time he does it, I'll get up and look at the sky."

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p.243.

53. Bradford, England (1954)

"From another part of England—Bradford, Yorks—, . . . another woman wrote that she also found her radio unaccountably go dead, and her cat showed signs of uneasiness, and had its eyes fixed on the window, against which there suddenly sounded a queer swish. She at once went outside, saw nothing in the sky, but found no evidence of wind-disturbance, or pranks of boys."

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p.237.

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 ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Mysterious Cyphers

Sir,—(1) In your Nov./Dec. 1969 issue, Vol. 15, No. 6, on page 6, Mr. Aimé Michel shows a reproduction of a sign which he has numbered "9," taken from the caverns of S.W. France and N. Spain. Perhaps some of your readers have noticed the uncanny resemblance to the pattern seen by Lonnie Zamora on the UFO that landed close to Socorro, New Mexico, in 1964. For that matter, number "11" bears some relation to it, too.

(2) For the sake of those readers who do not subscribe to the excellent French journal, *Phénomènes Spatiaux* (published by M. René Fouéré, G.E.P.A., 69 rue de la Tombe-Issoire, Paris 14ème, France), may I add here that the sign reported on the UFO at San José de Valderas (Spain), as shown on the front cover of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* (No. 22, Dec. 1969) looks *exactly* like the seventh letter of the modern Russian alphabet! However, the signs reproduced in the same issue, on pages 20, 21 and 23, differ considerably. But the sign shown on page 24 is again the 'Russian' sign. If facetious remarks are in order, might we perhaps soon expect a report indicating that a UFO is displaying a Chinese ideogram also?

Yours faithfully,

Dr. P. M. H. Edwards. Victoria, British Columbia, February 12, 1970.

[*A number of readers, including F. Gheorghita (Romania), and J. Lawrence (Australia) have made similar observations regarding the Russian letter* Ж—EDITOR].

Public Libraries and UFO literature

Sir,—In view of your regular remarks concerning 'Public Libraries and books on UFOs' I think you may be interested in the fact that the Devonshire Hill Branch Library (London Borough of Haringey) recently mounted a UFO display to promote local interest in the subject. The display, consisting of UFO photographs, posters, and books, proved very popular and was continued for several months. Many

people expressed an interest, and so many books were borrowed it was difficult at times to keep by enough volumes to put on show, in spite of the fact that Haringey Libraries have some forty UFO titles in stock (including the works of Vallée, Michel, Cramp, etc.)

It is, of course, true that not all libraries are so well stocked. Moreover, as far as I have been able to find out, of the thirty-three London Library Authorities *not one* takes the 'Review.'

Yours sincerely,
B. Coules, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, London N.17.

The Libyan Desert Sighting

Sir,—I found the report of the Libyan Desert sighting (FSR Vol. 16, No. 1) most interesting, as from Evesham, at the same time and date, I also saw the objects so accurately described by Mr. Barnes.

After making extensive enquiries, I feel certain that the UFO was in fact the Saturn S IV B stage of Apollo 8 on its way to the Moon, the hazy patch being the vented residual fuel.

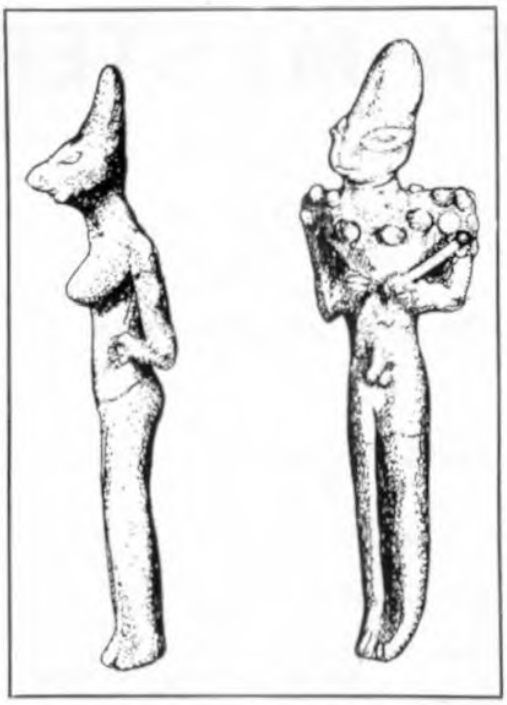
A similar sighting was made of Apollo 12, and a photograph appeared in the weekly magazine "Flight", taken by a scientist from the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

I am very surprised at the lack of reports of these rather startling sights. I expected to see many newspaper reports: it could mean that many UFOs go unseen.
Roy E. Mayes, Windsor Road, Evesham, Worcs., February 1970.
[*We are obliged to Anthony R. Pace, FRAS, for sending in a similar solution to the report from Libya*—EDITOR].

