

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.

Passing of Leslie Otley

Dear Mr. Bowen, — It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of J. Leslie Otley, founder of the Tyneside UFO Society and editor of its, now defunct, magazine "Orbit". Leslie died on Wednesday, 25th March 1981. He was a good friend to me, and to many others from all walks of life. His life touched many, many people. He will be missed by all of them.

Yours sincerely,
William Muir,
180 Doncaster Road,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE2 1RB
April 4, 1981

An earlier Lasham UFO

Dear Sir, — The report from Mr. Whittaker about the UFO which he saw when gliding at Lasham is extremely interesting, because about ten or fifteen years ago there was a similar report of a UFO seen overhead at Lasham during a gliding competition. I do not remember whether it was printed in "World Round-up." So far as I recall it was recorded in a letter which was published in the *Daily Telegraph*. The writer of the letter was the Secretary of the Lasham Gliding Club, a lady.

Yours truly,
Gordon Creighton,
Rickmansworth,
Herts.

Animal mutilation in Wales

Dear Sir, — We would like to comment on Gordon Creighton's reference (in his notes to "The Chicken Poachers of Puerto Rico" in FSR 27/1 p.7) to "a nasty case of animal-mutilation on a farm in Wales." As we live almost on the spot, we were able to keep an eye on events, and can say that although the national media quickly lost interest and therefore an *apparent* "blanket of silence suddenly descended on the case," the local press

continued to report sightings of a strange animal in the area.

The only hard evidence on the farm referred to, apart from dead sheep, was a large footprint which was dog-like, and there was no evidence of UFO involvement. Nor was this a case of animal mutilation in the way that so many cattle have been mysteriously mutilated in the States. The thousands of sheep in Wales suffer badly from harassment by dogs, and also by foxes, and during 1980 677 sheep were killed, and 468 injured, in the counties of Dyfed and Powys alone, which is where the above events occurred. In the whole of Wales, more than 1,000 sheep were killed by dogs, and 791 injured.

So, although we agree that there are big cats of some kind on the loose in England, Wales and Scotland, there is no evidence that these, or UFOs, were in any way involved in the events referred to by Mr. Creighton. Anyone wishing to read a more detailed account of the Welsh incidents which we investigated is directed to our article "Strange Creatures in Powys" in *Fortean Times* no. 34.

Yours faithfully,
Janet and Colin Bord
Melangell House,
Princes Street,
Montgomery,
Powys,
SY15 6PY
June 30, 1981

Correction

Dear Sir, — I notice that one word has been omitted from Part 2 of my translation of *The Anthropomorphic Entity at Villa Carlos Paz* by Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez. This concerns paragraph 3 on page 18 of FSR Vol. 26, No. 6, which should read:—

"...her sudden transportation from her first position at the kitchen doorway over TO the bar counter."

Yours truly,
Gordon Creighton,
Rickmansworth,
Herts.

On the nature of the entity at Villa Carlos Paz

Dear Sir, — Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez claims that the entity that Maria Elodia Pretzel saw was totally solid because of his 1) opening the door, 2) lowering his head so as not to strike it against the door frame and 3) he seemed so substantial as of flesh and bone. He did not float or glide...

I could now quote many things from the works of the famed English researcher, Dr. Crookall (I have all his books) in respect of astral projection, but allow me to quote instead from *Practical Astral Projection* by the Frenchman Yram — a 1930s book, I believe — which I was just fortunate enough to acquire on a recent trip to London.

In chapter VIII "Consciousness Separated from the Astral Body," pages 68/9, Yram writes of projecting from the physical body, and attempting to open doors or windows. Time and again, he writes, he had tried to pass through walls in this state, and only managed to give himself a headache, just as if he had banged his physical head on a wall. Much later he was more successful — the walls felt soft, and then he went right through. But this was because he had exteriorized a less material double, far more radioactive than the previous ones.

I believe he was saying in 1930s parlance that in certain projections, when there is too much of the double, etheric body — or using Dr. Crookall's term, vehicle of vitality — projected, then the double has difficulty getting through walls, or any obstacle at all.

