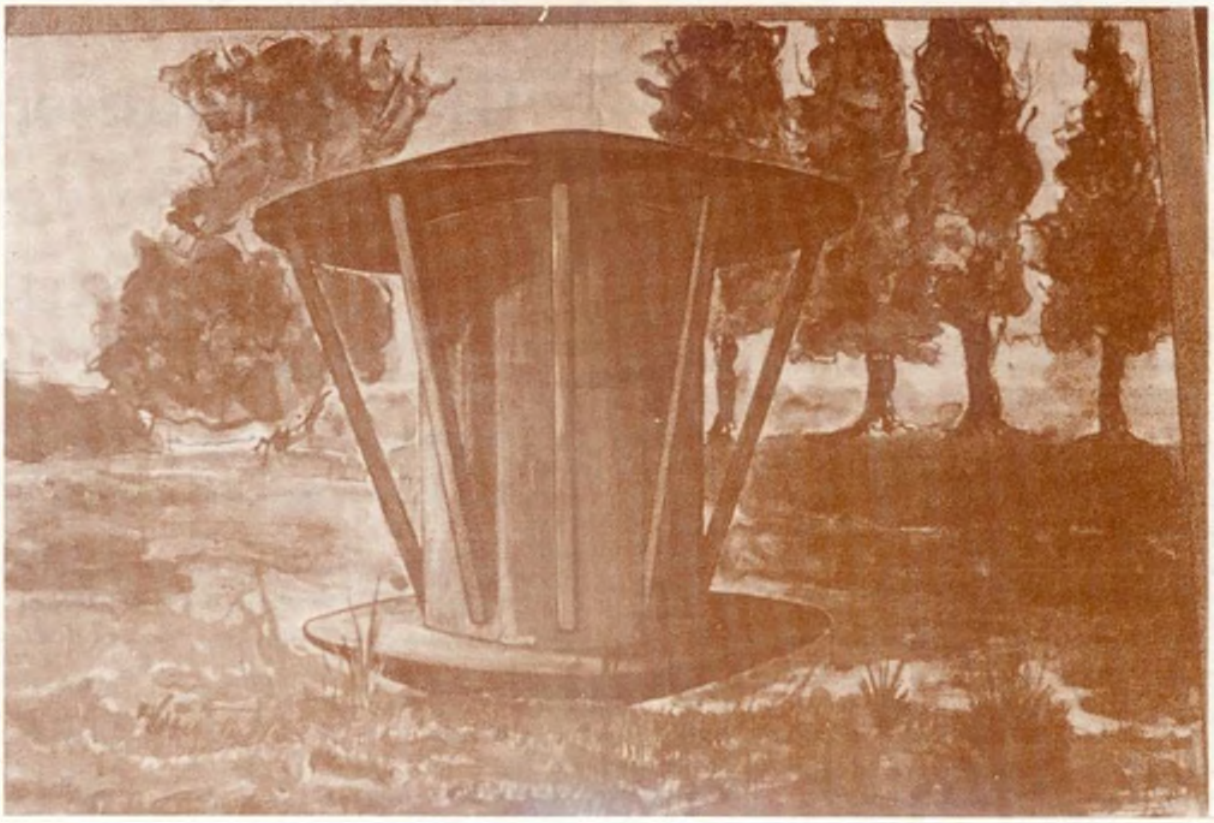
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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ABDUCTION AT BEBEDOURO

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE UFO

See page 6

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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CONTENTS

Major 'Flap' in the United States: Eileen Buckle 2
Abduction at Bebedouro: Húlvio Brant Aleixo .. 6
The UFO Wave of 1973: Some Early Statistics Jacques Vallée 15
Buenos Aires Builder Allegedly Kidnapped by Entities: 16
Landing at Columbia, Missouri: Ted Phillips 18
Book Review: The Spacecraft of the Prophet Ezekiel: Luis Schönherr 26
The Importance of Biblical "UFO Evidence": Charles Bowen 27
The Tibetan Connection: Gordon Creighton 28
World Round Up 29
Mailbag iii

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TRUSTWORTHY REPORTS

WE have aired our views on a number of occasions on the question of reliability of press reports of UFO incidents, particularly those of the more bizarre close-encounter type. Criticism has been levelled at us from time to time – and this by others involved in "UFO journalism" – and it has been implied that we are unreliable because we put our trust in newspaper reports. That is a slur which is easily refuted by demonstrating that where it has been possible to mount an investigation of some surprising claim, it has been shown more often than not that the original press reports were very accurate. Which should not come as a surprise to anyone who is aware that "...press reports are the raw material of history."

In the event of a press report being found to contain inaccuracies, or insufficient detail, it has at least served the very good purpose of alerting interested parties to the fact that something worth investigating may have happened.

In *Flying Saucer Review* for November-December 1971 we published a translation of the first press report to have reached us concerning a Brazilian soldier, José Antônio da Silva, who claimed to have had a weird experience in May 1969 with small bearded runts who took him captive aboard their craft, and then put him back again far from home.

Senhor Húlvio Brant Aleixo of the CICOANI UFO investigation group in Belo Horizonte, with a team of CICOANI and SBEDV members, including the President of SBEDV, Dr. Walter Buhler, who is well-known to readers of FSR, has conducted a lengthy and extensive examination of this case. And the case now turns out to have been much more extraordinary than was at first reported. Indeed it may well be that it is one of the most remarkable ever reported.

The account, which we publish in this issue of FSR, shows how thoroughly and systematically the team have gone about their investigation, and we express our special thanks to Sr. Húlvio and Dr. Buhler, and their colleagues, for giving us something that may be reckoned, for general interest, with the story of Antônio Villas Boas. In fact, it should be very carefully compared with the A.V.B. affair,* for although the sizes of the entities in the two cases do certainly seem to have been different – judging from the testimonies of the two witnesses – there are nevertheless some striking resemblances in the episodes.

However, to revert to our original theme, the thing that is immediately apparent from the report of the investigatory team is that the broadcast story which first alerted the investigators, and the original press report, were very accurate. There is also another point which may be pondered by those critics who will have it that no South American newspaper reports are ever to be given any credence. We have never been able to

grasp, by the way, on what specific grounds the South American journalists and reporters are held to be so much more untrustworthy than their colleagues elsewhere, but the present enquiry by a large number of painstaking investigators gives the lie anyway to that silly belief. For it is now clear that, once again, the original newspaper account of a South American UFO case proves not to have been exaggerated at all, but rather the reverse!

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* Published in full in *The Humanoids* (Ed. Charles Bowen) by Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield Street, London W.C.1, and by the Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Ill.

MAJOR 'FLAP' IN THE UNITED STATES

A preliminary account based on some main reports

Eileen Buckle

CLOSELY following a flurry of sightings in Georgia during the late summer of this year, a widespread flap occurred in the USA reaching a climax by mid-October. Sighting reports were very numerous and some quite remarkable. They included all categories – lights in the sky, near landings (occasionally with EM effects), landings (with at least one report of traces left behind), and contact with occupants.

Some new UFO photographs appeared in the press, together with a comparative rarity – a photograph of what was believed to be a UFO entity.

Even now, the flap may not have fully subsided, and it would be impossible to give a full account of every report received. However, let us take a brief look at some of the highlights to date.

Contact at Pascagoula

Judging by the exceptional number of news-cuttings we received, by far and away the most newsworthy of all the cases was that of the two fishermen who, on Thursday, October 11, said they had been captured on the bank of the Pascagoula River, in Mississippi, by three "space creatures". Although a considerable amount of doubt is generally warranted where persons have claimed to have been taken inside a UFO, this is one instance that cannot be easily dismissed.

The witnesses were local shipyard workers, Calvin Parker, aged 18, and Charles Hickson, aged 45, both well thought of in their community. After reporting their experience at the Sheriff's office at Pascagoula (a town of population 31,000), reportedly "scared to death" and "shaking all over," they were rather reluctant to speak to the press, but granted an interview to the *Mississippi Press* a week later. Here is their story as told by Hickson:

" 'We were fishing last Thursday night behind the old Shaupeter Shipyard building on the Pascagoula River. I turned to get some more bait when I heard a zipping sound.

" 'I turned around and saw a spacecraft with bright, flashing, blue-looking lights. It just hovered without touching the ground. It seemed to open up, but there really wasn't a door there at all. These three creatures came floating out towards us. I was so scared that I couldn't believe it was happening.

" 'The creatures were pale, ghost-like, about five feet high. They were sort of light flesh-coloured, or more pale-grey, with crab-like claws for hands and rounded feet. The creatures were on us before we knew it. Two of them seemed to lift me off the ground, and I became motionless and glided into the craft. (Parker said he passed out as he was carried into the craft.)

" 'After I got inside I had no feelings. I was helpless, but I could still move my eyes. It was real bright inside, but no particular colour. There were no light fixtures but it was plenty bright.

" 'Something big and round that looked like a big eye moved back and forth across my body. The two creatures moved me around so that the eye could check me in various positions. I just kind of floated without touching anything. I didn't see any attachment for the eye. It was just kind of suspended in air.

" 'The two things left me for a while, maybe half a minute, and I was in there just motionless. All I could do was move my eyes. I never felt any pain. They didn't hurt us at all.

" 'Later they carried me back outside and I floated down on my feet. I was so weak-kneed I think I fell over. The creatures didn't walk at all. Their legs stayed together and they floated.

" 'After I have thought more about it, I believe they were more like robots. They acted like they had a specific thing to do, and they did it. They didn't try to communicate with us.

" 'I heard one of them make a buzzing sound. It might have been in contact with something somewhere else. I didn't see the opening in the front of the face move. I didn't see anything that looked like eyes. There was something pointing out like a nose and then an opening under this, but no eyes.

" 'The craft, which was sort of rounded or oval, was about 8-10 feet wide and about 8 feet high. It came upon us in a split second and it left with a zip. It was gone in half a second. They were on us so quick we couldn't do anything. I doubt if we could have resisted them if we had tried to. I'm sure they are far more advanced than we are.

" 'I know now that they didn't intend to hurt us physically. But I feared they were going to take us away. I would like to emphasise that they don't mean us any harm.

" 'I honestly believe other people will go through similar experiences. I think these creatures will continue to probe the earth. We haven't seen the last of it...Our lives will never be the same, but I felt we owed it to the people to tell what we saw. I don't believe I could live with it by myself. I believe we have done what is right.' "

Calvin Parker also emphasised:

" 'Please don't shoot at these things. They don't mean us any harm. I believe if they came back I could face them and try to communicate with them."

This comment is very strange under the circumstances. And yet, similar sentiments have been stressed before under similar circumstances. Why? Space doesn't allow us to dwell on this question, nor does it allow us to make detailed comparisons between this and other cases with similar characteristics, though the floating Kelly-Hopkinsonville entities with their claw-like hands inevitably spring to mind.

To add weight to the fishermen's story, it should be said that the Sheriff was totally convinced they were telling the truth. Subsequently they were interviewed for several hours by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University, and Dr. James A. Harder, professor of Hydraulic Engineering at the University of California. They were made to relive their experience under hypnosis, and, according to Harder, their emotions and very strong feelings of terror would have been impossible to fake. Hynek said "There is no question in my mind that these men have had a very terrifying experience."[1]

Entity photographed by Police Officer

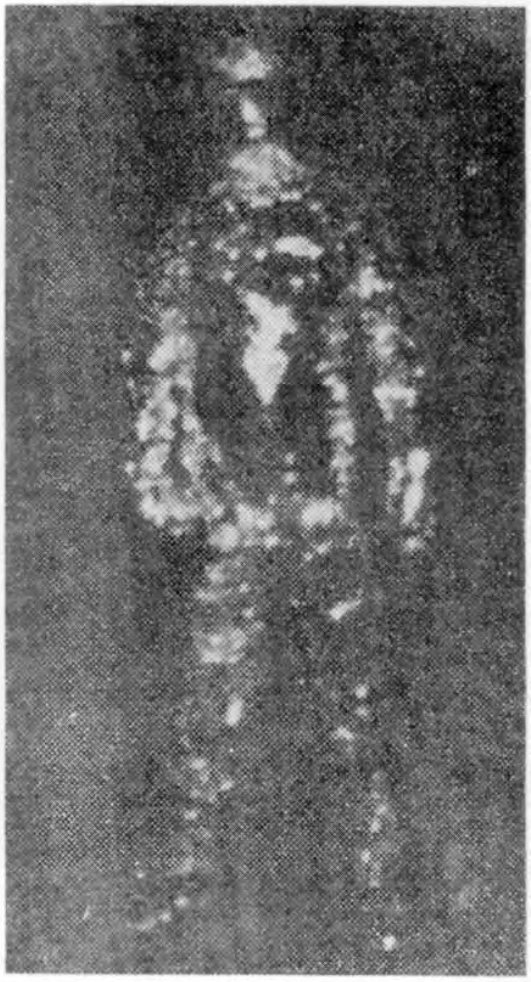
The same day as a former methodist minister had allegedly encountered, whilst he was driving to Hartwell, Ga., a UFO which landed on the road in front of him together with silver-suited, white-haired occupants, police chief Greenhaw of Falkville, Alabama, received a telephone call at 10.00 pm from a woman who said a "space-ship" had landed in a field behind her home. The chief grabbed his new polaroid camera and raced off in his patrol car to see the site of the "landing," a half-mile out of town. For a while, he told the *Christian Science Monitor* (October 24),[2] he found nothing, but as he turned down a gravel road he was confronted by a 6-foot being in a silvery suit. Its face and torso was like a "piece of ice" or a "mirror."

Thinking it was a prank, he got out of his car, about 50 feet away from the creature. The latter said nothing but walked slowly towards him with a swivel-like motion. Still thinking it was a joke, Greenhaw started to take pictures with his camera, and within a short while the entity was only 10 feet away. Then it turned and began running.

The chief began to follow the entity in his car, reaching 15 miles an hour. It was then, he says, that he realised that the entity was not a normal being, because he simply couldn't catch it. The creature completely eluded him at a moment when he straightened his car on the road, having wandered to the wrong side during the chase. So far, we haven't heard that the story and photograph is the result of a hoax.[3]

More police reports

Police officials have featured frequently in the news reports of this latest flap. For example, on October 16, in Louisiana, about 150 miles North West of Pascagoula, a Sheriff's deputy claimed his car was almost attacked by an orange-reddish flying object. "Our deputies spotted five of them and a



One of police Chief Greenhaw's photographs of a silvery-suited being which he believed to be a spaceman

bunch of witnesses saw them too," said Deputy Sheriff Michael Moore, who apparently was scared pretty badly.

From the *Evening Journal* of Wilmington, Delaware, (October 5) we learn that two Pennsylvania state troopers saw a heart-shaped object, with the point in front, shining a large, bright, powerful beam straight down, hovering silently at about 1,200 feet. They had been driving near Media prior to the sighting which lasted 90 seconds. The object travelled a quarter mile whereupon the red lights at the side went out; it then emitted a purring sound and took off.

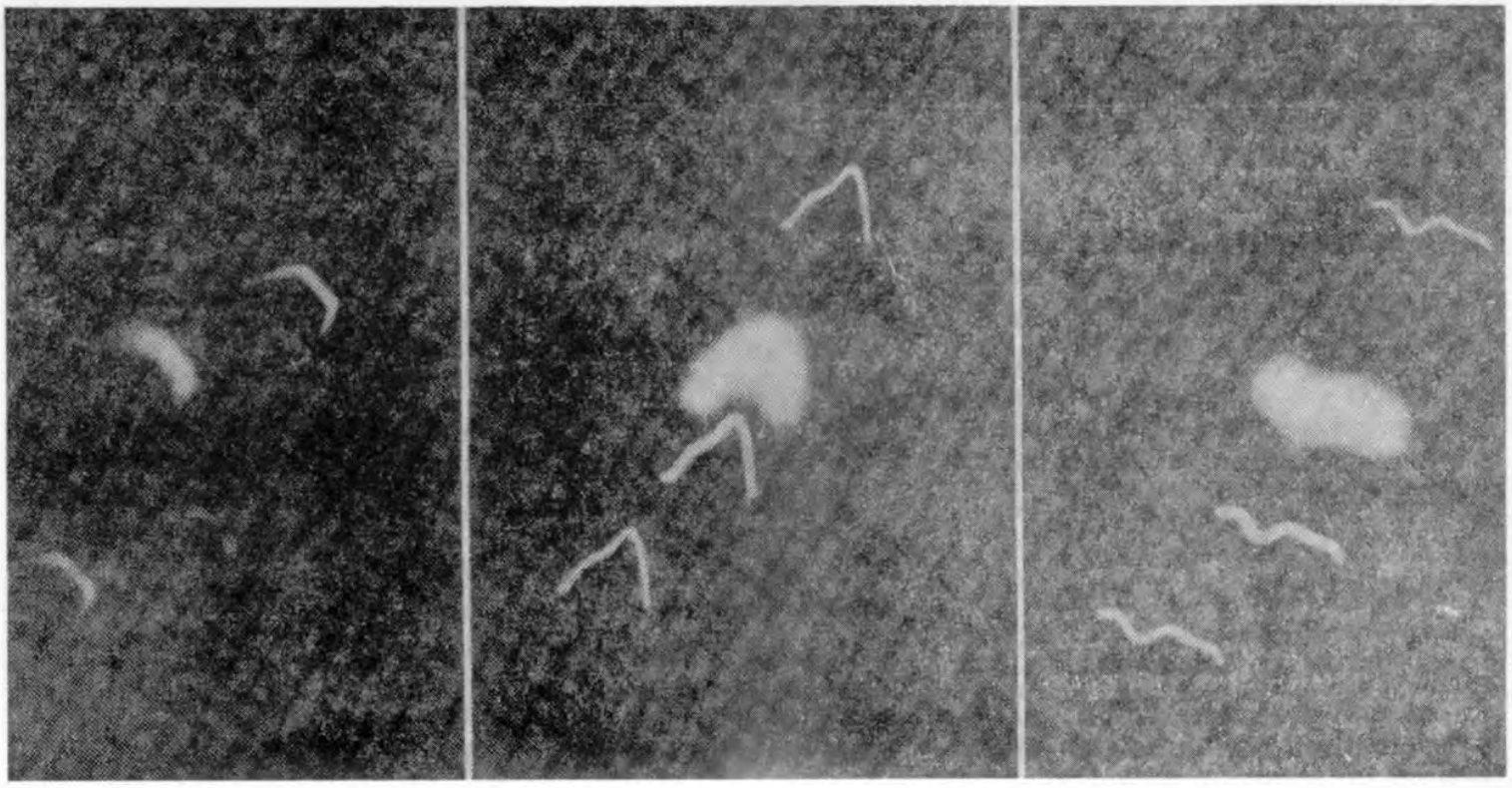
At Tupelo, Miss., according to a UPI report, on October 3, four National Park Service rangers and a deputy Sheriff saw a "flying saucer the size of a two-bedroom house hover over the area for about 15 minutes, flashing red, green and yellow lights. Highway patrolmen, policemen, a sheriff and other persons also reported seeing strange flying objects over northeastern Mississippi that night.

