

2. Gordon Creighton, *Itaperuna Again*. FSR Vol. 18, No. 2 (March-April 1972), p. 15.
3. Raymond E. Fowler. *The Andreasson Affair, Phase Two*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982, pp. 80-91, 255. Invisible barriers seem to produce no audible sound waves when struck.
4. Richard Farrow, "Landing on Winkleigh Airfield" (Reader's Reports). *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 8* (December 1971), p. 16. See also FSR Vol. 18, No. 3 (May-June 1972), p. iii.
Ron Toft, "The Alleged Landing at Winkleigh" (Reader's Reports). *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 13* (February 1973), p. 16.
5. Gordon Creighton, *Amazing News from Russia*. FSR Vol. 8, No. 6 (November-December 1962), p. 28. An account of this incident was also published in Vol. 18, No. 2, on p. 14. It is, of course, uncertain whether an invisible ray might be responsible for something like this (and Case 12), rather than a "barrier".
6. Ted Phillips, *UFO Events in Missouri 1957-1971*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 8* (December 1971), pp. 10-11. Once again, no sound was produced when the rock struck the barrier.
7. Walter Buhler, *Brazilian Cases in 1968 and 1969 — 4*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 5* (June 1971), p. 10.
8. Anthony J. Brunt, *Two "Creature" Reports from New Zealand*. FSR Vol. 15, No. 4 (July-August 1969), pp. 29-30.
9. Walter Buhler, *Brazilian Cases in 1968 and 1969—Pt. 6*. *FSR Case Histories, Supplement 7* (October 1971), p. 15.
10. Gordon Creighton, *Itaperuna Again*. FSR Vol. 18, No. 2 (March-April 1972), p. 13.
11. *Cloud Hides UFO*. A.P.R.O. Bulletin, Vol. 22, No. 3 (November-December 1973), p. 1, 4.
12. Gordon Creighton (trans.), *Life in the Cosmos*. FSR Vol. 25, No. 1 (January-February 1979), p. 26.
13. Michell & Rickard, p. 95.
14. Walter Buhler, *Extraterrestrial Dwarves Attack Farm Worker*. FSR Vol. 28, No. 1 (August 1982), pp. 5-8.
15. Leslie Harris, *UFO & Silver-Suited Entity Seen Near Winchester*. FSR Vol. 22, No. 5 (February 1977), pp. 3-6. There had been considerable rain around this time, and it is possible the car was just stuck in the mud.
16. W. K. Allan, *The Fort St. James Sightings*. FSR Vol. 24, No. 3 (November 1978), p. 11. This report is not specific as to the nature of the "force". A telepathic force may be meant.
17. *The Abducted Vet and the Frayed Briefcase*. *Fortean Times* 33 (Autumn 1980), p. 30.
18. Gordon Creighton, *Dr. Felix Zigel' and the Development of Ufology in Russia: Part II*. FSR Vol. 27, No. 4 (January 1982), pp. 15-16.

THE "ANGELS OF MONS"

S. E. Priest

The recent article in FSR 28/6 concerning the Fátima Apparitions prompts me to write a word or two regarding what came to be called the "Angels of Mons" incident.

It happened in 1914, early in World War I. The British Expeditionary Force was retreating across Belgium before a numerically superior German Army. As they reached the Mons area a section of the British Army was in serious danger of encirclement and capture. Soon after, back home in Britain, rumours began to go round that British soldiers at Mons had seen a line of "Angelic Beings" standing between the two armies and holding off the Germans so that the British forces could withdraw in safety. The newspapers carried startling reports and many clergymen spoke of the "Angelic" occurrence in their sermons, but at this distance in time it is difficult to get any real information on a subject which has hitherto been dismissed as just a rumour from a half-forgotten war.