Maria Elodia's tall blond entity possibly was an angelic type, or fairy (re. my letter about this in Volume 26, No. 6) made up of astral (soul) and etheric material, or possibly projected out of what we would call "a physical body from God knows where."! The fact that "he" had to lower his head, and so on, doesn't mean he was a Physical Body...he could have been out of one (if not an angel or fairy, I should

(Continued at foot of page 27)

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

Switzerland

Did UFO cause a power failure?

According to a report in the newspaper *Blick* of Thursday, November 20, 1980, the local Police and other authorities in the town of Delsberg, centre of the Swiss Canton of Jura, were wondering quite seriously whether the total failure of the electricity supply in their town in the early hours of Sunday, November 16, could indeed have been the result of a low-flying UFO, as two eyewitnesses had already claimed, and the Police were now calling for any other witnesses to come forward.

Frau Georgette Voirol, aged 54, and her 29-year-old son Jean-Marie, had just come home at about 1.00 a.m., when they heard what sounded like a clap of thunder, and all the lights in the town went out. As she told the paper: "It was uncannily quiet. We dashed to the window to look out and see if a disaster had occurred. But what we beheld was scarcely to be believed. Not very high, over the town, just beside the City Government Building, we saw a Flying Saucer! My son shouted: 'A UFO'. For some seconds after the power failure the fiery, bluish, oval disc just hung there. Then suddenly it shot vertically straight up into the night sky and was gone."

Frau Voirol and her son could not believe their eyes. But outside, on the Basler Strasse, just in front of the block where their apartment was, there were four cars, all stationary. And the drivers of the four cars had all seen the UFO too.

Frau Voirol said the black-out lasted for two hours, and this was confirmed by the Police. According to a statement made by an officer of the Jura Police: "There is no explanation as to why the main trip devices should have cut out. According to the town's electricity company, this can only happen after a very severe storm. The two witnesses who claim to have seen the UFO telephoned us at 1.30 a.m., and the power had failed at 1.20, that is to say precisely at the moment when the witnesses said they had seen the object over Delsberg. We are seeking additional witnesses who saw the mysterious flying craft. We would have had our doubts about the UFO story were it not for the thunderclap and the power failure. But it is a totally inexplicable mystery to the town's industrial enterprises, which were put at risk through the breakdown in current, why the trip mechanisms should have cut out like that. All the indications point to an enormous overloading of the power-grid and that in the very middle of the night too!"

Credit: **Frank H. Stuckert** of Stäfa (Translation from German by Gordon Creighton).

[We should like to hear from any Swiss readers who can tell us whether anyone else saw the UFO and what conclusions, if any, the authorities published. Maybe Herr Stuckert can help again? — EDITOR]

Formosa (T'ai-Wan)

Row of lights seen in sky

From *Lien-Ho Pao* (United Daily News) of T'ai Pei, Formosa, of June 16, 1981 (translation from the Chinese by Gordon Creighton) we learn that:—

"At around dusk yesterday [June 15, 1981], in the sky to the north-west of this Capital, a line of white lights appeared again. Ts'ai Changhsien, director of the Yüan-Shan Observatory, stated that in his opinion these lights are high altitude sonde balloons, similar to those seen over T'ai-Pei on June 10.

It was at about seven o'clock yester-

day evening, when T'ai-Pei residents observed the row of lights over in the direction beyond Kuan-Yin Shan and quickly telephoned the Observatory, where the staff viewed the lights through their telescope and made a careful study of them. The lights were below Venus, in the W.N.W., arranged in a horizontal line, and totalling some nine or ten in all. But subsequently the Observatory received a telephone call from the Coastguard Station at T'an-Shui to say that they had been watching the lights since 6.00 p.m., and that there were 18 or 19 of them. They also reported that they had been seen by people at the Chung-Cheng Airfield at T'ao-Yüan.