Unpleasant encounter

One rather unpleasant report was that of a truck-driver, Eddie Doyle Webb, aged 45, of Greenville, Mo., who was blinded for several hours by a UFO. On October 3, about dawn, while he was driving, he saw a bright light or silvery object in the sky behind him, rapidly approaching. He awakened his wife, who was asleep in the cab, but she didn't see anything. Webb said:

"Then I stuck my head out of the window and a large ball of fire struck me in the face. My glasses fell off and I couldn't see. But I got the truck stopped."

Mrs. Webb said her husband screamed: "Oh, my God! I'm burned. I can't see!" One of the lenses of his glasses fell out of the plastic frame which was warped. Mrs. Webb, who serves as a relief driver at times, drove him to hospital. Sgt. Ed. Wright, of the highway patrol, took Webb's glasses to Dr. Harley Rutledge, head of the Southwest Missouri State University Physics Department for analysis. Rutledge said he put the glasses under a microscope and it appeared they were heated internally. The heat warped the plastic, causing the lens to fall out (from the *Evening Journal*, Wilmington, Delaware of October 5).



This sequence of pictures was taken by a Columbus, Ohio, newspaper photographer, Ken Chamberlain on October 17. He was convinced that the pulsating lights in the sky over South-western Franklin County were not those of an aircraft.

Collision course with UFO

To wind up, here is an A.P. report from Cleveland, Ohio, taken from the *Enquirer* of October 22:

"Army Capt. Lawrence J. Coyne has given the Federal Aviation Administration information about the sighting of an unidentified flying object, which he says nearly collided with his helicopter near Mansfield last week. Three reservists of the 316th Medivac unit based at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, said the helicopter was flying at 2,500 feet when the crew chief, Sgt./5 Robert J. Yanacsek, 23, reported a red light about five miles to the east.

"He said the crew at first thought it was a radio beacon but Yanacsek yelled 'the light is moving. It's coming at us. It's on a collision course.

"Coyne, a veteran of 19 years of military flying, grabbed the controls from his copilot, Lt. Arriggo D. Jezzi, 26, of Sandusky.

" 'It looked like a fighter plane coming straight for us,' Coyne said. 'I took immediate evasive action. I cut the power and dropped into a shallow dive. We dropped to 2,000 feet, and it was headed right for us. We braced for impact.' Coyne said when the helicopter reached 1,500 feet, the approaching craft appeared to stop momentarily about 500 feet overhead and banked to one side.

" 'We never saw anything like it before,' he said. 'It was unreal...a cigar-shaped craft with a glowing, steady red light on its leading edge. A hull was at the very top of it, and a green light emitted from the rear of the craft filled our cabin with a green glow. It was eerie!'

"Coyne said the strange craft hovered over the helicopter only a few seconds. He said he glanced at the altimeter and noticed that the helicopter had risen to 3,800 feet. None of the crew members felt the gravitational pull normally felt when a helicopter rises, Coyne added. 'We felt a bounce, and then the other craft took off to the north-east,' Coyne said. Seconds later, the craft disappeared.

"The pilot said efforts were made to radio Mansfield Airport immediately, but the helicopter received no response. He said the unusual communications blackout lasted about 10 minutes, until radio contact was established with the Akron-Canton Airport.

"Coyne said he could offer no rational explanation for the incident. Crew member S-Sgt. John M. Healey, who is a detective in the Cleveland police intelligence unit, also was mystified. Based on the quick appearance and disappearance of the craft, the crew members estimated its speed at more than 600 mph. Coyne said a conventional aircraft flying that close to the helicopter would create a great deal of noise, but no noise was heard.

"Copilot Jezzi confirmed Coyne's description of the mysterious craft. He said the entire sequence of events lasted 'maybe five or six seconds.'

" 'It was strange,' he said, 'We're all grown men. We'd never seen anything like it.' He said the red and green lights were not in a normal configuration for aircraft, and he noted that the craft was flying about 500 knots – about twice the legal limit in the controlled air space at that level. 'There was no downward motion,' he said. 'It stayed on our level and it was really moving fast.' He said Coyne contacted flight officials in Cleveland after the helicopter landed. He said they also could offer no explanation for the craft."

In a recent letter to the Editor, John Keel predicted that the present flap (which he believes actually began as early as late 1971, although it didn't become news until the 1973 summer) will taper off after a peak in October 1973. However, he calculates that the flap will be renewed next March and prove to be the biggest of all time. It will not be long before we discover whether he is right or not.

* * * *

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the many kind readers who sent the information and cuttings which made the foregoing article possible.

Notes

1 We hope to obtain an "in depth" report of the above case for a future issue.

2 The date of the occurrence was not given in the *Monitor*.

3 On October 16, three pranksters walked along US Highway 35, dressed in aluminium foil and makeshift antennae on their heads. This was near Xenia, Ohio.



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ABDUCTION AT BEBEDOURO

An investigation into an unusual incident hitherto reported only by radio and in newspapers.[1]

Húlvio Brant Aleixo

A brief account of the interviews and examinations, including data supplied by third parties. Translation from the Portuguese by Gordon Creighton.

AT 7.25 a.m. on the morning of May 10, 1969, train No. NF-32, coming from Pedro Nolasco, Vitória, in the State of Espírito Santo, arrived at the Belo Horizonte station of the Central Brazil Line.

Sr. Geraldo Lopes da Silva, a railway security official, observed among the passengers descending from the coaches a young fellow who was poorly clad, with a stocking wound round his head, and carrying something wrapped in a cloth. It was precisely this package which had at first drawn his attention to the young man, because thefts of copper wire from the railway were frequent occurrences. Challenging him, the security man asked for his identity papers. "No, Chief, I haven't got any papers, because they were taken from me," he replied, "But I am a soldier." The security agent persisted in his enquiries and took the young man to one of the booking-halls, where he proceeded to examine the contents of his bundle. It contained fishing tackle, some food, and articles of clothing. Under pressure from the security agent, José Antônio da Silva said he had a story to tell, and identified himself as the orderly to Major Célio Ferreira, Deputy-Commandant of the Guards Battalion of the Military Police of Minas Gerais.

After hearing the story through several times, trying to find contradictions in it, the security agent finally accepted it, strange as it was. Then he called for a reporter from the Rádio Guarani local broadcasting station and, after a quick interview by the latter, the soldier was sent off to his barracks.

Major Célio Ferreira, struck by the extremely poor physical condition of the solider, isolated him for 24 hours in his own home so that he could have food, rest, and medicine.

On the morning of Sunday, May 11, with great difficulty, the soldier made his way up the hill on which his home stands, to rejoin his family. They found him thin, burnt by the sun, bearded, and lame in one leg. His absence from home for almost a week had been worrying them, for José Antônio had never before been away from home so long without informing them. Major Célio Ferreira had indeed gone so far as to organize search-parties, on the day preceeding, to look for him.

On the night of Sunday May 11, CICOANI secured their first interview with José Antônio and, from then on, there followed a whole series of other interviews, without any significant variations being observed in either his account or in his behaviour.

A week after his return, a reconstitution of the scene was enacted at the actual site of the occurrence at Bebedouro.

Date of the occurrence: From Sunday, May 4, to Friday, May 9, 1969.
Total Duration: From 3.00 p.m. on May 4 to 4.00 a.m. on May 9 (109 hours, or approximately 4½ days.)
Scene: 1. Point of departure: Bebedouro, a place on the banks of the Rio das Velhas, in the municipality of Matozinhos, 50 km., as the crow flies, from Belo Horizonte, State of Minas Gerais.

2. Point of arrival: at a place 32 kms. from Vitória, capital city of the State of Espírito Santo, and distance 360 kms., as the crow flies from Belo Horizonte.
Eyewitness: José Antônio da Silva, aged 24, unmarried, resident at rua Emídio Germano, Vila Pompéia, Belo Horizonte, an enlisted soldier, No.33930, in the Military Police of Minas Gerais, and orderly to Major Célio Ferreira, at that time Deputy-Commandant of the Guards Battalion of the said Military Police Force.
Investigators: Húlvio B. Aleixo; Alberto F. do Carmo; Heros C. Jardim; Roberto C. Aleixo; Maria Irene M. Neves; Dr. Walter Buhler, is President of SBEDV, Rio de Janeiro; Wanda M. Santos; Edson A. Moura, Luiz Romaniello, and other members of, or collaborators with, CICOANI and SBEDV.
Sketches: by Alberto Francisco do Carmo.

More than twenty interviews and investigations have been carried out, in various places, including Bebedouro. These interviews are still going on, sporadically, so that developments in the case may be followed through.

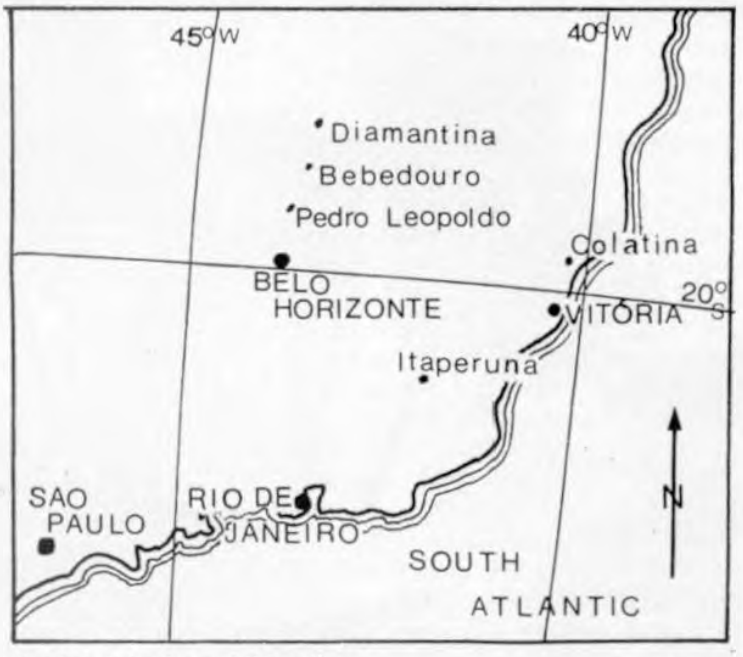
Abducted while fishing

On the evening of Saturday, May 3, 1969, José Antônio da Silva left his home to go fishing. At the

bus station in Belo Horizonte he caught a bus bound for Pedro Leopoldo. Before they reached the latter place, however, he got off, and walked along the Jaguara road to the place known as Bebedouro (formerly the old "Fazenda dos Ingleses"), in the municiple district of Matozinhos. At about midnight he reached the banks of a small lagoon, took his gear out of his cloth bundle, and with the cloth he set himself up a little tent. Then he went off to fish for a while before turning in to sleep.

At daybreak on Sunday, the 4th, José Antônio awoke, folded up his tent, and then began fishing again, but with no success. He stopped for a while at midday to make a meal off a tin of sardines, and then went back to his fishing.

At about 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon, looking away to one side, he was vaguely aware of figures moving about behind him, and the sound of voices. Then he heard a cry "seemingly like a groan coming from deep down in the chest" and he felt his legs struck by a "burst of fire" coming from the direction of a form that was partly hidden by bushes. Seized with cramp and a feeling of numbness in the legs, he automatically knelt down at the lakeside, dropping his fishing-rod.



Scale: 1 inch = 197 miles

Map of the Bebedouro Region

"The burst looked like fire, but it wasn't, because it didn't burn my leg", he said. It was a beam of light, greenish in the middle and reddish at the edges, and fanning out slightly from its point of origin.

In a matter of seconds he found himself between two individuals in masks, who seized him under the armpits and dragged him off through the swampy thickets which they negotiated with great ease. With his knees scraping the ground, José Antônio gave up resisting as he thought of what would befall him if a further jet of light were to be fired at his head.

When they had gone only ten metres or so from the lake, he saw, in the long grass, a third individual who was identical with those accompanying him. This one made no move as they passed by, and remained behind. All three, he observed, were carrying a sort of weapon, but he thinks this third one was the one who had fired at him and had uttered the deep sound like a groan.

Description of his captors

José Antônio was dressed at the time merely in a pair of brief yellow leather shorts, with a big rosary tied round his waist and, on his head, a cap made from a woman's stocking, under another cap of black mesh.

The little fellows, as he noted, were about 1 metre 20 cms. in height and they were completely covered. Their bodies were clad in a shining, light-coloured garment, with articulated segments at the elbows and knees. Their heads were covered with masks[2] of a dull grey colour, "like dull aluminium." The masks were rounded at the back and squared off at the front with sharp edges, and were flattened all the way down from the forehead except at the level of the nose, where there was a corresponding projection. At the level of the eyes there were two round holes about two centimetres in diameter. The mask, seemingly rigid, descended wide on to the shoulders and was not connected to the clothing. From the lower part of the mask came a tube of material resembling plastic which, passing over the chest and under the armpit, ended in a small metal container affixed to the back of each little man.

The latter had human proportions, and were robust in relation to their small stature. Their legs seemed to be thick. José Antônio remarks: "I think I could have taken on two of them, if I had wanted to." At this stage in the affair he still felt more curiosity than fear.

A landed machine

As soon as he had gone past the third individual, he caught sight of a machine. They were carrying him towards it through the trees. It was standing, slightly inclined, on a small dirt road. It consisted of a vertical cylinder joined at the bases to two lenticular or flattened pieces, both of them having a diameter greater than that of the cylinder, and the upper one being wider than the lower one (See Fig.1). In order to describe this shape, José Antônio made use of a tumbler with its base set on a saucer and with a larger saucer, up-side-down, placed on top of its mouth. From the edges of the upper platform, at regular intervals, ran rods which were set obliquely into the base of the cylinder (and not into the rim of the lower platform). In the cylinder there was an opening resembling a door, some 1.30 x 0.60 metres in size. The external height of the machine was about two metres, the upper platform being about three metres in diameter and the lower platform, which rested on the ground, being some 2.5 metres in diameter. The cylinder was of a grey colour, and the two platforms were black.

Taken into the machine through the door, José Antônio found himself in a quadrangular compartment, each side being about two metres long and the height about the same. The walls, the ceiling and the



Fig. 1

Photograph of a coloured painting by Alberto Francisco do Carmo, based on the description given to him by Antonio da Silva of the craft in which he was kidnapped by humanoid creatures

floor was a dark grey, reminiscent of a stone surface and the seats, which had no legs, were of the same colour. Near the wall containing the door was the longer of the seats, on which his two companions and he took their places. In the centre of the room was the smaller seat, which later was to be taken by the third crew-member who was still outside.

The lighting in the compartment was intense, "of the mercury vapour type," but he was unable to detect any sources for the light,[3] nor any openings or salient parts on the smooth surfaces.

When they had him seated in the centre of the hard bench, the two beings accompanying him placed on his head a helmet similar to the ones they were wearing, and to get it on him they pushed his head through an opening in the back of the helmet.[4] This helmet likewise had a tube which led round towards his back but José Antônio was unable to see whether they fixed on him a container like the ones that the crew were wearing on their own backs. He agrees that this item may have been put on him across the seat, but he did not detect it.

The two crew members, seated one on each side of him, next fastened his feet, and then his waist, with a "dry", rough material. Then they made themselves fast, and at that point the third crew-member came in and sat down in front of him, on the single seat, and also fastened himself down.

At this stage José Antônio could only see out through the two holes in the heavy mask, the sharp edges of which were beginning to hurt his shoulders and the back of his neck.

The journey

As he sat there, facing the other three, the single crew-member who was on the small seat by himself, moved sideways a small lever set in the floor on his left. Immediately, José Antônio heard a humming noise coming from the upper part of the machine and felt the sensation of taking off. Then, when the pilot operated a bigger lever which was above, to his right, the soldier heard a hum in the lower part of the machine, and had the impression that the machine was accelerating vertically.

Immediately after the take-off the strange beings began talking animatedly among themselves, glancing frequently at José Antônio, who of course understood not a word. In the incomprehensible language the phoneme *r* predominated at the end of many of the words, which were uttered in an arrogant fashion, in a deep, guttural tone.

The higher the machine seemed to rise, the more difficult did breathing seem for the soldier, and at one stage, in addition to his state of low morale, he felt as though his whole body was physically tired out, almost paralyzed. He felt more and more uncomfortable in this position, owing to the hardness and the shape of the seat, the numbness in his legs, and the weight of the helmet, the corners of which were bruising his shoulders and neck.

After a long period of travelling – to him it seemed interminable – he noticed that the light inside the cabin was growing stronger and was pulsating, and although he had the helmet on, he was forced to close his eyes. Then, after what seemed about an hour or so, he realized that the light was diminishing, and he was able to open his eyes again.

Then the journey continued, with no other features of note, until the machine seemed to rotate 90° on its lateral axis.[5] To illustrate this manoeuvre, José Antônio took a tumbler, to represent the central cylinder of the machine, and laid it on its side. The seats adjusted themselves to this new position of the machine, "and seemed to have swung over themselves." Then, after another lengthy period, the machine and the seats reverted to the

normal positions. And finally, after yet another long period, the machine landed somewhere. "I felt the jarring sensation," says José Antônio.

At some unidentified place

The little men unfastened themselves and then the soldier. They put a band over the holes in his mask, so that now all he could do was hear. Up to now very talkative and seemingly cheerful, they fell quiet. They took him again by the armpits and carried him with his legs drawn up and his knees dragging on the ground.[6] His legs were still numb, but José Antônio thinks that, had he tried, he would have been able to stand up at that stage. The little men were extremely strong for their small size.

As they carried him along, José Antônio, still in total darkness as the eyeholes in his helmet were covered, heard footsteps and the sound of many people talking. He wanted to look, and at this point even managed to feel cheerful. All the voices he could hear were speaking the same strange language of his companions, who now were silent. Some of the voices were deeper, and others less so. None of the voices however seemed to him to be feminine.

