

A Landing in Switzerland?

By Roger P. Perrinjaquet

A LITTLE after midnight on the night of October 10/11, 1967, Herr Othmar Willi, a bachelor aged 37 and worker at the Brown and Boweri plant who lives at Oberhrendingen near Baden, Switzerland, was looking at the sky while smoking a last pipe before going to bed.

Suddenly he observed three objects of cylindrical shape, in a vertical position, each topped by a little cone. They were coming down from the sky close to his house, at a distance of approximately 50 metres, and at an altitude of 5 metres above a corn (maize) field.

The cylinders were approximately 10 metres in height, with a diameter of some 5 metres. They were revolving slowly, and Herr Willi could see on the upper part of each cylinder some things that looked like small, square, lighted portholes, in two rows.

"These windows, or whatever they were," said Herr Willi, "Were lighted with a light which I am not able to describe, since I have never seen anything like it in my life before. There was also a sound, strange, but not unpleasant, which I could compare to that made by a swarm of bees. Suddenly a trapdoor was opened under one of the machines, and I saw a sort of rope, at the end of which was suspended a container of oval shape. This container—at least I assume it was a container—stopped at the height of the corn ears, and at that precise moment it was surrounded by a strange light. Strangely enough, this light, which should have been

shining on the ground as well, lighted only the container. The whole incident lasted for only about one minute. The container was pulled on board again, and the three cylinders departed at tremendous speed. I touched myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming, but I can assure you it was no dream. In fact, after that, I had some difficulty getting to sleep".

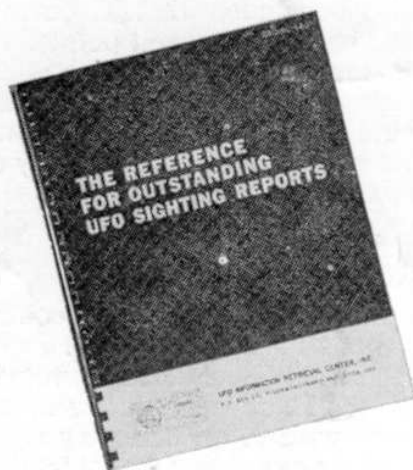
Before his experience Herr Willi did not believe there were such things as flying saucers. Unfortunately he didn't go to the corn field the following day, and the crop was harvested a few days later. He may well have found some marks, or perhaps spaces on the stalks where corn cobs had been taken.

(continued from page 26)

height of the UFO had been calculated by them at 10,000 metres. The case was a curious one, particularly so for the comments made on it, and we simply put it on our index-cards and left it at that. But the study of fault-lines has now shown it in an entirely new light: Metz is located precisely on a fault 110 km in length, one of the longest in fact in our country.

It would seem therefore that there is no need to sort through the sightings in order to pick out the low altitude ones for our study. The Metz case suggests that the UFOs are able to "operate" at high altitudes.

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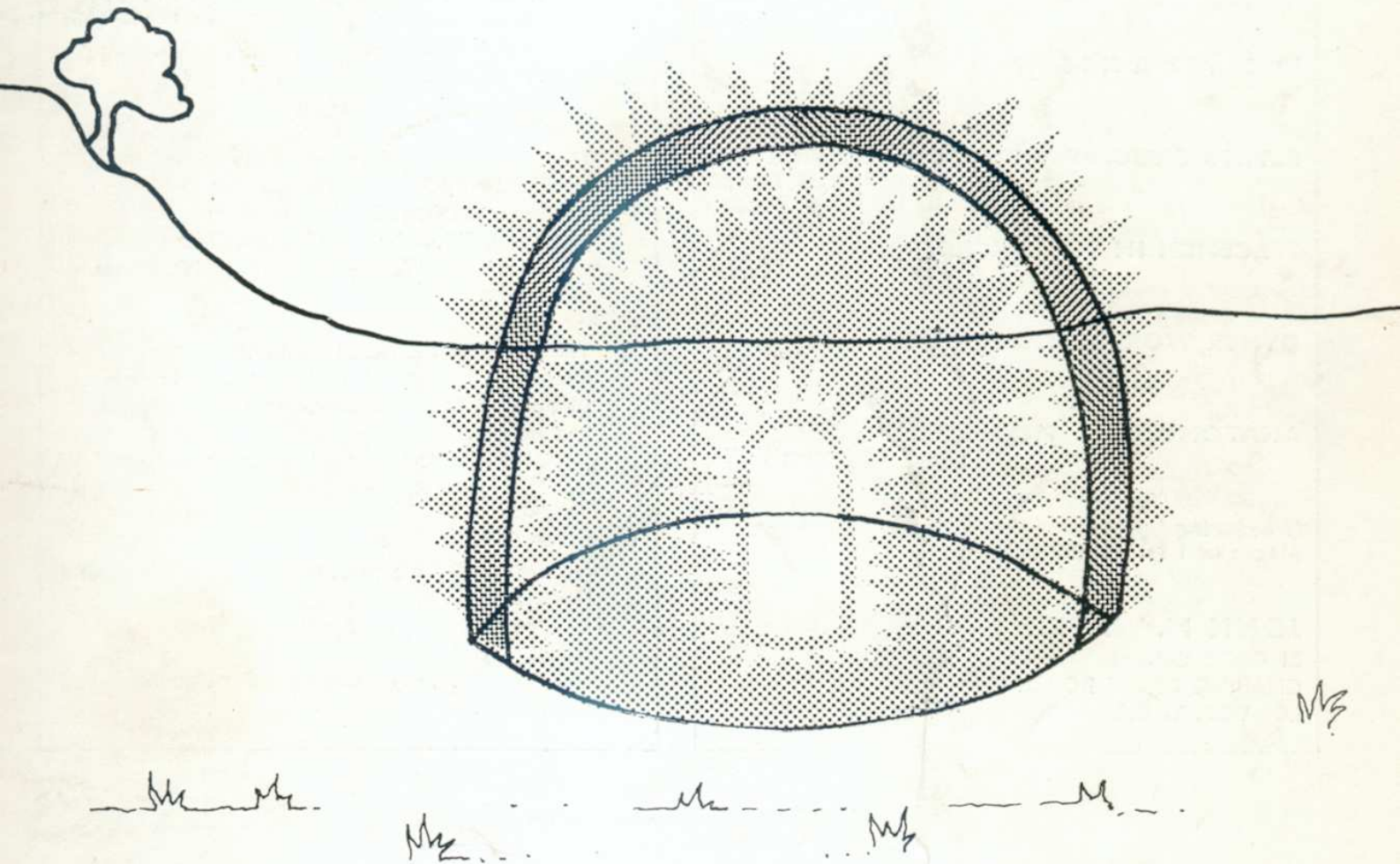
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JULY/AUG, 1968

14th Year of Publication



UFO IN A BRISTOL PARK

Unusual sighting reported by
a Clergyman and his wife.

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FIVE SHILLINGS

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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Vol 14 No. 4

JULY-AUGUST

THAT PROGRAMME

OUR ISSUE for May/June, 1968, was already completed when, on May 9, the British Broadcasting Corporation screened the big documentary *Flying Saucers, and people who see them*. To have held up that issue to squeeze in a comment would have aggravated the delay already occasioned by the clearing of a last-minute space for a note on John G. Fuller's article in the May 1968 edition of *Look*.

It was a pleasant surprise that the Corporation should have devoted a full 75 minutes of peak viewing time—immediately after the 8.50 p.m. News Bulletin on Channel 1—to a subject which its producers had generally seen fit to treat heretofore with a smirk, a subtle innuendo, or a none-too-subtle piece of editing. Nevertheless, when FSR was first consulted early in September 1967 about personalities and subject matter, it was felt that here at last was a chance to help steer a fair-minded producer of scientific documentaries towards a reasonable end-product.

True we experienced misgivings when we learned that a psychologist had been signed up to conduct the interviews. The nagging fear that the big programme would be nothing more than a grand debunking attempt was not dispelled by the first hint of a title in B.B.C. TV's *Looking Ahead*, a publication devoted to previewing programmes for magazine and other publishing houses. *People who see Flying Saucers* was bad enough, but in the blurb that followed, the describing of the subject as a Space Age myth was not well-received by the FSR team.

However, after a little reflection it was reasoned that 75 minutes of peak viewing time would never have been allocated if the intention was a debunking programme. Debunking could have been attempted far more economically in 10 or 15 minutes, and with participants of a very different calibre. Dr. Hynek and Clyde Tombaugh were among those who had already been filmed, as also was a witness whom we had recommended from the very start, namely Captain James Howard, a senior pilot of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, and chief among the many witnesses of the North Atlantic incident of 1954.

Our reasoning was not at fault, for when the programme went out on the air, in next to no time there was Captain Howard speaking with calm authority from the flight deck of a giant VC-10 jetliner: a most convincing witness describing one of the most impressive sightings of all time. It does not detract from the value of the testimony of other effective and sincere witnesses to state that the B.O.A.C. incident alone more than balanced disappointing effects from other cases which seemed less convincing.

Why were some cases not as impressive as they should have been? Probably because only parts of the stories were told, or because tie-ups with

other cases were omitted—for reasons which only Producer Philip Daly can explain. For instance, there was no mention that Captain Howard was instructed by ground control to “hold” for some considerable time before being allowed to proceed—after which he, his crew and passengers saw the UFOs. Mr. Daly would almost certainly say that he had insufficient time at his disposal, but a large slice of time was wasted on a Cook’s Tour of the great Fylingdales Radar station merely to hear an officer blandly deny that there have ever been radar fixes on UFOs. There seems little chance that we will be able to check the truth of this as far as Fylingdales is concerned, but elsewhere there are many other recorded instances of radar detection of UFOs which have also been observed with the naked eye.

Another partially-told case was that of Betty and Barney Hill: how much more interesting it would have been—although, admittedly, a little “way out” for the general viewer—if a way had been found to reveal that the creatures reported by the Hills bore such a striking resemblance to the “lady” encountered by Antonio Villas Boas, and at the same time demonstrating that there was no possibility that they could have known of the A.V.B. story.

These, however, are but minor quibbles, for all-in-all it was a fairly balanced documentary on UFOs and witnesses, which reached an audience of between eight and nine million viewers. The FSR team and consultants have had many opportunities subsequently to

discuss the programme with colleagues, acquaintances—and strangers—and have discovered that it has led to quite an awakening of interest in the subject, particularly among scientifically orientated people.

The interviewer, Dr. Stephen Black, chose to probe the UFO mystery by following a line that people who see flying saucers should themselves be closely studied. So far, so good, but on completion of his interviews he asserted that many of these people had been deep trance subjects, and that concentration by such people on a flickering light—a star, for example—could cause them to project themselves into a trance when, broadly speaking, they would “see things”.

Interesting as this was, even Dr. Black had to admit that his theory fell down on some cases. In fact, the very presence of Captain Howard and the lady who was his air hostess on the memorable 1954 occasion left the good doctor’s case rather flat.

Perhaps Dr. Black was unlucky, for his suggestion that visions of flying saucers are induced in the minds of self-hypnotised “witnesses”, while seeming to most viewers to be well off-target, may well have a grain of truth in it. Even now there are researchers who are quietly examining the possibility that some incidents are indeed in the minds of the witnesses: put there—perhaps by radiation, perhaps subliminally—by forces about which we know little or nothing at all, namely the UFOs, or flying saucers.

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SIGHTING IN A BRISTOL PARK

Clergyman and wife see strange ground-level object

By Sqdn.-Ldr. ALASTAIR PREVOST

AT 9.20 p.m. on April 27, 1968, the Reverend Anthony G. Millican, vicar of St. Christopher's, Brislington, was taking a twilight walk with his wife in deserted Arnos Park. The park is on the Brislington side of Bristol where the suburbs of the West Country city lap over from Gloucestershire into the County of Somerset.

It was a fairly warm evening after a day of continuous rain. Visibility was good, with no wind, and a clear sky with only about three-eighths light cloud. There were no aircraft in the vicinity.

Suddenly, without warning, the couple saw a glowing "object" which apparently hovered some 6ft. off the ground at an estimated distance from them of 75 to 100 yards. It seemed to be revolving, and to be maintaining a steady position, which it did throughout the sighting.

This single dome-shaped object was estimated to be 12 to 15 feet high and about 10 to 12 feet in circumference. It was completely symmetrical, it neither increased nor decreased its size, and its overall shape remained constant. The colour of its outer rim was a dirty yellow, but inside the rim it was off-white, and this inner light was subject to irregular variation of size. The whole thing was transparent, for the skyline at the crest of a slope beyond its position could be seen through the object. No sound was heard throughout the sighting.

Unfortunately there was no opportunity for me to visit the Rev. Millican and his wife, but I am grateful to him for readily answering questions which I sent to him. Every point he made, and every detail he gave, are included in this article. In his reply he mentioned one curious feature, namely a central pillar about 4 to 5 feet in height, but he did not state if this was solid-looking or merely an area of different light intensity.

After about 20 seconds or so, the object disappeared by fading into obscurity.

The witness reported the incident to the police at 10.00 p.m. that evening. The Chief Constable of Bristol was later furnished with a full report. The Bishop of Bristol was also informed.

Other questions which I put to the Rev. Millican and his replies, were as follows . . .

Did you feel a desire to attract anyone else's attention?

No, we were too awestruck.

The sighting, then, appeared to be unusual to you? Could you later explain it in conventional terms?

Yes, very unusual. I could not

explain it in conventional terms.

Are there any overhead power lines in the vicinity?

No, but there is a T.V. station nearby.

Did you suffer from any physical effects during or after the sighting?

A chilling sensation (due to nervous reaction?-AGM). My wife felt chilled for three hours and vomited (due to shock?-AGM). My wife also slept very badly that night, and had dreams about it. I was all right.

Are you knowledgeable about UFOs?

No. Only from what I have read in newspaper articles.

Looking back on your experiences,

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can you now describe them any differently?

No.

Has this sighting affected your outlook in relation to this phenomenon generally?

Yes, in the sense that I have seen "something", but I am still not sure what it was. It may have been psychic (Mathew 24: 24) or a materialisation of a "fallen being" (Ephesians 6: 12—Heavenly places, upper atmosphere?). A chemist thinks it might have been a Will 'o the Wisp.

What was the immediate reaction of the police?

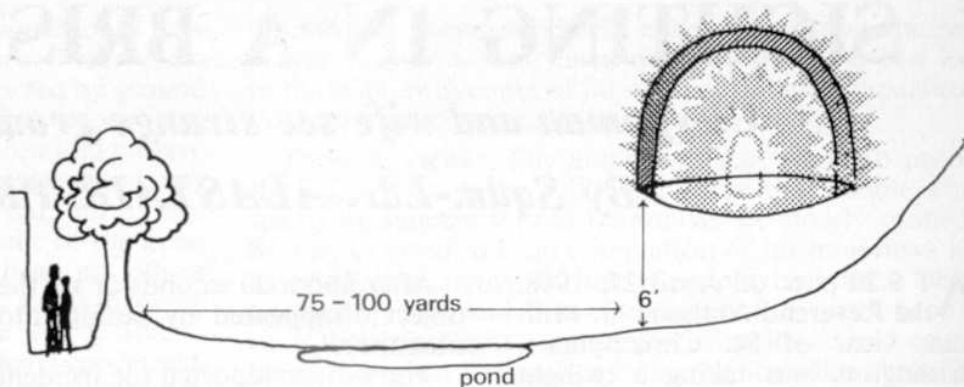
Serious, but they found nothing.

Were there any other sightings in the area that night, or during the past few days?

Yes, over Warminster (no time given) and on Sunday, May 5, at 4.10 a.m. over Bristol (no details).

What was the attitude of the local Press?

Headline news in the *New Observer* of May 2 (address—Silver Street, Bristol 1). [Among nationals the item also made the pages of the *Daily Mirror*—Ed.].



Details of the May 5 sighting are as follows:

A woman, whose name and address were not disclosed, was wide awake and sitting up in bed when she saw a roughly circular object with a tail—like a flying tadpole—pass her window slowly and silently towards Arnos Park. It was a bright lemon colour, and apparently not so clearly defined as the previous object. It was seen flying low over the rooftops for 5 to 10 seconds, and was judged to be the size of a football held at arm's length.

I have also learned that about 5 years ago, a group of teenagers saw a similar object to that seen by the Vicar, in the same place, and also on a Saturday at about 9.00 p.m. As they approached it, the glow got brighter—as one might expect. They became afraid, and one ran home crying. They were too frightened and/or young to tell anyone in authority.

A last word from the local chemist: he thinks it might be a Will o' the Wisp from "the local cemetery gases".

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Buckinghamshire Man Photographs UFO

By David Abbott

MR. JOHN WOOD, aged 31, a communications engineer with the Diplomatic Wireless Service at Hanslope, North Buckinghamshire, photographed a UFO from his bedroom window in the early hours of January 23 this year.

The original, a colour transparency, clearly shows a very bright oval-shaped light standing out conspicuously against a starry sky. The picture is particularly interesting because Venus,* the planet so often used as an explanation for UFOs, is in the shot—above and to the right of the UFO.

Mr. Wood and his wife Leonora watched the object for a total of 35 minutes. During that time it rose slowly from near tree-top level to a fairly high elevation. Mr. Wood said it was almost as if the object was following the sun up.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood live in a semi-detached house in High Street, Old Haversham, a small quiet village not far from Newport Pagnall and about 15 miles from Northampton, the nearest large town. Their house backs on to open fields, and from the bedroom window from which the sighting was made, the horizon is perhaps two miles, and in patches quite heavily tree-lined.

The object was first seen by Mrs. Wood, who is 23 and works at the same establishment as her husband.

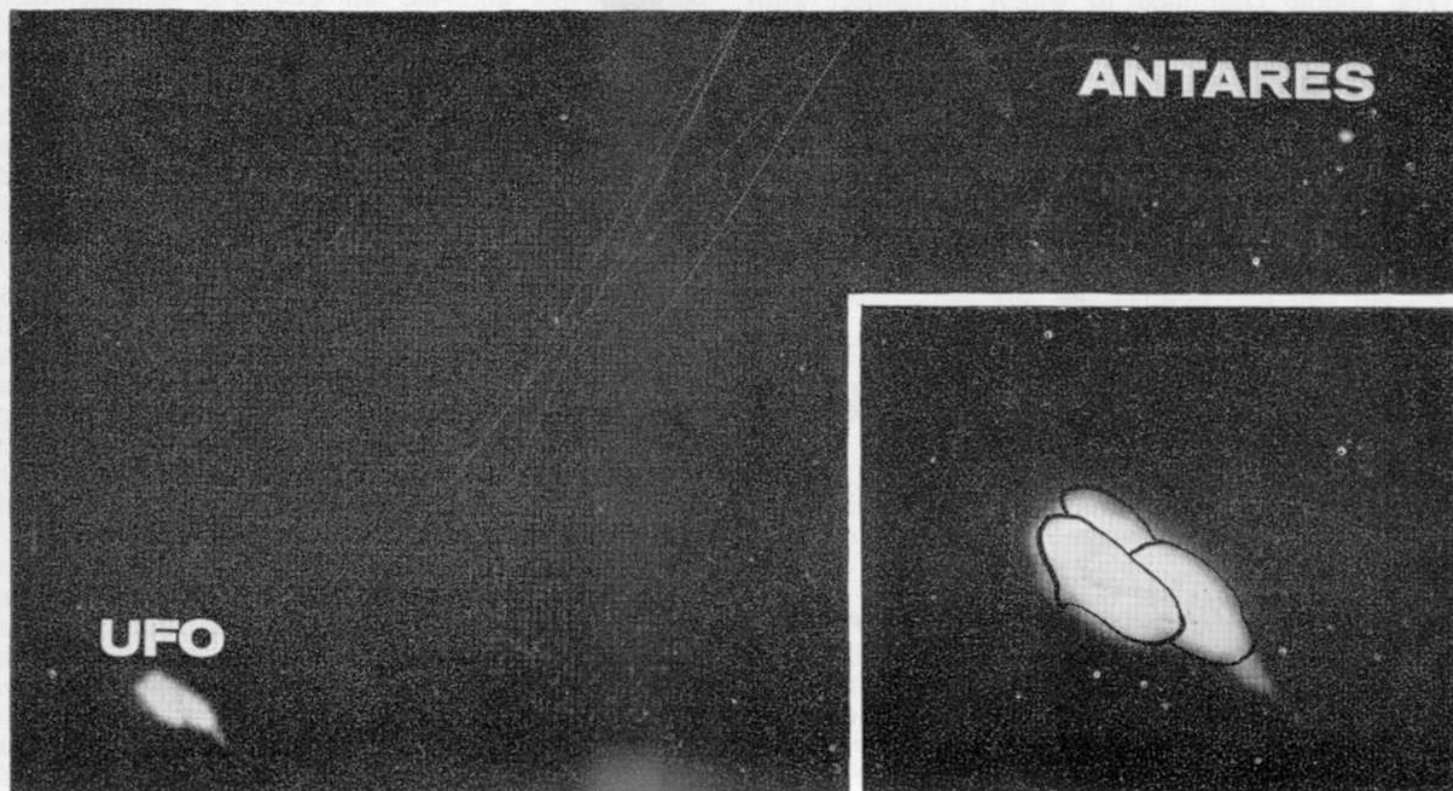
She woke up at 5.00 a.m. At first she thought the object was a fire, as it was glowing and appeared to be in a gap between clumps of trees on the horizon. "When I first saw it the thing was like a big ball of fire; orange and yellow, these colours alternating slowly," she said.

As her eyes became accustomed to the light, however, it appeared as a triangle. She sat watching the light and its fluctuating colours for about ten minutes before waking her husband.