The role of Arthur Machen

I have, however, in my possession a small book written by a well-known writer of the time, Arthur Machen, and published in 1915, about eight months after the alleged incident at Mons. In this book Mr. Machen sets out to explain that, at the time of the Retreat from Mons, he wrote, in a mood of patriotic pride, a short, entirely fictional, story which was published in the London *Evening News* under the title of *The Bowmen*. In this story he described how a line of archers from the Battle of Agincourt appeared between the two armies and drove off the Germans. It was his opinion that this story, appearing as it did at the time in the public press, was the stating point of the legend of "The Angels of Mons".

A Nurse's story

Curiously, because it seemed to go against the point Machen was making, included in this same small book was a copy of a letter printed a month or two before in

the London *Occult Review*. It was written by a Miss Phyllis Campbell, who stated that on the outbreak of war in 1914 she had gone to France as a nurse. While tending the British wounded from the early fighting she had been called to the bedside of one soldier. He asked if she could get him a picture or medal of St. George, because he had "seen him on a white horse leading the British at Vitry-le-François". A Royal Field Artillery man in a bed nearby then said that he had seen "a tall man with yellow hair, in golden armour, on a white horse, holding his sword up." Other soldiers had corroborated this, all agreeing that it was St. George because he looked exactly like the figure depicted on the gold sovereigns in use in Britain at the time. The nurse's letter went on to say:—"from further evidence it seemed that, while the English had seen the apparition of St. George coming out of "a yellow mist" or "cloud of light", to the French had been vouchsafed visions of St. Michael and Joan of Arc."

A UFO at Mons?

The controversy then seemed to die down for forty years until, in 1954, the subject revived in the *Daily Mirror*. On October 14 of that year the Editor of this paper printed a letter from a Mr. Malpas of Bristol, (obviously a survivor of the Retreat from Mons) which in my opinion brings The Legend very much into our UFO line of country. I have kept Mr. Malpas's letter as printed, and it runs as follows:—

"In the morning, about 8 or 9 o'clock, as far as my memory recalls, there appeared in the sky a large white light, brighter than daylight. It stayed for two or three minutes. At the same time there was a lull in the battle, and a sudden hush of silence settled over the battlefield.

My own experience was an uncanny feeling of awe. The men about me felt the same way. As to what it was I cannot express any opinion, but it certainly was NOT angels."

If we refer to an account of the Fátima phenomena we find that, while many hundreds of the huge congregation saw the "Sun" apparently move down from the sky, only the small group of young people at the centre of the occurrence actually saw the Holy Lady. Likewise, at Mons, it would seem that *some* British and French soldiers saw the figures of their national saints, others, like Mr. Malpas, saw a bright light in the sky, and some, presumably, saw nothing unusual.

I have never seen any mention that the German soldiers in the field at Mons noticed anything untoward. If we accept that Allied soldiers only saw these visions, probably induced, as we now think, by that light in the sky, coupled with the knowledge that the

British Expeditionary Force *did* escape encirclement at Mons, the intriguing question arises ... why should this visitor from realms we cannot yet imagine intervene on *our* side? Put another way ... was it the principle of Goodness moving against the principle of Evil?

A Dunkirk phenomenon over London?

It was with this last observation that I intended to finish this piece on the "Angels of Mons". As I put it together over the recent Christmas period I also decided to clear out a few old papers and books. Then, by one of those coincidences which never fail to astonish, I noticed in an old copy of *Prediction* (Feb. 1968) the following letter. Written by a Mrs. Nowland of Stockport, I have truncated it a little for reasons of space. Referring to the Dunkirk evacuation of our troops in 1940, during the Second World War, she wrote:—

"I lived near Ruislip and, every afternoon, I felt compelled to take a deck-chair into the garden and sit facing London. The gunfire could be heard, and I sensed the drama of the historical battle which was taking place a few miles south of the city.

"As I sent my thoughts to the men on the beaches and to the armada of little ships, I became aware of a "ring" over London. Something was going round and round in the silvery blue of the clear sky, in huge, widening circles.

"Could this have been an Angelic protection of London, or of this Island? I think it was."