He felt them set him down on a backless seat. Then they removed the bandage from the holes in his helmet, but still left the helmet on him. Through the eyeholes he saw that he was in a very large quadrangular room, measuring some 10 to 15 metres on each wall. His attention was at once caught by the figure of a being who was standing in front of him, at a distance of about five metres, with his gaze riveted on him.

The 'Uranids' without their masks

This individual was a little taller (1.25 m.) than the rest, and also more robustly built. He was wearing no helmet and no space-suit, and was eyeing José Antônio with apparent satisfaction. Meanwhile, his three captors were taking off their respective helmets, and were talking very animatedly with this new one whom José Antônio took to be their Chief. Like the others, he was extremely hairy. His long tresses, reddish and wavy, fell down behind past his shoulders to his waist; his beard was long and thick and came down to his stomach. He had wide-set eyebrows, two fingers thick, running right across almost the whole forehead. His skin was light-coloured, very pale. His eyes were round, larger than is the norm with us, and of a green shade like the colour of green leaves beginning to wither. The orbital cavities of his eyes were deep, the sclerotica was darker in colour than his skin, and his pupils were dark. His eyes scarcely ever blinked. José Antônio did not notice any eyelashes.

José Antônio says: "I started praying when I saw *him*. I thought I'd never come back."

The little man's nose, long and pointed, was "bigger than ours." His ears were bigger too. The lower part of the ears was the same as ours, but the upper parts were more rounded than ours. His mouth was wide, with some resemblance to ours, but, said José Antônio: "They looked like fishes' mouths.[7] I didn't see a tooth in any of them. When they opened their mouths, I didn't see one."

The little chief, surrounded by the three companions who had brought José Antônio, seemed extremely happy, and gesticulated with his hands as he talked. Meanwhile, the soldier's fear was now beginning to abate, because the little fellow "seemed to be nice."

Meanwhile, José Antônio saw others, of identical appearance, arriving from behind him, until at one point there were as many as ten or twelve of the homuncules present, gathered around the one who



Fig. 2

Photograph of do Carmo's paintings of the small, red-bearded beings –

Left: appearance of the beings while wearing suit and helmet.

Right: appearance of the beings when seen without their helmets and suits.

seemed to be their leader. When they came into, or vanished from, José Antônio's limited field of vision, it was always from or to a point behind him, where he supposed there must be a door in the wall. However he did not see this wall, as his position and the helmet he was wearing did not permit. He was only able to see three of the walls of the room and the floor. He did not notice the ceiling, owing to his inclined position, with his legs extended. The seat he was on was very low.

Human corpses

José Antônio was astonished and terrified when he caught sight of a sort of low shelf, apparently of stone, on which the bodies of four men were stretched out, side by side. This was to one side of him and near the left side-wall of the room. The bodies were lying on their backs, naked – wearing no masks – and seemed dead, their eyes being closed, and they had the rigidity of corpses. One of them was dark-skinned, "indeed a Negro," and another was of a light-brown colour. Both seemed very well built. The other two bodies were lighter in colour and thin. One of these was very blond, "like a foreigner." The bodies seemed to be of men resembling us, and they displayed no visible injuries. ("Unless they had them on their backs, which of course I couldn't see," added José Antônio.)

The little men paid no heed to the corpses. In José Antônio however the sight of the latter had aroused gloomy and pessimistic thoughts on the matter of his ever getting home again. Nevertheless, he does not think that the corpses were of men who had been killed by the homuncules. "Perhaps they couldn't stand up to the experience, or perhaps they pulled their helmets off," he thinks.

Description of the room

The walls and floor of the big room seemed to him to be of stone,[8] in view of the uniformly grey colour. The lighting was also uniform, and was intensely bright, of the mercury vapour type, but no lamps were apparent anywhere.[9] No windows[10] or doors were visible. On the wall to his left – the wall beside which was the shelf with the corpses – were coloured pictures of many things that were familiar to José Antônio or of which he knew: there were animals, such as the jaguar, the monkey, the elephant, the giraffe. There were pictures of houses and of a small town; there were pictures of trees, forests, the sea. There were pictures of vehicles: trucks, like the FNM (Alfa-Romeo); a propeller-driven two-engined aircraft, and an automobile. These pictures, arranged separately along the wall, covered that side of the room only. There was nothing on the wall facing him or on the wall to his right.

Standing on the floor, a little to his right, was a strange apparatus which put José Antônio in mind of a racing car. It was an approximately cylindrical construction, two metres long and 0.80 m. high, and had no openings. On either side of it, in the positions corresponding to those of the wheels of a car, there were round things sticking out, four of them in all, which were not touching the ground, and which reminded him of turbines. Try as he might, he was unable to form any idea as to the purpose and the method of operation of that machine.

Some five metres or so from him, in front, there was a small cubical seat, with no legs, on which the "Chief" sat from time to time. On the right-hand side of this seat, and almost at floor level, there was another slab, several metres long, with a white surface. It seemed to him to be about three metres, and it was used later as a slate, for the drawing of sketches.

Amid all the confusion attendant upon the coming and going of the little men, and their gesticulating and their weird language, and the animation evident in their faces, José Antônio finally concluded that his presence there was a source of great satisfaction for them. The various individuals were all extremely alike, despite the variations in size, features, skin colouring, length of beard, and colour of eyes.

Examination of his belongings

José Antônio was surprised to see that one of them was carefully undoing the cloth bundle in which he had been carrying his fishing tackle. When he was captured on the bank of the lake, this cloth was lying open in a small clearing, and his objects all scattered around it. He had no idea who had rolled it up, with the tackle inside, and brought it to this room, but he now thinks this must have been done by the third member of the crew who remained behind among the trees while he was being carried towards the craft.

In any case, there the little men now were, taking out and examining, with much animation, one by one, his various possessions contained in the bundle. From hand to hand they passed around his collections of hooks, his knives, his boxes of matches, his other angler's tools, a tin of sardines and other foodstuffs, as well as his pieces of clothing. And in the meantime he himself was feeling cold, for he was still wearing only his shorts. He was, however, breathing better.

He observed how, immediately after all the objects and garments had been closely inspected, they set aside one specimen of everything of which there was a duplicate. Thus, the little men took one specimen of each type of fishing-hook; they took one of the three big knives; a box of matches; one of his changes of clothing; and a 100-Cruzeiro banknote (old Cruzeiros) from the total of CR$35,100 which they had found in one of his pockets. All the objects for which there was no duplicate – such as the tin of sardines, for example – were put back into the cloth and this was then rolled up again and carefully fastened. The only exception was his identity card, which they had also found in one of his pockets, and which was passed round for all to see. This, his only identity card, they did not return to him, and it caused many problems for him after his return.

He thinks that the little men had perceived, from his identity card, that he belonged to the military.

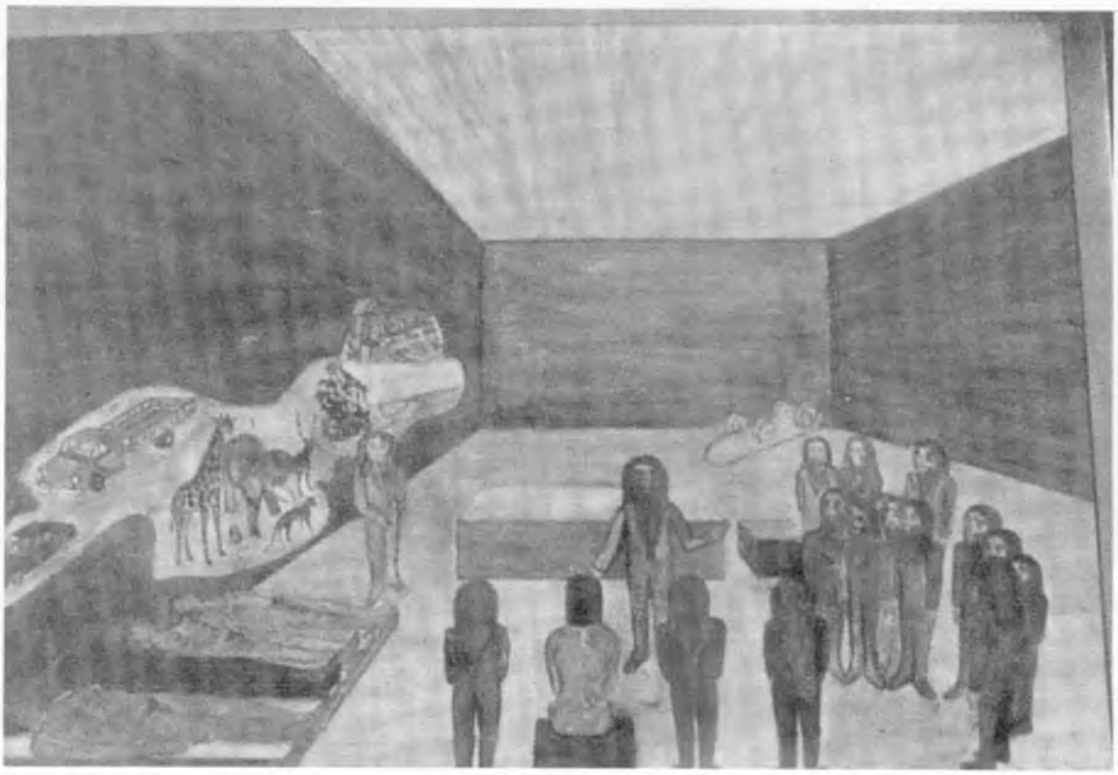


Fig. 3

Scene, depicted by do Carmo, of the examination and interrogation of the witness, based on the latter's description. To his left are four human corpses; at centre the leader with 15-16 small beings; at the far end is a machine like a racing-car.

Demonstration of weapons

For, immediately afterwards, one of them pointed his weapon towards the wall and fired a beam of light which caused a discolouration of the affected area of the wall. And, in addition to that, the first part of José Antônio's "conversation" with the leader subsequently was to revolve around the subject of weapons.

The weapons carried by all the little men were standardized, but of various sizes (Fig.4). A good deal smaller than a rifle, their barrels were very much wider and shorter than those of a rifle and, made of one piece, widened out towards the rear to form the butt. On the top of the central part of each weapon there was a sort of trigger which, when pulled backwards, caused the emission of a luminous beam of the type by which he was struck before being captured.

Attempts to communicate

Into the short, thick fingers of the "Chief" one of the little men passed a small black cylindrical object which he used later as a pencil, for writing on the smooth, light-coloured "slate" beside him. Turning now directly towards José Antônio, he accompanied his incomprehensible speech with wide-sweeping gestures. He pointed at the soldier, then upwards, then downwards, then to his companions, and, after each combination of words and gestures, he seemed to be awaiting an answer from José Antônio. As this series of attempts continued, the soldier thought he began to understand some of it: thus, that the gesture pointing downwards meant: *your country*; the gesture upwards meant: *this room, here,* or *our country,* and so on. His understanding was amplified by the illustrations, in the form of rough sketches, made by the Leader on the white "slate" and by his accompanying words and gestures.

In the first sketch, José Antônio thought he could see "an army camp." It was a circle with armed figures around it, like sentries. The Leader pointed to the weapons in the sketch, and then to José Antônio, and then downwards, and then finally upwards, from which José Antônio understood that he wanted to get some of our weapons through him, José Antônio. To this José Antônio gesticulated negatively, and, as the Leader still kept insisting on this type of theme, he began to lose all hope of returning home alive. *(José Antônio has repeatedly refused to reveal to us other passages in the "conversation" on this subject.)*

Food?

One of the little men, carrying in both hands a cube which seemed to be heavy and made of stone, came up to José Antônio. The cube was hollowed out on the upper side and contained a dark-green-coloured liquid. The Leader indicated to him that he should drink it, while one of the subordinates loosened his helmet from behind, and raised it with a certain degree of violence. José Antônio resisted and made gestures of refusal. Then, later, seeing that one of the little men was drinking the liquid himself he decided to take some too, for he felt very weak and had had nothing to eat. The liquid had a bitter taste and was contained in a pyramidal-shaped cavity in the cube. From that moment he began to feel better, and had more life in him. And, furthermore, he thinks that after that he began to understand better what the Leader wanted to say.

The Leader's proposition

Among all the various aspects touched upon in the attempts at communication, there is one point on which José Antônio is in no doubt: these individuals

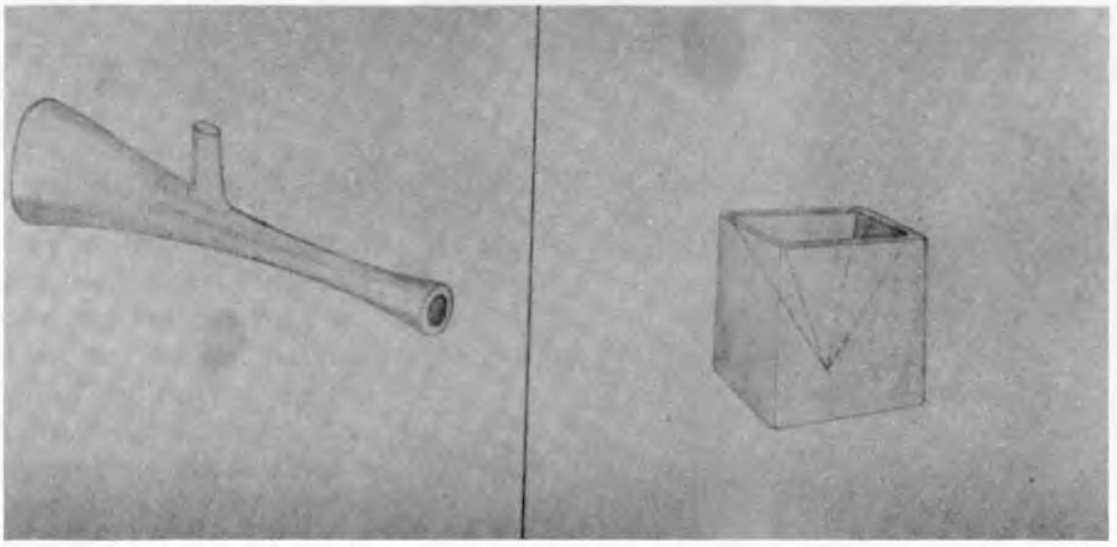


Fig. 4.

Left: the type of weapon carried by the small, red-bearded beings.

Right: the "cup" in which Jose Antonio was given a liquid to drink.

were insisting that he help them in connexion with their purposes *vis-a-vis* our society.

Using the big pencil on the horizontal "slate," the Leader patiently traced two big circles, side by side. Then he blackened one of them, leaving the other circle white. He pointed first to one circle and then to the other, and then finally to José Antônio and downwards, and José Antônio finally grasped that the white circle corresponded to the terrestrial day and the black circle to our night. After the considerable period of time which it had taken for José Antônio to arrive at this conclusion, he nodded his head affirmatively, and the Leader continued with his sketches.

He next outlined an enormous series of small circles with white insides, linking them, by gestures, with the bigger white circle. As he had stopped referring to the blackened circle, José Antônio understood that the small circles corresponded to *"days."* As he drew each small circle, the Leader of the little men paused, and drew José Antônio's attention by gestures, so that he began to count them. Very patiently, the Leader completed a great mass of small white circles, and then drew around them all another larger circle. José Antônio lost count when he had got beyond 300 with the number of small circles, but concluded that the whole lot taken together signified a year, or 365 days. When he had given his affirmative gesture to the Leader, the latter went on to draw nine more agglomerations of small circles, linking them by gestures to the first agglomeration, and drawing the attention of José Antônio who now perceived that he was talking about a unit of *ten years*, as each agglomeration of small white circles was circumscribed by another larger one.

Then the little man drew a thick line separating off three of the agglomerations from the remaining seven, and then began pointing, first at the group of three agglomerations of circles, and then at Jose Antonio, and then downwards. After that, he again pointed to the soldier and then upwards and then at the group of seven large agglomerations, and made still more gestures, thus giving José Antônio to understand the sequence of his message as follows:

"He is proposing to take me to the Earth, where I shall remain for three years, collecting information for him. Then he will send for me to come to them, where I shall remain studying for seven years. And then finally they will land on Earth, with me as a guide."

José Antônio's reply to this was a gesture of negation, indicating his refusal. At that moment he was already fingering the Rosary which he had been wearing rolled round his waist, and he was praying aloud. When he had got as far as the fourth "mystery" of the first part of the telling of his beads, the Leader stepped towards him and, displaying irritation for the first time, seized the Crucifix and snatched it from him. One of the beads rolled onto the floor and was picked up by one of the little men, who showed it to the others. The Crucifix was passed round in the same way, arousing the curiosity of all of them.

A vision and a secret

Suddenly, while the little men were involved in a lengthy discussion, José Antônio saw appear, almost right in front of him, and as though out of the void, a human figure. It took up position in front of him, and remained there immobile, with a firm and friendly demeanour, and looking straight at him and speaking to him in a very clear Portuguese. José Antônio at once concluded that this vision was exclusively for *him*, because, despite the favourable position of the figure in the room, it was apparently not perceived by the little men, who went on talking among themselves, while getting more and more angry.

Despite the way in which the apparition had arrived, it was quite clearly the figure of a man of about 1.70 m. in height, lean, with long fair hair and beard. His complexion was pink and white, his eyes clear and serene. His dark clothing reached to his feet, which were bare. His robe had wide sleeves, the collar was turned down, and he wore a sort of thick white cord around the waist, with a knot at each of the hanging extremities, like a friar's cassock.

José Antônio, who until that moment was in sore distress and without hope, felt relief coming at once

from the presence of this person whom he identifies as "a good person, one of our people" and, in particular, took heart from certain revelations that the vision made to him. These revelations were to be imparted to nobody else, so José Antônio tells us, until he had received fresh instructions, and that might perhaps not be before two or three years have passed.

On the matter of this vision, the soldier has displayed tremendous resistence to questioning, especially as regards the message received by him, which he considers to be a secret. Even these details of the physical description of the individual seen in the vision were given by him only with the greatest reluctance, for he maintains that these details could suffice for the identification of the person.

We asked him how it could be possible for the secret to be discovered merely from a simple description of the features of someone whom we did not know and would never meet. He gave us to understand however that it *would* be possible to recognize the person, and that it *would not* be impossible that we should meet him. Asked whether the vision was of Jesus, José Antônio promptly replied that it was not. As to whether it was some Saint, he was unwilling to reply, merely smiling and changing the subject of conversation. After repeated interviews we managed to obtain some indications regarding the contents of the message. (See the concluding part of this Report.)