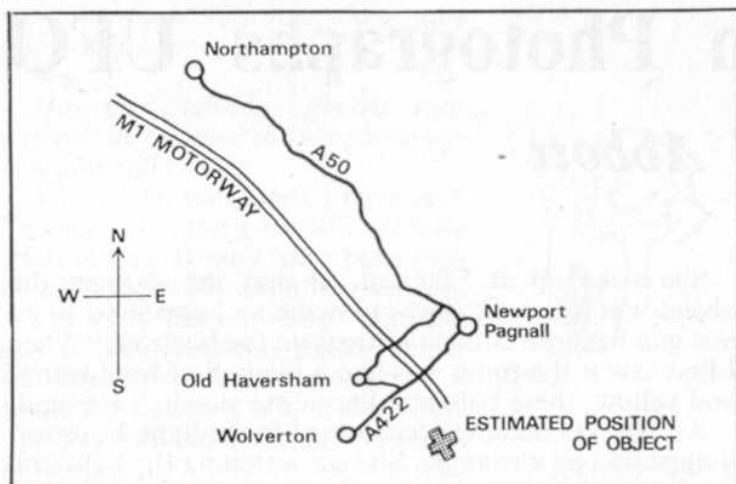
At first it looked to him like a glowing mass in the sky, at about tree level. He estimated that the object was about one and a half miles away.

The couple watched the UFO for about a further ten minutes, during which time they noticed that it was slowly rising. Then Mr. Wood remembered that his camera had a 300mm telephoto lens and he got out of bed and fetched it.

The camera, a Russian Zenith, is a single lens reflex and he was therefore able to watch the object through the telephoto attachment. When he initially focused on the UFO he was more than a little surprised to find it was not just a fiery mass, but a 'traditional' saucer shape, with a raised central dome. The structure was white, while below it were what seemed like flames, red-orange and white. "I think it was these that we could



Two bright objects in the south-eastern sky at 5.25 a.m. on January 23rd 1968, but neither of them was Venus.
Inset: Percy Hennell's enlargement of the UFO, with his sub-divisions.



see with the naked eye," commented Mr. Wood.

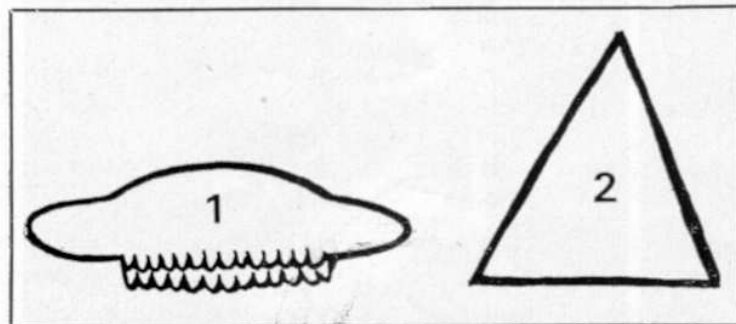
Within a few minutes, however, the object changed shape and appeared as a perfect triangle. "This was accompanied by the feeling that we were watching something very strange.

"At first I didn't think of taking a picture. I just got the camera with the idea of looking at the object through the telephoto lens." His wife, in fact, suggested he tried to take a picture, and he set up his tripod and at 5.25 a.m. took two pictures through the 300mm lens. The first didn't turn out; the second was more successful.

Unfortunately, says Mr. Wood, the object was "past its best" by the time he took the pictures. It was all the while rising slowly in the sky and at the same time getting less luminous.

The couple continued to watch the object until 5.35 a.m. when they retired back to bed. "By that time the object had got very uninteresting."

Mr. Wood said he and his wife, at the time of the sighting, tried to think of a natural explanation. As the object was roughly in the direction of Cranfield School of Aviation they thought it could have been an aircraft from there, but it did not fit the appearance or behaviour of an aircraft.



1. The object as first seen through the 300 mm. telephoto lens. The "saucer" itself appeared white, while the "skirt" underneath fluctuated from orange to white to red.

2. As Mr. Wood watched, the object changed shape and became a perfect triangle—an illusion caused by the object changing direction?

TECHNICAL DATA: Mr. Wood's camera is a Zenith 3M. He used a Russian Tanip-3 300mm telephoto 4.5f lens. The exposure time for the second, successful, picture was either 8 or 11 seconds on 4.5f. He was using a Kodachrome 2 film (19Din, 64 ASA). The film was processed by Kodak Ltd., in February.

After talking at length to Mr. and Mrs. Wood I showed them several UFO photographs, mainly for comparison with the object they witnessed. Mr. Wood remarked on the similarity between the object as it first appeared through his telephoto lens and the UFO photograph taken by Bob Strong on October 24, 1966 (and published in *The Warminster Mystery*).

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** It was taken for granted by the observers, and by our contributor, that the bright heavenly body was Venus. Just to be sure, we got in touch with the Royal Observatory at Herstmonceux, and were informed that on the morning of January 23, Venus rose at 5.40, so it is obvious that it would not have been visible at the time when the photograph was stated to have been taken. The Observatory suggest that the star was probably Antares: this, says the Observatory, is usually hidden by morning mist, but if the mists clear, it shines out very brightly.

PERCY HENNEL COMMENTS

I am very interested in this photograph and can see no reason at all to doubt its authenticity. Unfortunately today everybody is crazy about colour photography and I can do much more with a good black/white negative of a UFO than I can ever do with of a fuzzy colour one.

I have made a black/white negative and the prints are taken from this. If I might make a comparison between this and the St. Leonards sighting, there appears to be a group of objects in each case.

However, in the Newport Pagnall picture the exposure was estimated at between 8 and 11 seconds. This is an important piece of information because if the object had changed its position slightly three times during this exposure, you would get three overlapping images against the black sky. The negative definitely gives me this impression. This might also have happened in the case of the St. Leonards sighting.

In the Newport Pagnall picture the little tail ends quite abruptly and is obviously the track of a quick movement and is therefore not so fully exposed as the possible two or three static exposures of which the object itself consists.

The photographs of the Newport Pagnall and St. Leonards sightings seem to me to add up, particularly if you accept my theory of duplicate exposures due to short movements and periods of rest in the objects.

To sum up, it is in my opinion most important that all evaluations of photographic evidence must be considered on the two bases: (1) from the point of view of its authenticity, and (2) in the context of its relationship to the collection of previous records which we are gradually assembling.

In this respect we should always encourage people who submit transparencies or negatives to send us also anything else, however bad, that they have taken at the same time, with particular emphasis on the duration of the exposures.

WEST VIRGINIA'S ENIGMATIC "BIRD"

A special report by John A. Keel

APPROXIMATELY 200 miles west of Flatwoods, West Virginia, site of the celebrated appearance of the "Flatwoods Monster" in 1952, a new kind of creature materialised in 1966 and has apparently been lingering around Point Pleasant, W. Va., ever since. Unlike its unearthly predecessor, the Point Pleasant critter is equipped with a pair of wings and is reported to be able to fly as fast as a speeding automobile without flapping them! Local citizens refer to it as "The Bird", but newspapermen from coast-to-coast have labelled it "The Mothman".

Whatever it is, the "Bird" has managed to frighten a great many people and confound a wide variety of scientists, biologists and ornithologists. Since December 1966 I have visited Point Pleasant five times and have interviewed many of the witnesses at great length. Some of their lives have been drastically changed after their fleeting experiences with "Mothman". I have kept in constant touch with many of these people and have carefully compared developments in West Virginia with the UFO developments in other sections of the country. There is now no doubt in my mind that Mr. Mothman is related to unidentified flying objects in some very special and terrifying way.

The Bird and its Habitat

Although winged creatures are no strangers to Ufologists and have appeared repeatedly since 1878,¹ they—if we can call them "they"—have never before returned consistently to one area, as they now seem to be doing in West Virginia. The accompanying chart outlines 26 basic sighting reports between November 1966–November 1967. In eleven of these cases the creatures either pursued automobiles or made direct approaches to the occupants of parked cars. This is not only a familiar UFO pattern, but is an apparent behavioral trait of the tall, odious, hairy man-like creatures which turn up every year in California, Michigan and many other places² around the United States. Perhaps we should start entertaining the possibility that all of these assorted and very elusive creatures are not only related but that they are cunning *disguises* and that the masqueraders are in fact more than just curious about the products of Detroit. "They" may have a special interest in the occupants of the automobiles being approached, and they conceal that interest—their true purpose for existing at all—by manifesting themselves in weird guises. There is now mounting evidence to support this somewhat outlandish notion.

The people in the Mothman country are not hillbillies. Many of the witnesses are intelligent, well-educated people enjoying fine reputations in their community. The Point Pleasant section of West Virginia is highly industrialised. There are many large chemical factories lining the Ohio river valley, employing highly skilled labour. Another factor in their favour is that they are

part of the "Bible Belt" and are highly religious. Point Pleasant, a town of about 5,000, has 22 churches and no bar-rooms.

First Cases

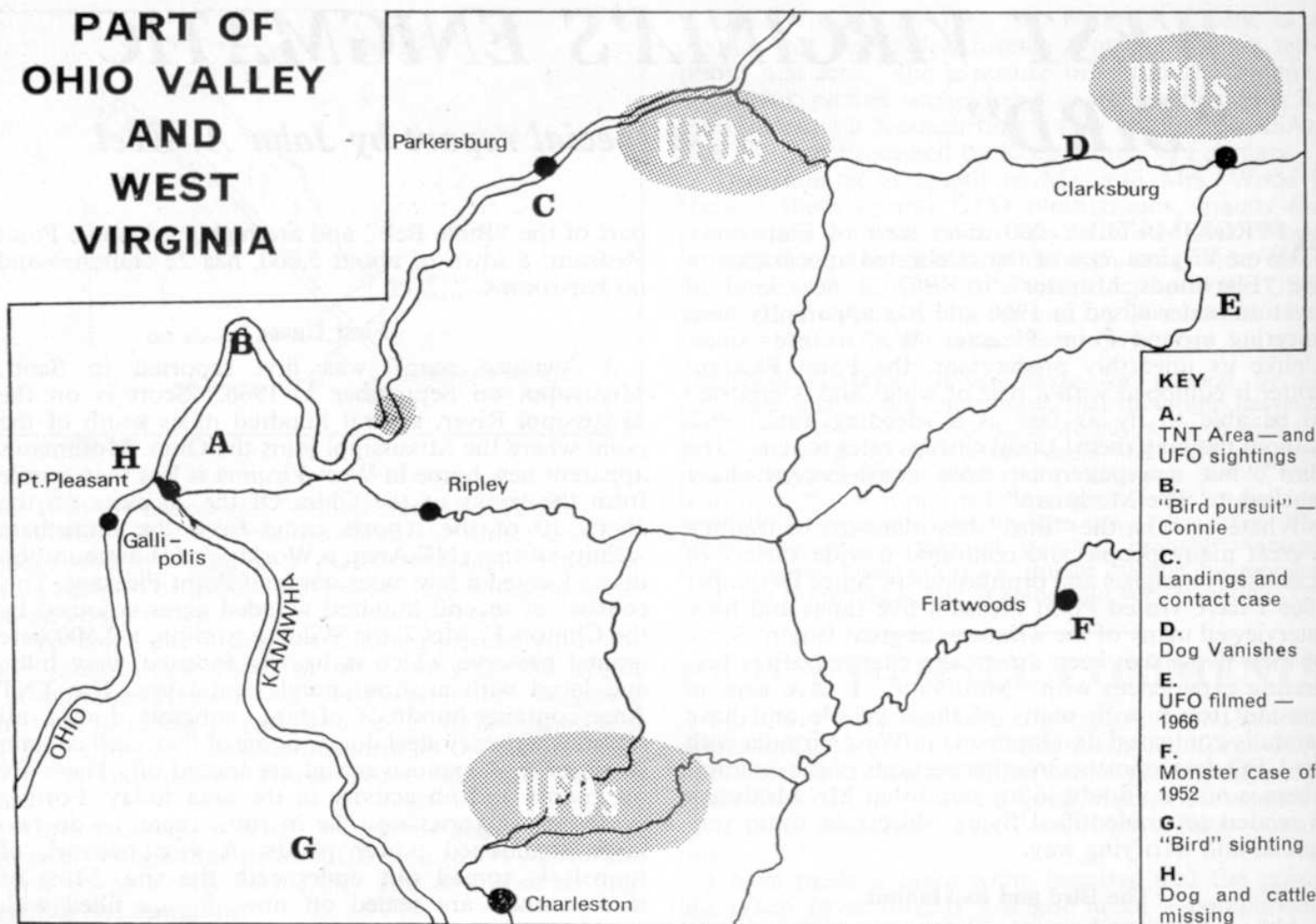
A "winged man" was first reported in Scott, Mississippi on September 1, 1966.³ Scott is on the Mississippi River, several hundred miles south of the point where the Mississippi joins the Ohio. Mothman's apparent new home in West Virginia is less than a mile from the banks of the Ohio. Of the 26 cases on the chart, 10 of the reports came from the immediate vicinity of the TNT Area, a World War II ammunition dump located a few miles north of Point Pleasant. This consists of several hundred wooded acres adjoined by the Clinton F. McClintic Wildlife Station, a 2,500 acre animal preserve which is heavily forested, very hilly, and laced with artificial ponds and lakes. The TNT Area contains hundreds of large concrete domes, all sealed with heavy steel doors. Some of them still contain stores of high explosives and are fenced off. There are no guards and no activity in the area today. Former explosives factories now lie in ruins there, as do two large abandoned power plants. A vast network of tunnels is spread out underneath the site. Most of these tunnels are sealed off now, or are filled with muddy water.

One of the first "Mothman" sightings (No.4) occurred at midnight, November 15, 1966, directly outside of one of the abandoned power plants.⁴ Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scarberry and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mallette were driving along the rugged dirt road that passes by the plant when they suddenly saw a grey figure as tall as a man, according to their description, which had large eerily glowing red eyes and wings. It turned and shuffled awkwardly towards the door of the old plant, they said. Badly frightened, they accelerated and fled the area. As they hurtled towards Point Pleasant at over 100 mph, all four claimed that the creature appeared overhead and flew along with them without flapping its wings! They reported the incident to the police and Deputy Millard Halstead drove out to the area with them. The creature was gone but Halstead's police radio began to emit a strange sound... like a speeded-up phonograph, he said later.

Poltergeist Effect

That was the beginning of a long and bizarre chain of events. The Scarberrys, who were living in a trailer house at the time, began to suffer a series of poltergeist-like manifestations. Although Mr. Scarberry is now in the army and his wife, Linda, lives with her parents in Point Pleasant, the poltergeist seems to have moved with her. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Park McDaniel, have been having unusual problems with their telephone and they suspect it may be tapped by some unknown party.

PART OF OHIO VALLEY AND WEST VIRGINIA



Strange lights have appeared in the McDaniel home in recent months and objects have moved of their own volition, or seemingly so.

On January 11, 1967, Mrs. McDaniel saw the "Bird" herself (No. 22) in broad daylight. She was outside her home when she observed what appeared to be a small plane flying down the road almost at tree-top level. As it drew closer she realised it was a man-shaped object with wings. It swooped low over her head and circled a nearby restaurant before going out of sight, she told me later. I might add that Mrs. McDaniel enjoys a fine reputation in Point Pleasant and works in the local Unemployment Office. I have often been a guest in the McDaniel home and they show no signs of being a hysterical or over-imaginative family.⁵

Both Linda and her parents state that they have received visits from people whose descriptions tally with those of the legendary and controversial "Men In Black". Their reports of these incidents were among those which have led me to take the M.I.B. seriously.⁶ The last "visit" was on December 23, 1967.⁷

The McDaniel home lies just off of Route 62 which leads past the TNT area.

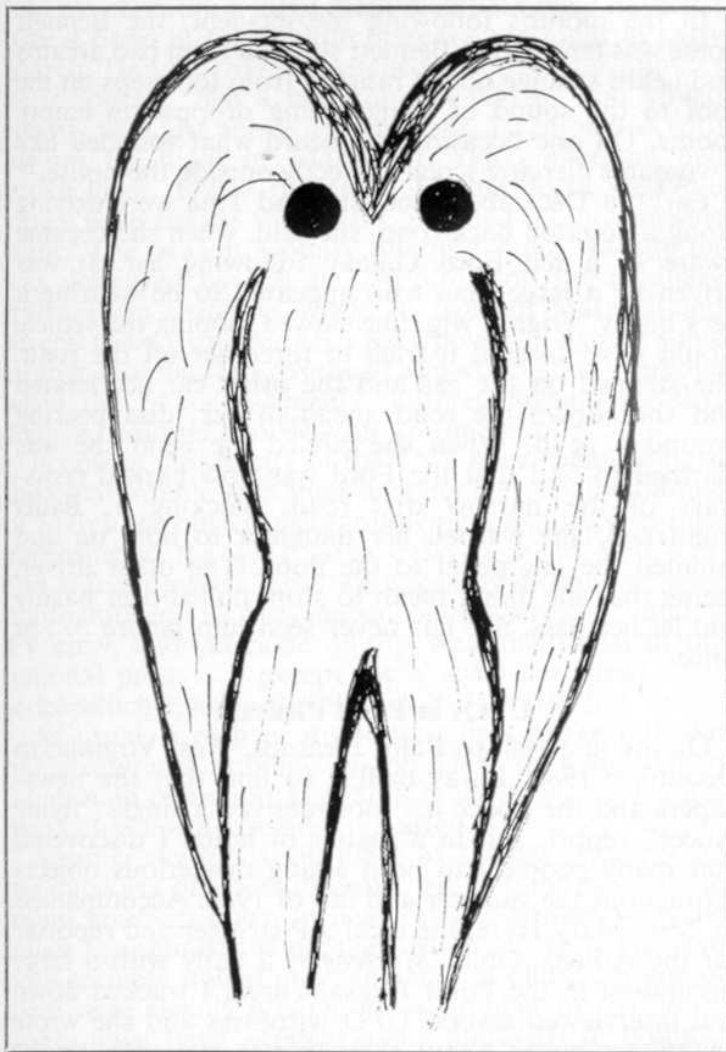
In the majority of the Mothman cases, the witnesses managed only a brief glimpse of the creature. Its most outstanding feature seems to be its glowing red eyes. Few witnesses have been able to describe the "Bird's" face, but most have noted the eyes and have admitted being terrified by them. While some people have

claimed that Mothman was brown, most have described it as being greyish in colour. All witnesses seem to agree that the wings do not flap in flight, making its incredible speeds all the more unaccountable. Those who have seen it walk say that it shuffles or waddles. Those who have seen it take off claim that it rises straight up like a helicopter.

Thomas Ury, 25, of Clarksburg, West Virginia, was driving along route 62 at 7.15 a.m. on the morning of November 25, 1966 (No. 10) just above the TNT Area when he saw a large grey figure rise from a field next to the road. "It came up like a helicopter and veered over my car," he said. He stepped on the gas and accelerated to about 75 mph but the "Bird" not only stayed with him, but circled casually above his speeding car. He described it as being about six feet long, with an 8 or 10 foot wingspread. Like most of the others, he didn't get a look at its face. He was too frightened. He was driving a convertible and was afraid it was going to come down on him.⁸

Another witness swears that she saw Mothman's face but she has been unable to find words to describe it. "It was horrible . . . like something out of a science-fiction movie," Connie Joe Carpenter told me the first time I interviewed her, (No. 13).

According to her story, Connie, a quiet, sensitive 18-year-old, was driving home from Church at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, November 27, 1966, when she saw a tall grey figure standing on the deserted greens of the



Artist's impression of the "Bird", based on Roger Scarberry's sketch.

Mason County Golf Course outside New Haven, West Virginia. The figure suddenly spread a pair of 10ft. wings, took off straight up and flew directly at her car. It had large, round, fiercely glowing red eyes, she said, which gripped her. She couldn't turn away. "It's a wonder I didn't have an accident," she commented.⁹

The apparition swooped over her car and she sped home in near hysterics. The next day her eyes were reddened and were almost swollen shut. When I interviewed her two weeks later they were still red and watery.¹⁰ As with many of the other cases, this first incident was only the beginning of the nightmare for Connie.

The Kidnapping Attempt

Early in February 1967, Connie married Mr. Keith Gordon and they moved across the river to a two-family house in Middleport, Ohio. They did not have a telephone. At 8.15 a.m., February 22nd, Connie left the house to go to school. As she started to walk down the street a large black car pulled alongside. Since all young people today are very automobile conscious (cars are a major status symbol in American rural society), she said she could positively identify it as a 1949 Buick.¹¹ "The occupant of the car opened the door and called to her. Thinking that he was seeking directions, she approached him. He was a young, clean-cut

man of about 25, she told me later. He was wearing a colourful "Mod" shirt, no jacket, had neatly combed thick black hair and appeared to be suntanned. He spoke with no noticeable accent.¹²

When she reached the car, the driver suddenly lunged and grabbed her arm and ordered her to get in with him. He did not get out of the car. She fought back and there was a brief struggle before she broke away. She ran back to the house (the other apartment was deserted, the occupants having gone to work) and locked herself in, completely terrified. Later in the day she thought she heard someone on the porch but she did not look.

After her husband came home from work, she told him the story and he said he had also seen the Buick cruising around the neighbourhood. Neither of them had ever seen the driver before.

Connie remained indoors the following day, February 23. At 3 p.m. she heard someone on the porch again and there was a loud knock on the door. She cautiously went to the door. There was no-one on the porch but a note had been slipped under the door. It was written in pencil in block letters on a piece of ordinary notebook paper. "Be careful, girl," it read, "I can get you yet."

That night Connie and Keith went to the local police. They turned the note over to officer Raymond Manly.

One curious and significant thing that Connie noticed about the car involved was that despite its obvious vintage it appeared to be *brand new inside and out*. Not just well kept, she assured me, but brand new.¹³

The Police Investigation

The Middleport police force is small (the town has a population of 3,400) and somewhat lethargic. In March 1967, I visited their office and asked to see their file on the case. The police chief produced a printed form containing Connie's name and address and one scribbled line; "Dark Buick, young man". He told me that no such car existed in Middleport and that it was obviously a case of some maniac trying to abduct a young girl. Officer Manly assured me that he was keeping the house under constant surveillance. I had to break the news that the Gordons had moved back to the West Virginia side of the river shortly after the incident and no longer even lived in Middleport. Despite my sheaf of credentials from leading magazines and the North American Newspaper Alliance, both men were overly suspicious of me and asked me repeatedly if I really wasn't from "the government".

Officer Manly conveniently lost the note somewhere along the way.¹⁴

Connie and Keith moved in with Connie's mother, Mrs. Faye Carpenter, in New Haven temporarily. On the night of March 22, Connie was awakened in the middle of the night by a long beeping sound which she said appeared to be coming from directly outside her window.

