

Readers' Reports

Trails, or UFOs?

Dear Sir,—I refer to the article in *FSR Case Histories* Supplement 2 for December last, entitled "Luminous object filmed near Newark". The sighting is so similar to one which I, myself, had recently, that I feel obliged to write to you in some detail about my own experience. Let me say straight away that although I am a "student of Ufology" and do believe in the existence of "flying saucers" (in a general sense), I view the subject very critically, and am not convinced that what I saw was extra-terrestrial.

The sighting commenced at about 2.00 p.m. on a cold sunny afternoon sometime during last January; I do not recall the exact date. The Trossachs Hotel, where I live, is situated nine miles west of Callander, which is about 40 miles north of Glasgow. The building sits at a height of about 300ft. above sea level and faces slightly west of south, across a small loch, to a range of hills opposite, which rise to a height of about 1,700ft.

My mother, father, our secretary and myself were sitting in a front lounge which overlooks the loch. My father was beside a window. He suddenly exclaimed that he thought perhaps he could see two UFOs. On looking out we could all see them, very faintly in the distance. Two horizontal silvery-white trails, each the length of half-an-inch at arm's length. They were both on the same plane, about one inch apart. They were due south, not over the highest range of hills, but appeared about an inch above hill-tops which in this direction range from about 800 to 1,000ft. above sea level. The two objects were both moving towards the west, at a slow velocity as would be the case with very high flying jet aircraft. Their height, speed and distance apart remained constant all the time.

We viewed them for about five minutes, during which time they moved through an arc of about three inches. It was then noticed that they began moving in the reverse direction, back on their tracks. I watched this change of trajectory through a pair of opera glasses and noticed that the trails shortened to one half their usual length in turning, which seemed consistent if they were to be vapour trails, as I by this time believed. However, no loop was ever visible; all changes in trajectory were performed in the same plane. Over the space of about 20 minutes we watched the trails move back and forth through a distance which varied between about four and six inches. Sometimes they passed behind cumu-

lous cloud in the east and sometimes behind higher hills to the west. After about the first quarter of an hour one of the objects failed to reappear from behind the hills. Shortly after this we discontinued watching.

My impression at the time was that they were jets waiting to land, and that one of them had just been given permission to do so. I could never make out any aircraft at the front end of the trail, but the latter did taper off slightly towards its end, as is the case in the photograph in *FSR Case Histories*.

I am quite convinced that I was watching two very distant jet vapour trails. The one slightly odd thing is the point I make that the trail was never curved or looped at all.

Yours faithfully,

B. A. R. Rosier,

Trossachs, Perthshire, Scotland.

What was it over Heathrow Airport?

Dear Sir,—At approximately 8.20 p.m. on August 22, 1970, a well-known British woman writer and journalist was travelling as a passenger in a car along the M4 Motorway towards London. It was of course still light. The sky was clear except for a few patches of sparse and almost imperceptible cloud.

Another passenger in the car drew her attention to a large dark circular phenomenon, of the apparent size of a full Moon, which had suddenly appeared in the sky approximately over or near Heathrow Airport. It seemed to sprout a number of plumes of darkish grey mist from the upper side, halted for a period of perhaps one minute, and then sank again and vanished. (See sketch by the witness.)

The lady (she is well known to me, and has asked that her name shall not be quoted) did not think that the phenomenon was a UFO, but has been puzzled ever since and is anxious to know whether there is a simple and rational explanation. One man to whom she reported the affair assured her that it was "a blast-off from a power station" and she has sent this report to *Flying Saucer Review* with a request to be informed whether this explanation is correct.

Gordon Creighton.