The return journey

The tall individual vanished in just the same way as he had appeared in the room – suddenly. And, at precisely the same moment, the little men began to show signs of irritation against each other. The Leader came over to the two custodians, who had never left José Antônio's side. Then the eyeholes in his helmet were covered again with a blindfold. And, in the same fashion as he had been brought, the soldier was now taken under the arms and carried to another place which, when the blindfold had been removed, he discovered to be the inside of the machine that had brought him.

Then began the long return journey, with the same three crew-members and with the same incidents as when he had been brought, that is to say, with the machine changing position for a time, and with the light increasing and pulsating for a certain period.

Arrival in the state of Espirito Santo

Immediately after he had felt the shock which meant that the machine had touched down, his companions loosened and then removed his helmet. Then he suffered an almost total loss of consciousness, being merely aware that they were dragging him into the darkness. He thinks he remained in this condition of semi-consciousness for about an hour, after which he began to notice the first signs of the approaching dawn. Then he became aware of the sound of running water near by and, impelled by intense thirst, he crawled along on the ground until he came to a brook. He had his bundle, from which he drew out his waterbottle, which he filled twice. He estimates that he drank 1½ litres of water, yet still his thirst was not entirely quenched. Then he got out his fishing tackle and managed to catch a few small fish, which he ate.

When the sun came up he was able to take a better look at his surroundings, which he found to be a landscape that was totally strange to him. He had been left on the edge of a small stone-quarry, beside a ravine. Lame, confused, exhausted, and unkempt, with his great growth of beard, he started to walk, and soon came to a paved road where he approached somebody who was passing along it. He asked them where he was, and was told that he was 32 kms. from Vitória, the Capital of the State of Espírito Santo, and that he was on the road leading from there to the State of Minas Gerais. On hearing this he was amazed, and asked what day it was. This time it was the turn of the unknown passer-by to be amazed, for he told the soldier that it was Friday, May 9.

Four-and-a-half days absent

Making a quick mental calculation, José Antônio concluded, with great alarm, that he had been away for four-and-a-half days. He asked in which direction Minas Gerais lay, and then set off along the road, absorbed in his own thoughts. He came to the conclusion that he had better not return to Minas Gerais, since he would be unable to account for his absence: nobody would believe his story. So he decided that he would prefer to make for the woods and try to live off fruit and fish. He was especially afraid of being picked up by the Police of Espírito Santo, as he had no longer any identity card that he could show them.

Nevertheless, while his thoughts followed this trend, his route was bringing him back ever nearer to the Minas Gerais State-line. Several times motorists, seeing he was having difficulty walking, stopped to offer him a lift, but he refused them. His right leg was the one more seriously affected, and seemed to be swollen at the knee. In addition to that, he had three open wounds on his shoulders and below the nape of the neck, caused by the action of the helmet rubbing against him.

At last however, overcome by fatigue, he gave in and accepted a lift, which brought him to near the town of Colatina. But he remained extremely careful to conceal his story, and when people asked him questions he gave the excuse that he was "fulfilling a vow."

Setting out again along the road, he met a group of children, and asked them the shortest way which would bring him to the nearest station on the Vitória-Minas Gerais line. He complains that, after having told him the route, the children pelted him with stones and jeered at him, maybe because of his strange appearance.

Following the railway line, he finally came to a small station, which was in fact Colatina. There he stopped and asked the station-agent when the next train to Belo Horizonte would come, for he had already changed his mind by now, and was resolved to return home and face the consequences.

As it would be quite a long time yet before the train arrived, he remained in the station talking to the agent, with whom he struck up a friendship, with the result that he went to the agent's house and had something to eat, and met his wife and children. He also met a settler who lived nearby and who offered him a job, which he did not accept. Grateful to the agent for the way in which he had treated him, he gave him one of his two remaining knives. In addition, he paid for the ticket of a youth who had no money. The little men had put back CR$35,000 into his pocket out of the total of CR$35,100 (old Cruzeiros) that he had been carrying.

Back in Belo Horizonte

At 7.25 a.m. on Saturday he got out of the train at the Belo Horizonte station of the Estrada de Ferro Central do Brasil (Central Brazil Railway Line), where he was approached by the railway's security man, Sr. Geraldo Lopes da Silva. Finally, he told the security man the whole story[11] and was sent by him to the Barracks, from where he was taken to the home of Major Célio Ferreira.

In the course of our interviews with him, José Antônio was very insistent that we should go with him to the spot where the machine had landed when it brought him back, for so he said, we should probably still find there a little fish swimming about in a small pool in the rocks into which it had fallen when he threw it back, after having eaten enough. He also said that the railway agent at Colatina would know him and would show us the large knife which he had given him.

Footnotes and comments by Gordon Creighton

1 The title which we used was *Fortyeight Hours In A Flying Saucer,* this being the heading of the original press-report of May 16, 1969.

2 At times Sr. Hulvio Brant Aleixo describes this headpiece as a mask (Portuguese: *mascara*) and at other times as a helmet (Portuguese: *capacete.*) [See Alberto do Carmo's sketches.]

3 I draw attention once more to this very important feature of the compartment's brilliant lighting, coming from no visible source. It is a feature that has appeared in numerous claims made by individuals who say they have been inside landed UFOs, and, since these people are not usually students of the UFO literature but rather unsophisticated folk with no previous knowledge of our subject, it strikes me as arguing strongly for the truthfulness of their stories.

4 As I pointed out in *Fortyeight Hours In A Flying Saucer,* this feature of the helmet which they placed on their prisoner's head reminds us strongly of the case of Felipe Martinez of Argentina who told a Buenos Aires newspaper in October 1965 that, in one of his several encounters with small beings from landed UFOs, they had tried to put a 'space-suit' on him but that it had caused circulatory disturbances. He also claimed that they had once produced a numbing or paralyzed effect in his legs. But this too is a feature that has been claimed very often, as is the upright shaft said to be running through the centre of the UFO. (On Felipe Martinez, see Case 44 of *The Humanoids In Latin America,* being Section 4 of *The Humanoids* (hard-back edition, Neville Spearman, London, 1969).

5 Compare Charles Bowen's article *Fantasy or Truth?* on the "Salzburg-Mars Express", in FSR Vol. 13, No.4, July August 1967. The anonymous Austrian who claimed to have been paralyzed and kidnapped by a small being, and abducted in a saucer, said that soon after take-off the vehicle seemed to reverse poles and that a second motor, previously below the 'floor' and now above the 'ceiling', took over from the other motor.

6 This recalls the scuffing of the toes of Barney Hill's shoes (See John G. Fuller: *The Interrupted Journey,* Dial Press, New York, 1966).

7 This too we have heard before.

8 Everything—walls, floor, shelves or slabs, and even the drinking vessel—appears to be of *stone.* Perhaps there is a valuable clue here.

9 See Note 3 above.

10 And here, maybe, is another clue.

11 Finally, as regards the setting of this extraordinary alleged experience of a Brazilian soldier, it should be noted that it lies not very far to the north of Itaperuna, which has figured so often in our reports of late. And the creatures described in the Itaperuna episodes also seem always to be around the 1 metre or 1 metre 20 size.

Moreover there is another place quite close (see map) which has even more sinister connotations. This is Diamantina, not far from the Rio das Velhas, near which stream José Antônio da Silva said he had been captured. It was at Diamantina (see Case 29 in my *The Humanoids In Latin America)* that, in the early hours of August 1962, the diamond prospector Rivalino Mafra da Silva (no relation of José Antônio, so far as we know) was abducted on the very doorstep of his hut, and before the eyes of his small son, seemingly by two mysterious balls, following upon a night of terror during which weird small forms had appeared inside the hut and inspected him and his sleeping children. We understand that Rivalino da Silva was never seen again.

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MUFON 1973 SYMPOSIUM Proceedings, Hynek, Friedman; Phillips Schuessler and others. S3.25 USA/Canada, S4.00 elsewhere. Midwest UFO Network, 40, Christopher Court, Quincy, Ill. 62301, U.S.A.

THE UFO WAVE OF 1973
Some Early Statistics

Jacques Vallée

THIS is simply a note to alert readers of this publication to the sudden rise in the level of UFO activity taking place in the United States, in Western Europe and possibly in other parts of the world as well.

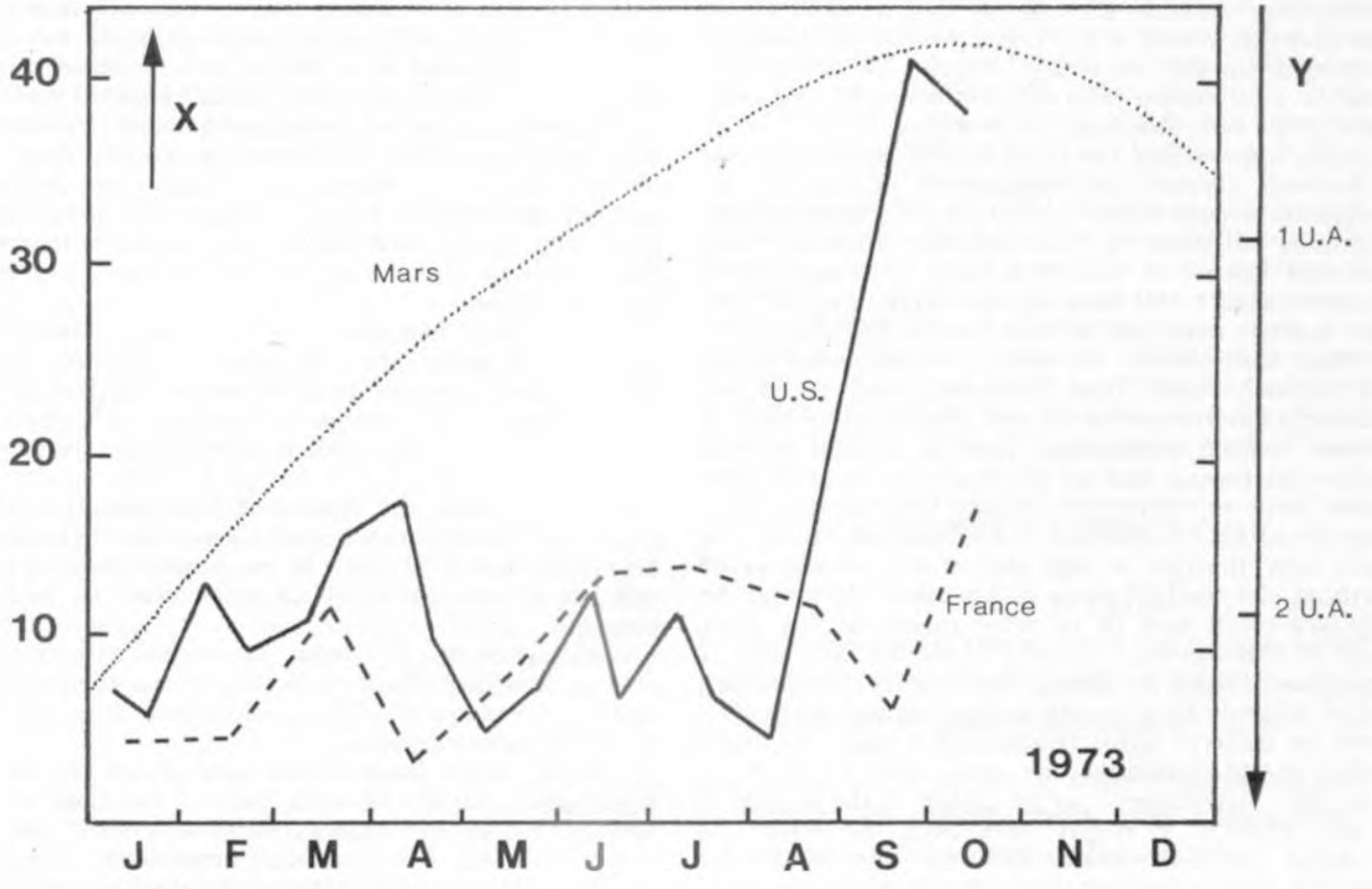
The statistics reported here were gathered by the author during a four-week research trip from California to France with extended stops in Washington and in London (Organizations visited included the *Flying Saucer Review* and *Lumières dans la Nuit).* Data regarding the frequency of American reports until October 1973 were kindly contributed by Mr. Ted Phillips, of the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON). French data, plotted on the same scale on the attached graph, are based on the statistics of Mr. F. Lagarde of LDLN.

Two facts stand out when these graphs are examined:

1. A Western European wave is just beginning at the time of writing, with a number of landings, close-encounter cases and fly-overs observed by many witnesses, including policemen. It lags about two months after the American wave.
2. These sudden rises in UFO activity are, once again, correlated with the close approach of planet Mars, shown as a dotted curve with the scale (in Astronomical Units) on the right-hand side of the graph.

It is important not to speculate about these facts until more complete statistics are available. It is hoped that early publication of these figures will encourage UFO research organizations to gather and rapidly make available such statistics.

Paris, December 15, 1973.



KEY:

X = Number of UFO reports

Y = Distance Earth – Mars

BUENOS AIRES BUILDER ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED BY ENTITIES

Translation from *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 129 (November 1973) by Gordon Creighton

ON October 4, 1972, between 3.15 and 3.55 a.m., at Buenos Aires, Gilberto G. Ciccioli, an uneducated 50-year-old building worker, claims to have been kidnapped by several large beings of human form, with long chins and wearing olive-green uniforms, who took from him blood and sperm. Subsequently he experienced deleterious effects as a result of the experience, but also acquired a new knowledge of scientific matters "through revelation" (interior revelation?). The case also involves reaction by animals.

The following report was received from Sr. Antonio O. Perez Aléman of Córdoba (Argentina) and forwarded to *Lumières Dans La Nuit* by our good friend and FSR reader S. Ignacio Darnaude of Seville. (The Editor of LDLN states that he has asked Sr. Perez Aléman for further details.)

G. CREIGHTON

Sr. Coccioli's account

On October 4, 1972, at about 3.15 in the early morning, Coccioli suddenly awoke from deep sleep, having heard some sounds coming from the entrance door to his house – sounds which, as he thought, might have been caused by his very strong and sturdy dog, a bitch 45 cms. in height, aged about nine months, which every night was in the habit of escaping from the house by jumping over the fence (1.50 or 1.60 metres) and then returning by the same route in the early hours of the morning.

As he approached the front door however to open it, he was dazzled and completely blinded by an extremely intense "light" of which he was unable to determine whether it was coming from a "concentrated beam" or was of a more widespread and extensive nature. All he knew was that this light was most intense and that he was totally blinded by it.

From that instant onwards, Coccioli, who is big and robustly built, and thickset, used to heavy building construction jobs, and possessed of only a primary school education, but in normal mental health and having had no physical or mental disease (apart from an operation—already long healed—for a stomach ulcer) completely lost all notion of time or place. Any thought or any idea of any action, or of anything else, melted away in his mind. Although he does not recall how or by what means or "by what kinds of intelligence," he was conveyed to a sort of large room, which he calls a "Laboratory," and which was all brightly lit up, with a huge central lamp that threw an indirect light, resembling a neon or fluorescent type of apparatus.

In this "laboratory" as he called it (he is unable to say whether it might have been the inside of an aerial craft or somewhere on this earth) he observed, fully conscious and quite sure of what he is seeing, several "Intelligent Beings" which were moving about around him but which did not speak. (He had a mental feeling that he had no cause to be afraid.) Their forms were completely human, but they were from 2.20 metres to 2.30 metres in height, with extremely long, slender profiles, the size of their waists being scarcely as much as 25-30 cms. Their chins were wide and very long. *(He made some sketches, but LDLN have apparently not yet received these.* –G.C.

All these "Intelligent Beings", of whom he is unable to say how many there were, whether 5, or 10, all of the same height and all with the same features, were clad in a strange garb which seemed to him to be a sort of dark olive-green coloured uniform.

At once several of them made a start by extracting *blood* from the middle of the fourth finger on his left hand, by means of a device resembling a thick pencil with a point. It caused no pain. Then, after that, they took from him sperm, which they put carefully into a receptacle, as they had done with the blood.

Inside the "laboratory", which was constructed entirely of metal, he was able to observe various things which seemed to him to be "apparatus and instruments", the names or purposes of which he could not say, but which he thought were for research.

At that point, he again lost all sense of time or place, and knew no more until he recovered consciousness and found himself in his home again, at 3.55 a.m., in other words 40 minutes after he had left there.

Subsequently, he began to notice a number of strange and important facts. For example the finger, and the whole of his left hand as well, kept swelling up at irregular intervals...

Twelve days later, he became aware of various slight pains in the bottom part of the nape of the neck, i.e., in the upper "cervical centre" of the spinal column; his "intuitive sensitivity" began to undergo an access of perceptivity hitherto unknown to him, and he began to possess knowledge – which he previously had not had – of the pure sciences, such as Physics, Astronomy, and Philosophy, subjects

of which he had been utterly ignorant in his former condition as a building construction labourer.

After the experience his dog began to suffer from long periods of semi-paralyzed immobility, lasting several days at a time, together with pitiful states in which it displayed symptoms of anxiety and fear.

COMMENTS BY GORDON CREIGHTON

NOBODY with a reasonable acquaintance with the literature of our subject will fail to detect in this story quite a number of familiar features.

To begin with, there is the "blinding light," so frequent an ingredient in UFO encounter reports. Lack of space makes it impossible to note more than one example here, so I will confine myself to a mention of the Sauce Viejo case of December 1963, in which the Argentinian railway worker Cesar Tulio Gallardo claimed to have been sitting one night in a stationary coach on a railway siding when an astonishing being entered and blinded him with a powerful light. (Case No. 35 of my "The Humanoids In Latin America," in FSR Special Issue No. 1, *The Humanoids.)*

The next feature that strikes me is the "long chins" of the entities that allegedly abducted this man, for Jane Thomas has just reported a similar case from the Bahia Blanca area – also in Argentina (see her "The Hitch-Hiker From Space" in FSR for November-December 1972; also the follow-up sketch of the entity, forwarded by her later and reproduced on the inside rear cover of *FSR Case Histories No. 14,* April 1973). This is indeed a weird feature and one which I do not recall ever having seen mentioned before in any other claim of a UFO encounter until the hitch-hiker case.