According to the Observatory, the lights slowly moved from the north-west towards the south-east, and at an angle of elevation of between 3° and 4°, and by 7.20 p.m. they were lost to sight among the clouds. The Observatory staff calculated the size of each of the lights at from 2.3 to 3.7 metres and their distance from T'ai-Pei at between 95 and 150 kms., over the Formosa Strait, and their altitude at between 5,000 and 8,000 metres.

The colour of the lights was white at first, subsequently changing slowly to red. Because of this, the Observatory staff decided that the objects possessed no lights of their own, but were merely reflecting the rays of the sun. As a result of further calculations, the Observatory put the speed of movement of the lights at from 6.7 to 10.7 metres per minute.

On June 15 a similar phenomenon was observed at T'ai-Nan. On June 10 there had also been the earlier sighting over T'ai-Pei.

There have also been similar reports in June from the P'eng-Hu area. And all these reports have been explained by the Observatory as due to high altitude sonde balloons.

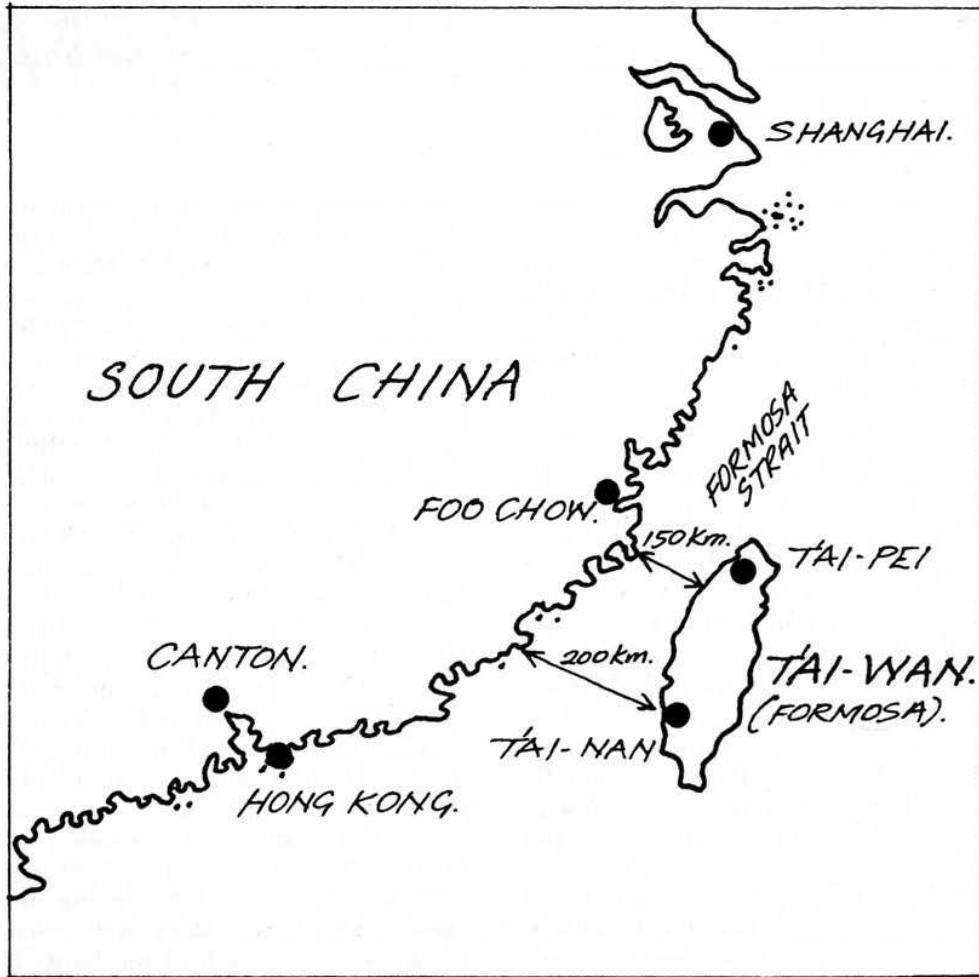
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Translator's Note: Some of these reports mention between ten and eighteen "balloons". And they are specifically stated to be "in a row" ("In a horizontal line"). I find it difficult to believe that the authorities on the