On December 22, 1967, a "Man In Black" type visited Connie and Keith and talked to them for about two hours. Mrs. Carpenter was present at the meeting but, strangely enough, she can remember only the man's entrance into the house and his departure. She does not remember any of the conversation that took place. For the past year there have been repeated poltergeist manifestations in her home . . . strange noises, objects

that have been in one place for years suddenly falling off shelves, and so on. She has also been receiving many odd telephone calls. The phone rings and there is nobody there, heavy static and strange mechanical sounds during conversations, and all the other familiar patterns of phone harassment. Mrs. Carpenter leads a quite life and has received no publicity of any kind. Like everyone else in New Haven, she has seen a number of UFOs in recent months.¹⁵

Horror in the TNT Area

Another early "Mothman" witness, Mrs. Marcella Bennett¹⁶ of Point Pleasant, has also suffered a series of traumatic experiences following her encounter, (No. 5).

At 9 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 1966, Mrs. Bennett drove out to the TNT Area, together with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wamsley, to visit Mrs. Ralph Thomas whose family is one of the few living directly in the area amongst the "igloos". Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were not at home but three of their children, Rickie, Connie and Vickie, were. Not knowing this, and having heard of the "monster" sighting of the night before, the Wamsleys decided to pull a prank and rap on the windows. They got out of their car quietly and started towards the house. Mrs. Bennett was carrying her 2-year old girl, Tina. As she got out of the car with her sleepy burden she suddenly gasped. A giant grey figure with blazing red eyes seemed to rise up from the ground behind the car, staring directly at Mrs. Bennett.¹⁷ Horror swept over the trio and they all started to run for the house but Mrs. Bennett stumbled, dropped her child to the gravel, and stood transfixed.

"It was as if she went into some kind of trance," Raymond Wamsley observed later.

After a prolonged and agonising moment, Mrs. Bennett managed to scoop up the now screaming Tina and staggered to the house. Hysteria overcame the entire group as the creature moved on to the porch. They frantically called the police. The "thing" was gone when the police arrived.

Mrs. Bennett, an attractive blonde in her late twenties, came close to suffering a nervous breakdown after the incident. She could not discuss the experience at all for several weeks afterwards. She refused to see me for months, but finally mutual friends talked her into meeting with me. During that first interview she was laconic and quite reluctant. She hinted that the "monster" had returned and that she had seen it in the immediate vicinity of her house. But it was not until November 1967, that she really granted a fruitful interview.

She had been cautious during our earlier talk, she said, because "something kept telling me to be careful . . . that you were from the government." (This anti-government paranoia is one of my biggest obstacles in my research. We can thank the organised UFO groups for this unfortunate public attitude which undoubtedly cuts the Air Force and government off from much important information.¹⁸

Mrs. Bennett recalled that she and the Wamsleys had been watching a strange large red light dancing around the sky as they drove through the TNT Area to the Thomas's place. At that time, no-one in Point Pleasant was UFO-conscious.

In the months following the incident, the Bennett home was tense. Mrs. Bennett suffered from bad dreams and heard strange noises ranging from footsteps on the roof to the sound of things being dropped in empty rooms. On one occasion she heard what sounded like a woman's piercing scream directly outside the house.¹⁹

Early in December 1966, she and Tina were driving along a deserted back road, she said, when she became aware of a red Ford Galaxy following her. It was driven by a large man who appeared to be wearing a very bushy "fright" wig. She slowed, hoping the vehicle would pass. Instead it tried to force her off the road. She stepped on the gas and the other car accelerated and shot down the road ahead of her, disappearing around a bend. When she circled the bend she was alarmed to find that the Ford was now parked cross-ways of the narrow dirt road, blocking it. Badly frightened, she warned her daughter to hold on and jammed the gas pedal to the floor. The other driver, seeing that she didn't mean to stop, pulled over hastily and let her pass. She has never seen him before . . . or since.

UFOs in Point Pleasant

On my first visit to Point Pleasant, West Virginia, in December 1966, I was baffled to find that the newspapers and the police had not received a single "flying saucer" report. But in a matter of hours I discovered that many people had been seeing mysterious objects throughout the summer and fall of 1966. Accompanied by Mrs. Mary Hyre, the local AP stringer and reporter for the Athens, Ohio, *Messenger*, a daily with a large circulation in the Point Pleasant area, I tracked down and interviewed several UFO witnesses and she wrote newspaper pieces about their stories. As soon as the stories appeared the dam burst. Scores of people ranging from hill farmers to prominent local officials came forward with UFO stories of their own.²⁰

I prowled up and down both sides of the Ohio river, visiting other towns and uncovering many other good UFO sightings.²¹ It was apparent that a major "flap" was taking place there and that it was unnoticed by the press largely because most of the witnesses were reluctant to come forward. But once the door was opened, UFO-mania soon gripped the whole region. Since then Mrs. Hyre has received as many as *twenty* new sighting reports a day.

I saw so many strange lights and objects myself that I actually lost count. Sightings ran the full gamut, from "flying bird cages" (one of those passed low over Point Pleasant proper early in March 1967 and was seen by hundreds) to giant reddish cigars and great spheres which displayed a penchant for hovering over nearby dams and factories.²² There were dozens of auto pursuits and innumerable brief landings were reported, including one in a schoolyard.²³

It would be impossible to recount the situation here. People living on high ground told me of being awakened in the middle of the night by loud thumps against their houses. There was a widespread outbreak of poltergeist cases, TV sets went haywire. New sets "burned out" immediately after they were installed.

Much of the UFO activity seemed to be concentrated in the TNT area itself. Police officer Harold Harmon

told me of seeing a large, dark metallic object hovering over a pond in the wildlife preserve one night in early March. He said that he watched it for several minutes as it rocked "like a boat on the waves" and glided silently past just above the tree-tops. Harmon was with me on the night of March 31, 1967, when all hell broke loose. Police radios all up and down the Ohio valley were useless that night, jammed by inexplicable static. The Mason County Sheriff's radio transmitter was destroyed by fire at 7.30 p.m. and the auxiliary transmitters wouldn't work. In front of Harmon and several other witnesses I flashed a powerful light at some strange looking stars overhead and astonished everyone when the "stars" suddenly skittered around the sky, changed colours and flew on up the Ohio.²⁴

People in the vicinity of the TNT Area began to have the usual trouble with their telephones²⁵. By the middle of March the objects were following a regular schedule, appearing in the TNT Area every night at 8.30 p.m. and at treetop level. They were seen by thousands, were photographed by newspaper photographers²⁶ and a TV crew, and yet none of this was mentioned in the national press . . . except for a seven-part newspaper series which I wrote for NANA in June 1967.

As usual, a rash of mysterious fires broke out. An old abandoned building in the TNT Area burned to the ground one night in March *in a pouring rain*. Firemen could not figure how it started.

Another mystery took place in a large cemetery on the outskirts of Point Pleasant. Huge tombstones were found knocked down in neat rows. Together with the police I examined the damage. Many of the stones had been securely bolted and cemented in place. Some of them were cleanly *broken off*. A number of the larger stones must have weighed many hundreds of pounds. At first the police suspected teenaged vandals but it would have taken tractors and heavy equipment, plus a lot of very hard work, to inflict such damage. Similar "pranks" have occurred in other cemeteries throughout the country . . . always in heavy "flap" areas.²⁷

The enormity of this situation—and there are now hundreds of Point Pleasants in America—has been ignored by the newspapers and neglected by the UFO-philosophers who devote themselves to collecting random descriptions of flying objects. It is time for us to stop misleading ourselves and buckle down to the job of investigating fully and in-depth the "flap" areas and the strange things that happen to the people caught in them. There is a definite correlation between poltergeist activity and other seemingly "occult" manifestations, and the UFO phenomenon itself. There is also the disturbing possibility that terrestrials or terrestrial-type beings are directly involved with the phenomenon itself.²⁸

What is "Mothman"?

By using the standard journalistic procedure of in-depth interviewing and steady follow-up of all important cases, I assured myself of the reliability of the witnesses and the reliability of their reports. None of these people had ever heard of the "Men In Black", and few had any knowledge of poltergeists. Most of them tried to fit their experiences into a religious framework.

During my visits to "Mothman" country a number of prominent local businessmen, teachers, and others, came to me to tell me—in strictest confidence—of their own experiences with the "Bird" and UFOs. All of them described essentially the same thing. But there were a couple of notable exceptions. The witnesses in cases No. 7, No. 11, No. 15 may have actually seen some kind of huge and unclassified bird. It may sound preposterous but there is reason to believe that unusual birds may somehow have been imported into the area to spread confusion and to reduce the effect of Mothman's presence. In late December 1966, a rare Arctic Snow Owl was shot by a farmer in Gallipolis Ferry, West Virginia.²⁹ This creature was two feet tall and had a five foot wingspan. "Mothman" witnesses converged on the farmer for a look at the owl and all of them declared that it in no way resembled what they had seen.

In July 1967, another rare bird turned up. This one was a Turkey Vulture and stood a foot tall. It was found by a group of boys near New Haven, West Virginia.³⁰ Again, the "Mothman" witnesses looked and shook their heads. But the big question is: how did an Arctic Snow Owl and a rare Turkey Vulture make their way to West Virginia? We might also ask how deflated weather balloons manage to turn up conspicuously in other "flap" areas, often landing on the front lawn of a prominent citizen? This kind of coincidence is becoming too common. Either the UFO sceptics are right, or else we are all being made the victims of a gigantic plot to deceive and confuse us.

There are no bears in Mason County but in November 1966, Mr. Cecil Lucas saw three bear-like creatures sniffing around an oil pump³¹ in his field. His farm is located a few hundred yards from the McDaniel home and is on the banks of the Ohio. When he came out of his house to investigate, the dark, hairy forms ran off erect towards the river, disappearing into a thicket. No "bears" have been seen before or since by anyone else. In talking with Mr. Lucas I was impressed with his forthright honesty. Besides, why should anyone make up a story about little bears?

All of this is a rather inadequate summary of the situation in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The story is not yet over. Mrs. Hyre and the police continue to receive at least one new UFO report daily. Mothman's appearances have been less frequent but the M.I.B. activity seems to be continuing throughout the Ohio valley.

In March 1967, I called both the Pentagon and Wright-Patterson AFB and made a direct appeal to the Air Force, asking that they at least perform a token investigation in West Virginia. Nothing was done.

Dog disappearances³² and the mutilation of cows and horses is now common in West Virginia and Ohio.³³ The police are baffled. In the past three years over twenty people, all teenaged boys, have vanished suddenly without a trace in Braxton county, home of the "Flatwoods Monster".³⁴

Is "Mothman" a Ufonaut?

One final "Bird" sighting is of special interest. At 10.30 p.m. on the night of Friday, May 19, 1967, Mrs. Brenda Smith (name changed at her request) and

another woman were driving along Route 62, heading north from Point Pleasant.³⁵ As they passed the C. C. Lewis farm near the TNT Area, they say they observed a dark form with two brilliant red lights on it. Apparently it was circling a tree. From the general shape they believed that it was a winged object slightly larger than a man. Suddenly a larger red light appeared at low level and approached the dark figure. The two seemed to merge and then the large red light flew off to the north.

The two women returned immediately to Point Pleasant and excitedly reported what they had seen. Both were convinced that they had watched a "Mothman" rendezvous with a UFO. At 3 a.m. that morning several residents reported seeing a brightly glowing UFO land in a field near the Ohio River junior high school in Point Pleasant. Some of the witnesses reported watching it for twenty minutes before it rose slowly into the night sky and disappeared.

If this report is accurate, then it would appear that the UFOs and the "Bird" could indeed be related.

UFOs and the Bridge Disaster

In November 1967, I visited Point Pleasant again. Even though sightings had subsided somewhat, I saw another UFO hovering over the TNT Area, as did several other people. In talking with the residents I learned of a peculiar new epidemic. Mrs. Ralph Thomas, Mrs. Mary Hyre and a number of others claimed they had been having disturbing dreams. Mrs. Hyre said she had dreamed of people crying for help in the icy waters of the Ohio. Mrs. Thomas said her dreams were also of a terrible disaster on the river. A mood of ominous foreboding seemed to have gripped Point Pleasant.

On December 15, 1967, the suspension bridge which joined Point Pleasant with the Ohio side of the river suddenly collapsed, taking with it 17 trucks and 40 passenger vehicles. Among the scores of people who died in the tragedy were several UFO witnesses including Marvin Wamsley, teenaged nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wamsley.³⁶

Within an hour of the bridge collapse (5.05 p.m.), twelve UFOs appeared in the TNT Area according to the testimony of the James Lilly family, old experienced UFO-watchers. No UFOs were seen in the vicinity of the bridge, however.

The significance of the Point Pleasant Events

Point Pleasant, West Virginia., is a microcosm. All of the complex ground level factors inherent in the UFO phenomenon can be found there. We might even consider the possibility that some UFOs are actually based somewhere in the almost inaccessible back hills of West Virginia. Aside from national guard units, there are no major Air Force or military installations in West Virginia and no radar nets to locate the interlopers. Police Forces in the Ohio valley are small and overworked. There are only two F.B.I. agents assigned to cover the entire sector. After 9 p.m. at night the major portion of the population is sound asleep. Point Pleasant's Main Street is completely deserted after 7.00 p.m. In short, West Virginia is most vulnerable to any kind of invasion.

Perhaps an invasion has already begun.

DESCRIPTION: W. VA.'s "MOTHMAN"

(Based upon a composite of descriptions from over 100 witnesses.)

- HEIGHT:** Between 5ft. and 7ft. tall. Usually described as "taller than a good-sized man".
- BREADTH:** Broad at the top with slight taper downwards. Always described as "very broad, much broader than a man".
- ARMS:** None. No witness has ever reported seeing arms.
- LEGS:** Man-like. No witness has ever been able to describe the feet.
- EYES:** Approximately two to three inches in diameter, set wide apart, self-luminous, bright red.
- HEAD:** Seen from the back it appears to have no head. Witnesses say eyes are set in near top of shoulders. Few witnesses have reported seeing a face at all, describe it as "science-fiction like".
- WINGS:** Fold against the back when not in use. Wingspread, everyone agrees, is about 10ft. (This is not sufficient to support a creature of this size. A man would require wings of at least 35ft. width in order to glide.) Wings do not flap in flight.
- SOUND:** Loud squeaks, like a mouse. One witness described it as sounding like "a squeaky fan belt". Two witnesses claim to have heard a mechanical humming sound as the creature flew overhead.
- COVERING:** Witnesses have been unable to determine if it is clothed or covered with skin. Generally described as being grey, though some have said it was brown. One witness thought it was covered with grey fur. Daylight sightings of others do not substantiate this.
- SPEED:** It is said to be able to exceed 100 m.p.h. in flight. Few birds can achieve this in level flight. Pilot witnesses have estimated that it was travelling at least 70 m.p.h. in level flight.

TABLE OF "MOTHMAN" SIGHTINGS—1966-67

(Names of witnesses, taped interviews, clippings and other documentation are on file—J.A.K.)

Date	Witnesses	Locale	Description
1. September 1, 1966	Several adults	Scott, Miss	Man-shaped object flying low
2. November 1, 1966	A national guardsman	Armory, near Camp Conley Rd., Pt. Pleasant, W. Va.	A large man-shaped figure, brownish. On limb of tree
3. November 12, 1966	Five male adults	Cemetery near Clendenin, W. Va.	A flying brown human-shaped object
4. November 15, 1966	Two married couples. (Young adults)	TNT AREA, NEAR OLD POWER PLANT	Large grey man-shaped creature with blazing red eyes, 10ft. wing span. Pursued witnesses' auto.
5. November 16, 1966	Three adults, three children	TNT AREA, NEAR "IGLOOS"	Tall, greyish creature with glowing red eyes
6. November 17, 1966	Teenaged boy	Route 7, near Cheshire, Ohio	Grey man-shaped creature with red eyes and 10ft. wing-spread pursued boy's auto.
7. November 18, 1966	Two male adults (Firemen)	TNT area	Giant winged creature with red eyes
8. November 20, 1966	Six teenagers	Campbells Creek, W. Va.	Grey man-sized creature with red eyes
9. November 24, 1966	Family, 2 adults, 2 children	Pt. Pleasant, W. Va.	Giant flying creature with red eyes
10. November 25, 1966	Male adult	Highway passing TNT AREA	Grey man-like being with red eyes and 10ft. wingspread pursued auto.
11. November 26, 1966	Two male adults, 2 children	Lowell, Ohio	Four giant brown and grey "birds" with reddish heads, 5ft. tall, 10ft. wing-spans
12. November 26, 1966	Housewife	St. Albans, W. Va.	Grey creature with red eyes, taller than a man, standing on lawn
13. November 27, 1966	Girl, 18	Mason, W. Va.	Tall grey man-shaped being with 10ft. wingspan and red eyes. Pursued auto.
14. November 27, 1966	Two teenaged girls	St. Albans, W. Va.	Grey, 7ft. tall creature with red eyes pursued witnesses
15. December 4, 1966	Five pilots	Gallipolis, O. Airport	Giant "bird", appeared to be plane at first. Estimated speed: 70 m.p.h.
16. December 6, 1966	Mailman	Maysville, Ky.	Giant birdlike creature
17. December 6, 1966	Two adults (high school teacher)	TNT AREA	Giant grey man-like figure with glowing red eyes
18. December 7, 1966	Four adult women	Route 33, Ohio	Brownish-silver man-shaped flying creature with glowing red eyes
19. December 8, 1966	Two adult women	Route 35, W. Va.	Two glowing red eyes, shadowy figure on hilltop
20. December 11, 1966	One adult male, 1 boy	TNT AREA	Man-shaped figure, grey, flying overhead at great speed
21. December 11, 1966	One adult woman	Route 35, W. Va.	Huge grey creature with glowing red eyes, flew past car
22. January 11, 1967	Housewife	Pt. Pleasant, W. Va.	Creature as big as a small plane flew low over route 62

Date	Witnesses	Locale	Description
23. March 12, 1967	Two adult women	Letart Falls, O.	Large white flying being with 10ft. wingspread passed in front of car
24. May 19, 1967	Two adult women	TNT AREA	Flying creature with glowing red eyes approached hovering unidentified flying object and disappeared
25. November 2, 1967	Adult woman	TNT AREA Near "Igloos"	Giant grey man-like figure gliding swiftly at ground level across field
26. November —, 1967	Four adult males	Chief Cornstalk Park, W. Va.	Men claim to have encountered giant grey figure with red eyes while hunting. They were so frightened they never thought to raise their rifles

NOTE: There were many additional reports, plus many rumours of sightings which I did not have time to track down. These 26 are representative of the overall picture.

WITNESS BREAKDOWN: ADULT MALES: 30
Adult females: 22
Children & Teenagers: 17

NOTES

- On September 18, 1877, a witness reported seeing a winged human form flying over Brooklyn, N.Y. New York Sun, September 21, 1877. See *Houston Bat Man*, FATE, October 1953.
- Winged being seen near Fatima, Portugal, 1915-17. See *Our Lady of Fatima* by William Thomas Walsh, 1922. Two different witnesses reported seeing circular craft land and tall winged creatures disembark. Jacques Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*. Gray Barker's *Book of Saucers*.
- November 21, 1963. Four teenagers witnessed descent of luminous oval near Kent, England. A tall, headless, winged figure approached them. FSR, March/April 1964. See also *Few and Far Between* by Charles Bowen, FSR special issue THE HUMANIDS.
- Do Birds Come This Big?* by Helen M. White, FATE magazine, August 1967.
- "Seagulls without heads" reported during Scandinavian flap of 1946. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, J. Vallée (paperback), p. 83.
- SAGA, February 1968. *Abominable Spacemen* by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour.
- Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life* by Ivan T. Sanderson. *Do Abominable Snowmen of America Really Exist?* by Roger Patterson.
- Trail of the Abominable Snowman* by Gardner Soule.
- North America 1966: Development of a Great Wave* by John Keel. FSR, March/April 1967.
- Point Pleasant, W. Va., Register, November 16, 1966; Athens, O. Messenger, November 16, 1966; AP & UPI wire stories, nationally distributed, November 16, 1966.
- Point Pleasant Register, January 14, 1967; Athens, O. Messenger, January 14, 1967.
- The Silencers at Work* by John Keel, FSR, March/April 1967.
- Agents of Terror* by John Keel. SAGA, October 1967.
- The Flying Saucer Silencers* by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour. *The Sinister Men in Black* by John Keel. FATE, April 1967.
- The Flying Saucer Silencers* by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour. SAGA, March 1967.
- A slight man in a black suit systematically visited several of the people I had interviewed. All witnesses described this man as resembling an Oriental, such as a Thai or Burmese. His speech was slow and parrot-like. He apparently could only hear the witnesses when they looked directly into his dark, glassy eyes. He identified himself as "Jack Brown". All witnesses said that he was primarily interested in what I had been doing in the area, who I had been talking to, and where I had gone. He drove a large white station wagon which made a lot of noise, as if the silencer was broken.
- Point Pleasant Register, November 26, 1966; Athens, O. Messenger, November 26, 1966.
- Athens, O. Messenger, November 28, 1966.
- In many cases witnesses who make close observations of the brightly illuminated UFOs suffer from this eye malady for several days afterwards. This is the only case in which a "Mothman" witness has had this problem, however.
- According to many reports, old Buicks are often favoured by the MIB. Cadillacs and Lincolns have also been frequently reported as MIB vehicles.
- A businessman in Dunbar, W. Va., Tad Jones, told me he had seen a man with a ruddy complexion twice at the exact spot where he had observed a spherical hovering object on January 19, 1967. See FSR, May/June 1967, p. 4.

