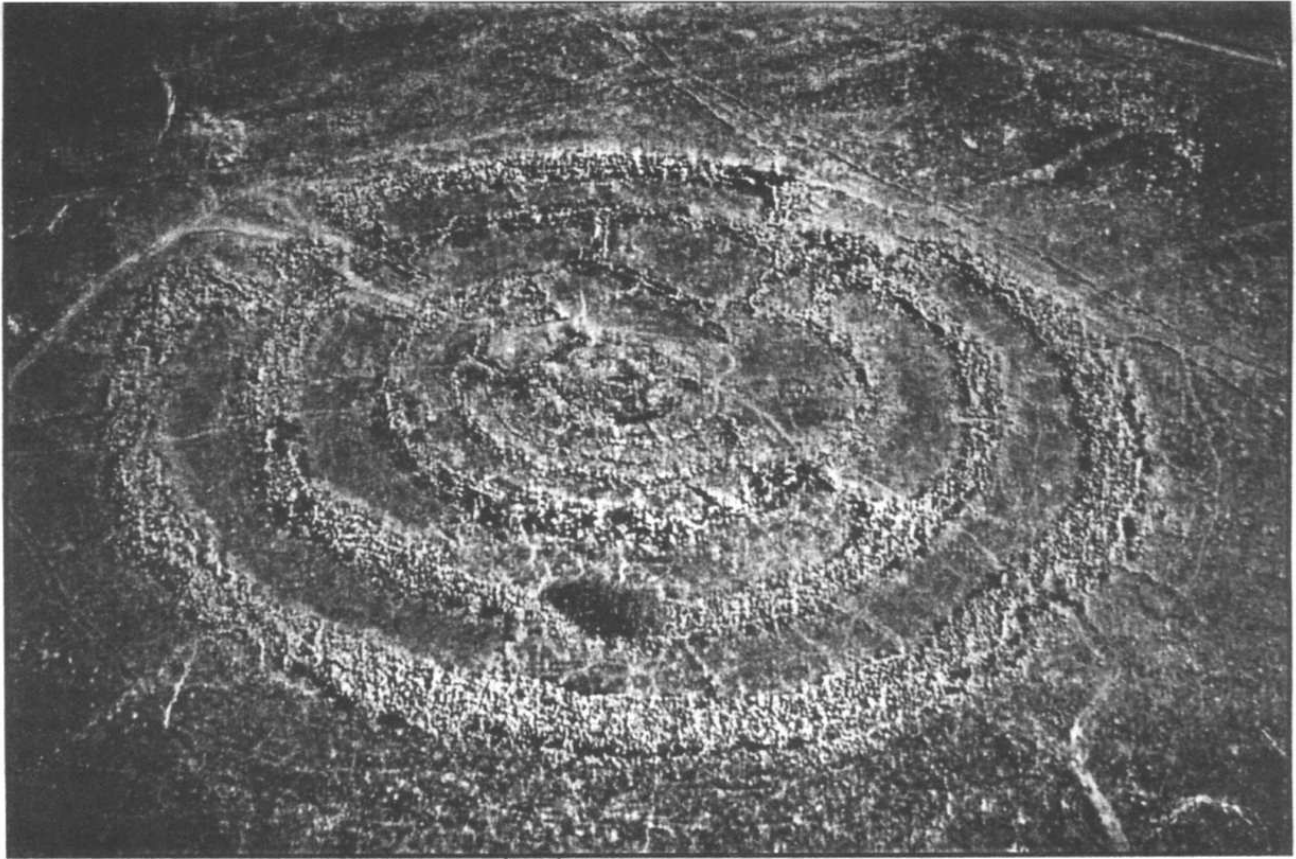


ISRAEL: RETURN OF THE BIBLICAL GIANTS? -NOTHING TO CELEBRATE!

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GILGAL REFA'IM (גִּלְגַּל רֵפְאִים) CIRCLE OF THE REFA'IM) GOLAN HEIGHTS, ISRAEL

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION.

[Our correspondent, Barry Chamish, is not "just another UFO buff". Far from it. He is a noted Israeli journalist and commentator, specialising in political and international questions, well known, particularly in the U.S.A. with over 300 U.S. credits, including articles in *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Reason*. In 1992 he wrote a book on political corruption in Israel, and it was also issued in Britain and reviewed by *The Economist*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The New Statesman*, and the *BBC*.