* * * *

COMMENT

What indeed are we to make of all this? If the problem of UFOs is "tricky", and permanently bedevilled by the *subjective factor*, the problem of "Marian" or "Angelic" Visions is surely ten times more so!

Throughout history, in times of war and of crisis, men have claimed to see such visions. Sometimes, as at Mons, such visions are claimed to have halted an enemy army.

One other example comes to mind, which had occurred just 43 years before. At 5.30 p.m. on January 17, 1871, during the Franco-Prussian War, the victorious Germans had surrounded Paris and some of their forces were pushing on towards a hamlet called Pontmain in north-western France when four of the local children said they had seen a vision of a beautiful young woman, whom the villagers promptly took to be the Virgin Mary.

Now it seems a historical fact that the German forces did suddenly cease their westward advance that evening, and indeed at the very time of the children's vision. There were reportedly tales that the Germans too had "seen something", though there seems to be no firm evidence for that.

Certainly then we have plenty of proof that the whole great course of History has often been changed or deflected by a mere vision: as when, in A.D. 312, on the eve of a battle, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great claimed to have seen a *cross* in the sky along with the words:

Ἐν τούτῳ νικά

("by this, conquer")

and was forthwith converted to Christianity and made it the official religion of the Empire. But as to what REALLY happened in these visions, nobody ever seems to know. It is all too insubstantial, like human life itself. Like us. EDITOR

THAT MANTELL CRASH: A MYSTERY THAT WON'T QUIT

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IN November, 1976, *Project Blue Book*, edited by Brad Steiger, claimed to explain the full story behind Captain Thomas Mantell's ill-fated pursuit of a UFO over Godman Field, January 8, 1948. For the first time, photographs and sketches were released of the crash, along with the statements by those who were in the control tower at the time Mantell was chasing the object. With these facts on hand, we are now able to examine the extent of the Air Force's investigation into this case. Also on hand, are the acts omitted from the official investigation which were either overlooked or deliberately suppressed. With both sides now brought to light, we may judge for ourselves the facts behind the unusual incident.

A synopsis of the encounter recapturing the events of that day can be found on page 44 of Steiger's book. They are:

"On 7 January 1948, at 1350 (1.50 p.m.) hours, the tower crew at Godman Field, Kentucky, sighted a bright disc-shaped object which they were unable to identify. The presence of this object was brought to the attention of the Base Operations Officer, the Base Intelligence Officer, and eventually the Base Commander, but the object remained unidentified. At 1445 (2.45 p.m.), a flight of five P-51s flew over Godman Field. The object was still visible, and the Flight Commander, Captain Mantell, stated he was on a ferry mission, but would investigate. Captain Mantell then started a spiralling climb to 15,000 feet, then continued to climb on a heading of 220°, the approximate direction of the UFO from Godman Field. At 15,000 feet the wing men turned back because they

were not completely outfitted for flights requiring oxygen. The wing men attempted to contact Captain Mantell by radio but were unsuccessful. Captain Mantell made a transmission at 15,000 feet to the effect that he had the object in sight, and was still climbing to investigate. The 15,000 foot transmission was the last known of Captain Mantell."¹

The controversy arising from the incident has two parts: one, what was Mantell really pursuing that day; and two, what caused the experienced pilot's plane to crash.

These facts have been established:

A. Mantell was fatally injured in the crash of his P-51 Interceptor while attempting to intercept the UFO.

B. Shortly after 5 p.m., the wreckage of Mantell's plane, scattered over an area of about one mile, was found on a farm, five miles south-west of Franklin, Kentucky.

The facts that have not been definitely established are the ones the Air Force makes when they attempt to recreate the events which caused Mantell to crash.

It was Venus, they said.

The first conception as to the identity of the object was Venus, which was located at the approximate directional position coinciding with the UFO. An Air Force representative from the Pentagon stated, without reservation, that "...they checked again and it was Venus," according to an article in the *Saturday Evening Post*.² This is the only explanation that was offered and it met little opposition for many months. Hence, poor Mantell was officially listed as attempt-