- ¹³ Both MIB witnesses and "silent contactees" have told me of their experiences with old cars that looked new inside and out and even had a "new car smell".
- ¹⁴ The note as described by Connie and Keith may have been very similar in handwriting to the note shoved under the door of Tad Jones, in Dunbar, W. Va., around that same period. (FSR, May/June 1967, p. 5.)
- ¹⁵ For a brief round-up of sightings in New Haven, W. Va., see NICAP's *UFO Investigator*, May/June 1967, p. 6.
- ¹⁶ Charleston, W. Va. *Daily Mail*, November 19, 1966; Athens, O. *Messenger* November 18, 1966.
- ¹⁷ On March 28, 1959, three teenaged boys near Charles Mill Lake outside of Mansfield, Ohio, reported that a giant 7ft. figure rose up off the ground and frightened them. They said it had no arms but had green eyes. Strange tracks were found at the site. *National Observer*, June 22, 1964.
- ¹⁸ See *The Little Man of Gaffney* by John Keel. FSR, March/April 1968.
- ¹⁹ Comment: Usually witnesses say it sounds as if a big metal pan has been dropped somewhere in the house. I have heard both the footsteps on the roof and the pan-dropping phenomenon during my travels and investigations. The sound of "a woman screaming" has also been frequently described to me. In some cases, the witnesses have said it "sounded like a dog being torn apart".
- ²⁰ First UFO story appeared in Athens, O. *Messenger* December, 12, 1966.
- ²¹ *From My Ohio Valley Notebook* by John Keel. FSR May/June 1967, FSR July/August 1967.
- ²² See "Are the UFOs Using the Earth for a Garbage Dump?", Dell's *Flying Saucers—UFO Reports* No. 4. Description of some of the factory sightings in the area.
- ²³ Athens *Messenger* November 24, 1967: "At 3 a.m. a resident of the north end of Point Pleasant saw a UFO land in the area of the Ohio River junior high school. He called neighbours who witnessed the same thing. After a few minutes, the object rose slowly and went out of sight toward Henderson. Persons reported watching it for about 20 minutes." Schoolyard sightings have become commonplace in the past two years. See FSR, May/June 1967, p. 3, *The Vanishing Buildings*.
- ²⁴ Officer Harmon is no longer on the Point Pleasant police force. At the time, this was given to me as "privileged information" and was not meant for publication.
- ²⁵ As in note 21. Also FSR, July/August 1967, p. 32.

- ²⁶ Time exposure was published in Huntington, W. Va. *Herald-Dispatch*, April 18, 1967. Many UFO reports appeared in the *Register* and *Messenger* in March/April 1967. Also many other newspapers in West Virginia and Ohio were carrying current reports in their areas.
- ²⁷ In accordance with routine police procedure, reporters were asked to refrain from mentioning the cemetery damage while an investigation was being held. Police kept the cemetery under close nightly surveillance for several weeks. Strange lights were frequently seen there, rising straight up.
- ²⁸ See *A New Approach to UFO Witnesses* by John Keel. FSR, May/June 1968.
- ²⁹ Huntington, W. Va. *Herald-Dispatch*, December 28, 1966.
- ³⁰ Athens, O. *Messenger*, July 26, 1967.
- ³¹ There have been numerous creature sightings around oil tanks and oil installations. See FSR November/December 1966, p. 8.
- ³² Gallipolis, O. *Tribune*, November 18, 1966. Newell Patridge of Doddridge county said his TV set started "acting like a generator" on the night of November 15, 1966, and his German shepherd dog, Bandit, "started carrying on something terrible". Patridge shined a flashlight into the field next to his house and saw something "like two red reflectors". The dog's hair stood straight up and it ran into the field. It was never seen again.
- ³³ Gallipolis, O. *Times-Sentinel*, November 20, 1966. Wm. Watson of Georges Creek Road found his German shepherd dog crushed to death in a field. Every bone in the animal's body was crushed. The knee-high grass around the animal was flattened in a perfect circle 20ft. in diameter. There was no sign that the dog had been attacked by any ordinary animal. No blood was in evidence. During my travels I have examined a number of dogs and cows which have been mysteriously mutilated as if operated on by a sharp scalpel. In December of 1967 a cow was found outside of Gallipolis, O. and was cleanly cut in half "as if by a giant pair of scissors". The organs and blood had been removed from the lower half.
- ³⁴ NANA article on animal mutilations by John Keel, November 1967.
- ³⁵ "Privileged information" from local Sheriff. I did not have time to personally check into any of these cases.
- ³⁶ Athens, O. *Messenger*, May 24, 1967.
- ³⁷ This disaster was heavily covered by all news media, major radio and TV networks, and news magazines.

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A TUBE OF LIGHT

By JOANNA HUGILL

Once again we are indebted to Mr. Peter Norris and other members of the Committee of the Victorian UFO Research Society of P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin 3189, Victoria, Australia, for sending along the transcript of a taped interview with the witness in this case. Mrs. Hugill's article was prepared from the transcript. The incident was briefly reported in the World Round-up column of the recent March/April issue of *Flying Saucer Review*, and calls to mind the Rio Pardo object discussed by Gordon Creighton in our July/August 1967 issue (p. 6).

BRILLIANT beams of white light directed towards the ground from UFOs have been reported from many parts of the globe, but from Australia comes an amazing story of a man who not only had his car stopped by a beam of light, but also found himself looking up and into it as if into a gleaming tube.

The witness of this curious happening, Mr. A. R. Spargo is an employer of a large labour force. As he did not wish to attract ridicule, his name was not given in reports published in Australia.

Mr. Spargo was interviewed and closely questioned about his strange experience by Dr. Paul Zeck, a psychiatrist in Perth. Both Mr. Spargo and Dr. Zeck are stated by our correspondent, to whom we are indebted for the transcript of the interview, to be men of high integrity.

Mr. Spargo, who is married with three children, is a wool classer and shearing contractor. One day at the end of October, 1967,* he paid off a team of men at Kojonup in Western Australia, got into his car and set off for Boyup Brook to see another team of men.

Speeding along a quiet stretch of road at about 9.00 p.m. on a clear starlit night, some twelve miles from Boyup Brook, Mr. Spargo had a shock. His car stopped and all the electrical systems, including lights and radio, went dead.

The astonishing thing about the transition from driving at 65 m.p.h. and finding himself at a sudden standstill is that Mr. Spargo had no sense of deceleration. "For if you suddenly stop a car that's doing over sixty, it's like getting shot out of a sling shot," he told Dr. Zeck, "but I found I wasn't moving, yet had no sense of having stopped. All I knew was that I was the focus of a brilliant beam of light."

Mr. Spargo had stopped in undulating countryside, scattered with trees 60-70ft. high. He was aware that the beam focussed on him came from a mushroom shaped craft, 30ft. or more in diameter, hovering over the treetops at an estimated 100ft. from the ground.

"I could make out the shape of the ship," Mr Spargo told the psychiatrist, "and it was glowing with an iridescent light—I'd say the colour of bluish lightning best describes it. The tube came out of the bottom of the ship, at an angle of about 45 degrees to it."

Asked how close to him the tube came, Mr. Spargo replied:

"I seemed to be surrounded by it. It was 2 to 3ft. in diameter, and brilliant on the outside. Yet I could see up it, and there was no glare or anything inside the tube."

"It didn't worry my eyes at all. I got the impression that it was lighting up the inside of the car, but I didn't look round to see."

"I had the most extraordinary feeling that I was being observed through the tube. I couldn't see anyone—I could just make out the shape of the glowing craft."

"I felt *compelled* to look up the tube. But I didn't feel any fear, and I don't remember thinking of anything in particular. I just sat and looked up that tube of light."

"After about five minutes it was switched off—just like someone switching off an ordinary electric light. The colour of the craft seemed to darken, then it accelerated very swiftly and disappeared towards the west at terrific speed. It was gone within a second or two, but the country is undulating and it would soon be out of sight."

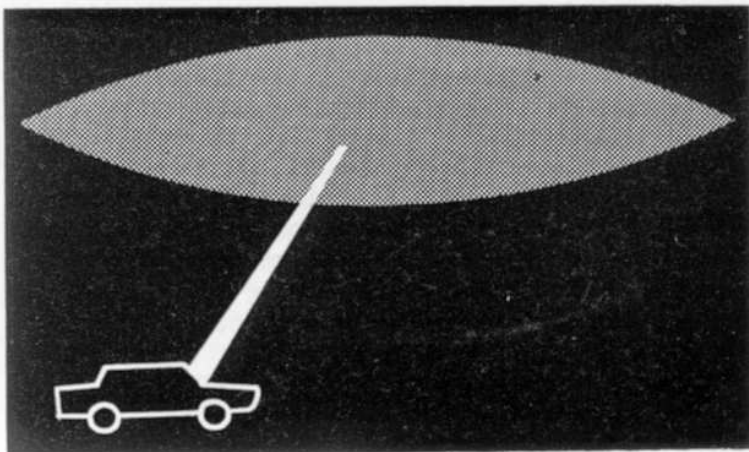
There was another surprise in store for Mr. Spargo.

He found himself once more speeding along the road. He had no recollection of starting up the car, any more than he could remember stopping it a few minutes earlier.

Now he made up his mind to stop, drew in to the side of the road, got out of the car and looked around. His only feeling was one of curiosity—he was quite without fear. There was nothing to be seen in the starry sky. Mr. Spargo re-entered the car and drove to Boyup Brook where he reported the incident to the local constable.

"I felt the authorities ought to know about it right away," he said, "but I asked them to keep my name out of it."

Asked whether he was aware of any noises about him while the car was stopped, Mr. Spargo said that he had



not heard a sound. On reflection, he found this rather strange. "You hear frogs, crickets and all sorts of sounds if you stop in the bush at night," he said. Dr. Zeck asked if he had heard his own heartbeats; Mr. Spargo said no.

He estimated that the whole episode must have lasted about five minutes. He wears an Omega Chronometer watch which is very reliable and keeps excellent time, but when he checked the time on arrival at Boyup Brook, he found it unaccountably five minutes slow. It seemed likely that the watch had stopped when the car stopped.

A report of this sighting appeared in *The West Australian* of November 1, 1967. A few days later, testing out reactions of local folk to the newspaper report, without letting them know that he was the

person concerned, Mr. Spargo asked the owners of a garage in Kojonup what they thought of the fellow who had seen the object in the sky a few nights earlier.

"My son saw it too," was the reply. "He was out working for a farmer that night."

The garage owner said that two local farmers in the Muradup district had also seen the object, and another young farmer and wool classer had seen an object in the sky. They had watched it for a while, but thought it was a satellite. These sightings were about the same time that Mr. Spargo had his strange experience.

NOTE

* In the *West Australian* for November 1, 1967, the report told of the sighting "last night". This would have made the date of the incident October 31. However Mr. Spargo's sketch, made on the day of his interview with Dr. Zeck, bears the date "October 30", but it must be remembered that during his interview he stated that he had forgotten the precise date.

ANDEAN ENCOUNTER

Translation and presentation by Gordon Creighton from Bulletins No. 8 (July/August 1967) and No. 9 (October/December 1967) of the UFO Investigation Section (DIOVNI) of the Research Centre on Rocketry and Astronomy, Santiago, Chile.

THE SCENE of this alleged experience is right on the Chilean-Argentine frontier, among the snowy peaks of the Andes, at about Latitude 27 degrees South and Longitude 69 degrees West. Incahuasi and Las Tres Cruces are two of the great local peaks, both about 6,620 metres (more than 21,500ft.) high.

It is interesting to note that this region lies only a short distance to the south of the lofty Atacama desert region where, as so many Argentine UFO reports have suggested, alien beings are thought to have established bases.

This account is taken from Bulletins 8 and 9 issued by the Chilean UFO Investigation Group. Bulletins 4 and 7, which have not yet been received, also have material on this case, but it seems that the essential experience itself, as allegedly recovered under hypnosis, is all here.

Introduction

The witness, Señor Manuel Muñoz Carvajal, aged 25, a chauffeur of the Regional Hospital La Serena, had apparently driven a party to a school high in the Andean Cordillera. He was badly affected by the altitude, and the incident is supposed to have occurred while he was being returned from a visit to a doctor at a station lower down the mountains.

After his "experience" Manuel was treated under hypnosis by Dr. Darwin Arriagada L. (The letter L after the name of the Doctor is quite correct. It is a South American custom.) Here follows the translation of the transcript of the recorded questioning . . .

From Bulletin No. 8

Dr. Manuel, you will now tell me with complete exactness about that occasion on which you saw the "flying saucers". Tell me, what was the date?

M. It was June.

Dr. You told me one of your party was ill, didn't you? Who was it that was ill?

M. I was.

Dr. You were ill. Tell me . . . and then they took you to Incahuasi?

M. I spoke to Señor Leiva (*who stayed overnight in the school, up on top of the Cordillera crest.*) He authorised me to go to Desvío Norte, to see the doctor at Incahuasi. On the way back from Incahuasi, there was a dense thick mist. We got to Tres Cruces. We began to climb the steepest bit of the whole route. As we were arriving at the top and the mist was beginning to disperse, a ball of fire flew across the sky in front of us. It went from left to right, that is to say, from the mountains towards the ocean. Then one of our party said it was a shooting star. I said it couldn't be a shooting star because when they fall they disintegrate and this seemed to be propelled by a light and then it went out. We went on up and we reached a ridge, and then my companions said there was a truck coming down the road. I saw that it wasn't a truck. The noise from it was tremendous. We stopped. We stopped our van and we got out and walked forward. I had the wind up, as my nerves were bad, and being already affected, as I was, by mountain-sickness due to the altitude, it gave me quite a shock.

Dr. Yes? Tell me all you saw?

M. It was a big ball, like . . . at the distance it was, it looked like a paper balloon—one of those that they let off and that come down again. But when we stopped there and with our lights out, there was a very lovely Moon . . . it was shining brightly and began to blaze with light, and then I said to my companion that we ought to go back, for I was scared and I could see it wasn't a balloon. We were close to the ground and there was nowhere to turn round, so we went on. And

when I started the engine up . . . I . . . my companion told me to dip the lights. We went on a bit further and this machine came closer and the light it gave out, that great ball, lit up the inside of the cab of our vehicle more brightly than the moonlight, and it hurt our eyes to look at it much. (*Silence*).

Dr. Then what? Then what did you do?

M. Well then we continued on up, and this machine, I reckoned that we had passed under it about a kilometre or so back down the road. I looked at the mileometer and I could in fact see we had gone more than a kilometre and the machine was following us, keeping at the same distance. When we saw it it was about 4.40 a.m. . . . (*Silence*).

Dr. Describe to me this machine that you saw. What was the shape of this ball of fire?

M. It was . . . it wasn't round . . . it wasn't a really round clearly defined circumference, but it was a . . . like a walnut, something like a walnut I think.

Dr. Did it have a light shining from it?

M. Yes, beams of light, and there was a shining light, and then it turned orange-coloured . . . of a strong medium yellowish colour, and it had some long "horns" sticking out on top, like antennae. There were two of them, only two. The machine kept changing the colour of its light every half hour—sorry—I mean every half minute . . .

(During the experience the patient fell asleep as a result of the drugs he had been given—so we [Diovni-Ed] learnt—and during this interval he dreamed of some strange "beings". We shall give this part in a future issue of our Bulletin).

Dr. Now, after you woke up from your dream, you were still frightened?

M. Yes.

Dr. Well then, what did you all do next?

M. We drove on. And the disc continued to move along ahead of us. When we had stopped there at that place, before I fell asleep, I saw the other small objects that were around that big one. There were six of the small objects. They were in pairs. And underneath the big thing you could see a sort of cabin, and there were three motionless heads.

Dr. Three motionless heads. Of what shape were they?

M. Well, you could see three black things, that's all . . . nothing else.

(As the account is given with a number of gaps in it, due perhaps to the nervousness of the witness, we [Diovni-Ed] have added a few words here and there—in parentheses—which without affecting the narrative, will be of help to investigators in other countries. We have cut out one or two questions by Dr. Arriagada where he was trying to get the witness to continue his narrative but where it led to nothing conclusive).

From Bulletin No. 9

Dr. Well now . . . did you feel a shock at that moment?

M. Very much. I tried to walk forward, but could not move.

Dr. Why not?

M. No. I can't explain.

Dr. Had your strength gone?

M. I just couldn't make any movement at all.

Dr. Tell me, didn't you fall asleep at this point?

M. Yes.

Dr. During your sleep, what did you dream about? You told me you fell asleep. What was your dream like? (*said with emphasis*).

M. I fell asleep. On the left hand side was the crest of the Cordillera. I dreamt that there were a number of men walking about, who had come out of the disc.

Dr. Tell me your dream. What did those men look like?

M. They were green . . . they had round faces.

Dr. Round faces. And what were their eyes like?

M. They were big.

Dr. Were they long, or not?

M. They were round, fairly protuberant.

Dr. What did those men say to you in your dream?

M. I saw them moving from one side to the other. There were two of them . . . I awoke with the fright, and looked out to see if I could see anything there. I locked the van door as I was scared.

Dr. Right. What else did those men do? What height were they?

M. They were about 1 metre or 1 metre 20 cms.

Dr. They were small?

M. Yes. With very big heads . . . round heads, long necks.

Dr. Did they have feet?

M. Yes.

Dr. Did they have hands?

M. Yes.

Dr. Were they similar to men?

M. They had very broad chests and narrow waists. Their bodies had the same skin as their clothing. The coverings on their bodies were shaped like clothes. Their legs were thin, as though they had no knees.

Dr. Did you talk to your companions? (*Let us remember that the witness was dreaming*).

M. No. They walked round and round the van, as though keeping watch on us . . . I had woken up, and I was driving now. At the bend in the road I saw . . .

Dr. The disc?

M. No. This little man. (*He is now speaking about the following day, when, on the way back, he pointed him out to Inspector Leiva. The occurrence is authentic*).

Dr. Right. But you were already awake.

M. Yes I was awake.

Dr. And you saw him again?

M. Yes, I saw him again. I told my companion, and I told Sr. Leiva too, that at that bend in the road I had seen a man. And so we went there again next day and located the place, but we found nothing.

Dr. Was this man the same man whom you had seen in your dream?

M. Yes, the same man.

Dr. Didn't he make any gestures? Didn't he try to speak to you either?

M. No. Not at all.

Dr. What was the shape of his ears?

M. Like a dog's ears.

Dr. Like a dog's ears, pointed?

M. Yes.

Dr. Did the men have anything in their hands? Were they carrying nothing in particular? Are you sure of that? Did you see how they came out of the disc? (*Silence*) You don't remember? Very well, let's proceed. When the flying objects had gone away next morning,

you were calmer, were you? What did you do next? (Silence)

M. I was asleep.

Dr. Yes? Did you have any more dreams?

M. Yes.

Dr. What did you dream? (Silence). Tell me. (Silence). Did you dream of the same men?

M. Yes. I dreamed that those men were walking about in the School where we were, and on the crest of the Cordillera, where the mine is.

Dr. What else? And what did they do to you? How many of them were there at this time? Several?

M. Five. They came right close to the School. In my dream I . . . (Silence) . . . as if they were transmitting to me the message that we should say nothing to anybody about it.

Dr. To say nothing about it?

M. Yes.

Dr. How was that? They transmitted to you . . . Because you couldn't hear their voices . . . how did they do it?

M. I dreamt somehow that they communicated it to me.

Dr. What was it that you weren't to tell anybody about?

M. That we weren't to tell anybody about it.

Dr. Not to tell it to whom?

M. To other people.

Dr. Why?

M. They didn't tell me.

Dr. Why didn't they tell you? They threatened you?

M. No.

Dr. Why? Tell me how they told you that? (Silence) Besides saying that you weren't to tell anything about it, what else did those beings instruct you to do?

M. No, that's all . . . There were three of them walking along together. You could see them, quite close to us . . . the one in the middle seemed to be a leader.

Dr. Right. Now, tell me one thing. Didn't you hear their voices? No? Then how did they give you that information?

M. I felt as though something was entering into my head, that's all.

Dr. Right. Then, after that, you woke up? Did you remember your dream?

M. Yes.

Dr. Why did you come to me about it, two days later?

M. We didn't want to tell anybody.

Dr. Why?

M. Because they would have laughed at us . . .

Dr. Tell me, why didn't you tell me that part about the dream, which was the only bit that you had not told me? (Silence) Why?

M. Because I thought you wouldn't believe me.

Dr. We wouldn't believe you? Well then, have you never had any more dreams about those men since then? (Silence) Or of those beings? Have you never had any more dreams in which you saw them?

M. No.

Dr. Never any more. Very good. Then you have remembered perfectly, everything that happened.

Hypnotised Policeman reports Encounter with Entity

The following account is extracted from items which appeared in NICAP's UFO Investigator for March, 1968.

AT 2.30 a.m. on December 3, 1967, Police Officer Schirmer, of Ashland, Nebraska, reportedly came upon a bright aluminium-coloured UFO hovering a few feet above the road. Schirmer stated he could see red lights inside the object, which was about 20 feet long.

As his car approached to within 40 feet of the unknown craft, Schirmer said the object's lights began to flash and the UFO rose to about 50 feet. Then it shot a red-orange beam towards the ground, emitted a shrill beeping noise and vanished straight up.

We learn that Officer Schirmer later was questioned, under hypnosis, at the Colorado Project. The account continues:

The first witness to be hypnotised under the auspices of the Colorado Project has reportedly described—while under hypnosis—a fantastic sighting said to involve an extraterrestrial being, communication with the "saucer" occupant, and a paralysing beam. The sessions were held on February 14 and 15.

Police Officer Herbert Schirmer was placed under hypnosis by Dr. Leo R. Sprinkle, psychologist at the

University of Wyoming, who is a NICAP member.

The Colorado Project has confirmed that the patrolman was brought to the UFO Study Group at Boulder and hypnotised to recount his story. No conclusions have been released by the Project, but a detailed story was given to the Omaha *World Herald* by a police officer who was present during the sessions.

During hypnosis, Schirmer told Dr. Sprinkle and the Project officials he saw the object . . . as it hovered close to a road.

"I tried to radio in . . ." the policeman stated. "I had one hand on the mike and the other on my gun . . . but the beam of light that came from the underside of the object kept me from doing anything."

According to notes taken by Ashland Police Chief William Wlaschin during the hypnotic experiment, Schirmer said that as the beam flooded his cruiser with light, a small human form, four or five feet tall, came from beneath the craft and approached him. He also said that the figure "in some manner" communicated with him. There were also other beings aboard the craft, Schirmer stated while in a deep trance.

"They are not from any planet we are familiar with . . ." Schirmer reported during the hypnotic session. "They came from a neighbouring galaxy . . . though they have bases on Jupiter and Mars . . . They told me that this was the first of three meetings I would have with them . . . The next two are supposed to come about before the end of 1968."