Currently he is the editor of a newsletter called *Inside Israel*. He has been a keen observer of the UFO phenomenon for the past 25 years.

The previous articles by him which we have published are: *Israel's First "UFO Flap"?*, in FSR 39/4 (1994) and *Giants Encountered in Israel*, in FSR 41/1 (1996).

More recently, in FSR 43/3 (autumn 1998), we gave another report, *Extraterrestrial Giants In Israel*, by Yuri Reitarovsky, translated by me from German, (*UFO-Nadwichten*), Sept/Oct. 1998), and readers will see that this account by Barry Chamish which we publish below covers the same lot of events that had already been dealt with in Reiterovsky's piece. However I make no apology for this repetition, particularly as Barry Chamish's version

was written earlier than that of Reitarovsky, and in any case, given Barry Chamish's background and qualifications, he is likely to carry far more weight and authority, and these extraordinary reports from Israel really are something very special and possibly significant for all of us.

As Barry Chamish has so often emphasised, "Giants" really have "loomed large" in Israel's history, having been last mentioned in the time of King David, and their re-appearance now, he says, is "*not necessarily a reason to celebrate!*"

If you look carefully at the evidence from the *Old Testament*, clearly many - and indeed possibly *all* - of the "big critters" encountered and recorded were quite sinister. So we should take careful note of Chamish's final words in this report:-

"I believe the ancient giants may be coming home, and I conclude on a sombre note. The Biblical Giants were the enemies of God and of Israel, and Israel's armies were the means for their utter destruction. There is a legitimate reason to contemplate the recent re-arrival of Giants in Israel with a good measure of dread".

(Final question: have the Arabs got the giant Jinns as allies?) G.C.]

THE GIANTS.

Are the Anakim or the Refai'm, the Giants of the Bible, returning to Israel today? There are only two periods of recorded history when giants were reported in Israel: in Biblical days from the time of the Flood to the ascension of King David, and since 1993 in modern Israel.

The case for the return of giants to Israel is airtight. The giants thoughtfully chose reliable witnesses, allowed their craft to be filmed, and left in their wake ample physical evidence. In fact, what characterizes the current Israeli UFO wave from others in the world is the sheer abundance of physical evidence left behind by the visitors. Consider the first incident to usher Israel in to the UFO age.

SHIKMONA BEACH.

On the evening of September 28, 1987, a 27-year-old auto mechanic, Ami Achrai, was driving just south of Haifa when he saw what he thought might be a helicopter in distress hovering just above the sands of Shikmona Beach on the Mediterranean Sea. He stopped his car, and to his utter amazement saw a disc-shaped craft which emitted a bright red flash before disappearing.

Two days later he returned to the site with a ufologist to whom the police had referred him, Hadassah Arbel. What they discovered remains one of the most lasting proofs ever left by a UFO of its physical existence. The flash emitted by the craft burned its image into the sands of Shikmona Beach. A 15-meter ellipsoid disk was burnt black into the sand, but what was more interesting was what wasn't burned. In the vegetation which wasn't burned was a clear image of the pilot of the craft facing a control board.

Seven years later I sent samples of the burnt sand to the television show *Sightings*, which subjected it to laboratory tests. The sand seemed to melt in the heat of the camera light. The reason later discovered was that the sand particles were covered by a low melting hydrocarbon material. The laboratory could find no natural or human explanation for the phenomenon.

Ami Achrai's incident was followed by a repeat performance on June 6, 1988, when a similarly-shaped craft was once again burned into the sands of Shikmona Beach, about 100 yards north of the first site. This was followed by the most spectacular display of all. On April 27, 1989, two teenagers witnessed a UFO explode into thousands of shards over Shikmona Beach.

By now, Israeli ufologists were prepared to handle the latest incident more scientifically. The beach was strewn with burning white metal which was cool to the touch. The metal even glowed in water. When picked up, the shards turned into a white ash. Scientists from the Technion Institute of Technology tested the site and found that magnetism was 6,000 times higher than the surrounding area. The shards were found to be very pure magnesium.