Those slanting eyes

Sir,—In reference to the article, 'Palaeolithic UFO-Shapes' by Aimé Michel (FSR Nov./Dec. 1969), I note he finds evidence of the representations of almond-eyed personages in the cave art of France, and thus of possible UFO occupants.

Interestingly, Seton Lloyd, Director of the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, Turkey, noted the existence of figurines with similar slant eyes in his *The Art Of The Ancient Near East*. These figurines from near Ur, date from circa 3900 B.C.



Sketches of the figurines based on illustrations in *The Art of the Ancient East* by Seton Lloyd, published by F. A. Praeger Inc., New York (1965).

Concerning himself with these, Seton Lloyd writes (p. 25):

"Indeed so remote from modern understanding has their archaic symbolism become, that anthropologists content themselves with generalizations about the personification of fertility and the Asiatic 'mother-goddess.' Nor in these circumstances is much to be gained from any attempted interpretation of their plastic detail; the imagery of so remote an age is too obscure.

"The objects to which we have been referring belong in Mesopotamia to the Al 'Ubaid phase. The later half of this phase is also distinguished by the earliest experiments in formal architecture; and these seem to testify to an interest in design which could no longer be satisfied by ornamental pottery. Some indeed would see in them evidence that the Sumerians have already appeared on the scene. . . ."

To assume these figurines could have been an attempt at representing UFO occupants who had "appeared on the scene" would seem as valid an interpretation as any to date.

Sincerely yours,

Loren E. Coleman, 202 East College Avenue, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, United States of America, March 8, 1970.

The ship that "flew" in 1743

Sir,—May I draw your attention to an item on pages 190-191 of the "Shell Guide to Wales" which seems to have escaped the general attention but may have some bearing on the subject of UFOs.

The item is too long for me to reproduce, but briefly, it is as follows:

Some time in 1743 a report was received from a farmer of a steading in Peibio, near Holyhead. This farmer had seen, while working in the fields with his servant boy, a ship of 90 tons, with sail and pennant flying, bearing down on him from the direction of Snowdon, and at a height of "about a Quarter of a mile High from ye Ground." The day was described as cloudy. The keel could be seen plainly from below, and the sails distended in the wind. A flock of birds assembled to examine the phenomenon and flew around it from all directions. The ship was very similar to the old packet boats that plied between Holyhead and Ireland.

The farmer, when questioned, said that he had seen such an aerial boat exactly ten years before in the same place and also ten years before that.

At first sight this seems a case of refraction picking up vessels in the Menai Straits, but why should the keel of the boat be plainly seen from below, and why should the birds fly all round it? Also why every ten years?

The item in the Shell Guide deserves close examination by those interested in the UFO mystery; indeed it advances "Flying Saucers" as one solution to the phenomenon of the Aerial Packet boats.
Yours sincerely,
S. E. Priest, Sutherland Road, Southall, Middlesex, February 22, 1970.

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THE NGATEA MYSTERY CIRCLE—2

Harold H. Fulton

A summary of the investigations carried out by various research bodies in New Zealand.

FOLLOWING a letter to Professor N. F. Barber, Department of Physics, Victoria University of Wellington, I received a copy of the report made on the Ngatea circle by his team which included Dr. R. McQueen (botanist) and Mr. V. Neall (soil geologist). Their conclusions were as follows:

"The Manuka was killed about the month of December by 245T weedkiller compound. The weedkiller was probably dropped from an aircraft at the time of a south-westerly wind. The pattern of the ground disturbance seen on October 10 did not have the symmetry that one might expect of marks made by a machine. Since the party did not see the disturbance of the ground as it was originally found, they are not able to express any positive opinion to its origin."

I also wrote to Mr. L. J. Matthews, a scientist at Raukura Soil Research Station, Hamilton, who had assisted in the above investigation. In reply, he quoted from his Memo to Mr. Vance Neall.