Schirmer also said the UFO "was operated against gravity" and was extracting electricity from a nearby power line to set up a force field that "could stop anything from interfering with them at this time."

The UFO Investigator editor then carefully re-states the NICAP position:

NICAP is investigating the case as thoroughly as possible. We hope to obtain a full account of the hypnotic experiments, even though the Colorado conclusions probably cannot be released until Dr. Condon's final public report. . .

It is NICAP's position that any alleged "contact" case must be fully authenticated before we can accept

it as true. Otherwise, we would be criticised—and rightly—as departing from our long-standing policy of careful, factual investigation. So far, we know of no contact case which has met the test. Most of the alleged witnesses have been obviously unreliable or unstable. There have been a few exceptions, mainly in so-called "encounter" cases (no communication claimed) where witnesses of good reputation have reported seeing supposedly extraterrestrial beings near or aboard UFOs. Even here, honest errors of identification are quite possible. We know of no case proved beyond all reasonable doubt, though we feel that a distinction should be made between such reported "encounters" and the majority of unacceptable "contactee" tales.

Postscript:

The *UFO Investigator* is the journal of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036 U.S.A.

MAIL BAG

From Jacques Vallée

Sir,—With reference to John Keel's article *A New Approach to UFO Witnesses* (FSR, May/June 1968), I would like to convince John that precisely because "the truth about UFOs is infinitely more complex than the extraterrestrial type of conclusion" it will take the combined efforts of several researchers to solve it. This team should include professional scientists working within their field of competence; otherwise it will never get adequate tools to support its hypotheses and test them. It will soon find itself sitting on a shapeless mountain of disorganised "evidence"—a situation which is typical of all the amateur groups today.

Clearly we need quantitative data here. When John says "Look at the growing number of close sightings around schools" I want to ask: How do we know this category is growing faster than other categories? The term "close sighting" is not even defined! And how could it be defined if we ignore the witness's description of the object, its apparent size, its manoeuvres and general behaviour?

It is precisely to eliminate the most obvious biases of this kind that we need computers. Now, to assume that the computer can save us the effort to make field investigations would be entirely childish—here I emphatically agree with John. The statistics are a by-product, not the main purpose of the reduction of the files. What is the main purpose, then?

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.

There are five meaningful tasks a computer can perform for us in the field of UFO research: (1) to assist field investigators by providing background information such as names of witnesses and previous sightings in a given area, (2) to guide in the formulation and testing of hypotheses by recalling those details which human memory is unable to retain, (3) to help in detecting global trends and geographic patterns, (4) to assign quantitative values to interpretations formulated loosely in qualitative terms, (5) to monitor abusive manipulations of the files by officials in charge of the evaluation and to provide information on selection effects.

Finally I would take issue with John's statement about the scientific method. He misses the obvious point that the scientific method has *never* been applied to this problem. Jacques Vallée, June 25, 1968.

Not Extraterrestrial

Sir,—As one who has studied the UFO phenomenon intensively for several years, during which time I have researched scores of books and periodicals, let me say that John Keel needs to explain far more than "Phase 3" and "Odd 'March pattern'" referred to in your note following his article in your January/February 1968 issue.

My research has failed to reveal even one solid indication of contact by outer space creatures. The more impressive landing stories—Socorro, New Mexico, South Hill, Virginia and

Valensole, France—are all based on the testimony of *one* witness. Moreover, both of the U.S. cases have strange loopholes which cast grave doubt that an extraterrestrial visitation took place.*

In accounts about the mysterious "men in black", pregnant women and strange telephone calls, no incontrovertible evidence is ever given. In my opinion, there is a credibility gap in such stories as wide as the Atlantic!

A few months ago I attended a meeting in which Mr. Keel was guest speaker. During the talk he noted that a strange chemical (mecnacide) is starting to show up in our water supplies, and that if taken in sufficient quantities it could cause mental confusion and even death. The implication was that outer space creatures were responsible. Under questioning by the audience, however, Mr. Keel admitted that this chemical is found in trace amounts of compounds in fluorine. In other words, UFO occupants are not putting it in the water — *we are!* (through our fluoridation of water).

F. D. Marrow Lazybrook Road, RD No. 1, Flemington, N.J. 08822 March 4 1968

* For a complete analysis of the Socorro sighting, see a new book, *UFOs-Identified*, by Philip J. Klass, published by Random House, New York, N.Y.

[I suggest that the fact that "outer space creatures were responsible" was the inference drawn by our correspondent when he attended Mr. Keel's

lecture. I cannot recall Mr. Keel in his articles for FSR—or, come to that, in his private correspondence—having claimed that reported visitations are by extraterrestrial entities.—EDITOR.]

UFO Detector and the Storrington Reports

Sir,—I purchased one of the McCarthy detectors in August 1967 and installed it about the middle of that month. I did keep a log and am prompted to write to you having just read FSR Vol. 14, No. 2, page 5, reference Mrs. Quick's experience on Thursday, November 16, 1967.

On August 30, at 1610 GMT, the McCarthy triggered and I reset it without difficulty. Observation from the garden revealed nothing unusual. Sky clear, some slight high cloud.

Nothing further from the detector until 1400 GMT on November 16, 1967. On this particular day I was in London on business in my car. Finishing early I took the car up onto the motorway at Chiswick heading for the M4 at about 3.25 p.m. (1425 GMT) when I sighted what looked like a Zeppelin-shaped object a long way off. I am old enough to remember the dirigibles and this was the description which came at once to mind. It showed up clearly against an otherwise red sky of the setting sun. My first point of observation was as I passed the Honeywell Building and my "Zeppelin" was then 20 degrees above the horizon (approx.) and stationary.

Approaching the railway bridge below the flyover, I lost sight of the object. It occurred to me that as the object was white and lay, when last seen, on a bearing across London Airport, it might well be the residue of a vapour trail from a high flying aircraft.

Approaching Slough, I noted that its bearing and altitude and its shape had not altered but its attitude had indeed changed, the Southerly end of the object now being lower than its Northerly and it had thus adopted an angle of some 30 degrees to the horizontal. It remained clearly defined, and this alteration of attitude dispensed with my vapour trail theory.

From Honeywell and from West Drayton-Slough, it bore, I guess within an arc formed by a line joining Basingstoke and Guildford, but a great deal further to the South. In view of its magnitude and altitude I would assume that the object could well have been as far away as Portsmouth or Southampton.

On reaching home at about 4 p.m., (1500Z) I said nothing to anyone about my sighting. My wife, however, informed me that the magnetic flux detector had been giving her "a lot of trouble" during the early afternoon.

At about 1400 GMT she was working in the lounge when the buzzer sounded. She attempted to reset the instrument, but every time it tripped again and she was quite unable to turn it off. Obviously the influence on the detector coil was very strong. Eventually, frustrated by her inability to silence the buzzer she disconnected the electricity supply thus restoring peace and quiet to the house! She went outside but saw nothing. On hearing this, my son reconnected the mains supply to the detector in my presence, whereupon it stubbornly declined to "reset" indicating to me the continued presence of an exceptionally strong magnetic field. At about 1630 GMT, resetting of the detector became permanent. All remained quiet until 2010Z when again there was a strong field lasting about 3 minutes. At 2050Z a weak field. At 2102Z a strong field lasting 3 minutes. At 2110Z an extremely powerful (unresettable) field continued for 4 minutes. Nothing more occurred that night, but on November 17, the buzzer sounded at 1340Z and again at 1350Z and was easily reset both times. The next was on November 20 at 0705Z, weak, and the last times at 1825Z on November 21, and 0130Z on November 22. The McCarthy detector has never sounded since.

It is attractive to correlate Mrs. Quick's second incident, although apart from the M4 sighting, none of us have actually sighted anything at all. Perhaps you, or Mr. Creighton will say that my hunch is unscientific in relation to the Storrington report? J. R. D. Sainsbury Maidenhead, Berks. —April 5, 1968

P.S. I am sorry that I omitted to mention weather conditions in each case.

August 30. Sky clear. Slight high clouds.

November 16. Sky clear. Some high cloud. Bright and sunny. Red sunset. Starlit night.

November 17. Fine and clear.

November 20. Sky 10/10 cloud. Slight fog or mist.

November 21. Sky 9/10 cloud.

J.R.D.S.

[Why should we think our correspondent's "hunch" is unscientific? We find the "hunch" interesting and the details well worthy of inclusion in the record—EDITOR]

Reply to Messrs Brunt and Brandt

Sir,—As "Flying Saucer Review's" resident pessimist, I feel that I must defend my position against the attacks of Messrs. Brunt and Brandt ("Mail Bag", March/April 1968).

To start with A. J. Brunt's letter:

The hypothesis outlined in my article (*Why UFO's are Hostile*, November/December 1967) does not

"rely on the UFOs having a common origin or at least a common design for earth". In fact, I wrote, "The ufo-nauts could behave in this manner whether their motives happen to be "good" or "bad" for us (probably only an incidental question to them)—just so long as their purposes are concealed from us".

It appears that there are both pro- and anti-human groups involved in the UFO picture. Yet even the "pro" groups prefer that we be kept in the dark about what is happening, and they are willing to use "hostile" methods if such are necessary to keep us at a distance. It would seem, on the basis of detailed, mostly unpublished evidence shown me by a prominent American researcher, that the "pro" elements are on our side simply because our interests and "their" interests happen to coincide.

The source for the incident which led off my article is the C.R.I.F.O. *Orbit* for November 4, 1955. *Orbit* was published by Leonard Stringfield, certainly a respected, reliable ufologist of whom even the ultraconservative Major Keyhoe has spoken well.

"In no case," Mr. Brunt says, "was there good evidence that the UFOs in the incidents (involving hostile acts) were involved on secret operations." Then the only alternative explanation is that the ufo-nauts killed and injured human beings for no other cause than innate nastiness—which is really a much more frightening idea than any I suggested. What chance has the human race at the hands (or whatever) of deranged creatures who swoop down and do us harm for no reason whatsoever?

As for there being no "good evidence . . . (of) secret operations," I urge Mr. Brunt to re-read my article, noting particularly the Cisco Grove and 1962 Brazilian cases. I admit to being hampered by the fact that a number of very specific cases were given me in confidence and cannot be used. (Mr. Brunt may make of that whatever he chooses.) Nonetheless, the published literature of ufology ought to be enough to demonstrate my point—and also the lack of a more plausible explanation why hostility occurs almost invariably under the same kinds of circumstances.

Most of Ivan Brandt's arguments strike me as rather irrelevant and at times naive. For example, surely no one with any amount of experience in the saucer field could ever make so wild an assertion as, "Even if the death of one man on this earth was definitely known and proved to have been caused by an alien from outer space—an authenticated act of hostility beyond the shadow of doubt—can anyone believe that the presses of the world

wouldn't be ringing with such news?!"

It is interesting to note that sceptics, hard-pressed for any other argument, have often thrown this sort of objection at me in discussions concerning a question as basic as the reality or non-reality of the UFO phenomenon. The line of reasoning goes, "If these beings are here and all these incidents are taking place as you say, then why don't I read about it in the papers?" The ill-informed sceptic I can excuse for rationalisations like these. Mr. Brandt I cannot.

In any case, the Kinross AFB "jet-napping" is undoubtedly as authenticated an act of hostility as can be found anywhere, but did it receive world-wide headlines? Please be serious, Mr. Brandt.

My critic suggests that the 1939 San Diego affair may have other than a UFO explanation but offers no alternative that is as plausible. Until he does, if he can do so, I prefer to suspect a UFO at work in the tragedy.

Mr. Brandt's comments about humanity's fear of the unknown are really beside the point, since it can be shown equally convincingly that many men grasp the same unknown as a last hope—witness religious people all over the world, who dimly grasp forces outside and beyond their experience and who react to them through blind faith and worship. The same, of course, could well apply to those legions of saucer fans who uncritically view the UFOs as the heralds of the New Age. Jerome Clark, Canby, Minnesota, U.S.A. April 5, 1968.

Disappearances

Sir,—Appendix C of Ivan T. Sander-son's *Uninvited Visitors* is surely the most interesting part of this level-headed book. Mr. Carl M. Allen seems to have been a crew member in the SS "Andrew Furnseth" escorting the destroyer which became invisible at sea in October 1943 and to have personal knowledge of the after effects (including vanishing) on the men involved in tests of the Unified Field theory; of the teleportation of the experimental ship between its bases in Philadelphia and Norfolk he writes that it probably took place late in the

experiments and may have been in 1956 after they were discontinued.

It was on December 5, 1945, according to the account in Major Donald E. Keyhoe's *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, that five Avenger torpedo-bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida on an exercise which would take them north of the Bahamas and back within two hours. After 1 hour 35 minutes the flight leader reported: "We seem to be off course. I'm not sure of our position." No explanation was ever offered for the complete disappearance, shortly afterwards, of not only these five planes with their crews, but also of a large rescue flying boat sent to look for them on this same afternoon of fine clear weather with good visibility. There is no hint of UFO activity in the case and it was doubtless only included in the book because there have been disappearances of planes in association with UFO sightings, although not on this scale.

The Avengers, and the following Martin Mariner, were heading towards part of the Atlantic which could have been the cruising ground of a test ship from Norfolk—on a day well suited to testing. We do not know the side effects of the force field, nor the distance within which induced phenomena may be experienced, but it is now evident that such tests could account—if they were taking place at the time—for the disappearance of these planes and their occupants, temporarily or permanently.

If testing during some ten years did not result in the ability to direct or control the effects of such astonishing powers it is no wonder that they were abandoned as dangerous and impractical. Mr. Allen believes work should continue. Certainly, ignorance is no protection and it does seem that these force fields exist rarely in nature or are produced by the power source of some UFOs. I would agree that it is wrong to declare humanity unfit to bear such knowledge, if it is not given the opportunity of rising to the occasion. We should remember the Creator and the effectiveness of prayer: I shall never forget the surge of faith one felt take place in our nation during dark days of the second war world when

His Majesty ended a broadcast by quoting the following, then unknown lines: "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, Give me a light that I may travel safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put thy hand in the hand of God and that shall be to you safer than a light and better than any known way."

John M. Lade. May 26, 1968

The Villarez del Saz Landing

Sir,—I recently read your special issue *The Humanoids*, and the landing at "Villarez del Saz" suggested to me the following remarks:

First, a question of vocabulary. Indeed you will never find the word "chapparrete" in any dictionary, but you can guess easily its significance, linking it to the word "chapparro". The chapparro (like the "encina") is an original Castilian species of oak. So, seeing the drawing, the peasant had found it accurate and well proportioned, but not sufficiently "thickset" (i.e. "like an oak"): "yes, but more chapparrete" he said.

The second idea I would point out is the immediate communication between the claimant and the being. From the being, no comment: he is *a priori* technologically superior, and he knows what he is doing; he controls the incident. But, from the shepherd, it is much more surprising; in an instant he realised he did not have to deal with an ordinary being, and even though his field of knowledge was narrow, he was absolutely conscious of the strangeness of the situation. But he was not frightened, nor had any feeling of repulsion. Why? A "little thing", as also a "too big one", (referring to the ordinary human average) can be ugly and inspire horror, (for example, the South American dwarfs), but in this instance the being did not. Moreover, there seems to remain in the claimant's memory the record of some "little" fellows (tietes), a "little" thickset (chapparretes), making "little" jumps (saltetes).

Bien à vous

H. L. Besset, Dijon, France, March 23, 1968

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UFOs AND FAULT LINES

by F. Lagarde

Our contributor is a member of the team of the excellent French UFO journal *Lumières dans la Nuit*. His article was prepared specially for FSR at the suggestion of our friend Aimé Michel. Translation by Gordon Creighton.

Historical

IN *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 92, of January 1968, we published a first account of our investigations regarding the locations of UFO sightings and of fault lines. That first text, drawn up in order to establish priority date, only dealt with a limited sampling and was accompanied by no counter-proofs. It is now our desire to broaden the sampling and carry out the counter-proofs that are necessary for the securing of our results.

To begin with, let us recall that, in that first account, we selected from Aimé Michel's *F.S. And The Straight Line Mystery* 83 eyewitness accounts of sightings of UFOs near the ground. (The list appeared in issue No. 92 of our Review already mentioned). In carrying out that piece of research we used the 1:1,000,000 geological map, edition no. 4 which was published in 1955 by the French Geological Mapping Service.

37% of the UFO sightings had in fact occurred on or in the immediate vicinity of faults. Encouraged by this initial result, we then used geological sheet No. 21 of La Rochelle, scale 1:320,000, which was more detailed and more recent (published 1967). We had at that time at our disposal 25 "ungraded" sightings, i.e. inclusive also of some high altitude sightings, often uncertain ones. Eighty per cent of the sighting-localities were situated on faults. Accompanying the article in our Review are the plans of those localities, to the scale of 1 cm.—2 km. (They appear in No. 93 of our Review, as also does the overall plan, which is in Nos. 92 and 93).

Counter-Proofs

In order to make this research complete it seemed to us that it was necessary to present a counter-proof by means of an analysis of chance.

We used the French Gazetteer, *Le Dictionnaire des Communes*, published by Berger-Levrault, 1968 edition, which lists in alphabetical order the 37,746 communes of France. It is accepted that alphabetical listing in itself constitutes geographical disorder, and in order to complete it we have taken into account only the first commune of the first column on each page.

Using the list of 83 localities thus arrived at, our investigations of the map showed that only 3 of them, or 3.6% of the total, were on faults, and altogether only 10.8% of the total if we included those on faults plus those up to a distance of 2½ km from faults.

We repeated our calculations with 450 "ungraded" listed UFO sightings, and here again, our investigations yielded a result of 30% of sightings on faults. Consequently, from these percentages calculated in differing ways on UFO sightings and yielding 30%, 37%, and 80%, as against the chance figure of 10.8%, it seems

that the conclusion forces itself upon us: UFO sightings occur by preference upon geological faults.

New Analysis

We wanted to go still further and offer a document that was verifiable, and it is not one of our own choice, since we have taken it from the *Flying Saucer Review's* Special Number of October/November 1966, THE HUMANOIDs. This further document forms an annexe to the present report, with an analysis of the sighting locations in relation to fault lines.

It seemed to us to be necessary to define the notion of immediate proximity by an invariable distance, and this we fixed at 5 km. from the sighting locality. The same will hold as regards the counter-proof that accompanies this analysis (also annexed).

The choice of this figure of 5 km. seemed to us to be justified by the very nature of UFO sightings. In most cases the object seen is in movement; there is often uncertainty as to the perimeter of the place of observation; the height of the UFO is often important; and the sighting is rarely vertically above the place of the sighting.

The result achieved for the list from THE HUMANOIDs is as follows: 40% of the sightings occur on fault lines or in their immediate vicinity. As can be seen, this result dovetails well with the percentages already calculated with other lists.

Chance was established by the same procedure described above, except that, in order to spread the choice more widely, we took into consideration only the first commune on every other page of the *Dictionnaire des Communes* referred to above. Our researches this time, still using the same map, gave 20% of the localities on faults or in the immediate vicinity of faults, i.e., one-half of that figure that we got when checking the UFO sighting-localities situated on faults. If we note only the places that are actually located right on faults, then our percentage on this chance basis came out at 2%, i.e., only one-ninth of what we got from the sightings in THE HUMANOIDs that were precisely located on faults.

Thus, whatever the method used, and whatever the lists that are before us, the overwhelming predominance of UFO sightings located on faults is indeed a fact.

Discussion

One might be surprised that, apart from sheet No. 21 for La Rochelle, 60% of the sightings are **not** positioned on faults, and one might use it in order to reject our discovery as having no value. The truth is however that the argument does not lie at this level, and although we are going to show that the percentage of sightings

THE HUMANOIDS

Analysis of Sightings on pages 10 to 20 (Jacques Vallée's
The Pattern Behind the UFO Landings) in relation to Geological Faults

DOCUMENTS USED

1. Geological map, scale 1:1,000,000, edition 1955, published by the Service de la Carte Géologique de France.
2. *Dictionnaire des Communes*, pub. by BERGER-LEVRAULT, 1968 edition.
3. Michelin maps, scale 1 cm = 2 km.