Inevitably the present case will have put all readers in mind at once of both the A.V.B. case and the Betty and Barney Hill case, although of course there are differences, particularly as regards the *size* of the abducting entities. The description of the large "room", with seemingly all-metal walls, certainly recalls A.V.B.'s description of the interior of "his" craft, and the use of various "instruments" for examining the victim is mentioned in all these cases. As regards the taking of blood, the present case shows a discrepancy from A.V.B.'s (where the blood was taken from spots on each side of the chin) but I recall several other cases in which entities are alleged to have extracted blood from fingers, as in the present report. (See, for example, Charles Bowen's "One Day In Mendoza", which appeared in FSR for November-December 1968 and which describes how the two Argentinian casino employees Carlos Peccinetti and Fernando Jose Villegas claimed to have been accosted by five bald "pumpkin-heads" 1.50 metres in height, who took blood from them by pricking their fingers three times (also on the *left hand*, as in the present case).

As regards the other attentions which the construction labourer Coccioli says "his" creatures lavished upon him, we might note that it seems they dispensed with the lady...We suspect that not all are provided for as thoughtfully in that respect as was A.V.B., who "got his money's worth."

The powerful effect of the numbing light which paralyzes all physical movement and inhibits all independent thought and all sense of time and place while seemingly also inducing the idea that the passive victim should have no fear, reminds us of course not only of the Mendoza casino employees, but also of the more recent extraordinary cases at Itaperuna. (See "Uproar in Brazil", in FSR for November-December 1971, and "Itaperuna Again", in FSR for March-April 1972.) The forthcoming FSR Special Issue No. 5 *UFO Encounters* will also deal at length with Dr. W. Buhler's exhaustive study of the Itaperuna series of cases.

Finally, we have the extraordinary claim that this ignorant labourer, previously possessed of only an elementary education, is now developing spontaneous "cosmic" knowledge of such matters as Physics, Astronomy, and Philosophy, just as, so we learn, happened recently to the ignorant 73-year-old Argentinian Ventura Maceiras of Tres Arroyos! (See Pedro Romaniuk: "Rejuvenation Follows Close Encounter With UFO", in FSR for July/August 1973, and: "The Extraordinary Case of Rejuvenation", in FSR for September/October 1973.)

Those who are familiar with occult and arcane teachings will not fail to note with great interest that, in the present case, this uneducated man's access of "intuitive sensitivity" and "perceptivity" is described explicitly as having been accompanied by pain or disturbances in the region of the "upper cervical centre of the spinal column." (Clear evidence of the well-known relationship of "cosmic consciousness" and "higher states of knowledge" *with the spinal system and the chakras.)* As in the case of "Dr. X" (Aimé Michel's account is in FSR Special Issue No. 3 *UFO Percipients),* a process of transformation which has hitherto traditionally been brought about by the *guru's* or *yoga teacher's* slow development of the pupil's chakram centres over the course of many years of arduous application, is now apparently being wrought by UFO entities in the twinkling of an eye, using moreover, as their human material, folk whom the old-time *yogis* would surely have thought the most unpromising sort of candidates!

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by

Merrill B. Taylor

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LANDING AT COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

A report of a remarkable case with physical, electrical and animal effects

Ted Phillips

Our contributor is well-known as an investigator for the Midwest UFO network (MUFON) — we have published his catalogue of Missouri cases in *FSR Case Histories* Supp. 8, December 1971, and his investigation of the Delphos case in *FSR Case Histories* Supp. 9 — who specialises in landing trace cases. This report was the subject of a discussion between Dr. J. Allen Hynek and myself during the Northwestern University astronomer's August 1973 visit to the UK. Dr. Hynek, who had assisted in the investigation, kindly left the documents with me for publication.

EDITOR

HERE is a report of an interesting incident which features in my Missouri File (No. 409) and Physical Trace File (No. 568). The location of the sighting is a half-mile south-east of Columbia (population 37,000), Boone County, Missouri. The witnesses live in a mobile home outside the city limits of Columbia. It is situated at the end of a dead-end lane about 1,000 feet north of State Road WW. With the exception of the front yard, to the east, the home is surrounded by scattered trees. A house is located across the lane, to the east, and is occupied by an elderly lady who was asleep at the time of the observation.

The event took place from 12.30 a.m. to 1.05 a.m. The witnesses are James G. Richards, aged 41, an animal care technician at the University of Missouri, his wife Shirley, daughter, Vanea, aged 16, and son Jamie, aged 3.

Information was gathered during three visits to the home of the Richards family on July 9, 14 and 28, 1973. The bulk of the information was obtained from a taped interview on July 28, 1973, and part of this report will consist of direct quotes from that interview.

The incident

The event began as Vanea went into the kitchen to place a baby bottle in the refrigerator. The refrigerator is located by the north window of the trailer and that window was open at the time. Vanea heard a rather loud thrashing sound (it could be heard above the sound of a record player in the living room) in the direction of scattered trees some 80 feet north of the window. At this point she could see nothing in the dark wooded area. As she listened at the window the sound seemed to be moving around a large tree (tree A in Fig. 4). As the sound persisted she became rather frightened and called to her father to come to the window.

Mr. Richards and Jamie were sitting in the living room at this point. Mr. Richards stated that as it was late, he was tired and was slow in going to the window. Vanea ran to the screened porch at the front of the home and locked the outside screen door and the front door. By this time Mr. Richards had reached the window and was looking from the left side towards N.N.E. Vanea took up position on the right side of the window and was looking toward tree A.

As he watched, Mr. Richards noted two beams of light (Fig. 1) which were located at a point between the fence and the trees. The light beams would have been about 50 feet from the window. The beams were tapered, about four feet wide at the top, and tapering to about two feet wide at the ground. They were some five feet apart. The beams were bright and silver-white in colour. He could not see any form above or behind the beams.

Suddenly, the beams disappeared, faded out rapidly, and a bright oval form was seen just above the original position of the beams. Mr. Richards and Vanea estimated the glowing form to be 12 to 15 feet in diameter and very near the ground. The object was described as extremely bright (Mr. Richards had to turn his eyes away briefly) and silver-white in colour. The edges were fuzzy and no surface details were visible. The glow did not fade out or brighten during the observation.

The trees around the form, to the left and right, were quite visible in the glow. The area was "lit up bright as day." No sound could be heard other than the thrashing noise in the trees and grass. No other forms were seen. The witnesses noted that the trees were moving back and forth as though blown by a strong wind (see weather data below). Tree A showed a different motion: it was described by Vanea as a "tugging" motion. It seemed that something was pulling that one tree towards the ground. Shortly after the entire object was visible the thrashing noise ceased. The tugging motion on tree A was still evident. Mr. Richards and Vanea heard a loud cracking sound and the tugging motion stopped. It was this tree which was damaged, and the following morning, a large limb was found broken at a point 17 feet above the ground.

The area was now very quiet. Mr. Richards moved to the various windows around the trailer, and it was at this time that he noticed his dogs lying very still between the trailer and a shed nearby (to the west). He told me that normally, during the night, the dogs



Richards' trailer home, looking South from observation far point in field

barked at the various night animals in the area. It seemed very strange to him that his dogs were not barking at all this noise and at the bright lights.

Mr. Richards then went to the bedroom at the south end of the trailer to get his guns. He brought the guns to the kitchen, removed several shells from the cabinet, loaded the guns and placed them on a deep freeze by the north window. He joined Vanea at the window once again and noted that the object was still in the same position. The light from the glowing form illuminated trees as far away as 100 feet. At this close position (about 50 feet) the object was silver-white or aluminium in colour, no other colours being visible.

Mr. Richards said: "It was real, real bright at the centre, dull white at the edges, way beyond a normal light (such as an automobile headlight at the same distance) in brightness."

Of the brightness, Vanea said: "It was bright, but it didn't hurt my eyes."

After the object had remained in this close position for several minutes Mr. Richards decided to call for help. The object began moving away towards the north, passing below tree limbs through an open area some 20 feet wide. It moved parallel to the ground until it reached the edge of the field and then raised slightly and hovered some 200 feet from the house. At this point it was not as bright as they could see that it was silver-white at the centre with a blue band of light and an orange glow extending around the outer edge. It was still low enough to be below a line of trees at the northern edge of the field. When it was at this far point "the colour...it was something to behold, I'm telling you, it was, really," said Mr. Richards.

The object moved about 10° to the west, stopped briefly, and moved back to its original position over the field. The motion was smooth and slow.

While the object was some distance from the trailer Richards dialled 113 for directory assistance, and the operator who took the call* later told me that Mr. Richards was very excited and seemed to be frightened as he described the event. He told her that he needed help and asked her to contact the police, the F.B.I. or anyone who could help him. After about one minute she told him that she would contact an exchange operator and have her call him back. As he talked with the directory assistance operator the house lights dimmed twice. He hung up and returned to the window. While Mr. Richards and Vanea were watching the object, the directory assistance operator contacted an exchange operator† and gave her the phone number. The lady immediately dialled the number; there was neither a "busy" signal, nor a ring, and in her opinion, the Richards line was dead. She tried dialling the number five times, pausing after the third or fourth attempt to contact the directory assistance operator to be sure she had the right number. After the fifth try (she stated that it would have taken perhaps three minutes to dial five times, waiting briefly after each dialling and contacting directory assistance, she did get through.

During this time Mr. Richards was concerned because no one had called back (in a situation such as this a minute or two could seem to be a very long time) so he picked up the receiver to call out again. Over *his* end of the line he could hear no sound or "busy" signal. He tried again and again to call out. Suddenly, as he recalls, the exchange operator was on the line saying: "Richards?" To which he answered: "Jefferson City?" (Actually, the operator was in Columbia, Missouri, and Mr. Richards could not be sure just why he thought it was Jefferson City on the line.)

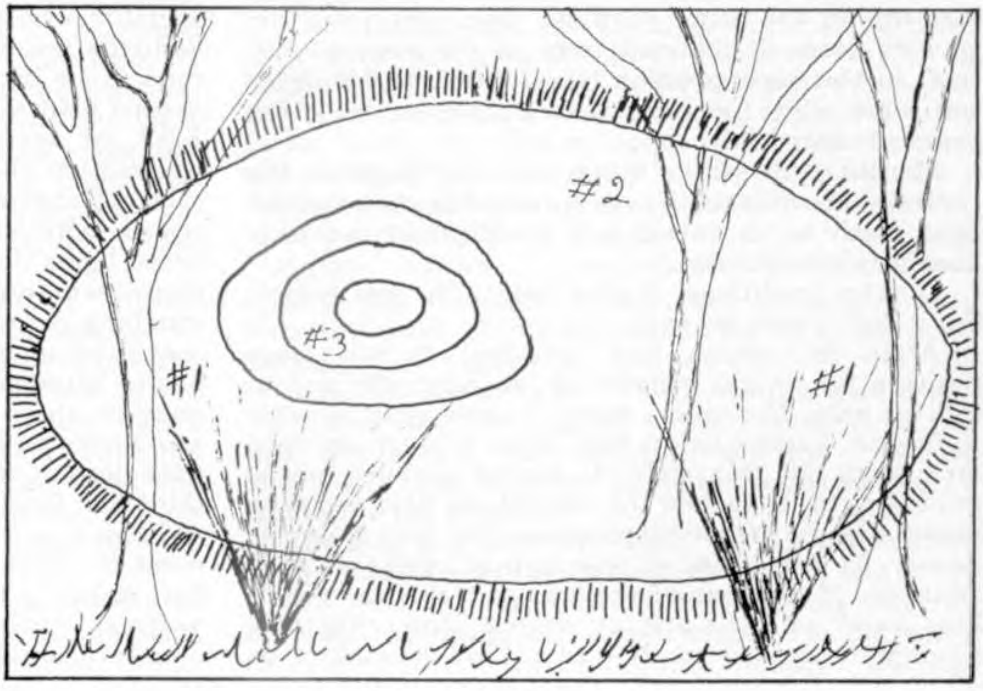
Mr. Richards then described what had been happening (see interview with the exchange operator), and that he was frightened for his children. This operator *thought* (she could not be at all sure) that she contacted the Richards home at about 12.45 a.m. To her best recollection, he repeated his story over and over, pausing to ask Vanea if the thing was still there, and what it was doing. Both the exchange operator and her directory assistance colleague felt that Mr. Richards was sober and telling the truth.

After what seemed to be several minutes (she couldn't be sure of the time) the exchange operator contacted the Flight Service Station (Federal Aviation Administration) at the Columbia Regional Airport. The lady on duty+ at that time stated that Richards sounded sincere and sober. He seemed to be frightened as he described the event. After several minutes she told Mr. Richards that there had been another sighting on June 24 at Jefferson City. She then told him that she would contact the police for him and they hung up.

The object was again moving toward the trailer and Mr. Richards and his daughter became very frightened. He stated: "It came back and we had it, I'll tell you. We didn't know what to do, we both got kind of scared. I said, what's gonna happen? Something's gonna happen here. This cold feeling came over me; I got speechless at this time. I just had this cold feeling when it came back that second time. I was just sure, like you almost feel that you were gonna get killed or something. Like death was at you, this was it. I didn't know what to do. I just froze. I just knew this was it and no one would come, no policemen. I was scared to go out the door — I wouldn't have gone outside, no way."

The object moved to a point among the trees near to its original position and remained there for an undetermined period of time. It suddenly moved away through the trees towards the field. It moved with a smooth slow motion and no sound. Mr. Richards noted that the trees did not move during the second close approach and there was no thrashing sound. As the object reached a point at the nearer edge of the field it rose slightly until it reached a point over the field some 200 feet away. It hovered and no motion could be seen. It was still below the tree line to the north. The orange and blue bands could be seen again, while it was silver-white at the centre. The glow seemed to shrink; even though it was getting smaller the orange and blue bands were visible until it just disappeared by growing smaller and smaller. It does not appear likely that it was growing smaller because it was moving away into the distance as no motion could be seen and it would have hit the trees to the north had it flown away. After the glow had faded out the object was not seen again.

At about 1.45 a.m. the police arrived. One young officer walked to the area with Mr. Richards and looked around briefly. He told Richards that the tracks looked like they were made by rabbits, Mr. Richards told him to forget the whole thing and he returned to the trailer, followed by the officer. He told the officer if he thought they were rabbit tracks he should forget the whole thing. It was very possible that the officer did not see the deep imprints. They did not see the broken limb at that time. Mr. Richards called the Flight Service Station after the object disappeared and the lady on duty stated that he seemed relieved that he could talk with someone about the event.



The three phases of the UFO phenomenon — based on a rough sketch by James Richard —

#1: Two beams of light

#2: Silver-white oval form, fuzzy edges

#3: Silver-white centre, surrounded by a blue band, orange glow extending around outer edge.



Fig. 2. "Far off"



Fig. 3. "Close up"

Sketches, based on drawings by Vanea Richards (July 14, 1973), depicting how the object appeared to her

Investigations at the site

July 9, 1973: by Ted and Ginger Phillips, 9.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon.

We visited the site for a brief time en route for Chicago. As we were not in a position to spend a great deal of time in Columbia I obtained only brief details of the observation and spent most of the time obtaining measurements and taking photographs of the site. The imprints, and the damage to the trees, are located in an area of scattered trees north of the trailer (Fig. 4). There is a fence at 25 feet from the window, and the first imprint was found some 50.5 feet beyond the fence. This seemed to be a series of imprints rather than just one. The imprints at this point numbered four, and they were 0.5 feet by 0.4 feet with a depth of 0.2 to 0.3 feet.

This first set of imprints is 9.5 feet from a large broken tree limb. This limb is 0.4 feet in diameter and was still attached to the tree trunk. It appeared to have been twisted slightly and pulled towards the ground. The limb was broken at a point 16.5 feet above the ground. Two smaller limbs, each 0.1 feet in diameter, located on the larger limb, were broken off. A small limb 17.0 feet above the ground extending from the tree trunk at the point of the break, shows signs of being rubbed. All the breaks are fresh. Leaves in this area around the broken limbs are dying, and there are signs of scorching on them. It was noted that three limbs on tree B had leaves which were turning brown. These leaves are 25 to 35 feet above the ground.

To the north of the first imprint (along the alleged flight path) we found a complex series of imprints. It is very hard to determine a pattern as the object moved through the area at least four times, coming in and going out. The most prominent imprints are shown on Fig. 5. Bob Gassaway, a reporter with the *Columbia Tribune*, visited the site on the day of the sighting. He told me that he tried to make a heel mark by one of the imprints and although he weighs over 300 pounds, he could insert his heel to a depth of only ½ inch. As the imprints are generally 0.5 by 0.4 feet with a depth of 0.3 feet, we must assume a weight on each imprint of well over 300 pounds. One other limb, near imprint I, (Fig. 5.) had dead leaves. There were no marks of any kind in the field. The area was checked for radiation on June 28, but none was detected.

July 14, 1973: by Ted and Ginger Phillips, with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, 11.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m.

Additional photographs of the site were taken. One change was noted: the leaves on the three limbs of tree B were now barren.

July 28, 1973: by Ted and Ginger Phillips, 9.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Taped interviews with the exchange operator and Mr. Richards.

Talked also with the directory assistance operator and with the lady official of the Flight Service Station (FAA). We noted that additional leaves had fallen, or were dying, all along the flight path. Leaves on the far side of the various trees were normal.

Statement by the exchange operator (of Columbia, Missouri)

After giving – for the record – her name and age, and that she is employed by General Telephone Company of the Midwest at Columbia, Missouri:

"Well, the way it started was the directory assistance operator asked me to call a number, and said a gentleman was in trouble and needed help. *I tried to dial his number about five times before I could get it to ring.* When Mr. Richards (finally) answered the telephone, I said: 'Sir, are you the one that is asking for help?' He said he was, and then he started his story.

"He said, 'Operator, there is something above my house that cuts off my lights and when I try to dial it cuts off my power to dial and I can dial no one.' He continued, 'It's real bright in lights, and it's blowing my trees like a strong wind, and there is no wind out there, yet my trees are bending.'

"And he went on: 'I have a dog that I keep for the purpose of keeping people away and not to harm my children, and my dog is so frightened that he is laying as close to the ground as he can get and not making a sound...I have loaded my guns for protection, and my daughter is at the window watching. This has been going on for some time, and as it gets closer to the house my lights and telephone both go dead...I have tried to get help and there has been no one to help me. I am not frightened, only for my children. When this thing comes closer to the house I hear noises in the bottom, but the lights are so bright that I can't see.'

"Then he turned to his daughter – I forget what her name was – and he asks: 'Is it still there?'