Two hundred yards above Shikmona Beach is a Biblical shrine called Elijah's Cave. Here Elijah preached, and here, or somewhere nearby in the Carmel Mountains, Elijah challenged the Canaanites to a duel of Gods. Two bulls were tethered and the gods were beseeched to roast them. Naturally, Baal failed the Canaanites, but Elijah's

God sent a ray of light from heaven which cooked the bull on the spot. This ray may have been similar to the kind of beam which burned the sands of Shikmona Beach into a saucer shape.

Within the Cave of Elijah is an ancient drawing of something that was the spitting image of the craft burned into the sands below. The *Sightings* team decided the image "was a coincidence. Maybe it was a bat." When Michael Hesemann filmed the drawing, he felt certain it was a match for the burned sand pictures.

Although the cave drawing's meaning is in dispute, the fact of the modern UFO-burned inscriptions is not. Something unique occurred at Shikmona Beach. Alien craft decided to leave souvenirs there at least three times. By doing so, they revealed the dimensions of their craft and apparently pilot, as well as their construction material. These were not crop circles nor were they formed the same way. A very different message was left on Shikmona Beach's sands.

HOUSE LIT UP.

After the UFO explosion, there was a hiatus of UFO activity until 1993, broken only once in late 1991 over the village of Sde Moshe, some five miles from Kadima. There, after two straight nights of having the inside of his house lit up by an unexplained craft hovering above it, Eli Cohen captured the responsible UFO on videotape. Several minutes of the tape were filmed after daybreak making the result a most clear and convincing record of a UFO.

It seems the visitors were merely scouting the Kadima area in 1991, but they returned in force in 1993. And this time the occupants of the crafts did more than merely hover in the sky. In the early morning of April 20, Tsiopret Carmel's house glowed from within. She stepped outside and saw what she thought was a new fruit silo built outside her back yard. But then she saw the silo add a second storey to itself. Ten yards to the side of this magical silo, Tsiopret saw a seven-foot tall being wearing metallic overalls. Its head was covered in what looked like a beekeeper's hat. Tsiopret said, "Why don't you take off your hat so I can see your face?" The being answered her telepathically, "That's the way it is."

CIRCLE FOUND.

This was Israel's first publicized close encounter with an alien being. Tsiopret could easily have been made an object of ridicule but for the fact that a circle 4.5 metres in diameter was found exactly where she had seen the craft. Within the circle were shards of a material later found to be a very pure silicon. Israel's ufologists are divided over the veracity of the silicon because there was a prankster loose in Kadima.

However, within ten days, two more circles were found just outside Tsiopret's back-yard. This time they were soaked with a red liquid, and this fluid would be a constant feature of upcoming landing circles. It was tested by the National Biological Laboratory in Ness Tziona and found to be composed mostly of cadmium.

This was the end of Tsiopret's incidents. Now the visitors concentrated on two other women in their late

thirties living on Hapalmach Street. The first was a Russian immigrant, Mara. Strange forces shook her house so hard they caused the outside airconditioning unit to fall out of its casing into the house. **Voices called to Mara using her childhood nickname.** Eventually she decided the house was haunted, and she moved far from Kadima.

THE TOWN TREASURER.

Shosh Yahud is the treasurer of the town of Kadima. She is down to earth and wants as little to do with her UFO experience as possible. In May, she awoke to see a seven-foot, round-faced being in silvery overalls circling her bed as if "floating on his shoes." The creature assured her he was not there to harm her, and she became relaxed. After a few minutes the being floated through her outside wall. Shosh thought she had dreamed the incident until she looked out her window in the morning and saw a 4.5 metre crop circle in her backyard. The ufologists descended on her home and discovered silicon and cadmium within the circle.

Next, in June, it was Hannah Somech's turn to be visited by a giant. Hannah lives in Burgata, three miles from Kadima. She was startled to see her dog go flying across the kitchen into a wall. She stepped outside to investigate, and her way was stopped by an invisible force. She then saw a seven-foot, round-faced being in metallic overalls examining her pickup truck. **She said to it, "What did you do to my dog?" It answered telepathically, "Go away, I'm busy. I could crush you like an ant if I wanted to. Go back to your husband."** A 4.5 metre circle crushed out of the grass was later found in Hannah's back yard. Within, the grass was soaked with red liquid cadmium.