MAIL BAG (Concluded)

extrapolate re. this: 'if extraterrestrial') or he was pure astral etheric substance, like our higher selves, that Dr. Crookall and so many others write so knowledgeable about.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) Joy Barish,
2 Pole Plain,
Sharon,
Massachusetts 02067
U.S.A.
June 3, 1981



nearby Mainland (Red China), which is over 200 km. distant to the West, would be simultaneously putting up sonde balloons in such numbers, and I also find it improbable that they would have sonde balloons that would appear to be "in a row," and to maintain this sort of formation. The speed of movement is estimated by the T'ai-Wan Observatory at between 6.7 and 10.7 metres per minute, which would mean from 402 to 642 metres per hour. This seems to me to be extraordinarily slow, even for a sonde balloon, and the more one thinks about these reports they surely look far more like UFO reports, for we know that UFOs can travel at any speed or even remain stationary.

Another reason why I doubt the theory of "sonde balloons from Mainland China" is that one of the reports is from T'ai-Nan", and not from T'ai-Pei (T'ai-Nan" means "South T'ai-Wan", just as "T'ai-Pei" means "North T'ai-Wan"). The large island of Formosa (T'ai-Wan in Chinese) lies roughly N-W, and is about 300 kms. long. T'ai-Nan, in the south, is further from the Mainland (at least about 200 kms) than T'ai-Pei is, the latter being

about 150 kms from the Mainland. The distance between T'ai-Pei and T'ai-Nan is about 200 kms.

I doubt even more that Mainland Red China would have sonde balloons flying in formation in the vicinity of Southern Formosa, so I think we ought to consider these reports as quite possibly relating not to sonde balloons but to UFOs.

It is interesting to recall that British Naval Archives contain a "classic" UFO report which comes from a little further north in these same Chinese coastal waters:-

May 25th, 1893: *H.M.S. Caroline*, between Shanghai and Japan, sees a formation of flying discs moving slowly northwards. They pass between the ship and a mountain 6,000 ft. high. Observation through telescope shows them to be reddish-coloured and emitting brown smoke trails. Seen for two hours.

May 26th: Seen again by the same ship. At one time the discs pass low behind a small island. *H.M.S. Leander* also sees them and alters course to investigate. Visible for over seven hours. — G.C.

Uruguay

Blackout caused by UFO!

According to a cable of May 21, 1981, from the representative of the Italian News Agency (ANSA) in Montevideo, Capital of Uruguay, the 5,000 inhabitants of the town of Florida, some 100 kms. to the north of Montevideo, experienced a period of alarm and excitement when a total electrical blackout of the whole region coincided precisely with the appearance from the west of a UFO. This took place at 7.25 p.m. (GMT 10.25 p.m.) on May 20, 1981.

Witnesses who observed the UFO, state that it was round, "like a tambourine suspended in the air," and had white lights fore and aft, and red lights on each side.

The blackout involved the whole district around, comprising a population of 66,000 and was stated to be the result of an unusual rise in the consumption of energy.

The head of the local power station, Sr. Miguel Canto Ferreira, said: "This was no normal sort of break in the power supply, for in fact it took us eighteen minutes to put right what should have taken two minutes, for we had to restore the power supply manually." Although he did not attribute the suspension to any particular cause, Sr. Ferreira did go on to say that, in his thirty years of service, this was the first time that he had ever seen such a thing with such features, namely the trip lever cutting out automatically with the extraordinary rise in the consumption of power.

The UFO flew off very slowly towards the east. As it vanished from sight the break in the supply of current was instantly terminated.

In a similar report from the UP, which was published in the Bolivian newspaper *El Diario* for May 23, 1981 (La Paz, Bolivia) Señor Ferreira was quoted as having said "the interruption of current was no ordinary one, as a bolt broke in the automatic system." He admitted that he was at a total loss to explain the cause for the extraordinary jump in the consumption of electricity.