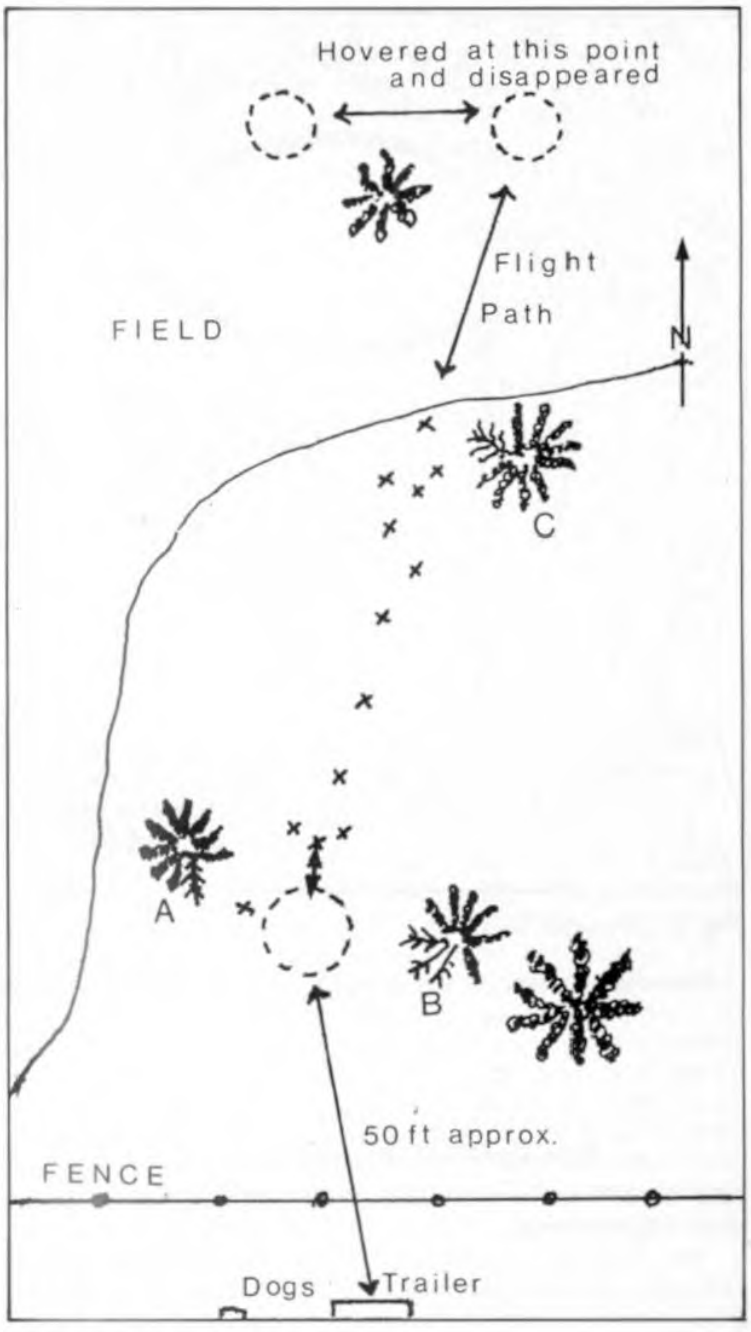
"She replies: 'Yes, it's still in the air.'

" 'What does it look like?' he asks.

" 'It's still got orange and bright lights, and various coloured lights, but it's staying up high enough now that it isn't cutting us off.'

"And he said: 'Keep a watch while I talk,' and he went on to explain how this had been going on for quite some time. He talked with me for about 15 minutes, repeating over and over how it would come down and go back up, and cut the electricity off, and then I told him after about 15 minutes that I would call the Flight Service Station for him, which I did.

"I said: 'Mr. Richards, I cannot stay on the line with you, unless you request it, as it is the rule of the company that we have to cut out, and he said: 'Would you please, because I'm afraid they will cut us off.'



Scale: 1 inch = 40'

Fig. 4.
Diagram showing flight path of the object and the relative positions of damaged trees and imprints in the ground

"He told the Flight Service lady practically the same thing that he told me."

Phillips: Now who was that?

Operator: I have no idea what her name was.

Phillips: What time did you call Mr. Richards?

Operator: Well, I believe it was pretty close to 12.45 a.m. when I called him, and about 1.15 a.m. when he finished his conversation, to the best of my knowledge.

Phillips: Did you check a clock during this time so you can be sure of the time?

Operator: Well, yes, I have to get off duty at 1.00 a.m. and when 1.00 a.m. came I had called the

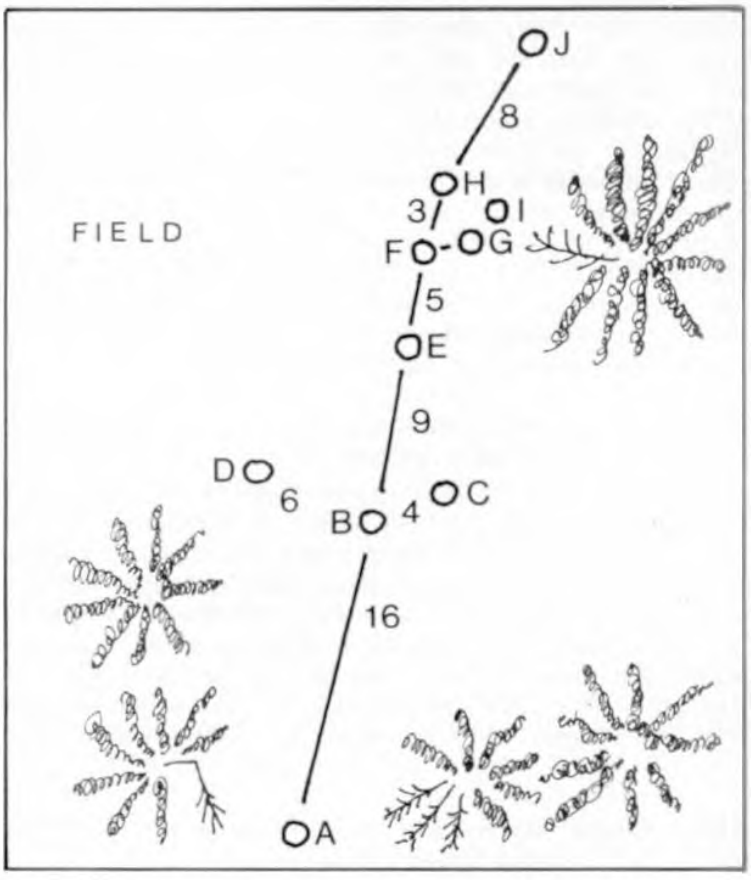


Fig. 5. Diagram to show the relative distances between the imprints (in feet)

Flight Service Station and I would not leave the call.

Phillips: Did the phone go dead at any time during this period?

Operator: No, it did not. The girl said, 'Daddy, while you're talking it seems like staying up above.' It didn't come back close.

Phillips: You didn't hear any unusual sound on the line?

Operator: No, I did not.

Phillips: You said that you were unable to reach Mr. Richards right away?

Operator: I made five attempts before I got his number to ring.

Phillips: Why couldn't you get through? Any idea?

Operator: Well, I didn't have any idea because at that time I didn't know what was happening, but I know I tried and I couldn't get it to ring and I said to the directory assistance operator: "Are you sure you gave me the right number?" She repeated it again and I said: "Yes, that's the number I'm dialling but I can't get through." Then, on the fifth attempt, it did go through.

Phillips: Normally, when you place a call such as this, if the line is "busy", you would get a signal.

Operator: You would get a "busy" signal.

Phillips: Well, would this, in your mind, indicate that the line may have been dead at that time?

Operator: Right, because that's the way it acted, no ring, no sound at all.

Phillips: How long would it take for you to dial that number five times?

Operator: I dialled the number five times and checked with the directory assistance operator; both would have taken probably three minutes.

Phillips: Did you have the impression that Mr. Richard was really frightened?

Operator: Yes, but for his children's sake. He said, "I'm frightened only for my children" but I know the man was, and I really believe he was sincere because he described it, and his daughter described it, and they were both pretty well frightened.

Phillips: You could hear the daughter in the background, and she was describing what the object was doing?

Operator: Right, and not knowing the girl, she sounded a little timid, like she was afraid to speak up.

Phillips: At any point, could you hear the sounds they were describing?

Operator: No.

Phillips: When you connected Mr. Richards with the F.A.A., did he give the same general description to the lady as he did to you?

Operator: Yes, and one other thing, he said: "It is so bright that even with all the trees around here the yard is lit up brighter than day."

Phillips: Did he describe the motion of the trees?

Operator: Yes, he said: "It's as though a real strong wind is blowing, and the trees are large and it's just bending them over."

Phillips: How did the conversation finally end?

Operator: The flight service lady told him "I will call the police for you." And Mr. Richards said: "That will be fine," and he hung up.

Phillips: While you talked with Mr. Richards did you note any change in his reaction to the situation?

Operator: No, but when he started his conversation he was so excited, he just didn't let up at all. He just kept talking and talking and really about all I could say was *yes* and *no*. Finally I told him I would connect him with somebody who might be able to help him.

Phillips: In your opinion, did you at any time feel that he had been drinking?

Operator: No sir, I sure did not.

Phillips: I'm sure you probably have had drinkers on the line...

Operator: Many.

Phillips: This man didn't sound like he had been drinking?

Operator: No, he sounded very sincere.

Phillips: So you feel that he was just trying to get help?

Operator: Right, he wanted to tell somebody, and of course I wasn't the one that could really help him, and that's the reason after he told me his story I figured he should be connected with the flight service station.

Phillips: How did the lady at the flight service station react to Richards's story.

Operator: She seemed very much interested and she also added at the end of his conversation that they had had a similar report from Jefferson City about three or four nights before. (**Note:** This was stated to have been an aerial sighting.)

Phillips: Did she ask him any questions?

Operator: Not too many, just where he lived and



things like that. She did ask him if they were frightened and he said no, except for the children, and that they had the guns loaded, and the girl was at the window watching.

Phillips: In your opinion, after talking with him for 15 minutes and listening to him for an additional 15 minutes as he talked with the flight service station, what would be your feelings about the man?

Operator: Well, I think the man was very sincere in his description as to what was happening, and I definitely do not believe the man was drinking, and I do think that he was really frightened.

Telephone conversation with the directory assistance operator, of Columbia, Missouri

This lady stated that she received a call from Mr. Richards at about 12.55 a.m., as best she could recall. He was very excited and seemed to be frightened. He told her that there was a bright object lighting up the trees close to the house, and that his lights had gone out as it moved close. He gave her about the same information as he did the exchange operator. And she stated that she talked with him for about one minute, and told him she would

Left: Limbs above site with leaves dying; many have fallen to the ground

Below: Broken limb on tree A. Note smaller limb to the right which has been rubbed



contact an operator, and that that operator would call him back. She said that Mr. Richards told her that he didn't want any publicity, just help. She stated that Mr. Richards, in her opinion, was "definitely sober and telling the truth." She then contacted the exchange operator, giving her the number.

Telephone conversation with the lady assistant at the flight service station, Columbia, Missouri.

This lady confirmed that she received the call placed for Mr. Richards by the exchange operator, but she had no way of knowing what time the conversation began. Richards described the object, trees bending, dogs frightened, etc. She stated that he seemed to be relieved by the fact that he could talk with someone; he did seem quite upset and frightened, but she felt that he had a great deal of self restraint considering the situation he was in. He seemed to be trying very hard to control his emotions and to remain as calm as possible. After listening to his story, she told him that there had been another report of a UFO a few evenings before from Jefferson City. Finally she told him that she would call the police. She checked her log at the Flight Service Station and the call terminated at 1.06 a.m. as stamped in the log. She stated that Mr. Richards seemed both sober and sincere. She believed that he was describing what was to him a real event. She did not feel that he had been drinking.

Summary

The duration of the sighting was about 30 minutes. I feel that we should consider the fact that five or six witnesses to an automobile accident would give slightly different accounts of the event. That the times given by the operators differ does not trouble me in the least. It is my opinion that this is a perfectly normal state of affairs. We do have a definite time line from the F.A.A. Log. I was impressed with Mr. Richards' approach to the time line; he asked me several times to check with the operators as they might have taken the times down. He just could not estimate the times of the various movements of the object. He was frightened and found himself in a very bad situation in that he couldn't get help and didn't know what the object might do next. I was impressed by the fact that he would not make any wild guesses as to the times, as he suggested over and over that I contact the operators to confirm his story and the times involved. It is interesting to note that he told the operator he did *not* want any publicity, only help. He told the officer that he wanted no publicity. Like the operators, I believe that he was indeed sober at the time of

(Continued bottom of page 26)



Imprint H, outlined with powder

BOOK REVIEW

THE SPACECRAFT OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

Luis Schönherr

Josef F. Blumrich: *Da Tat Sich Der Himmel Auf: Die Raumschiffe Des Propheten Ezechiel Und Ihre Bestätigung Durch Die Modernste Technik.* (Econ-Verlag, Düsseldorf and Vienna, 1973.)

THIS book, the English title of which would read: *The Heavens Opened: Ezekiel's 'Space-craft' confirmed by the most modern technology*, seems to me to be, amid the welter of speculations about possible extraterrestrial interventions in Biblical times, certainly quite a remarkable study, inasmuch as its Austrian-born author, Dr. Josef F. Blumrich, (Steyr, Oberoesterreich, 1911), is today a NASA research engineer at Huntsville, Alabama, and he is therefore able to apply scientific and technological principles to Biblical texts. So far as I know, there is no English translation of this book yet, but I consider that in importance it ranks with, for example, the work by Rho Sigma entitled, *Research In Shackles*, which was reviewed in FSR for May/June 1973.

In his preface, Herr Blumrich admits that his original intention had been to disprove the speculations of Erich von Däniken to the effect that Ezekiel's visions were actually descriptions of "spaceships", but "seldom was a defeat so amply rewarded, so fascinating and so delightful."

According to Blumrich, the object seen on several occasions by Ezekiel was a combination of a nuclear rocket and a helicopter, and Blumrich proceeds to deduce its technological characteristics from the Biblical text. But this is only one-half of his approach, for he also checks all his deductions from that text in the light of his own knowledge as an engineer, and in the light of recent achievements in Space Technology. Thus, for example, Ezekiel's account of the central unit of the machine observed by him is compared by Blumrich to a semiconical ballistic object for re-entry into the atmosphere of a planet, such as was proposed by R.A. Anderson of the Langley Research Centre in 1964.

Another of Blumrich's conclusions is that the extraterrestrials were not basically different from humans, and here again he is able to compare the deductions made from the Biblical text with an engineer's evaluation of the mechanical system of the human body.

There is also a chapter on the "mission" of the "space-craft" in question. Like so many observers and investigators of UFOs, Blumrich inevitably comes to the question: was the "contact" planned or did it occur by chance? He leaves both possibilities open, but nevertheless adds some very thought-provoking suggestions of his own.

One of Blumrich's chief concerns is that engineers shall be brought into the work of studying archaeological discoveries and interpreting ancient texts, and this is a very reasonable thesis. Unfortunately, as he himself admits, he did not have the aid of an expert on ancient languages on this book. He gives various reasons for this, but from the point of view of methodology it would unquestionably have been far better if he *had* had such help and had not done this book entirely on his own. The work might in that case have been more likely to attract that degree of attention from the academic world that it doubtless merits.

Finally, I would like to make a suggestion to Herr Blumrich. There exist, among the Jewish people, ample written and oral traditions about the Prophet Elijah, a predecessor of Ezekiel, who was "snatched up into Heaven by a whirlwind", while his servant observed "chariots and horses of fire." Expert research into the case of Elijah might be equally rewarding and might yield equally remarkable results.

LANDING AT COLUMBIA, MISSOURI *(Continued from page 25)*

the event. To suggest that he and his 16-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son were all drunk is ridiculous. I believe the man has described a very real event which is somewhat confirmed by the operators and the physical effects found at the site.

Weather conditions

The weather conditions at the time of the observation were provided by Don Semaneik, Columbia Regional Weather Bureau on July 14, 1973 and are for the time period at 0100, June 28, 1973. **Sky:** clear, visibility 20 miles +; **Air Temperature:** 66° F; **Wind Speed:** 5 knots at 290°.

Astronomical conditions

Negative. All bright celestial objects were in other regions of the sky as the observation was to the north. Moon – negative, direction and moon was near New Moon phase.

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*†+ Names (on file) withheld at their request.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL "UFO EVIDENCE"

Charles Bowen

IT is certainly good to learn from our old friend and colleague Luis Schönherr that a qualified engineer of the standing of Herr Blumrich has turned his attention to these interesting Biblical matters. However, I see no reason whatever why Herr Erich von Däniken should be given the credit for having been the first to think about Ezekiel!

It is clear that in this, as in virtually all the rest of the material covered in his writings, von Däniken has simply gathered up, and re-hashed parrot-fashion (frequently erroneously), the earlier speculations already published by others. On the specific issues of the Ezekiel and Elijah stories, I might add that these are oft-quoted favourites which have been staple ingredients in the speculations and discussions of UFO researchers in France and the English countries for many years past, dating from the days when the Swiss hotelier was scarcely out of short pants, and long before his arrival on the scene to "parrot" and pontificate.

Regarding Ezekiel and Elijah, I must state that the whole matter has been covered at great length and with extreme competence and scholarship by René Fouéré's colleague Paul Misraki, in his book *Les Extraterrestres: des Signes dans le Ciel* (Editions Labergerie, Paris, 1968). This is a work which, unfortunately, has not yet been translated into English or, so far as I know, into any other language, and the great importance of which has not yet received the recognition due to it. I have discussed it at length with Gordon Creighton, and we predict that in time it could well come to be recognized as one of the basic reference books on the whole question of religion and the influence of higher beings on human life and development.

Only a person well-versed in reading the Hebrew language in its Biblical form is competent even to begin to discuss these matters, and Paul Misraki evidently possesses that competence.

We agree with Luis Schönherr and Paul Misraki that both the case of Ezekiel, and the case of Elijah before him, appear to point most strongly to the presence of remarkable "aircraft" and to the activities of unknown beings who were not of the human race. We also agree with Misraki that the collection of writings known to us as *The Bible* contains a concentration of evidence of this kind such as cannot be matched from any other earlier source.

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THE TIBETAN CONNECTION

Gordon Creighton

WHEN the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* passed on to me a letter from Mrs. J. Kirby of Bradford, Manchester, he told me that he felt it warranted a detailed reply. This is an extract from what Mrs. Kirby had to say:

"Your article *These Cunning British: the Truth at Last!* (FSR July-August 1973) had me in stitches.