No. in Vallée's article in "HUMANOIDS"	No. of Department	Name of place where sighting occurred	Faults			Remarks	No.
			Right below	At 2½ km distance	At 5 km distance		
1	13	Marignane 4.1.54			1	4 km to S.E.	1
2		San Nicolas Island (California)				Outside France	—
3		Bruton (England)				Outside France	—
4		Oslo				Outside France	—
5	74	Lugrin	1			Outside France	2
6		Souk-el-Khémis (Tunisia)				Outside France	—
7	80	Between Harponville and Contay				Somme area has few faults	3
8	19	Mourieras				Big fault 13 km to East	4
9	59	Quarouble				On edge of a coalfield. There is a fault 11 km to S.E.	5
10	38	Feyzin				Limit of a glacier	6
11	86	Cenon				Outside France	7
12		Casablanca (Morocco)				Outside France	—
13	57	Oberdoff	1			Outside France	8
14		Santa Maria (Azores Island)				Outside France	—
15	18	Le Jou				Uncertain. Not in the <i>Dictionnaire</i>	9
16		Becar				No faults mentioned on the 40	10
17	40	Lencouacq				Undefined fault at 10 km from Ussel	—
18	19	A farm Lachassagne near Ussel				Fault at 4 km to S.E. and 5 km to N.W.	11
19	26	Chabeuil				Moulins-Montauban fault is 11 km to the West	12
20	30	Foussignargues			1	No fault on the 66	13
21	46	Figeac					14
22	66	Perdignan					15
23	39	Prémanon	1				16
24	52	Froneles			1	2 faults at 9 km to N.W., 2 at 12 km to N.E.	17
25	18	Bouzaïs				1 witness saw the UFO high in the sky towards the N.	18
26	44	St. Nicolas-de-Randon	1			"Red mound" along the railway line	19
27	37	Marcilly-sur-Vienne				Département with few faults	20
28	29	At sea between Roven and Brest				Roven not found. Fault 4 km from Brest	—
29		Banks of the Seine				Indefinite. (Fault at Vanves)	—
30	17	La Flotte-en-Ré				Lies at the extremity of La Rochelle's, 4 faults	21
31		Dhubri (India)				Outside France	22
32	71	Blanzay	1				23
33	59	Bry			1	Fault 5 km to the E.N.E.	24
34	60	Ressons-sur-Matz					25
35	70	Jussey	1			Other faults too at 9 km to the S., 12 km to the N.W. and 16 km to the S.E.	26
36	17	Royan				No faults shown in the Rhône-Saône Vallée	27
37	71	Branges				Often visited	28
38	24	Bergerac				Not in the <i>Dictionnaire</i>	29
39	36	Levroux				No faults shown in the Rhône-Saône Valley	—
40	37	Jonches				Indefinite. Not in <i>Dictionnaire</i>	30
41	71	Louhans					31
42	?	Croix d'Epine				Abnormal region, has no faults	32
43	57	Guebling				Fault at 5 km to West (same fault as Rue)	33
44	85	Benet	1				34
45	79	Bressuire					35
46	80	Vron			1	At 4 km S. to N.	36
47	59	Chereng				At 3 km from Lavallette	37
48	80	Rue et Quend			1		38
49	16	Between Montmoreau and Villebois-Lavalette			1	5 km to S.	39
50	87	Limoges	1				40
51	11	Between Lagrasse and Villemagne	1				41
52	24	Chaleix			1	At junction of 2 faults	42
53	22	Tregon					43
54	71	Montceau-les-Mines			1	2 faults 15 km to E.	44
55	08	Villers-le-Tilleul					45
56	21	Poncey-sur-Lignon			1	Region shown on map as having few faults	46
57	29	Loctudy				Region shown on map as having few faults	47
58	52	Between Voillecomte and La Neuville				Limit of glacier	48
59	63	10 km from Beaumont	1			Rouen fault 5 km to W.	49
60	85	Mouchamps				Fault 4 km to N.	50
61	02	La Fere					51
62	25	Villers-le-Lac					52
63	27	Hennezis			1		
64	29	Plosevet			1		
65	86	Beruges	1				
Carried forward			13	—	10		

No. in Vallée's article in "HUMANIDS"	No. of Department	Name of place where sighting occurred	Faults			Remarks	No.
			Right below	At 2½ km distance	At 5 km distance		
		Brought forward	13	—	10		
66	68	Jettingen				Fault at 11 km to W. and at 18 km to E. ...	53
67	72	St. Jean d'Asse				Fault at 10 km to S.W. ...	54
68	72	Le Mans				Fault at 14 km to N.W. and 15 km to S.E. ...	55
69	84	Monteux				Rhône Valley	56
70	10	St. Etienne soos Barbuise					57
71	66	Bompas					58
72	62	Boulogne		1			59
73		Belgium				Outside France	—
74	30	Between Montaren and Uzes					60
75	28	Dreux					61
76	17	Soubran					62
77		Munster (Germany)				Outside France	—
78	61	Beauvain			1	Fault at 4 km to S.	63
79	11	Carcassonne	1				64
80	57	Pournoy-la-Chetive			1	Metz fault. 4 km to S.E. and 8 km to N.W. ...	65
81	86	Lavoux					66
82	81	Briatexte					67
83		Beyrouth				Outside France	—
84	21	Between Epoisses and Tourtry					68
85	54	Near Charmes-La-Cote				Fault at 11 km to S.W.	69
86	14	St. Germain-de-Livet					70
87	29	Elliant		1		Fault at 1 km to S.	71
88	54	Doncourt-Village			1	Fault at 4 km to East. Also another at 4 km N.N.E. ...	72
89	27	Acquigny				Rouen fault, 8 km to East	73
90	43	Fonfrede				6 km from fault. Lies S.E. of coalfield	74
91	21	Lacanche		1		Fault 2 km to West	75
92	58	Corbigny	1				76
93	68	Heimersdoff			1	Altkirch fault, 4 km to S.	77
94	14	Beauquay			1	Fault at 4 km to S.W.	78
95		Oran (Algeria)				Outside France	—
96	87	Saillat-sur-Vienne					79
97	17	Taupignac				UFO flying towards a faulted valley 5 km to N. ...	80
98	16	Birac	1				81
99	34	Montbazin	1				82
100	12	Montbazens			1	Villefranche de Rouergue fault to the W. ...	83
101		Teheran (Iran)				Outside France	—
102		La Croix Daurade				Not the Dictionnaire	—
103		Mamora Forest (Morocco)				Outside France	—
104	39	Orchamps				End of a fault lies at 12 km to S.W. ...	84
105	03	Montluçon	1			Also another fault 1 km to West	85
106	31	Leguevin					86
107	25	Dompiere-les-Tilleuls			1	Fault at 5 km to West	87
108	81	Vielmur					88
109		Castelibranco (Portugal)				Outside France	—
110	22	Crocq				Lies between 2 faults, one at 10 km to W. and other at 20 km to E. ...	89
111		Bourasole				Bourasole not on map and not in the Dictionnaire. "Triangular UFO" seen there for 6 hours on April 28, 1967 ...	—
112	30	St. Ambroix	1				90
113	59	Lewarde				On coal deposits	91
114	06	Biot			1	Fault at 5 km to N.E., and another at 5 km to the S. ...	92
115	85	Angles				Edge of a marsh	93
116	53	Meral					94
117	71	St. Germain-du-Bois				In Valley of Saône. No faults mentioned ...	95
118	71	Gueugnon bois de Chazey	1			UFO actually flew along above fault 4-5 km to W. ...	96
119	71	Gueugnon bois de Chazey	1			UFO actually flew along above fault 4-5 km to W. ...	97
120	71	St. Romain			1	Montceau fault at 4-5 km to the W. ...	98
121		Between Beauvais and Thieulloy la Ville				Badly defined. Nothing precise	99
122	66	Perpignan (St. Assisclé?)					—
123		Southend (England)				Outside France	100
124	30	Nîmes-Courbessac					—
125		Boaria (Italy)				Outside France	—
126	62	St. Pierre-Halte				Fault at 8 km to S.W.	101
127		Po-di-Gnocca (Italy)				Outside France	—
128	62	Isbergue				2 parallel faults to S.W., at 7 km and 12 km ...	102
129	29	Fouesnant					103
130	08	Thin le Mouthier					104
131	31	Cier-de-Riviere					105
132	63	Mazaye, between Chanat and Couhay			1	Fault 4 km to the N. of Chanat	106
133	76	Baillolet (Londinières)				Adjoins the same terrain as the Beauvais fault ...	107
134	80	Dompiere				At 15 km to the W. is the same fault as in No. 46 ...	108
135	83	St. Cyr-sur-Mer	1				109
136		O Alviho (Portugal)				Outside France	—
137	04	Cabasson			1		110
138	70	Varigney				Fault at 14 km to N.E. and another at 13 km to S.W. ...	111
139		Cape Massulo (Capri)				Outside France	—
		Carried forward	22	3	21		

No. in Vallée's article in "HUMANIODS"	No. of Department	Name of place where sighting occurred	Faults			Remarks	No.
			Right below	At 2½ km distance	At 5 km distance		
140	63	Cisterne-la-Forêt Brought forward	22	3	21	A fault at 4 km to the W. and another at 7 km to the E.	112
141	17	Pont-l'Abbé-d'Arnoult	1			UFO seen above a fault at 600 m to the W.	113
142	60	Fontenay-Torcy				Same variable terrain as Beauvais fault	114
143	17	Highway 150 between Royan and Saintes	1			2 faults	115
144	25	Lac-de-St. Point		1		Fault at 1.5 km to E.	116
145		Jean-Mermoz (Algeria)				Outside France	—
146	68	Guebwiller	1			In the angle between 2 faults	117
147		Lusigny (near Troyes)				Fault at 13 km to the E.	118
148	80	St. Valéry				Fault at 12 km to N. of St. Valéry	119
149		Como (Italy)				Outside France	—
150	57	Turquenstein		1		Fault, 2 km distant	120
151	17	Pons			1	Between 2 faults, each distant 5 km	121
152	16	Criteuil-La-Magdeleine					122
153	17	Pouzou, coming from Charbonnières					123
154	85	St. Hilaire-des-Loges					124
155		Ain-el Turck (Oran)				Outside France	—
156	69	Ste. Catherine					125
157	63	Between Effiat and Biozat			1	Fault at 4 km to E. Passes through Ganat	126
158	22	Plemet					127
159	54	Arraye-et-Han				Fault at 6 km to N. and at 7 km to N.E.	128
160	16	Paris-Angoulême highway, 18 km before Angoulême			1	Hypothetical "star" seen at Tourriers	129
161		La Madière				Reported by A. Michel. Position not established precisely	—
162	57	St. Quirin	1			In the angle between 2 faults	130
163	68	Heiteren				Fault at 9 km to E. on right bank of Rhine	131
164	62	Linzeux					132
165		Mézières				Not clear. (There are 15 Mézières)	—
166	27	Les Jonqueret de Livet					133
167	88	Mousseux			1	Fault at 4.5 km to E.	134
168	62	Oye-Plage					135
169	03	Mesple near Montluçon				Fault at 7 km to E.	136
170	80	Long					137
171		Poggi d Ambra (Italy)				Outside France	—
172		Oued Beth (Morocco)				Outside France	—
173		Pontal (Brazil)				Outside France	—
174		La Coruna (Spain)				Outside France	—
175	21	La-Roche-en-Brénil					138
176		Monte Ortobéne (Italy)				Outside France	—
177		Monza (Italy)				Outside France	—
178	03	Voussac			1	Long fault at 4 km to E.	139
179	49	La Tessoualle					140
180		Porto Aligre (Brazil)				Outside France	—
181	62	Berck				Fault at 10 km to S.	141
182	76	Buchy					142
183		Curitiba (Brazil)				Outside France	—
184		Audemets (Belgium)				Outside France	—
185		Forli (Italy)				Outside France	—
186		Isola (Italy)				Outside France	—
187		Santa Maria (Brazil)				Outside France	—
188		Caracas (Venezuela)				Outside France	—
189		Venezuela				Outside France	—
190	32	Bassoues					143
191		Spain				Outside France	—
192		Brazil				Outside France	—
193		Venezuela				Outside France	—
194		Venezuela				Outside France	—
195		Belá Vista				Outside France	—
196		Venezuela				Outside France	—
197	39	Between Bersaillin and Colonne				Fault, 9 km to South. On limit of glacier	144
198		Venezuela				Outside France	—
199		sans indication (not indicated)				Outside France	—
200	24	Gardonne				Outside France	145
TOTALS			26	5	27		
			58				
			58				
			Percentage: $\frac{58}{145} = 40\%$				

on faults must necessarily increase as more precise analyses are made, it is not so much our job to get favourable percentages as it is to demonstrate the reality of the fact by slanting our research into new paths. Faults as such are doubtless merely privileged places

for the manifestation of the activity of terrestrial phenomena, and it is very possible that places where there are not faults may also be the locations of identical manifestations.

But we shall now adduce certain arguments which

will help you to see that beneath this figure of 40% there lies a more substantial reality.

1. The map used, 1:1,000,000 scale, while adequate for our demonstration, only shows the most pronounced of the faults. A more detailed map, while increasing the number of faults, will necessarily also increase the number of sightings falling on faults. In this respect the La Rochelle sheet is significant. But it is assuredly no exception.

The fact of this discovery of ours is still too recent, at the present moment of writing, to have simulated other investigations. We will however mention the Ornans sheet, in the Doubs area, on the other side of France. Prior to the discovery we had 6 sightings there, all very localised, and our fellow-worker M. Tyrode had sketched the flight trajectories on a large-scale map. When we got the detailed geological maps, we perceived that these trajectories, which had already been drawn beforehand, were located precisely on two faults which straddle the area. It should be noted that one of these sightings was a two-way movement above the Northern fault, and that in another case that followed the line of the fault the UFO passed at a height of only 20 metres above the head of the witness.

This large-scale map shows 8 faults in the area, whereas the 1:1,000,000 scale map only showed one fault at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ km.

2. It is certain that, despite the active work of our geologists, there will still remain a certain number of faults yet to be determined.

3. In France, as everywhere throughout the world, there are whole regions covered with a thick coat of various sediments or lavas which mask the faults which may in fact exist there. We know however that, in certain of these regions, where movements have been registered, faults must necessarily exist. Though we can detect them by special research methods, they nonetheless do not appear on the official documents made available to the public.

Among specialists on these matters, everyone knows of the magnetic anomaly centred on Orléans and extending to beyond Andelys (see attached map), and which is an indication of an underground anomaly.

It was the well-known seismologist J. P. Rothe who pointed out that the earthquake of October 3, 1933, was centred on this anomaly. But for all that, the region is not rich in faults. The Lille region is even less so, and yet the earthquake of February 11, 1938, had its epicentre at a depth of 25 km between Lille and Courtrai.

Taken together all these arguments show, in our view, that although but a summary, by reason of the map used, our study nevertheless embraces a more extensive phenomenon into which it is going to be necessary, from now on, to delve by means of more precise and delicate analyses.

Why faults?

It seems as though faults, as such, are not merely the external aspect of an irregularity in the Earth's crust, but are also the scenes of delicate phenomena—piezo-electrical, or electrical, or magnetic, and at times perhaps of gravimetric variation or discontinuity.

It is a fact that faults seem to be the favoured spots for thunderbolts during storms. It would be interesting to study the causes of this.

P. Rousseau, in his book *Les Tremblements de Terre*, mentions the appearance of mysterious lights at the time of the Japanese earthquake of 1930. Confirmed by 1500 witnesses, those lights remain unexplained to this day.

Considering the possibility of a piezo-electrical phenomenon, we thought at one time that there was perhaps a relationship between the frequency of UFO sightings and terrestrial tides. Despite certain coincidences however our researches in that direction yielded no results. What does seem to emerge however—masked by the more abundant (because more easy) sightings of summer nights—is a slight increase at the equinoctial periods. It would be interesting to do the same research with a larger body of sightings, as we have confined ourselves in our own attempt to the French sightings only.

If it is a question of electrical or magnetic phenomena, then it is certain that solar activity, as well as certain planetary positions, must play an important role in these occurrences. A study of the matter would be very useful. One of our collaborators in Nice, J. C. Dufour, told us that the Englishman Williamson, an explorer of lost cities of Peru and Bolivia (and a well-known Ufologist) had observed in 1956 a certain correlation between over-flights of UFOs and earthquakes. But at that time, so Dufour writes, the matter had passed unnoticed. Perhaps this is a study that should be taken up again.

What are the UFOs doing on the faults?

We must confess that we do not know, and no doubt the answer to the immediately preceding question will supply one of the clues. We have precise facts, there is no doubt about that, relating to cases in which the UFO has performed its to-and-fro movement over a fault, and in which seemingly nothing else—other than deserted forests—could be engaging their attention.

All that we can do is to put forward hypotheses, but we would not care to weaken the careful quality of this present statement by including hypotheses which might be open to criticism. This type of question is dealt with regularly in our Review in a different context.

We think it is up to the specialists, the seismologists, geologists, geophysicists, to take a look at this new aspect of the UFO problem and to extract from it such lessons as may be necessary. Perhaps they will be able to extract from it a method for predicting earthquakes.

For all those who are interested in this research, a few words in closing on the subject of an occurrence that impressed us particularly! I refer to a UFO sighting made at the Metz Fair in October 1954. Aimé Michel describes it with his usual gusto in his book already referred to above. It was as follows: a UFO was caught in the beam of a French Army searchlight. The Army was giving a display and demonstrating its equipment. The UFO remained stationary for 3 hours directly over Metz, and wore out the patience of the military technicians, who did not stay to see its departure. The

(Continued on page iv of cover)

CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS

By J. Gillings, A.C.P

An account of a science project, by pupils of a Plymouth secondary school, dealing with the highly unorthodox subject of flying saucers. The project was the school's entry for the 1967 Schools Science Fair of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

SOMEBODY had the idea that science projects undertaken on a competitive basis between schools would make science more interesting to children. The outcome of the idea was the Science Fair.

The scheme started in 1961, but I am not able to say if the end result has achieved the desired effect. However, looking at a list of past project titles I see nothing to raise the eyebrows of an eighteenth-century academic. Such thought-provoking studies as "Piglet Rearing", "Earthworms in Woodland and Grassland", "Fungi in Birds' Nests", and "Moths and the Weather", may well inspire some students to frenzied activity. Fortunately such students are not found in very large numbers in our schools and one would be very hard pressed to think up subjects less likely to awaken a love for scientific knowledge.

No—from my experience, the average boy or girl needs to be stimulated with much more imaginative and wonder-making work; work far removed from the mundane. Scientists are the main cause of lack of interest by trying to be too respectable. There are as many myths and legends in the world of orthodox science as there are in religion, and in the same way "respectability" or "conformity" spells death to wonder.

And if there is one aspect of the human animal we can ill-afford to let die it is the sense of wonder.

The main aim in entering the school, a Plymouth secondary modern of less than three hundred pupils, was to see how much "old-fashioned wonder" could be stimulated, without pressure in the pop-picking teenagers. The two teachers involved, the science and art masters, were well aware that the study of flying saucers was a non-starter from the beginning, when in competition with such exciting projects as "Smoking hazards" and "Traffic noise". We also knew the contest was dominated by the "big guns" of our educational system, the famous as well as the little-known public and grammar schools. Incidentally the winning project from the region, a language laboratory, had, according to the three judges, little science about it, but it *was* well made!

The title chosen for our project, "Aerial Phenomena and the UFO" sounded scientific enough to placate the most particular prude, and it avoided the frivolous connotations of "flying saucers". Nevertheless we were out to study in depth the whole area of "saucerdom" as far as possible, as well as the concept of extra-terrestrial intelligent life forms and contact with alien beings.

Can that really be as dull as a study of owl pellets?

The six boys worked in pairs on different tasks. One pair set out to take a poll of public opinion on flying saucers from all sections of society. Another two dealt with the history of the phenomenon, collecting information from various sources, writing to authors, questions in Parliament, graphs of sightings, meteor streams, and so on. The third pair constructed a display unit showing the Solar System against a back-drop of space—planet models in plaster, accurately proportioned and spaced. This group also faked UFO photographs for comparison with famous pictures, street lights at dusk, and so on.

The enthusiasm of the boys was gratifying and we had to limit the number of those wishing to partake in the venture. An announcement of a meeting of the UFO club, on one occasion, resulted in a laboratory full of interested pupils from all classes being sent away disappointed. I doubt if we would have had the same trouble had the subject been a study of peat deposits.

A summary of the project findings made by the boys is of interest to anyone who believes there are still "stranger things in heaven and earth" and they are, briefly, and in order of probability:

- i That there is life in space.
- ii That some form of this life is more advanced than we are.
- iii That the odds of alien life-forms visiting Earth are small but the possibility must exist.
- iv That there is much bigotry about "flying saucers".
- v That the average person is unconcerned about UFOs.
- vi That there is no sign of the phenomenon disappearing since first being investigated scientifically in 1947.

The boys working on the project were particularly lucky in October, 1967, when, in the middle of the survey, there was a great deal of activity in the Devon sky which was reported on an international scale. They were able to note public and official reaction to UFO sightings. The solutions given by the Air Ministry, the Royal Astronomer, by local police departments, and by amateur UFOlogists, all gave rise to much debate and written material for the project.

As a non-starter in the qualifying regional exhibition held in Plymouth it is difficult to assess the value of the project work without attracting the accusation of "sour grapes", but it is almost impossible to ignore the fact that a study of flying saucers cannot be treated in the same light as "a cure for oil pollution" or "the construction of a juke box". The press coverage of the Fair, perhaps by mischance, left out any mention of the school's work. The BBC Regional News Service listed the participating projects and again, perhaps by mischance, omitted any reference to the school's project—although one of the boys had been interviewed at length by the BBC reporter. The boys gained practical experience of how it is possible to ignore a touchy subject without becoming committed to a position. As far as the Science Fair was concerned, flying saucers were still firmly imprisoned in the comic book.

Yes, ours was the "cat among the pigeons" all right. But it was at least a well-fed feline amongst some very grey and scrawny chicks.

UFOs, Earthquakes and Volcanoes

By Gordon Creighton

AS students of Seismology are well aware, there is a considerable body of data relating to luminous phenomena observed in the sky at the moment when an earthquake occurs. These would appear to be electrical phenomena and I note that, while many older books and reports mention them, my own fairly recent (1952) edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica does not. Perhaps this is because they "don't fit the current theories about earthquakes", and so must be swept under the carpet. Nevertheless we know that here and there qualified students of these matters are beginning to suspect that there may be something fallacious or partly fallacious about the old slick conventional explanation of earthquakes, so it is not impossible that the electrical or luminous phenomena may become respectable and be brought out again, dusted off, and looked at objectively.

Charles Fort has of course plenty of such reports. But, as Dr. Jacques Vallée¹ has observed, the items related by Fort certainly do seem to relate in the main to phenomena of an entirely luminous nature, and should therefore be considered only with extreme caution by any student of the new science of Ufology. My purpose in the present article is however to point out that there have been, during the past twenty years or so, a number of reports which are perhaps not so easily attributable to the "electrical" category, and to give a few of them in the hope that scientifically trained folk with better qualifications than I possess in these fields will be induced to take a long and careful look at one aspect of the UFO Phenomena about which remarkably little seems so far to have been said.

Before I come to these cases, however, I would like to quote the following interesting passage from a XIXth century French treatise² on earthquakes:

"The earthquake of November 4, 1799, at Cumaná, Venezuela, was preceded, accompanied, and followed, by extraordinary atmospheric phenomena. A reddish light had been seen in the sky during the whole of the previous night, and a strong gust of wind, followed by a thunderstorm, followed instantaneously upon the first subterranean shock which, with an upward direction, created great terror among the population. After this first shock the red light was again seen for several nights, and each day at the same hour there were shocks as violent as that which occurred on the first day. Finally, upon the seventh night, a countless number of meteors and bolides shot through the sky, and after that night the mysterious light disappeared, and there were no more shocks."