By the end of the summer, the credible reports of giants roaming the land persuaded the normally staid television station Channel One to broadcast a one-hour programme on the subject. Tsiporet and Shosh appeared in it, as well as the ufologists who had examined the circles of Kadima. To the apparent shock of the host, the viewing audience believed the advocates of alien landings. The result was two more witnesses coming out into the open. Both were women in their late thirties who lived within ten miles of each other south of Tel Aviv. Clara Kahonov of Holon was most reluctant to be quoted, but acknowledged that she had seen a giant being.

Batya Shimon of Rishon Letzion saw far more than one. In early July, two seven-foot tall, bald creatures beamed themselves into her seventh floor apartment. They told her telepathically not to be frightened, and she immediately relaxed. She then felt they had "friendly faces." They roamed her home, "floating on their shoes" and dusting her shelves with a yellow, foul-smelling powder. One being saw her son's aquarium, became very excited, and called his colleague over. After a few minutes, they beamed themselves outside. The next night at 3 a.m., a dozen giants visited Batya, arriving and leaving the same way.

I have had extensive conversations with the contactees, and there is much in common in their stories. That is a fit subject for a separate article. In

short, all were women of the same age, all were white collar workers, three have been haunted telepathically since their encounters, all their men slept through the encounters, two had mysterious pregnancies, etc. But the core commonality is that these women did not know each other and separately described the same seven-foot tall, bald, round-faced giants.

And if absolute proof that giants were about in Israel was needed, it came in December in the village of Yatztiz, twelve miles east of Rishon Letzion. The giants had opened a new axis after Kadima, a triangle of twenty miles linking Rishon Letzion, Holon and Yatztiz.

VILLAGE SECURITY CHIEF.

Herzl Casatini, the village security chief and his friend Danny Ezra were conversing when they heard an explosion and felt Ezra's house shake. Herzl opened the door and stood face to face with a nine-foot tall creature in metallic clothes whose face was hidden in "a haze". He shut the door and called the police. They arrived and discovered deep boot tracks in the hard mud. The tracks sank 35 centimetres into the ground, meaning whoever made them had to have weighed, literally, a ton. Thinking there might have been a terrorist incursion, the army was called in.

Military trackers were totally stumped. The tracks carried on for 8 kilometres. The heel dug in only 5 cm., meaning that whatever made the tracks was walking almost on tip-toes, if you can call it walking. **Sometimes the distance between tracks was twelve feet, meaning the intruder was a world record-holding broad jumper weighing about a ton.**

The Yatztiz incident confirmed, even to the deepest skeptics, that giants were indeed sighted, and they left proof that was nearly impossible to dispute. The best the Israeli authorities could come up with to explain the tracks was that they were left by an unknown cult. It would have to be a very unknown cult, since records of cults whose ceremonies include dressing as giants and leaving miles of unidentifiable tracks are undoubtedly quite rare.

OTHER SIGHTINGS.

After Yatitz, giant sightings were reported in Ramat Hasharon, Rehovot, and Afula. And 1996 became a vintage year for UFO evidence gathering with a good dozen craft filmed. Two incidents stand out. In August, a UFO was filmed over three nights with professional equipment at Kibbutz Hatzor. The results include a close up of what appear to be rows of square-shaped vents on the craft. **In December, a Netanya household reported constant contact with small greys, the first such report from Israel.** The witnesses backed up their claims with an abundance of physical evidence, including stones that melt ice immediately without a known energy source.

The Israeli UFO experience is unique and very complicated. I have touched on just one aspect of it, but it is vital to understanding the Israeli puzzle. Of the seven best documented close encounters with alien beings probably connected to UFOs, six involved giants. These giants were determined to leave evidence of their arrival in the form of cadmium-imbued landing circles, miles of

impossible boot tracks, and deliberate communication with witnesses. Indeed, the abundant evidence more than indicates that there are giants roaming Israel today, as there were 5,000 years ago, and they also left proof of their existence.

DESCENDED FROM THE NEFILIM (OR NEPHILIM).

The giants were descended from the Nefilim, literally the "fallen ones". In ancient time, entities fell on Israel from the heavens and later became the mortal enemies of the Hebrew nations. One giant king was Og of Bashan. The Bible records that his bed was thirteen feet long. Bashan's territory included the Golan Heights. Sitting on the Golan Heights is the Israeli version of Stonehenge. (See photo.)