"But the reference to the Biblical Flood in *Another Look at the Moon and Mars* by Kenneth Bayman, in the same issue, made me think you might be interested in yet another explanation, as given on page 147 of *The Hermit*, by T. Lobsang Rampa (Corgi Books), when cosmic invaders, under their leader Satan, arrived from elsewhere and caused vast devastation, including collisions between planets.

"Lobsang Rampa states that all his books are true."

As I tried to indicate recently in my article *But I Read it in a Book!* (FSR January-February 1973), the existence of a story in print has nothing whatsoever to do with the problem of whether that story is *true*, and the prevailing idea of what is "true" has never been more "elastic" – to use no stronger term – than it is today.

I have on my files a copy of the full report on "The Lama Lobsang Rampa" compiled by the Liverpool detective Clifford Burgess.

"Lobsang Rampa", the son of a Devonshire plumber, was born in rural Plympton in 1911, and for the first few decades of his life bore the somewhat un-Tibetan name of Cyril Henry Hoskins. By 1948, when working as a clerk with a time-and-motion study firm in Weybridge, Mr. Hoskins had decided to become a Chinese, and gave himself the name of Carl Kuon Suo, born in Tibet. The name is not a correct Chinese name, anyway, and Mr. Lorraine Sutton of East Molesey was a bit surprised by this at the time. He knew Mr. – pardon me, *Dr.* – Kuon Suo very well, and was puzzled since the good "Doctor" both talked and looked remarkably like the Englishman that he quite clearly was.

The "Lama", bent on self-improvement, began reading books about the fascinating and mysterious land of Tibet, and finding in them such words as *Rampa* and *Lobsang*, decided that it would now be nice to be *Lobsang Rampa*.

"Lobsang" (in Tibetan written BLO-BZANG བློ་བཟང་ , meaning "good mind") is one of the commonest Tibetan names that exist; about equal to our *John*. He had evidently seen the word "*Rampa*" at the end of the name of some Lama in a book, and thought he rather liked the sound of that for his new surname. No doubt he failed to recall the well-known phrase "that's a bit of a "rampa" for, unfortunately, he came very badly unstuck here. How indeed was the good Lama of Plympton and Weybridge to know—utterly ignorant as he is of all things Tibetan—that *Rampa* in Tibetan is not a name at all, but a monastic degree of learning granted by the Lamaseries, written *Rams-Pa* རམས་པ་ and roughly equal, I suppose, to our ordinary B.D., Bachelor of Divinity.

This was to prove a particularly unfortunate choice of "name", because, spurred on by the steam-roller success of his best-selling "Books about Tibet", Mr. Hoskins was later tempted to romance in one of them about dear old grandmother back home in Tibet, calling her "Grandma Rampa" ("Grandma B.D." or "Grandma M.A."!).

At the time when, against the advice of the leading British experts on Tibet, a London firm of publishers launched his first hoax, *The Third Eye*, the Lama of Plympton and Weybridge had never been beyond the shores of this, his native island. Later, to escape unwelcome publicity, when his hoaxing activities were receiving considerable coverage in both the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* of London, Mr. Hoskins withdrew, not—as one might pardonably have surmised—to the fastnesses of Hlasa, City of the Gods, but to Dublin of all places, and then later, when Dublin proved no refuge, to Canada. These were his first journeys abroad.

Mr. Hoskins had, however, already been for cosmic trips in flying saucers *(My Visit To Venus)*, and a former Editor of FSR displayed an incredible degree of gullibility by receiving a couple of articles from the Hand of the Master and publishing them in our journal.

My advice to Mrs. Kirby would therefore be: *Never accept anything as true just because you see it in print.* For, current ethical standards unfortunately being what they are, if it is a modern book then it has a good 50% chance of being the work of the type of individual whom, in an immortal phrase in a memorable speech to the House of Commons, Mr. F.E. Smith (later the great Lord Birkenhead) once described as "a terminological inexactitudinarian." Or, for those who prefer good old Anglo-Saxon four-letter words, a liar.

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.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ARGENTINA

Underwater UFO bases off Patagonia?

According to a report of July 28, 1973, from Buenos Aires, which was reprinted by the Italian newspaper *La Nazione* of July 29, the Argentine Society for the Investigation of Unusual Phenomena (President, Antonio Las Heras) has issued a statement to the effect that flying saucers have underwater bases in the coastal waters of Southern Argentina.

The Society claim that, after years of research, they have now ascertained that machines from another world have established under-sea bases in the gulfs of San Matiás and San Jorge, 1,100 and 2,000 kilometres, respectively, to the south of Buenos Aires, and on the coast of Patagonia.

The statement goes on to say that the first researches concerning these extraterrestrial objects began several years ago. A cigar-shaped space-ship was seen on October 22nd, 1954, and in the beginning of the 1960s flying saucers had already become so frequent along the coast of Patagonia that they no longer caused any surprise.

Definite proof of the existence of the UFOs, according to the Society's statement, was finally obtained on August 14, 1968, when 100 witnesses were able to observe the trajectory, covering a distance of 700 kilometres, of five extremely luminous ellipsoid objects which rose up out of the Gulf of San Matiás and then submerged again in the Gulf of San Jorge.

Credit and thanks to reader **Mrs. Mary Boyd** of Firenze, Italy, who sent us this report and also made the translation from Italian.

[Over the past nine years FSR has carried frequent reports about the alleged underwater UFO bases down the coast of Argentina and Patagonia, beginning with Gordon Creighton's article *Argentina 1962*, in FSR for July/August 1964 — EDITOR.]

Tres Arroyos round-up

Since the extraordinary experience of the 73-year-old Ventura Maceiras of Tres Arroyos (see FSR July-August and September-October 1973) the local press has reported a number of further sightings in that area. According to the Tres Arroyos paper *La Voz Del Pueblo* of May 15, 1973,—

"A woman named Elena Ottaviano de Roqué was one of several who saw a UFO over the town on April 22. At 8.15 a.m. she was on the street and had to cover her eyes, so dazzling was the brightness of the vivid lights from a hovering object which she estimated to be at a height of no more than 500 metres. It was of an oval shape, reddish in colour, and pulsating steadily. It passed later to green and then finally to violet before vanishing. When she first observed it, it had not yet become stationary and was darting about in various directions."

On another date in June, six young men and women who were driving through Tres Arroyos reported a similar sighting.

On yet another occasion, reported in the Buenos Aires paper *La Crónica*, (June 1973, precise day not certain) a man named Eduardo Calle of Orense was driving along a country road when his engine failed. He got out to inspect and saw a round, blindingly bright object rise straight up from the nearby field and vanish into the sky at immense speed. Examining the spot where he said it had stood, the Police found a round hole, the grass being scorched and burnt. *Moreover, fungi of an unknown species were beginning to grow on the spot.* (As will be recalled, FSR has published a number of reports from Argentina about these huge mystery mushrooms which appear at UFO landing sites.)

The local population in the Tres Arroyos area is convulsed and alarmed at these reports, and great crowds have been to examine the spot.

Credit for various accounts to **Miss Jane Thomas**, Buenos Aires.

BRAZIL

Censorship of UFO reports

We have very reliable grounds indeed for believing that there is the strictest censorship of UFO reports in at least some areas of Brazil, although we are not clear as to whether this situation is entirely nation-wide and extending with the same efficiency in all the States. To judge, for example, from the press-clippings of UFO reports which we have received this year from our friends in Rio de Janeiro, it would appear that the regulations are not being applied very rigorously in that particular city.

As regards the nearby State of São Paulo, and its capital city of the same name, matters are however very different. For it so happens that São Paulo itself is where the Brazilian Air Force's own equivalent of "Project Blue Book" is based. This most probably accounts for the fact that extremely little about UFOs is getting into any São Paulo newspapers or other media these days. And when an item does manage to get slipped into the first edition of any particular São Paulo paper, it is generally out by the time the second edition of that day appears, or is given again with a prompt and satisfactory "proof" that the report was "a hoax." (Incidentally, precisely the same pattern can be seen here in London if one studies our newspapers for a good many years past, especially our two evening journals, the *Evening News* and *Evening Standard*.)

The governmental regulation which is operative in this matter of UFO reports in São Paulo and São Paulo State is entitled *Institutional Act No. 5 (State Security.)*

It states textually: "It is forbidden for TV, radio, newspapers, and other news media to divulge UFO reports without the prior censorship of the Brazilian Air Force."

G. Creighton, August 18, 1973

MEXICO

Radar and Creature Reports from Mexico

We are indebted to **Dr. J. Allen Hynek** for the press-clipping of the following report, which appeared in the important Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio* of Lima for Sunday, June 3, 1973. The *Latin* agency account was datelined Mexico City, June 2nd. Translation from Spanish by Gordon Creighton.

UFOs detected by radar at Mexico City Airport

"The early morning sky showed a rare degree of limpidity, such as has seldom been seen at the Benito Juárez International Airport here, when the radar in the control tower registered an aircraft in the vicinity. Astonished, the three men who were on watch looked up at the sky, for no plane had asked for landing clearance. In the distance there was a violet-coloured light which was approaching at extraordinary speed.

"Said Fernando Discua, supervisor of the control tower: 'The strange craft or unidentified object did a 360° turn, and its speed could never have been equalled by any jet.

" 'The controllers tried to communicate with it, but got no reply. With their earphones clamped to their

heads, they waited with apprehension for some indication, a coded message, a voice, a signal...

" 'The minutes passed slowly—they seemed like centuries—while the strange craft circled round and round over a radius of from ten to sixteen kilometres, bathed in a violet-coloured light that emitted flashes. The three of us stood there, looking at each other, perplexed. The radar registered the machine's existence, but it did not land, and it gave no audible signal.'

"This has happened three times this week, and maybe the visitors will be back again today or tomorrow, in the opinion of the airline pilots, who are all convinced that it is an extra-terrestrial machine from Mars or Venus or Jupiter.

"Control Tower Supervisor Discua says the craft was seen not only by the tower personnel, but also by commercial and civilian pilots.

"The control tower men say that one civilian pilot even took off in pursuit of the weird craft and followed it as far as the mountain peak of La Estrella which dominates the airfield, and where the UFO seemed to either descend or explode.

Emilio Estañol, one of the other control tower men, said that, for some seconds after that, the peak of La Estrella was lit up with an intense bluish light, like the light given off by welding equipment.

"Other civilian aircraft that arrived at the Benito Juárez international airport around the same time also reported by radio to the tower about the luminous object, which they said was some kind of unknown craft, apparently circular, although owing to its dazzling brightness they were unable to make out its shape or estimate its size.

"The pilot who took off and flew over the La Estrella peak came back half-an-hour later, and said he had seen no signs or traces either of the craft or any fire or lights. During the course of last Thursday morning, other pilots also flew over La Estrella but found no signs of a landing or of anything of the sort.

"Estañol agreed with his colleague that they had been surprised by the arrival of the craft, and that then they had been overcome by fear as they saw it registering on the radar and yet answering none of the radio signals.

"Said Estañol in a tone of resignation and conviction: 'All of us saw it, it was no figment, and lots of people telephoned to us to say the strange thing was over the northern part of the city.'

"Several hours later, still deeply impressed by the sight, Estañol said: 'That thing was travelling at an enormous speed and yet making no sound. And from time to time it stopped, as though it was suspended by a thread.'

"The question of who the occupants of such a craft could have been, and where they came from, and when they will return, was the general theme of discussion today at the international airport. Some folk took the line that the control tower personnel must have all been asleep and must have dreamt the fantastic apparition.

"But, on the other hand, the declarations of the control tower technicians about what they saw are backed up by other recent cases that indicate the presence of strange beings in other parts of our country.

Truck burnt out by creatures

"For example, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, a truck driver in the State of Veracruz, lying some 400 kilometres to the north-east from the Mexican Capital, declares that his truck was mysteriously destroyed by a tremendously powerful beam of light.

"Gonzalez said that on May 22 of this year he was travelling along the road from Tinajas to Tierra Blanca with a load of asbestos, steel-plating and concrete slabs — all non-combustible material — when he was obliged to pull up because of an engine defect. He then said: 'When I got down out of the cab there were some men of short stature barring the road. They were of the size of dwarfs, and I went for them, to clear them out of my way. The little beings made off into the thickets on one side of the road before I could have a good view of them. And when I got back to my truck, the whole of it was burning.'

"Discussing the truckdriver's story, people here have been saying that it is the work of the *chanecas* — an Indian word which means *strange beings.*

"A 56-year-old Mexican engineer named Raul Alvarez, who investigated the spot where Gonzalez' truck had burnt out, said that the destruction of the vehicle must have been done from the air by means of a powerful light beam like a laser. After making his analysis of the remnants found on the road, he said: 'Some electrical device, producing high temperatures, and directed upon the truck from somewhere, pulverized it and left nothing behind but a few bits of metal sheeting, glass, and molten metal.'

Scaly creatures

"Another report of extraterrestiral beings, of a size and of a colour different from humans, was also made in Mexico City by two bricklayers, who said that two scaly creatures had appeared near a road where they were both working.

"Raymundo Villegas Alvarez, aged 42, one of the bricklayers, said that he had been afraid to mention the episode till now, out of fear that folk would say he was mad, but that now he was willing to speak up, particularly since the affair of the burnt-out truck and the appearances of strange aerial craft over the airport.

"According to Villegas, their sighting of the strange beings took place on August 18, 1972, on the highway between Mexico City and Tulyehualco, on the outskirts of the Mexico City Federal District, when he and his companion were at work tiling the roof of a house.

"He said: 'We heard a faint humming noise, and we looked over towards the road and saw two beings approaching, who were nearly two metres high, wearing silvery, scaly clothing. They had no noses or mouths, and seemed to be floating in the air. They came right up to about fifteen metres from where we were, and we were able to see that their backs were green.'

"Villegas said that the sighting was interrupted, because at that moment a woman came by on the road carrying a milk-can, whereupon the creatures moved off in her direction and vanished.

"Villegas went on to say that, after this encounter with 'Martians' or beings from another planet, his assistant, Francisco Torres, aged 18, became insane, and left Mexico City to go back to his home in the country, at Cotija, a small place in the State of Michoacan.

"Speaking very seriously, almost absorbed in his own description of what they had seen, Villegas said: 'I never want to meet those beings again. I do not drink and I do not smoke — and I am scared.' "

MOZAMBIQUE

UFO with revolving 'spotlights'

A 'Sapa' report from Portuguese East Africa of an incident on May 12, 1973, was published in the *Natal Witness* (South Africa) of May 15, 1973—

"Another 'strange flying object' was seen hovering over the outskirts of Lourenco Marques on Saturday night. Witness said the semi-spherical object flew about 30 metres above the ground emitting a blue-green and yellow light.

"The object was as bright as a star and equipped with two revolving spotlights directed at the ground.

"A civil aviation authority said

later no aircraft were flying over Lourenco Marques at the time.

"On Wednesday last week a similar object was seen flying in the same area."

Credit: **Philipp J. Human**

NICARAGUA

Military confirm UFO

The introduction: "It was neither a plane, because it made no sound, nor an artificial satellite, because these make no sharp turns, said witnesses," preceeded an article in *El Universal* of Caracas, Venezuela, on August 14, 1973. The account was datelined Managua, August 12 (AP),–

"Air Force and Army authorities confirmed yesterday night that a UFO was seen in different places in the country.

"Mateo Gonzales, radio operator in this city, said the object was 'three times larger than the full Moon' and one with an intense light.

"Colonel Orlando Gutierrez, National Guard Commander in Granada, a town 45 kms. S.W. from Managua, declared he saw the object around 19.00 hrs. 'I have seen it with an aircraft shape, but shining with green and red lights that illuminated a good part of the city.'

"The local Control Tower recorded the appearance of the object at 19.30 hrs. The man on duty said he didn't have any information on aeroplanes flying in the area. 'It was not a plane that I saw' said Gonzalez. 'I am accustomed to seeing them, and whatever it was that crossed the sky of Managua tonight, it was not an aircraft.'

"Neighbours of Mazaya village, located between Managua and Granada, 30 kms. from Managua, also said they sighted the object. 'It was bound for the Pacific Ocean,' said a local resident.

"Col. Gutierrez said he was travelling with his daughters in a car when it was illuminated by the UFO. 'I have the impression that we were watched,' he commented during a telephone interview. 'And I am not imagining things. My daughters and many other persons also saw it.'

"Other witnesses from the three towns confirm that the object flew silently at a height of nearly 300 metres. 'Its speed was low,' said the colonel. The Control Tower radio operator insisted: 'It was not a plane because it made no sound, neither was it an artificial satellite because these do not make sharp turns; they have a fixed trajectory, but this thing veered to the West and was lost over the horizon in the direction of the Pacific Ocean, diminishing in size.' "

Credit: **Dr. H.C. Clerc** of Caracas, Venezuela, to whom we are indebted for the translation. Dr. Clerc added a note: 'From the timing it seems that the sighting lasted about 30 minutes.'

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Three-legged, pink-eyed monster

The News American (Baltimore, Maryland) of May 7, 1973, published the following extraordinary report, – "Henry McDaniel said he's seen it twice: a grey, hairy, three-legged monster standing tall like a human being with pink reflecting eyes bulging from a huge head.

"The second time was Sunday morning, after his original report on the monster had brought newsmen, police, anthropologists, experts on unidentified flying objects and the just plain curious to the Wabash River Valley to investigate.

"McDaniel, a disabled war veteran, said they found footprints covering the woodland areas around his home. The tracks were three to five inches across with six toes and little hoof marks, he said.

"Ed Phillips, a pet shop owner from Kokomo, Ind., came out to look around and verified McDaniel's description of the tracks.

" 'It couldn't be a hoax,' Phillips said. The tracks were hidden under dense bush as well as in the open, he said. Plaster casts were made.

"McDaniel said the first time he saw the monster was about 9.30 p.m. on the night of April 25. His family heard a scratching noise at the back door and he went to investigate.

" 'When I first saw it, I thought it was an animal. I went back (inside the house) and got a gun and a flashlight,' he said. 'It was right about three feet from me. I wasn't scared.

" 'Then I saw those pink eyes shine at me like a reflector on a car. It had pink eyes, a large head and was a kind of dirtyish grey colour...hairy... about four or five feet tall. Standing right in front of the door on three legs just like a human being.'

"McDaniel said he shot at the monster four times.