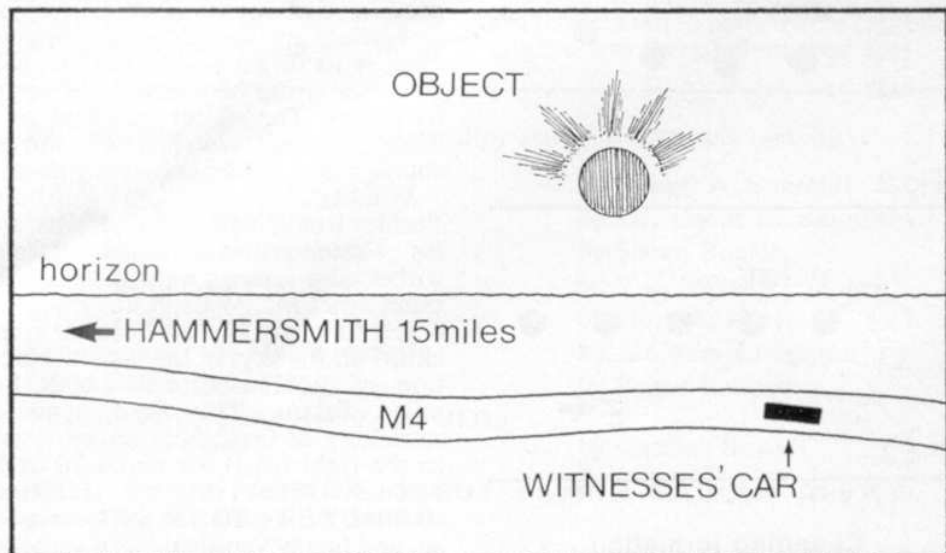
"Copper ball" object long ago

Dear Sir,—I am not a letter writer; one can get so involved and waste so much of people's time, but I do often wonder if you have any record of an enormous copper ball, as big as four moons, following (very low) the course of the river through Sudbury, Suffolk, and travelling from the Colchester direction through Long Melford?

It travelled at walking speed.

I was then physiotherapist at Sudbury Hospital. I left the glass balcony ward with four men in it, and on my way home at 7.40 p.m., I saw this extraordinary thing through an opening between the "Red Cow" (pub) and a butcher's shop. My urge was to rush into the opening. I could have got home that way, but it was not mine, so I ran along the path and into our garden, but the thing was gone.

Next morning I went back to the same ward and I remarked that I had seen a strange thing on my way home. The four patients at once said: "Not a big moon—we saw it pass here." Their windows looked out over the River Cornard side of the town. I saw



the object on the Melford side.

A few minutes later one of the men, reading a daily paper, said: "Here's your moon. They call it a meteor." He cut out the piece and gave it to me. I have it somewhere at home. I left the flat I was then living in in 1936, so it was before that.

I had never heard of UFOs until 1961, when I was introduced to the *Flying Saucer Review*, which I have taken ever since.

I have seen several LITS.* I did not know them by that name, I just called them "hovering stars."

One night about eight years ago in Sudbury I had locked up and was getting ready for bed.

Something was nagging at me to go out of the back door into the garden, so I finally went and I looked up and there was one just over my head travelling due south. I called out: "Thank you." (I hope there were no neighbours around!)

I sent out a quick telepathic message: "Please twinkle or do something to let me know I got your message and that you know I have seen you."

They promptly zig-zagged sideways three times and proceeded as before.

Why did they want me that night? I am no judge of speed, but it was slower than an ordinary aeroplane and much lower.

I hope this may interest you—if not

there is always the waste paper basket.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy S. Hawkins,

32 Carew Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

**John A. Keel's* abbreviation for "*Lights-in-the-Sky*"—EDITOR.

Changing formation

Dear Sir,—I saw an unusual phenomenon last night, February 6, 1971, at about 7.15 p.m. Five bright red lights appeared in a "V" formation, barely moving, towards the ESE.

The weather was warm and cloudy, the moon was above, slightly to the east of me. There was a slight breeze out of the south-east.

The lights dimmed and faded out, to reappear after a couple of minutes, dimly, in a curved formation, brightening, then dimming and fading out. The next time they appeared white, and the fourth time too, all in a line.

The final blackout came at about 7.30 p.m.

Yours truly,

Rod McDonald.

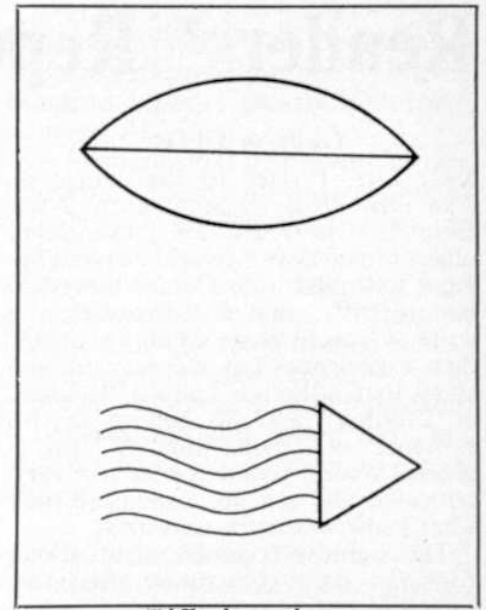
6080 W. Flagler Street, Miami, Florida, 33144.