Called Gilgal Refa'im, the Circle of the Refa'im (or giants in English), this site consists of five concentric rings whose beauty can only be appreciated from above. Unfortunately, there was supposedly no way for the simple nomads of 5,000 years ago to see the circles from above. The site is enormous. The outside circle has a diameter of 159 metres, and over 37,000 tons of rock went into the construction of the complex. Two openings in the circles may have been used to measure

the solar solstice and the rising of Sirius in 3,000 BCE.

The fact remains that Israeli archaeologists are totally mystified by the Gilgal Refa'im. No other complex built in the Middle East resembles it, and it predates the Pyramids by more than 500 years. The indigenous nomads of the time did not engage in this kind of megalith building, so outsiders were probably the builders. According to the Bible, the only outsiders living on the Golan Heights back then were giants.

Maybe it's a longshot, but no one has come up with a better explanation for Israel's current UFO wave. I believe the ancient giants may be coming home. I conclude on a sombre note. The Biblical giants were God's enemy, and Israel's armies were the means to their utter destruction. There is a legitimate reason to contemplate the recent re-arrival of giants in Israel with a good measure of dread.

NOTE BY EDITOR.

In addition to the photograph of the Gilgal Refa'im, we have a photograph of a trace site on Shikmona Beach and another of a UFO over Migdal HaEmek, taken in 1990 by Shmuel Wascheky, but these are not clear enough for us to try to use them.■

MY PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE INFAMOUS "MJ 12". © BY DESMOND LESLIE,

Co-author, with George Adamski, of *Flying Saucers have Landed* (1953); one of the Founding Fathers of FSR (1955); and FSR Consultant today.

I must be one of the very few people to have interviewed the chief scientific member of MJ-12, Dr. Donald Menzel, Harvard Professor of Radio Astronomy. He was Hatchetman-in-Chief to the U.S. Government, and his job was to shoot down and obfuscate anything to do with *Roswell* or, indeed, with UFOs.

I had originally arranged to visit another celebrated American astronomer at Harvard, Professor Clyde Tombaugh, who had claimed to have seen a large UFO with rows of windows. But, at the last minute, and for reasons best known no doubt to Menzel, I was shunted off to see Donald Menzel instead. (Tombaugh, as will be remembered, was the man who, in 1940, had discovered PLUTO when working at the Lowell Observatory).

I arrived at Menzel's house and was courteously though not warmly received by him and his wife. I was offered a drink. Then we talked.

He amazed me. He kept up a non-stop harangue. For openers alone he said: "*I've seen hundreds of UFOs*". (*his actual words*). "*They were all birds or clouds or optical illusions.*"

Thereupon I drew his attention to some careful drawings, sent to me by a well known British astronomer, and showing V-shaped formations of very bright objects similar to Adamski's. (At high magnification each was seen to have a turret, a dome, and four brightly lit windows. (1) The lead-ship flashed a red light from the top of its dome).

"*Birds*" said Professor Menzel handing them back to me.

"But, ... why do their eyes glow in the dark?" I asked. "*Moonlight*" replied the Sage.

"And what bird has four eyes?" I asked. "*Optical refractions*" he replied (or something of the sort).

"What about the one with the flashing red eye - was it blinking?" -NO REPLY.

He then went into his party-line spiel -everything ufological was "a fake or a mistake". Q.E.D.

In our book FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED I had already taken him to task, strongly criticizing his "scientific methodology" as being *unscientific*. Later, Dr. J. Allen Hynek himself did a perfect demolition job (2) on Menzel's specious report concerning the very famous Papua (Boinai Mission) sighting of June 26, 1959, as reported by the Rev. Father William Gill and discussed at length by him and by the Rev. Norman Crutwell in FSR 5/5 (1959), FSR 5/6 (1959), FSR 6/6 (1960), and finally by Michael Jordan recently in FSR 42/4 (1997).

On that Papua case poor old Menzel really had been clutching at straws. As will be recalled, Stephen Moi, a teacher at the local Mission School, and the entire congregation, had just come out of church from the evening service and had observed a friendly (should we not say "*seemingly* friendly"? G.C.) hovering UFO with entities on deck who exchanged hand-waving signals with the crowd below. As I have emphasised, this case is famous, and is well documented. Menzel's attempt at a put-down was so assinine that one could hardly credit that it had been written by a man who called himself a