This mention of "a red light which was seen for several nights" may be of particular interest to students of our subject, and some may perhaps wonder, as I have often done, whether there are not *two* quite separate

types of phenomena commingled in some of these seismic reports, namely a *UFO* phenomenon and a *natural*, electrical, phenomenon?³

I would emphasise that my aim, in offering what are merely a layman's snippets, is to stimulate a response on these matters from geologists and from our other scientific colleagues. I am also well aware that others have already begun to think along these lines. In France, F. Lagarde has made what he claims to be a momentous discovery relating to the correlation between UFO landings and geological fault-lines, and his article on the subject appears elsewhere in this issue of FSR. I understand furthermore that in New Zealand, a country where they have plenty of good reason for being serious students of Seismology, the N.Z. Scientific Space Research group under Mr. H. Hinfelaar have published some material of outstanding importance which unfortunately I have not yet managed to see.

I come now to the small group of reports which have stuck in my memory in recent years, and which I venture to think may be pointers of some possible value to the Ufologist.

Case 1. Orléansville, Algeria⁴

Violent earthquakes on September 9 and September 26, 1954. 1,100 dead and 2,000 injured. Monsieur Yves Vernet of Harika, Algeria, reported having seen immense numbers of UFOs passing high over the country during the weeks following.

Case 2. Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, England⁵

On February 11, 1957, a strong earthquake (force 8) shook eleven counties of England, being felt particularly strongly in Leicestershire (epicentre) and Nottinghamshire. At these two towns in Nottinghamshire, on the same day as the 'quake, five black "tadpole-like objects" were seen stationary in the sky for some three minutes before moving off vertically. Same or similar objects were also seen there next day.

Case 3. Mount Etna, Sicily⁶

On the morning of September 11, 1957, while studying Mt. Etna through 8 x 30 binoculars, the late Dr. H. Percy Wilkins, F.R.A.S., distinguished British astronomer and leading British selenologist, watched for 20 minutes a brilliant oval mass, described by him as "an Unidentified Stationary Object" poised above the edge of the crater of Etna.

Case 4. Volcano Recupichincha, in Ecuador⁷

A group of students were climbing this 14,400ft. high volcano (lying to the East of the Capital, Quito) on August 4, 1965. At 10.30 p.m., as they were bivouacking on the slopes, they observed two enormous flying cigars which approached the volcano and hung there motionless, quite near to the students, for about four minutes.

Case 5. Volcano Irazú, near San José, Costa Rica⁸

This extremely dangerous volcano lies not far to the north-east of San José, the capital of Costa Rica, and the authorities of the Republic maintain officers of the Guardia Civil on permanent watch at observation posts in its vicinity. At 6.0 p.m. on August 12, 1965, two of these guards observed, through binoculars, a dome-shaped UFO which remained stationary for about one hour in the area above and around the volcano.

Now, as every schoolchild knows, the Andean

Cordillera and its related systems, running the whole way from Cape Horn up via Mexico and the West Coast of the USA to Alaska, is but one arm of an even vaster crescent-shaped belt of volcanic and seismic lands that encompass the whole Pacific margin and sweep right round as far as Indonesia. Look at any atlas and see how many volcanoes there are in the Andes. If, then, the occupants of the UFOs (or *some* of them) are engaged in studying this planet from the volcanic and seismic aspects, what is there more natural than that we should hear of great waves of UFO sightings along the Cordillera, as was particularly the case in the *annus mirabilis* of 1965?

Many people have criticised our governments because, as is alleged, they are so "cagey" about this business of the UFOs, but we should bear in mind too that there are plenty of other topics on which our political and technological rulers prefer the policy of the immortal Brer Rabbit. I have a feeling that one of these "delicate" matters upon which we aren't being told too much relates to the question of whether there is good scientific evidence that planet Earth is headed for another spell of immense geophysical upheaval, and that in no remote geological future either, but perhaps in the lifetime of some of us now here.

I know that geologists, from Lyell onwards, like to be preachers of the gospel of "gradualism" in these matters. But I notice that, during the International Geophysical Congress held in Helsinki in 1960, a sensation was created by the top Soviet delegate, Belousov, who declared, in a paper read before the gathering on July 26, that vast quantities of magma are now on the move within our planet and that titanic upheavals, involving vast areas of the planet, are at hand.

Belousov, chairman of the USSR's Committee for the Geophysical Year and one of his country's most distinguished geophysicists, does not exactly fall within the category of "small fry". I have press-clippings from European newspapers about his bombshell lecture, but so far as I know, nothing about it got into the British press. (In subsequent correspondence with the Soviet Committee for the I.G.Y., I received from him what may possibly be the "official" version of his talk, but there are discrepancies, and I think he perhaps went much further at Helsinki than the authorities would like).

Such then, are the few snippets and pointers to which I desire to draw attention. I only hope that others who are more qualified than I in the field of Geology will be able to show us that I am wrong, and where I am wrong. Until they do so, I regret to have to say that I think the most probable reason for at least some—if not all—of the current activities of alien beings in the sky and in the sea and on the surface of our planet is that they are watching some process that is now taking place within the bowels of Earth. And, if my guess is correct, what are we to think of such antics as the recent American detonation of an atomic bomb deep inside the Earth's crust?⁹

Postscript

According to reports in various South American newspapers of August 1967, Dr. Luis Sanchez Vega, a prominent physician in Caracas, the capital of Ven-

ezuela, was confronted¹⁰ in his own consulting-room on the morning of August 7 by a small alien being less than 4ft. in height. Speaking in perfect Spanish, the being, who had a large round head, large round eyes, no ears or ear-apertures, a mouth like a slit, and only ten teeth (five above and five below) asked the doctor to give him a physical checkup, but said he was not to be surprised if he found his temperature abnormally high since he was in fact not a native of this world but from another planet!

He said that his people were able to learn foreign languages by means of a certain kind of machine, and that their system of reproduction was unlike ours, so that he possessed no parents.

Among the other items of information which this alien being is said to have imparted is one which would seem to be highly relevant to the subject of the present article:

The planet Earth underwent a tremendous cataclysmic change some 9,000 years ago, and if we were not careful another could happen now. According to him, there was already a great fissure filled with sea-water which had penetrated right under Caracas itself. As a result of this, the capital might fall in at any time, thus producing a terrible earthquake.

NOTES

¹ Vallée, Dr. Jacques: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, p. 8. (Hard cover editions.)

² Boscowitz, Arnold. *Earthquakes*. (English edition, Routledge, London, 1890), p. 315.

³ In the Bibliography of *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, Dr. Vallée quotes, No. 128, an article in the newspaper *Paris-Presse* of November 10, 1954, *Les Tremblements de Terre provoquent les Soucoupes Volantes*. ("UFOs Are Due to Earthquakes.") I have not seen the text of this article, but it would certainly seem to provide yet another useful "explanation" for the irritating UFO problem!

⁴ Quoted by Harold T. Wilkins in *Flying Saucers Uncensored* (London, 1956), pp. 196 and 235.

⁵ FSR, March/April 1957, pp. 2 and 8.

⁶ FSR, November/December 1957. Article *Unidentified Flying Objects*, in which this distinguished astronomer described his own UFO sightings, and suggested that "intelligently controlled space-ships from Outer Space may exist". (Final article of a series of three for FSR.)

⁷ Report in *Ultima Hora* (Buenos Aires), August 5, 1965.

⁸ *La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) of August 14, 1965, quoting A.P. report of same date from San José, Costa Rica.

⁹ FSR, November/December 1963, pp. 11-14. *Another Speech by Wilbert Smith*. In this talk, delivered by the Canadian investigator Wilbert Smith before the Vancouver Flying Saucer Club in March 1961, he gave some hair-raising details about certain of the things said to have got out of hand at the Bikini Atoll test and other atomic tests. "It would be highly undesirable to go any further into this business of nuclear weapons than we have already gone—possibly we have already gone too far already. I would say that there is a very good possibility that these explosions have a far more disastrous effect down in the interior of the Earth than anything we can see on the surface. I have the most serious misgivings about these atom bomb explosions."

¹⁰ *O Estado de São Paulo* (Brazil), August 20, 1967, and APRO Bulletin, September/October 1967. See also *More Unusual Humanoids* by Charles Bowen (FSR, May/June 1968).

OLAVO T. FONTES, M.D.

It is with great regret that we have to inform our readers that Dr. Olavo Teixeira Fontes died on May 9, 1968. Our condolences are extended to Senhora Maria Theresa Perreira da Silva Fontes and her family.

A SUSSEX DRAGON LEGEND

by John C. Hugill

The Winterfold and Cranleigh district of Surrey is only a short distance north of the county boundary with Sussex. Remembering John Michell's interesting speculations about British dragon (or Worm) legends,* we were intrigued to learn of Mr. Hugill's discovery of an ancient dragon tale located close to our present-day "spectre territory".

THE Spectre of Winterfold (FSR January/February 1968 p.15) is an eerie-sounding monster which quite recently gave two young people some moments of very real horror. Even they, as time goes on, will find it sometimes hard to believe that they ever encountered such an apparition, and so it is the more strangely coincidental to read, in one of E. V. Lucas' books about Sussex, an account of some oddly similar hauntings which took place only 10 UFO miles away, a little more than 350 years ago. Here is the story, taken from the Harleian Miscellany, dated August 1614, and entitled:

"True and Wonderful. A discourse relating a strange and monstrous serpent (or Dragon) lately discovered, and yet living, to the great annoyance and divers slaughters both of man and cattell, by his strong and violent poyson: in Sussex, two miles from Horsden, in a Woode called St. Leonard's Forrest, and thirtie miles from London, this present month of August 1614. With the true Generation of Serpents".

The story goes on:

"In Sussex, there is a pretty market-towne, called Horsden, neare unto it a forrest, called St. Leonard's Forrest, and there, in a vast and unfrequented place, heathie, vaultie, full of unwholesome shades, and overgrowne hollows, where this serpent is thought to be bred; but, wheresoever bred, certaine and too true it is, that there it yet lives. Within 3 or 4 miles compass, are its usual haunts, oftentimes at a place called Faygate, and it hath been seene within halfe a mile of Horsam; a wonder, no doubt, most terrible and noisome to the inhabitants thereabouts. There is always in his tracke or path left a glutinous or slimie matter (as by a small similitude we may perceive in a snaile's) which is very corrupt and offensive to the scent; insomuch that they perceive the air to be putrified withall, which must needs be very dangerous. For though the corruption of it cannot strike the outward part of a man, unless heated into his blood; yet by receiving it in at any of our breathing organs (the mouth or nose) it is by authoritie of all authors, writing in that kinde, mortall and deadlie, as one thus saith:

"Noxia serpentum est admixto sanguine pertis"—Lucan.

"This serpent (or dragon, as some call it) is reputed to be nine feete, or rather more, in length, and shaped almost in the forme of an axeltree of a cart; a quantitie of thickness in the middest, and somewhat smaller at bothe endes. The former part, which he shootes forth

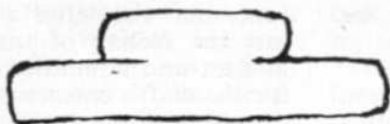
as a necke, is supposed to be an elle long; with a white ring, as it were, of scales about it. The scales along his backe seem to be blackish, and so much as is discovered under his bellie, appeareth to be red; for I speak of no nearer description than of a reasonable ocular distance. For coming too neare it, hath already beene too dearly payd for, as you shall heare hereafter.

"It is likewise discovered to have large feete but the eye may be there deceived; for some suppose that serpents have no feete, but glide upon certain ribbes and scales, which both defend them from the upper part of their throat unto the lower part of their bellie, and also cause them to move much the faster. For so this doth, and rids way (as we call it) as fast as a man can run. He is of countenance very proud, and at the sight or nearing of men or cattel, will raise his necke upright, and seem to listen and looke about, with great arrogancy. There are likewise on either side of him discovered, two great bunches so big as a large football, and (as some thinke) will in time grow to wings; but God, I hope, will (to defend the poor people in the neighbourhood) that he shall be destroyed before he grows so fledge.

"He will cast his venom about 4 rodde (22yds.-Ed.) from him, as by woeful experience it was proved on the bodies of a man and a woman comming that way, who afterwards were found dead, being poysoned and very much swelled, but not preyed upon. Likewise a man going to chase it, as he imagined, to destroy it with two mastive dogs, and yet not knowing the great danger of it, his dogs were both killed, and he himself glad to returne with haste to preserve his own life. Yet this is to be noted, that the dogs were not preyed upon, but slaine and left whole: for his food is thought to be, for the most part, in a conie-warren, which he much frequents; and it is found much scantied and impaired in the encrease it had woont to afford."

A horrifying monster indeed, with a number of suggestive attributes which we may recognise in many subsequent accounts. One wonders whether it may have been that same odour of putrefaction which so frightened young Philip Freeman and his companion. Again, the shape of it is interestingly described, when one thinks of the acute terror which must have seized eye-witnesses. Could it not be drawn as opposite and what might not that suggest to a present-day observer?

Immediately after quoting this fascinating story (and incidentally 22 yards is a long way to spit venom, but not to project it by more sophisticated means), E. V.



Lucas goes on to mention the reported presence of a "headless horseman" in the same neighbourhood, whose gruesome habit it was to mount suddenly behind some unsuspecting rider, and grip him round the midriff with his arm. Now look at Freeman's sketch of the Winterfold Spectre, and who can say that it might not have done the same?

* See *The Flying Saucer Vision* by John Michell. (Sidgwick and Jackson, 25s.)

A MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EXPLANATION

The Angus Brooks Sighting

To Mr. Brooks

The Angus Brooks Sighting
A Ministry of Defence explanation
Sir,—

1. As promised at our meeting I am writing to let you know the conclusions we have reached on your report about the object you saw at Ower-moigne on 26th October.

2. The information which you provided both in your written reports and your discussion has been most carefully checked. We have also examined all possible activities in the area which might have given rise to your sighting but have been unable to trace any other evidence of unusual or unauthorised aerial activity. In addition, in spite of the extensive local publicity on the television, radio and in the Press no corroborating reports have been received. Whilst it is true that the spot from which you made the observation is relatively remote, we did see some human activity during our walk to and from it last month; a farm worker on a tractor and a van on the road on the opposite hillside. It seems unlikely that an object, which you estimated as having an overall length of 150 feet could have hovered above the horizon for 22 minutes, unnoticed by anyone else.

3. We do not doubt that the experience which you have described was a very vivid one, nor have we overlooked your long association with aviation. However we are unable to agree with your conclusion that you saw a controlled flying vehicle of unique design and performance. I know that this

may seem to contradict you, but I am sure you will understand that the information you have given us is capable of other interpretations which we believe are the more likely explanation of what you saw.

4. The explanation is this. You have told us that on the morning of 26th October, 1967 you were walking with your dogs on Moigne Down. There was a gale force wind blowing and you decided to shelter from it and at the same time to look for something unusual in the sky, that is to say, a bright star which you hoped you might see in daylight. You first saw a contrail which was the normal vapour trail produced by high flying aircraft, but this had no physical connection with the subsequent sequence of events. The next thing you saw was a vitreous floater—a piece of dead matter (a dead cell) floating in the fluid of the eyeball. Such objects appear as rods and/or discs, are present in most people's eyes and are more noticeable when one is looking at a brightly lit source of even colouring such as a clear sky. The fact that you had an eye injury some years ago, since repaired by a corneal transplant, makes it possible that there may have been some larger floaters than usual. There are several similarities between the object you described and the floater, particularly its translucency and the slightly darker centre line of the rod-like components. The downwards and transverse movement of the object is compatible with the natural movement of a floater when the eye is held stationary and the direction and

speed of departure of the object match the movement of a floater when the eye is flicked upwards. However, it is unlikely that the floater would have remained stationary for as long as 22 minutes. But, you will recall that you had the impression that the sighting lasted for a much shorter period than the 22 minutes shown on your watch. It seems possible, therefore, that on lying down, after walking over rough country in a force 8 gale you were feeling a little tired and you fell asleep or entered a near sleep state.

5. There had been a great deal of publicity in October about UFO sightings and this, the floater and the fact that you had been looking for an object in the sky could have triggered off a dream in which the floater took on the more elaborate form you have described. Your instant knowledge and certainty of its size and distance and intent are all suggestive of the immediate and inexplicable awareness which are characteristic of many dreams. The distress of your Alsatian could be explained by her finding you in an unusual state, asleep in the open air, rather than by the presence of an unusual object.

6. I recognise that you might find our conclusions unsatisfactory but in the light of the information available to us, we must form our own judgement about the object you have described. As I have said, we have no other evidence of any unusual aerial activity in Dorset that day nor, despite wide publicity, has any other witness come forward. While it would be intellec-

tually arrogant to dispute the hypothesis that in the infinity of space, there could be other intelligent life, we have no proof of this. Neither have the reports of unidentified flying objects passed to us provided evidence that extra-terrestrial craft have visited earth. Our radar cover is such that we are also quite satisfied that there is no clandestine aerial activity over the United Kingdom under terrestrial control. With respect, your report does not give us cause to alter or amend these conclusions.

7. Finally, I should like to thank you very much indeed for your extremely detailed and interesting report and for the kind welcome and whole-hearted co-operation you gave to Mr. Dickson, Mr. Cassie and myself when we visited you in February.

L. W. Akhurst, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

April 5, 1968.

Moigne Down UFO

Sir,—Thank you for your Report awaiting my return to Owermoigne. I will forward copies together with this reply to the other Commissions as your approach to the subject should be of interest to their studies.

I propose to take your report by paragraph and comment.

Paragraph 2.

1. Corroborative reports in the area were received, these were night sightings of "star" and "dart" shaped craft. Either format could be affected by the Moigne Down UFO with its fuselage control.

2. On the day of your visit there was one farm worker on our side of the valley and one van passed along the far road on the other side. This confirms that the percentage of activity

in such a large and remote area is so low that on the day of the sighting it was more than possible that I was alone in the area. This had been the case in the previous eight months.

Paragraph 3.

1. The report of any one person's experience can open interpretation permutations covering the range from frank disbelief to "Establishment" oriented conclusions and I cannot but think that your contradiction of my interpretation of the very vivid experience that you agree I had, must stem from the latter. Your paragraph 4 only strengthens this thought.

Paragraph 4.

1. The "con" trail mentioned was not a normal vapour trail as it disappeared almost at once and must have been the craft's angled reflection in the sun. Vapour trails, as we know, continue with the aircraft and produce lengthy "streamer" effects.

2. The "Floater" theory (What an unfortunate choice of name, means: Mistake. Bloomer. in dictionary "slang"!). The Musca Volant, my specialist informs me, moves upwards and downwards and, as the craft entered the vision circle at 30 deg. moved across descending to centre of vision . . hovered for 22 minutes . . then exited vision circle at 320 deg., this hardly conforms. As my eyes were not stationary during the observation . . the chances of the exact similar shaped Musca Volant being present in both eyes at the exact same time can be discounted. The corneal implant of two years before had only improved the vision and M.V.'s had not been noticeable in the eye concerned. I understand that rod like M.V.'s are exceedingly rare and seldom, if ever, linked.

3. In our discussion, my comment was not that my impression of the observation was shorter than the elapsed time, but, that after a period, I had lost the feeling of time due to the interest and admiration I was feeling for the craft's construction and of its non-aggressive appearance.

4. I walk daily for around two hours over rough country in all met. conditions and wind forces. I do not stop for rest, as I look upon this walk in the same way as I used to run each morning for exercise when at the office, and, as for sleeping en route . . please!! The fact that the gale was howling and my Alsatian was painfully pawclawing me to leave the spot was hardly conducive to "dropping off".

Paragraph 5.

1. It is normally contended that dream "triggers" are of more personal involvement than everyday news and I had not been particularly interested in the UFO "splashes" at that time.

2. My instant knowledge, certainly of size, distant and intent are indeed suggestive of the immediate awareness of the existence of the craft.

3. The Alsatian would not obeyspoken or physical orders to remain still on the day and, on the two following days (with witnesses) at the site, showed distress which could only have been attributable to having been pained or frightened at the craft's appearance. She could have received high VVHF signals.

Paragraph 6.

1. In your conclusions your disadvantage is, of course, that I was there at the time and any Investigation Commission can only work on the creditability of second hand report details combined with technical, medical and scientific assistance, so, with



View of hillside from which Mr. Angus Brooks (position arrowed) observed his cruciform UFO on October 16, 1967. Photograph taken by reader F. E. Marshall of Portland, looking West from nearest usable road



Angus Brooks clothed as he was on October 26, lies in the shallow hollow on the hillside pointing in the direction in which he saw the UFO. One of the Dalmatian dogs—with an Alsatian, now dead—accompanied him on the walk. Photo by F. E. Marshall

reciprocal respect, your conclusions have not given me cause to alter my opinion of the Moigne Down UFO.

Although, at the start of this experience, I had no wish to become involved in the UFO story, I now find I am interested enough to be doing some thinktank work on this. May I

suggest that "Fatigue Mirages" and "Ghostings" be given some "lateral" thought by your department and on completion of my studies, I will pass my results for discussion between us.

We should be happy to see you any time you are in this area, I enjoyed our meeting; next time, who knows, the

Moigne Down UFO may give you the doubtful "privilege" of seeing it. My best regards to John Dickson and Alec Cassie and, of course, to yourself.

Angus Brooks, "Grasshoppers",
Chilbury Gardens, Overmoigne,
Dorset.

April 28, 1968

World round-up

ENGLAND UFOs over Brough

The *Westmorland Gazette* of Kendal for May 24, carried this item,—

"Following the current trend of appearances of Unidentified Flying Objects, several particularly bold ones are reported to have presented themselves recently in the Brough area.

"They were sighted soon after midnight by three people travelling in a van on a secondary road between Barnard Castle and Brough. Mr. and Mrs. A. Luisi and their daughter Angela were on their way home to 11 Garburn Road, Kendall.

"The phenomenon was first spotted by Angela as she looked through the skylight of their van. She saw 'a white revolving mass like a whirlpool' which she says lit up the whole sky. Mrs. Luisi describes what she saw as 'a large orange ball of fire followed by five small ones.'

"With a flash of light, the objects vanished, leaving the sky black and empty.

"We have travelled abroad for thousands of miles and have been in some very bad storms, but we have never seen anything like this,' Mrs. Luisi said."

NORTHERN IRELAND

"Football-sized" UFO over Armagh.

A report from the South-Western part of Co. Armagh was published in the *Belfast Telegraph* of April 26, 1968,—

"A mysterious flying object was spotted over Armagh last night and witnesses included two policemen who were on duty in the city.