Credit: Alicia Fajardo, Argentinian journalist working in Italy, and to Juan Telleria Rios of La Paz. (Translations by Gordon Creighton.)

Bolivia

Abduction by extraterrestrial beings?

The Bolivian (La Paz) newspaper *Presencia* of September 30, 1980, carried a report from its representative at Oruro that a twentythree-year-old radio technician living in the latter town, Orlando Calizaya, claimed to have been kidnapped on the evening of August 15, 1980, by "extraterrestrial beings" who examined him, gave him a "message" (content not so far divulged) and then released him. The event had taken place near the Capachos thermal spring spa.

Since the experience, Calizaya has claimed to feel nervously and physically impaired, and has issued an appeal, through the press, for medical aid from a specialist.

He had already been receiving out-

-patient treatment at the hospital in La Paz, and in a Bolivian National Health Service psychiatric clinic in the same town.

The report said he claimed to have been taken by the entities "to the fourth solar system," but no explanation of this term is given.

Credit: Sr. Juan Telleria Rios of La Paz.

(Précis translation from Spanish by Gordon Creighton).

Chile

Fiery-tailed object emits smoke

According to a report of May 22, 1981, carried by the Italian News Agency (ANSA) from Santiago de Chile, the Santiago newspaper *La Tercera* of the same date printed a report

from its correspondent at Valdivia, some 900kms. to the south, concerning a UFO which many people claimed to have seen on the previous day, and which was thought to have crashed.

The witnesses, described as "responsible and trustworthy individuals," stated that during the late hours a strange luminous object, emitting much smoke and with a fiery tail, was seen to turn red and then apparently to shoot to the ground behind the mountains.

Local aviation authorities issued an official statement to the effect that no aircraft could have been involved. The eyewitnesses who claimed that it was a UFO are numerous, and a search of the area is being made.

Credit: Alicia Fajardo

(Translation by Gordon Creighton).

UFO OVER NORTH SEA OIL RIG

Robert Rickard

A report sent to UFOIN by the editor of *Fortean Times* and author of books such as *Phenomena*, and *Photographs of the Unknown*.

THIS story came to me by way of my brother, Michael, who worked as part of the onshore installation fire and safety team for Chevron oil in Aberdeen, Scotland. It sounds as if it might be unusually large ball lightning, but that is only speculation. This account was entered into the log of the oil platform by the Chevron offshore installation manager, Derek Smith, who is an ex-Royal Navy Commander.

The sighting was made over the "Northern" (a North Sea oil platform) owned by Chevron Oil in the Ninian Field (block 33). It is positioned at:

60°N 54' 21.83" 1°E 25' 16.46"

The date was November 25, 1980, and the observation commenced at 06.40 GMT. It is not known for

how long the sighting lasted, but it is known that it was not simply transitory. The phenomenon was described as a "glowing orange ball" which moved about and was also seen to hover above the platform, where the search for Britain's oil continues. No estimate of size is known, although it was also described as "a ball of fire." But it is thought that it might be too large to have been ball lightning, which is normally only a few inches in diameter. The chief reason for this suspicion is that it was large enough to be also witnessed from another platform in the Brent field, about 12-15 miles away.

It was immediately assumed to be a distress flare and an RAF *Nimrod* reconnaissance aircraft was sent to the area, and the RAF was generally put on standby. As far as is known nothing was found.

GRUESOME CREATURE ON ROAD IN SPAIN

(Continued from page 7)

and landing. A few moments before landing, they emitted beams of an intense white light that lit up the ground as though they were looking for the right spot or investigating something.

Deeply impressed by the sight, Sánchez remained there for some time, watching. At about 9.00 p.m. an aircraft appeared on the horizon heading for the air-

field at Los Llanos, to land there, whereupon the UFOs made off.

* * * * *

Additional note by Gordon Creighton

There have been a number of alleged encounters with such gruesome, spectral sorts of beings. In particular, one recalls the critters at Warneton, Belgium, though these did not seem to lack eyes or mouths but were more like mechanical robots. (See *The Robots at Warneton*, in FSR, Vol. 20, No. 5)