" 'I knew I hit it once,' he said. The monster, he said, hissed, leaped 75 feet in three jumps and disappeared down the railroad tracks near his home.

"Sunday morning, about 3.00 a.m. CDT, the barking of his dogs awakened McDaniel and he opened his door and looked out. He said he saw the same three-legged monster on the railroad tracks 75 feet away.

" 'I wasn't scared,' he said. 'I'd like to have it as a pet and charge admission. It's something that's there and we've got to accept it.' "

Credit: **Donald B. Ratsch**, Baltimore.

Georgia Flap

From *The Macon News*, August 31, 1973 we learn that, –

"An unidentified flying object was spotted by two Macon bluecoat officers early this morning, at the same time that sightings were being reported across Central and South Georgia.

"At 2.25 a.m., Cordele police notified Macon police that a UFO was headed in this direction.

"At 2.28 a.m., Officers R.M. Barreth and H.E. Hathaway made this sighting *[report]:* "We have one of the UFOs spotted. We are at Clisby (Place) in front of Central High School and it is headed in an easterly direction ... it has about six green and red lights around it and it is shaped like a diamond with a tail.'

"Police Chief J.F. Flynt described his men as very reliable and pointed out that other police officers in other areas of the state saw the same thing.

"Robins Air Force Base received calls about the sightings, but officials there had little to report this morning. Orion Hudson of the base information office said the Air Force does not investigate UFO sightings extensively as they once did.

" 'We got a lot of reports. There is one unconfirmed report that at least one of our security policemen here saw a light object,' Hudson said.

"However, there was no report of radar contact. Hudson said no planes were sent up from Robins.

"The objects–blinking in various colours, but moving silently–were spotted in Albany, Dawson, Cordele, Leary, Pelham, Ashburn, Vienna, Moultrie, Leesburg and Waycross.

"The sightings started about midnight and continued until after 6 a.m. today. Leesburg police officer Albert Smith described one of the objects he was watching at 5:15: 'The object is round, with orange, red, green and blue lights. It is not moving now.'

"Albany and Dawson police reported five of the flying objects with three of them about five miles ahead of the two others. Susan Shingler, an Albany Herald reporter, said she watched the objects with officers. 'We had three in sight,' she said. 'Then two came flying across the sky. There were five in all and some were larger than the others.'

"Robert Welch, a Camilla police dispatcher, described an object that hung over his city for three and a half hours and was observed by at least seven people. He said it looked like a white light with blinking green and red lights."

Credit: **Dr. James N. Hershey**, of Vacaville, California.

More reports from 'Dixie'

In the *San Francisco Chronicle* of September 10, 1973—

"Authorities checked out more reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in the southeast yesterday, but quickly dispelled a fear that something from another world had fallen in a Georgia field.

"The Georgia State Patrol said a glowing green cylinder found near Manchester Saturday night, shortly after several persons said they saw UFOs buzzing the area, turned out to be only a commonly used automobile trouble flare.

"But reports continued to pour in, from police and civilians. Two military policemen said something dived at their car near Hunter Army Air Base south of Savannah and forced them off the road. A state Patrol trooper based in Manchester said a UFO whisked past his car, going so fast there was 'no way' he could get a close look.

"Police in five east central Alabama cities reported sightings early yesterday."

Credit: **Mrs. Emmy Suss** and other readers to whom many thanks.

Griffin UFO drops golden egg!

Another report in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (issue of September 11, 1973), datelined Griffin, Georgia, tells how—

"The reports of UFO sightings that have unsettled Georgia for weeks took a sudden twist yesterday when a witness reported that a golden egg fell from the sky in a cloud of smoke, searing the earth where it struck.

" 'I tell you, I believe it to be a piece of brimstone from heaven come down here to show people how He can burn the earth with it,' announced Ress Clanton, who said he saw the object fall.

"Clanton said he was in Orchard Hill, about five miles south of here, late yesterday afternoon when he looked up and saw a golden object about the size of a hen egg spinning to the earth.

"It apparently destroyed itself upon impact, leaving a hole a foot long and about 5 inches deep.

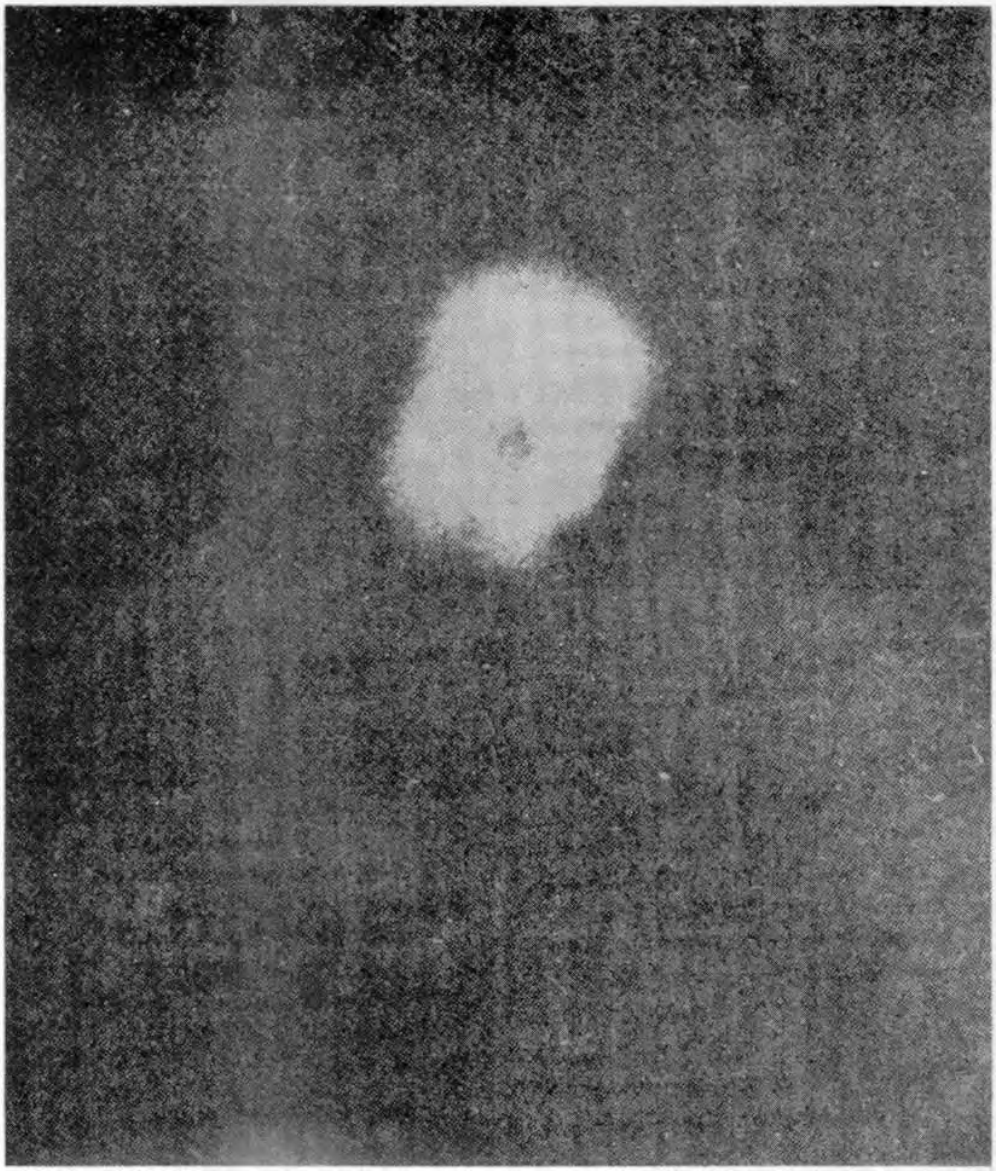
"Researchers from an agricultural experiment station nearby took earth samples but found nothing out of the ordinary—except that after the incident the temperature of the hole was 300 degrees.

"Clanton said the object did not appear to be in free fall, but descended at a controlled rate. He said he saw no aircraft in the area.

"For nearly two weeks reports of UFOs have been rampant in central and southern Georgia, Alabama Tennessee, and Florida. Most of the reports tell of strange, hovering objects with brightly coloured lights.

"There were four such reports in the Griffin area Sunday night and others in Newnan, Ga., 30 miles to the west."

Credit: **Mrs. Emmy Suss**



Chester A. Tatum, publisher of the *Sowega Free Press* in Camilla, said he photographed one of the "blinking" UFOs seen on September 2. It had a ribbed design and "some sort of centre down the middle."

WALES

Did firemen see a flying saucer?

The above question formed a front page headline in the Radnor and Brecon newspaper *The County Times and Gazette* of Saturday, September 22, 1973. The report ran:

"Firemen at Llandrindod Wells are still trying to work out whether or not they spotted a flying saucer above the town's lakeside on Monday night. Whatever they saw streaking across the late evening sky just before dusk, one thing is for sure, it has been officially logged as an unidentified flying object.

"The bright light was seen by a group of firemen taking part in an exercise with a hydraulic platform. They spotted the light when it was directly above them, and watched it for 50 seconds before it disappeared in a northerly direction.

" 'There was no defined shape, with light and no sound, and it was certainly going too fast for an aeroplane,' said one officer.

" 'Could it have been a satellite?'

" 'I doubt it, because according to the information, none was visible at that time of night in this part of the world,' said the officer.

"Just to make sure the incident would be recorded, the firemen told the police, who dutifully 'booked' it."

Credit to **K.J. Knell** of Knighton, Radnorshire.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Sauve qui peut?

Dear Sir,– Oh la la! (as we say in Gallic). What a tragic error for a cunning English!

Napoleon... "An Italian"!

As for me myself, I don't care. And, having been, in 1943, in *Le Maquis* (French Resistance), one of the *Founders* of the Free Republic of Saint Vincent-les-Forts (231 citizens), I am not interested in any contentions or differences between Corsica and Italy.

But... to say that Corsicans are Italians! Then I must solemnly urge Gordon Creighton to take out insurance policies at once upon his life, against *fire,* and against *explosions!* There are assuredly Corsicans in London (there are some of them everywhere). We can only pray to the Almighty that they don't read FSR.

If they do... well, he must just trust in the Mercy of God and draw up his last will and testament.

As for Corsica, be it known to you here and now that it is *Corsica,* i.e. the only country in Europe that has succeeded in colonizing another European country (namely *France.*)

As for me, being attached to my own life, I proclaim that I love the Corsicans; that I respect them; and, above all, I proclaim that they are not Italians! (This is a bit embarrassing for me, because I respect the Italians too! But, anyway, that's how it is.)

Aimé Michel
Saint Vincent-les-Forts,
Basses Alpes,
France.

Gordon Creighton comments: It so happens that the end of September was the date for the regular renewal of my insurance policies on life and property, and my farsighted mind, sweeping ahead, had already taken these considerations into view. However I am deeply grateful to Aimé Michel for his solicitude and his timely warning.

In addition to these steps, I have primed all members of my household to be on the alert to repulse boarders, return missiles from ballistae and other rocket-launching devices, quench attacks of Greek Fire, intercept (and return) "smart bombs", etc., etc., We have also brought our domestic complement of dogs up to two.

Moreover, as this is the season of the year when Britain is traditionally invaded by hordes of cycling Bretons from France, purveying most tasty onions, I have arranged for a *Welsh-speaking* member of my household to be on permanent duty to interrogate all cyclists wearing berets and striped sailor's jerseys and carrying strings of onions on their bicycles. Should any of these fail to reply satisfactorily when questioned in Welsh, or reveal thick Corsican accents, we shall know they are pseudo-Bretons and shall be forewarned. Should any of them penetrate our defences, then as Tartarin de Tarascon (a celebrated compatriot of Aimé Michel) observed on a famous occasion: "Quelle Marmelade!"

from Dr. Pierre Guérin

Dear Sir,–I read with astonishment your editorial "Champion of Progress", in FSR Vol. 19 No.4. According to this editorial, it is I alone, just I, who have managed to bring about a ufological revolution among the scientists in France and to reverse the thinking of most of them in favour of the reality of the UFOs. Alas, the truth of the matter is a lot less wonderful than that!

To begin with, I must state that I am not the only French scientist who has taken serious action with a view to getting the dignity and importance of the UFO Problem recognized. In particular, I think of certain astronomical colleagues at the Meudon Observatory and at the Pic du Midi Observatory, among them Dr. Ribes, a radioastronomer; Dr. René Boyer, a physicist specializing in the study of the Sun; and Monsieur Charles Boyer, a specialist on the Planets, none of whom ever misses the opportunity to "spread the word" insidiously in their own scientific circles. And I am thinking too, and most particularly, of Dr. Claude Poher, a young physicist and engineer who holds, in the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (France's NASA) the high position of Director of Scientific Programmes. A sceptic to begin with, Dr. Poher embarked, two years ago, on a statistical study of all the observed characteristic features of UFOs, with the intention (as he recently disclosed to me), of proving their non-existence. But, on the contrary, this work furnished him with the proof that the UFOs are indeed real, and from that date onwards Poher's efforts have been directed in the same direction as those of all Ufologists. He circulated his findings among a certain number of his colleagues, including those both favourable and unfavourable to Ufology, and he took part in on-the-spot investigations of UFO cases. Of these investigations, one of the most important has been an enquiry in the Hautes Alpes Département of France, which has resulted in staggering confirmation of certain of the statements made by the alleged Extraterrestrials who are the operators behind the Spanish UMMO sect. Thus, in the space of two years, Poher covered the whole road that it has taken the veteran Ufologists twenty years to travel! As of the present moment, I consider my friend Claude Poher to be a champion indeed of progress in Ufology, and I hope that his influence in the scientific circles that are close to him will continue to grow.

But, having said this much, what in fact has been the influence that, up to now, the Pohers and the Guérins have been able to exercise in French scientific circles? The answer, most unfortunately, is as follows: once the initial moment of curiosity and interest as regards the UFO Problem had passed – curiosity and interest aroused by such factors as my article in *Science et Avenir,* Poher's work, etc., etc., – the majority of the French astronomers have fallen back again if not into their original hostility, at any rate into a tolerant scepticism, or indeed even into an attitude of total alienation. The only progress that has been achieved is that the Ufologist-scientist is no longer put to death by burning on the public square. *They find it smarter now to pity him in private and to ignore him officially...*

The deepseated reason for this state of affairs lies in the fact that the flying saucer runs counter too much – by virtue of its irrational and parapsychological aspects, contrary as these are to the Laws of Nature as these latter are known to the physicists for whom they constitute the very foundation of their common scientific philosophy – it runs, I say, too much counter and contrary to all this for the existence of the flying saucer to be *even admissable* to those who profess to embrace that scientific philosophy, that is to say, to the immense majority of scientists who, consciously or unconsciously, are "rationalists" in the modern (and distorted) sense in which this term is used.

And I myself have now become so much aware of all the evidence for this, that I have now reached the point where I hesitate to go on doing any Ufological "proselytising" among my colleagues. For, if we are really to score any effect and *touch* the scientists then we must **first of all** get them to realize the dogmatic (and consequently *un*scientific) character of all the *a priori* assumptions of modern science, which rejects as *necessarily* non-existent (sic) any facts that it is unable to assimilate or make its own. Only if we can get them to realize this – and it will be necessary to stimulate such realization in them – will there be any possibility whatever to secure an opening for Ufology. Nothing has ever been resolved by putting the cart before the horse!

But at times I despair, for this kind of preparation of men's minds is something that goes far beyond the possibilities of what one single man can do ...

Pierre Guérin,
Astrophysicien, Maître de Recherche au C.N.R.S.

Questions

Dear Editor,—I have just finished reading the July-August issue of FSR and was not surprised to find it of the usual high quality. However, there are a few questions that I would like to venture to ask.

Dr. Bernard E. Finch asked *"Are UFOs 'Flying Laser Generators?"* Not knowing a great deal about lasers, I can only wonder what effect these beams, focused as he suggests, would have on the ground, homes, witnesses or whatever else happened to be below, should the UFO utilize "30,000 watts" to accelerate upwards; but I *do* ask, since these " 'flying laser generators' must have stability, and this is produced by rotating the disc, producing a gyroscopic effect," what of the many UFOs which have been seen which were not rotating, or were non-circular or irregular in shape?

In his article on the Moon and Mars, Kenneth C. Bayman suggests that vast interacting electrical discharges produced certain similar features. I ask how this can be so when the two respective areas are of different sizes, and would they not be reversed mirror images in any case?

Finally I cannot agree with Seymour Newman's psychokinesis hypothesis *(Mail Bag)*, since it falls short when it comes to radar-visual sightings, historical sightings (ancient societies could not form materialisations of objects of which they had no concept), and so on. However, the Russians are now studying certain individuals who can move small objects with sheer concentration, so on the subject of mental powers, it is possible that the "Ufonauts" could control their craft mentally rather than manually, explaining their extremely swift manoeuvres – all the instruments that witnesses have seen could be simply to give information, and so on, like our own altimeters.

Yours sincerely,
David Tame,
12, Carnbroe Avenue,
Binley,
Coventry,
Warwickshire.
October 4, 1973

The danger of fanatics

Dear Sir,—As a detached and objective observer of the UFO scene, may I say how appalled I was to watch Mr. Rex Dutta on the BBC-tv "Nationwide" programme recently. He could only have appeared in the eyes of many viewers to be the archetypal "flying saucer fanatic" that we can very well do without if future genuine sightings are to receive the credibility they deserve. Here was a man so convinced he had seen a UFO that even hard, concrete evidence to the contrary, openly presented under the auspices of visual media, made not the slightest impression on him. Indeed, he became argumentative and petulent; and on a subsequent occasion when the BBC reasonably agreed to repeat the "floating-lights-and-battery" experiment he even tried to shut up fellow ufologists who wanted to admit that they had earlier been hoaxed.

I have often felt that it is a great pity that too often television shows the detractors of UFO reports to be well-qualified and dispassionate physicists, and other scientists, while the "believers" in UFOs are invariably shown as small-time journalists, occultists and sundry dabblers in black-magic and astral lore etc. In any open discussion it is obvious at the outset whose message is going to sound the more plausible. This is unfortunate because there must be many reputable and even eminent scientists who would be willing to present and sympathetically analyse the flying saucer mysteries without emotivism. But for them to come forward it is necessary first for Rex Dutta and the gobble-de-gook talkers on Warminster hilltops to take a back seat.

Yours faithfully,
Antony A. Milne,
6 The Orchard,
Blackheath,
London, SE3 OQS
September 14, 1973.

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