Differing views of the same object

Dear Sir,—It was at about 6.00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 1970, that a number of people, over a fairly wide area, saw a mysterious object in the sky. The first of these sightings to be reported in the press came from a lady at Wimborne, Dorset. Shortly afterwards the local paper carried still more reports, from New Milton, Bransgore, Sway, Christchurch and Bournemouth. I interviewed three of these witnesses, and their accounts follow:

Witness 1. Mrs. Phyllis Wallace of Grove Road, Wimborne, Dorset, saw the object with her fifteen-year-old son, Gordon. It emerged from behind a low cloud, and travelled west to east at about 150 m.p.h. for approximately 20 seconds. Then, whilst in a *clear* portion of sky, it vanished. The object was oval, its shape being apparent only by its bright orange outline, with a further string of orange light across its centre. The object vanished as if being suddenly switched off, and no sound was heard from it at any time.

Witness 2. Mr. Anthony Watson of Bashley Road, New Milton, Hants, and his sixteen-year-old daughter, also witnessed a strange sight at about the same time. Mr. Watson described the object as being like an "orange street lamp" in the sky, in the general direction of Wimborne, and about five miles distant. This light appeared stationary at first, then moved slowly to the right (east) for about 20 or 30 seconds, then stopped, remained stationary for a further 20 seconds or so, and finally vanished "as if someone



Differing views

had switched off a light". The object was at cloud height, extremely bright, and too large to have been a star or plane.

Witness 3. Mr. T. D. Squibb of Wicklea Road, Bournemouth, was the third witness to describe his experience to me. At 5.55 p.m. on November 30 he was out walking his dog near Hengistbury Head when he saw a "ball of fire" heading on a straight course from west to east. His description of the altitude, speed and colour of the object tallies with that of the other witnesses, but his description of the object itself does not. What *he* saw was an orange mass, pointed at the nose, and trailing off into flames behind. Its size was about that of a sixpence held at arm's length, and no sound was heard. After about 30 seconds in view, the object suddenly disappeared, leaving a vertical wisp of black smoke which quickly dispersed. Mr. Squibb wondered if the object he saw could have any connection with mysterious holes found in a field near Wimborne, from which steam was seen to rise, but I have no information about this.

Mr. Bill Isaacs of Holt, Wimborne, also saw the object, but is convinced it was a jet engine on fire. However, none of the other witnesses would agree with his hypothesis, and radar officials have no record of such an occurrence.

It strikes me as odd that, although all the witnesses agree about the altitude, speed, direction, colour and sudden vanishing of the object, their descriptions of the object itself differ so widely.

Yours truly,

Leslie Harris,

Cosmic Research Group, Bournemouth, 120, River Way, Christchurch, Hants.

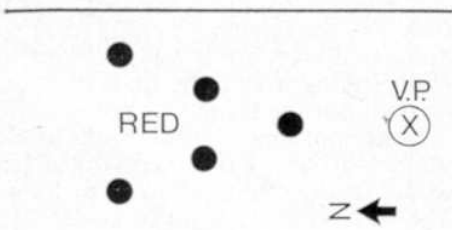


Fig.1.

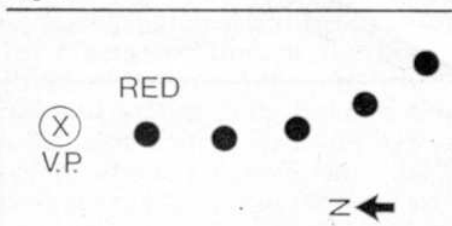


Fig.2.

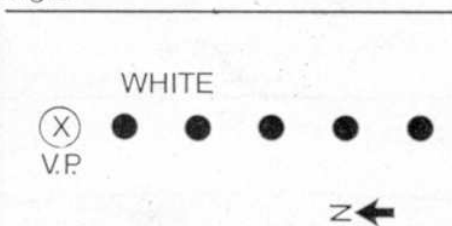


Fig.3.

Changing formation

The Landing at Gelles

This is one of a series of further investigations of landings during the great wave of 1954. The re-investigation was carried out by M. and Mme. Ameil for *Lumières dans la Nuit*. Our article is a translation, by Gordon Creighton, of the report that appeared in LDN No. 97 of December 1968 (address: Mons. R. Veillith, "Les Pins", 43-Le Chambon-sur-Ligon, France).