"I have examined specimens forwarded by you and they agree fully with the effects of herbicide application, namely, colouring, slight curvature of the branches, branchlets and leaves, fruiting capsules still present and the brittle nature of the material. Also most of the leaves have fallen off and this is more typical of chemical effect than fungal attack. Also sprayed manuka is usually not attacked by fungi as readily as plants destroyed by fire or other means. The results are completely consistent with the area being sprayed with 245T at the rate of 3lb. plus per acre either with the oil miscible concentrate or the emulsifiable ester. Defoliation would occur in seven to ten days or earlier if a disiccant such as diquat and sodium chlorate type of material were added and the plants would be completely dead within three to six months."

The Ministry of Science statement

A letter to Mr. Brian E. Talboys, Minister of Science, produced a brief reply and a copy of his press release of October 10, based on the report submitted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Minister wrote:

"Plant pathologists who examined the site during this week found that the symptoms are consistent with death from fungus attack. The manuka around the area is 'stag-headed', quite typical of plants attacked by fungi and there are many other dead and dying patches in the vicinity. The area was drained about nine years ago and there is a thin mineral topsoil over peat. The drainage has lowered the water table and the plant cover is adapting to the new conditions. The manuka is undoubtedly affected by a root rot complex of organisms, and there are other pathogens present, including manuka blight. The dark colour of the interior of the dead stems is due to normal saprophytic fungus which is living on dead tissue. Samples of peat and manuka which were sent to the Institute of Nuclear Sciences were examined for unusual radioactivity. Though highly sensitive methods were used, no radioactivity above normal background was detected in peat or manuka samples from within or outside the circle of dead manuka."

Mr. Talboys concluded there was nothing abnormal about the dead patch of manuka, and that normal causes of death should be considered before worving about possible extra-terrestrial phenomena. He said he did not consider that the matter warranted further investigation.

The opposition

The report was immediately challenged by private investigating groups and their expert consultants, among them, Mr. Stuart-Menzies and Mr. R. Chidnall (leading horticulturists), and the Editors of a number of newspapers. In defence, Dr. E. G. Bollard of the DSIR plant diseases division pointed out that the report to the Minister stated that saprophytic fungi were found on the manuka, but this was not given as the cause of death. He said he believed the Minister's statement provided an adequate explanation. By this time, samples were being sent in by zealous citizens from other mystery circle finds, but the DSIR now released a press statement that they were refusing to carry out any further tests.

In a press release dated October 14, Mr. R. Chidnall joined Mr. Stuart-Menzies in repudiating the Minister's findings. Mr. Chidnall said he agreed that saprophytic fungus was present, but this was a secondary state following death and did not explain how the plants died. When he examined the material he found "a set of states" which he could not fit into any ordinary pattern. Under the microscope, considerable differences were found in the dead wood from the affected area to that found in other areas. He also found that the soil from the circle would not support growth. "I sowed seeds in soil which I collected from the affected area, and they sprouted and died within 48 hours—they just keeled over and died!" Seeds from the same packet planted in soil from outside the circle were still growing naturally, he said. Mr. Stuart-Menzies agreed that he could see no evidence that the manuka was killed by spray or fungus. Saprophytic fungus lived only on dead material and did not kill. He added that Geiger counter readings taken within a week of the circle being discovered registered radiation in the thicker pieces of manuka.

Watkins

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Artwork by Pauline Bowen

Summing up

I have not mentioned the number of interesting UFO sightings made about the time the mystery circles were discovered. However, with at least nine different sites recorded there was not one instance of a a UFO being seen to leave the roost, as was at Tully, Australia (FSR Mar/Apr 1966). On September 4, the day that Mr. O'Neill discovered the circle, a UFO was tracked by radar for 100 miles and confirmed by two pilots aloft (FSR Jan/Feb 1970). The evidence, however, from both private and official sources, is that the circle at Ngatea is most likely to have been caused 3-6 months previously, perhaps even earlier. Whatever the real cause of the Ngatea and other circles, they must surely have broken all records for coverage of a suspected UFO incident on press, radio and TV.

Continued from page 24

vehicle, or it was pulled somehow by the UFO, remains unknown, but it did move ahead into a fiield of stubble wheat, while the UFO manoeuvred in front.

"When the car stopped after a short distance Tossie, on the right hand side, leaped and ran to a nearby farmhouse where he babbled out his story. Eventually the farmer and his son persuaded the 'incoherent Indian' to take them to the car where they found Begay, paralyzed with fear, sitting alone with his eyes closed. Later Begay said the creature in the car had jabbered at him in high, rapid sounds 'like a bird' until he was joined by the other humanoid. The two strange beings then returned to the UFO which, with a flame-like light glowing from the bottom, climbed off into the night."

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