THIS incident took place at Gelles (Puy - de - Dôme, South - Central France) on the evening of October 18, 1954. The case is a well-known one, and was reported by most of the regional and national newspapers of France. Aimé Michel's account of it can be found on page 198 of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (Criterion Books, New York, 1958), which is the English-language version of *Mystérieux Objets Célestes*.

Although this case is now fourteen years old, the testimony given at the time by the witness, Monsieur Bachelard, a 42-year-old village policeman, retains all its full flavour, for we can certify that the witness appears to us to be trustworthy, in full possession of all his mental faculties, and to have a good memory. Here follows our report on what he has just told us.

The incident

On October 18, 1954, Monsieur Bachelard, village policeman, domiciled at Gelles (Puy-de-Dôme) was returning in a light van from Chanat to Gelles. Reaching the fork in the road that leads to Chambois, he takes a major turn on the edge of an area of woodland and then sees a "cistern" standing at a distance of a few metres from the road. The engine of his van misfires a few times and he has great difficulty in turning. Driving on towards the "cistern", he is overcome by fear and suddenly feels as though semi-paralysed, even "hypnotised"; he no longer seems to be in control of his vehicle.

Moreover, the next thing he knows is that he is at Coheix, without knowing how or why. For Coheix does not lie on his homeward route. Some Coheix farmers see him approaching, "his face pale and drawn". Alerted by him, these people, armed with some farm tools, visit the scene of his strange encounter about an hour later, but they find neither the "extraordinary cistern" nor any clear trace of its having been there.

The grass at the spot was long, but had been laid more or less flat by the wind.

Monsieur Bachelard had nevertheless had the time to observe the object and, among other things, this is what he tells us about it:

"I realised later that it wasn't precisely a cistern, for its two ends were pointed, like a big cigar. It was of a chocolate-brown colour and had rectangular markings which criss-crossed its two ends. It may well have been ten metres long and about 2½ metres high. I heard no sound from the machine, but merely felt this indescribable fear."

We might add that, although M. Bachelard is not of a nervous or timid nature, he was afraid to go out at night for several weeks afterwards, and especially afraid of going anywhere near the scene of his sighting.

The orthotenic position of the place

No clearly established line passes over the actual site. But it does lie right in the centre of, and only a few kilometres from, several lines that form a network. In particular, there is the BAYONNE-VICHY LINE, eight kilometres distant.

The geological position of the place

The spot lies on no particular line of fractures or fault. The soil consists of: trachybasalt, andesite, and several sorts of gneiss.

* * *

A person from Vichy who came to visit M. Bachelard after the occurrence told him that he himself had had a somewhat similar experience. He said that as he had been driving along he had some engine trouble, until finally the engine stopped altogether as a "cigar" approached, flying silently at

only the height of a man from the ground.

* * *

Comment by Gordon Creighton

The Ameils do not give any details about the time and duration of this experience, and in view of the witness's distraught and pale appearance when he turned up in Coheix—a place not on his scheduled route—one may at first be tempted to wonder whether this was not indeed another case of the Barney and Betty Hill type, and whether he may not have spent some considerable time in alien custody undergoing some sort of processing or examination. However, according to Aimé Michel (*op. cit.*, p. 198), M. Bachelard saw the "cigar" or "cistern" at 5.30 p.m., and arrived in Coheix a few minutes later. It would seem therefore that his pallor was due simply to the tremendous fear engendered by what he had seen, and not by any mysterious "contact" or "processing" that he had undergone, although we should bear in mind the possibility of "time warp" and "time manipulation". For these phenomena pertaining to the lapse of time there is much good evidence, so that for all we know M. Bachelard may have actually been in the custody of alien beings and have undergone some sort of "processing".

As regards the mention of the "long grass laid flat by the wind", this at any rate sounds familiar enough to us. Did the farmers fail to perceive the evidence when it was there before their eyes?

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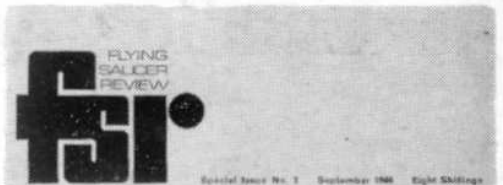
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