"Sixty-two-year-old Mr. James Guy, College St., Armagh, was standing in Scotch Street when he saw what he described as 'a very bright shining object about the size of a football' travel across the sky from the Monaghan direction, south of the city.

"I watched it for five minutes till I lost sight of it as it passed in an eastern direction into the haze. It was a marvel, as it travelled white as snow, in a straight line across the sky,' he said.

"Constable Robert McCutcheon, who was on duty, accompanied by Sgt. D. Coyle, said the object, which was of the same brightness as the Pole Star, travelled slowly across the sky.

"Minutes later a second object appeared from the Keady direction and travelled over the city towards Loughgall," he added.

AUSTRALIA

Red lights in the paddock

The following account is taken from the *Taranaki Herald* (New Zealand) of May 2, 1968, and relates to an incident near Heyfield, Victoria,—

"What two sanitary collectors saw in the early morning hours in a paddock near this small dairying town in Eastern Victoria has set off an RAAF inquiry.

"It happened on Wednesday when their truck broke down 1½ miles from Heyfield.

"Gavin Whelan and Ian Lord said they were thinking about getting a tow when they saw a string of red lights approaching.

"But when it didn't come closer, we got up on the truck bonnet and saw it was an object in a paddock. It had a row of red lights and a dome with a light on top," Mr. Whelan said today.

"Later I went to the paddock with my wife, Valerie, and we found the area of grass wilted as if it had been sprayed with poison."

"On Thursday morning at 4.40 on their collection round, the collectors saw more lights moving above ground level."

Credit: Mrs. V. L. Scott, Blagdon, New Zealand. Also: Mrs. Judith Magee, Secretary, Victorian UFO Research Society, for a similar account from the *Melbourne Herald*.

CANADA

UFO scares Nova Scotia cattle?

From *The Light Herald* of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (edition of May 2, 1968) we learn how,—

"A farmer in the South Ohio region had the misfortune of having his cows get away from him sometime last week

and so a neighbour was called to assist in the rounding up of the strays. The neighbour, while searching in back of the meat plant in South Ohio, claims to have come across the strange apparition indeed. There in the sky about 1,000 feet up was a bright object which was stationary and giving off such a brilliant light that no definite shape could be seen. The light was described as being 'like a flood light' coming straight down from the unidentified object. Six men watched as the object moved away and the light disappeared.

"The possibility of the object being some type of aircraft in search of something or someone was ruled out as the air-port had no reports of anything in this area. The men remember that there was a buzzing noise coming from the UFO. One of the men called the airport and it was reported. He was told that Moncton would be called in to investigate and that the men would be contacted later. No word has yet been received on this. One of the men is a former member of the R.C.A.F.

"The fact that the cows were on the loose led the men to discover this sighting. In some other cases where UFOs were sighted, there were animals involved. It is known that animals react much more easily to high pitched sounds than men."

Credit: Raymond Reddy of Reading, Pennsylvania.

MALAYA

Kampong Keramat UFOs

From the *Malay Mail* of March 4, we read how,—

"Residents of Kampong Dato Keramat here are excited over two unidentified flying objects which they think are flying saucers.

"But neither the control tower of Kuala Lumpur Airport nor the Royal Malaysian Air Force could confirm any unidentified object on Friday and Saturday.

"An RMAF spokesman said none of their planes was in the area at that time nor did they have any report of such a sighting.

"The first object was sighted by Inche Abdul Rahman Hassan, a retired workshop supervisor, at 8 p.m. on Friday (presumably March 1, 1968).

"He was relaxing in the verandah of his house when he spotted the object over the Ampang area.

"The object suddenly appeared in the sky, flashing bright light. At first it was motionless. I could see clearly, it was like a saucer," he said. "Then it moved slowly across the sky and was gone within minutes."

"At about 3 p.m. on Saturday, his 21-year-old daughter, Che Jamilah, and a friend Abdul Hamid, saw another bright object in the sky. The object was like a huge saucer, moving up and down flashing bright light. She said it had a slight smoke trail.

"It hummed for a while and remained visible for about four minutes before it climbed up the clouds and disappeared," she said.

"Inche Zanial confirmed her description of the object, and maintained that it could not be an aeroplane.

"Another resident, Inche Yahaya Hassan, said he saw a disc-like bright object in the sky for about three minutes on Saturday afternoon. He could not remember the exact time.

"The object was like a pancake and it moved slowly with a humming noise before it disappeared," he added.

"The RMAF base commandant here, Group Captain J. W. King, said flying saucer sightings were a 'very common thing' in Europe. But his men did not see anything unusual during the weekend. The objects could have been reflections in the sky, he said."

SPAIN

Creature reports

In the Madrid newspaper *Arriba* of February 27, 1968, we read of "REPORTS OF AN ENORMOUS 'HAIRY MONSTER' IN SPAIN" in an article by Miguel Gil, from Gerona, near Barcelona—"A rumour that a strange animal was committing depredations on the outskirts of the town of Vilovi was at first received with scepticism. While those who gave the original reports were children, adults have subsequently come forward who declare that they have seen the creature. It did not seem very convincing, inasmuch as the reports were almost always about something seen at night, and as there had been cases of groups of thugs going around at night attacking country houses in the area, it was supposed that perhaps these stories related to attempts to 'case the premises' for future occasions. On top of this, one must remember that Carnival time is here. The result being that while some have taken the stories about the creature as true, others have regarded it as a joke.

"There have however been further appearances of the strange creature, and the result is that tomorrow a 'beat' is being organised, which will be undertaken by a considerable number of hunters with their dogs. This decision was reached after receipt of word that yesterday evening, at the village of Curbarsi in the Vilovi district, an enormous animal had been seen, the description of which agreed with what had been said by the earlier witnesses, but now, and for the first time, it had been seen in broad daylight, although at some distance.

"The animal was drinking from a pond near the house of the witnesses. It fled, leaving in the clay soil a number of great footprints 40 centimetres long and resembling those of a plantigrade being (i.e. one that walks on the whole sole of the foot). These footprints agree with the description given by the motorist Ruperto Juher, who said that he had seen, near Hostalrich a few days ago, an animal with a large hairy body and long arms, that crossed the highway in front of him, walking with a weary sort of gait.

"Yesterday's report of the new sighting of the animal eliminates the possibility that the animal that has spread panic in this district could have been, as had been supposed, the badger that was shot six days ago by Señor Marti of San Martin. The unwillingness of some folk to believe the reports has resulted in this frightening experience being reported by numerous other individuals, and now an attempt is to be made to clear it all up.

"There was a circus in this area some few days ago, but nobody reported any animal missing from it. In addition, there is also the occasional Hungarian who passes through, with his bear, and one of these might conceivably have escaped into the mountains and now, in view of the cold, be coming into the plains to seek food.

"Count de Ger, president of the society for the protection of animals in Barcelona, is taking an interest in the case, and has also taken an interest in the manner in which the captured badger is reported to have been killed.

"It is possible that the animal now being sought is in fact a bear. It is hoped that within a few hours from now we shall know the truth about this affair which has kept this region in a state of panic." (Translation: Gordon Creighton.)

Credit to Señor Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla.

AZORES

The sentry and the saucer

From the journal *Lumières dans la Nuit** we obtained the following story which appeared in the French news-

paper *La Dernière Heure* of February 3, 1968—"Lisbon, February 2. Report from Portuguese News Agency ANI.

"A Portuguese military sentry at the installations at Cinco Picos, on the island of Terceira in the Azores, avers that he was attacked by an unidentified flying object on Thursday morning (February 1).

"The soldier, named Serafim Vieira Sebastião, aged 36, noticed at first a strange interference on his transistor radio, and at once looked around. The saucer was so near to the ground, he said, that he could see two of its occupants. He promptly telephoned to another sentry and told him what he had seen. He then approached the machine, and shone his torch on it. A "gaseous dust" was emitted from the saucer, enveloping him, and he fell to the ground, where the other sentry found him a few minutes later.

"The doctors at the local hospital found the soldier Sebastião sane and normal in all respects, and he was found never to have been known to suffer from hallucinations. He was then taken to the Lajes Air Base (which is under American control) to make a full report.

"One local paper states that a meteorological balloon had been released shortly before at the Lajes Base and might have accumulated static by touching the high-voltage power lines that pass over the Base. The soldier however sticks to his statement that he saw two men in the saucer and that it attacked him." (Translation by Gordon Creighton.)

* For address of *Lumières dans la Nuit* please see page ii of cover.

SWEDEN

Mystery of the lakes

The *Times* of April 5, 1968, carried the following account—

"Something 'incredibly powerful' has smashed a huge hole through the ice covering a lake in central Sweden, but scientists and military experts are uncertain about what it was.

"The hole, discovered yesterday near Malung by two villagers, is 700 square yards in extent and was made through ice almost 3ft. thick.

"The Defence Ministry was notified of the discovery by the police and sent experts to examine the hole. Colonel Curt Hermansson, who is leading the investigation, said today that an aircraft crash was out of the question.

"There are no traces round the hole, only big blocks of ice which have been thrown up, indicating that whatever went into the lake was incredibly powerful," he said.

"Some experts think that the hole is too big to have been made by a meteorite. All the information so far (continued foot of page opposite)

ALL FIREBALLS?

By Charles Bowen

IN his book *UFOs—Identified* (Random House Inc., 457 Madison Avenue, New York 22; 290 pages, \$6.95), Philip J. Klass, senior avionics editor of the American magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, presents a study of misidentified aerial objects in the overall UFO picture. Not without interest he expands the plasma/ball lightning theory which he advanced in the columns of *Aviation Week* in 1966.

The FSR team—and that includes Mr. C. Maxwell Cade who wrote on the topic in our January/February issue of 1967—does not deny Mr. Klass his point, for some “UFOs” may be instances of misidentified ball lightning or plasmas. Equally, however, we feel that some “plasmas” may be misidentifications of otherwise unrecognised aerial objects. So we cannot go along with the implication in the book’s title (or indeed with the statement on the jacket: “A new scientific explanation of Unidentified Flying Objects . . .”) that UFOs are nothing but fireballs.

Probably because he is convinced—if so, wrongly—that all who are interested in UFOs cling desperately to the extraterrestrial hypothesis alone, Mr. Klass has settled for one of the more unlikely explanations. If, in addition to the known types of plasmas there are super-giant balls of ionised gas floating around in our atmosphere, 30ft. or more in diameter, stable, of long duration, and lethal, then it is high time we “stopped the world and got off” before we’re all incinerated.

This UFOs = fireballs idea may have given new impetus to the study of ball lightning, but it has brought us no nearer to a solution of the UFO problem, which, we feel, is more likely

(continued from page opposite)

gathered is being studied and the possibility of sending down divers is being considered.”—*Reuter*.

The *Guardian* of April 8 reports yet another hole in the ice at Serna, Dalarna, some distance from Malung. The report continues—

“Police and military experts called in to investigate are at a loss to explain how the holes came about. Frogmen were sent down at Malung but found nothing in the lake that could have made the hole. However there was thick mud on the bottom. ‘It could have swallowed up anything,’ an official said. . . .”

to be found in the landing and occupant reports. Mr. Klass has probably recognised this fact, for he has selected two of the better-known occupant cases for fitting to his fireball theory.

The reader is treated to ingenious suggestions as to how fleeting glimpses of “little men”, the legs of the “craft”, and the residual “pad marks” came about at Socorro. The other account to be analysed is that of Betty and Barney Hill, with Barney seeing all manner of things in an “intense portion of plasma”. The post-sighting publicity angles of these cases are also examined.

Mr. Klass has omitted any reference to the likenesses of the alleged entities in the Hills’ story with the female reported by Antonio Villas Boas (which could not have been known to the Hills) although he has a little fun with the Brazilian story elsewhere in the book.

I think Mr. Klass should treat himself to a new and longer look at THE HUMANIDS. The 300-odd cases discussed in our special issue’s pages indicate that if Mr. Klass is to be believed then a lot of people all over the world have been misinterpreting intense portions of plasmas—in sharply-defined waves. I make no apology for the following doggerel lines composed by a good friend who probably prefers to remain anonymous:

Klass dismissed

Many nights ago I have seen, alas,
A wanton plasma, a fiery mass,
Rushing through heaven swift as
Fantomas.
The glow of iron, the lustre of brass,
Flashed out of the dark with a tail
of gas.

It landed, friends, the better to
harass,
My deluded mind, and a pretty lass
Alighted, wearing nought but
canvas.
Come here, she cried, and show
with class,
How life goes on and theories
pass!

(A. V. Boas)

Postscripts

(i) In the acknowledgement to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, the name “W. T. Rogers” is listed. This should read “W. T. Powers”.

(ii) Mr. Klass has something to say about the Fogl photographs. Our position is that over the years there have been changes in the editorship and policy of this REVIEW. Mr. Fogl did not come to us during the whole

of eight years to apprise us that he had only been “experimenting”. When we discovered, by chance, from people who should have known better than to withhold the information that the pictures were fakes, we did not hesitate to seek out and publish the truth about them.

UFO Evidence Supplement

Mr. J. J. A. Hennessey, Chairman of NICAP’s European Sub-committee writes to say that NICAP is to publish as a one-volume supplement to the UFO Evidence, thirteen reports issued by Projects Grudge and Blue Book, 1951-53, totalling some 200 pages.

Some of the reports, written in the early era of the USAF’s UFO investigations when the late Captain Edward J. Ruppelt was Project Chief, were originally classified “Confidential” or “Secret” despite previous USAF denials that UFO material has ever been classified. In 1960, without any statement to the public, the USAF declassified all the reports but still continued denying their existence, the most recent denial being in 1965 when they informed a Washington reporter in the Pentagon that reports Nos. 1 to 13 never existed. However, a few of the reports were found by a NICAP member in the classified file of a U.S. West Coast aerospace firm’s library.

Following the finding of the reports, NICAP, with the valuable assistance of Congressman John Moss’s House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information, also the recently passed Freedom of Information Law, managed to trace copies of all thirteen reports, numbered 1-12 and 14, and these were eventually purchased from the USAF by a NICAP member at a cost in the excess of 60 dollars. No record of Report No. 13 has ever been found which can probably be accounted for by USAF superstition.

The contents of the reports include, charts of current cases, overall status of the Projects, scientific briefings, spectrum analysis, details of Projects Twinkle and Stork, studies of the Ft. Monmouth N.J. sightings, astronomer’s conference, Hollman AFB report, field investigations, geographical concentrations, 1952 sighting wave with General Samford’s press conference, radiation correlation, camera projects, northern Japan sightings, RCAF interest, details on individual cases, a massive but inconclusive computer study, and many other important items relating to that era.

The cost of the entire volume from NICAP, containing all thirteen reports is 5 dollars. First-class postage is 1 dollar extra for the U.S. and Canada, 2 dollars for all other countries. All payments should be made in U.S. funds or the equivalent and payable to NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036, U.S.A. The only items omitted from the volume are a few of the least interesting cases, and distribution lists for the first reports.

LOOK OUT FOR THESE BOOKS

UFOs OVER THE AMERICAS

by Jim and Coral Lorenzen

Paperback (to be reviewed), any work by these authors, the founders of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO), of Tucson, Arizona, is worth reading. A Signet Book at 75c. Published by the New American Library, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY10019.

SPACEMEN IN THE ANCIENT EAST

by W. Raymond Drake

30s. Neville Spearman, 112 Whitfield Street, London W.1 (to be reviewed). An author well known to FSR readers, whose fascinating speculations, historical and mythological, never fail to interest us.

NO EASY SOLUTION TO THE MORRO MYSTERY

By Charles Bowen

BY September 1966 it was virtually impossible to extract even one recognisable strand of sense, let alone a chain of evidence, from the tangled skein of discoveries, revelations, theories and accusations which enmeshed the investigation into the bizarre death of two Brazilian electronics technicians.

The bodies of Miguel José Viana and Manuel Ferreira da Cruz were discovered on Saturday, August 20, 1966, on the slopes of the Morro do Vintém not far from Niterói, itself only a few kilometres from Rio de Janeiro. The decomposing bodies were neatly dressed in suits and brand new raincoats, and by the side of each head was a strange facial mask made of lead. According to the original accounts, the two Campos technicians were last seen alive in Niterói on August 17, 1966, when they purchased the raincoats, and a bottle of mineral water, before setting off on foot up the Morro do Vintém.

That evening (August 17) a Senhora Gracinda da Sousa was driving along the road near the hill when she saw an oval-shaped fiery object alternately hovering and then plunging and soaring vertically over one spot on the slope. She told her husband, and he later told the police after the news had broken about the discovery of the bodies.

From the vast number of sensational revelations and speculation, it emerged that the unfortunate Miguel and Manuel were active members of a group of "scientific spiritualists" who dabbled in spiritism, explosives and communications with Mars, and who, according to reports, had already tangled explosively with a UFO at Atafona beach, near Campos, on June 13, 1966.¹

Then, with the enquiry becoming very interesting—in spite of all the confusion—further news of it was abruptly cut off, and the case slid into oblivion in mid-September, 1966.

Case reopens

Eleven months later there was a fitful spluttering of news of the continuing investigation: not one thing emerged that could help untangle the mess.

On August 19, 1967, a report was carried in the Rio

newspaper *Ultima Hora*² which stated that the police were searching for a car—the registration number of which was known—in which the bodies of Miguel Viana and Manuel da Cruz had been taken from Campos to Niterói for dumping on the slopes of the Morro do Vintém. A touch of confusion was added by an announcement that if the search went well the bodies would be exhumed at Campos on August 25, 1967. This, it seems, was necessary to determine whether the victims were murdered, or poisoned by chemicals which they were using to make extraterrestrial communications, or whether they died in a suicide pact by taking a corrosive acid.

It was reported in *Ultima Hora* of August 26, 1967, that the exhumation had taken place and that certain organs had been removed for examination. Delegate of Police Sérgio Rodrigues went so far as to say: "Important pieces of evidence were disregarded at the start of the enquiry and are now being used by my team. Although I have not yet got the clues to clear up the case, I do believe that in a few days time I will be able to hand the guilty party over to the Judicial Authorities."

Civilian air line pilot Elcio Gomes had been arrested (August 26, 1966) for making contradictory statements. Gomes, another "scientific spiritualist", was an associate of the dead technicians. Under questioning he made all manner of revelations. One of these was that there was a clandestine radio station maintained by the two dead men at Glicerio in the Macae district: according to *Ultima Hora* of August 31, 1967, the mystery was deepened by the reported disappearance of the two detectives sent there to investigate. Fortunately, this new mystery was only of temporary duration, for in *Correio da Manhã* (Rio de Janeiro) of September 3, 1967, we read that the same detectives were busily theorising to the reporters. New investigations, it seemed, were expected among spiritualistic circles by police who had now established the precise movements of Miguel and Manuel between Niterói bus station and the foot of the Morro do Vintém on August 21, 1966.

When I read this I confess I almost gave up in des-

pair, for we have voluminous accounts from the previous year which show that the bodies, in an advanced state of decomposition, were discovered on August 20, 1966.

Back to square one

So there it rests. For all the resounding phrases and ominous hints of pending arrests, for all the discoveries including the van said to have carried the murdered bodies to the foot of the Morro, and for all the pathological examinations of exhumed bodies (about which nothing was said because nothing was found?), we find ourselves well and truly back in square one, and to boot, with some exasperating carelessness over the dates. In the end the police had succeeded in adding just one 1967 ingredient to the 1966 mixture, and that was the speculation that Miguel and Manuel had met their murderer after their call at an electronic equipment store in Niterói—where they were in no hurry—and before their call for mineral water at a bar where they

displayed a marked degree of urgency.

With a pious hope expressed in the *Correio da Manhã* that the mystery would be solved in a week, the case once again disappeared into limbo.

Alarming suggestions and unpleasant undertones inherent in the 1966 discoveries had no doubt led to questions being asked when, after a year, nothing had been resolved about the deaths of the technicians. Was the case allowed to re-appear briefly so that the police could project the idea of a “murderer”? After all, down-to-earth human mayhem is so much more reassuring than wild hints about spiritist dabblings with dark forces, or any suggestion that the men in the lead masks were done away with by a UFO, or even a great big glob of plasma.

NOTES

- 1 Bowen, C. *The Mystery of the Morro do Vintém*. FSR Vol. 13, No. 2. March/April 1967.
- 2 Brazilian newspapers account, by courtesy of Nigel Rimes. Translations by Gordon Creighton.

TWENTY YEARS BACK

By Brinsley Le Poer Trench

ON October 1, 1948, in the words of the late Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of the USAF Project Blue Book investigating flying saucers “the third big sighting of 1948, Volume III of “The Classics” took place”.

We have already covered the Mantell tragedy, as well as the Chiles and Witted sightings, in the last two issues. Now we will take a look at the strange duel that Lieutenant George F. Gorman, of the North Dakota Air National Guard, had with a UFO.

Gorman was flying into the Dakota town of Fargo after a cross-country practice flight. At around 9.00 p.m. he decided to land after flying around the locality for a while. He called the control tower and received permission to do so. A Piper Cub was going down just before him. However, he noticed another object pass him on his right. He called control tower again and was assured that apart from the Cub no other plane was in the vicinity.

The fighter pilot decided to investigate the object that he had just seen. So, he pushed his F-51 into a turn and moved in towards the UFO.

Gorman was now above the object which appeared to be a shining white light, blinking on and off. Then he made a bold decision and swooped down upon it.

Then, as Gerald Heard described the action “quick as a matador with a charging bull”, the object “side-stepped”.

Gorman realised now that the object was only a foot or less in diameter. Suddenly, it made a dart for the control tower, hotly pursued by the gallant Gorman in his F-51.

At 7,000 feet the UFO turned and Gorman tried without success to get closer. For twenty minutes the fighter pilot and the UFO dived and turned in probably the strangest aerial duel that has ever occurred in the history of aerobatics. At times Gorman nearly blacked out trying to follow the incredible tight turns and gyrations of the UFO which completely out-manoeuvred him.

This fantastic aerial dance came to an end when the “light” suddenly climbed away into the sky at great speed and disappeared.

The tower control man had seen the UFO and observed it through his night binoculars. According to Ruppelt four other witnesses saw the object, but did not see all the action as later described by Gorman. They were the pilot of the Cub and his passenger, and two CAA personnel on the ground.

Project Blue Book concluded that Gorman was duelling with a lighted balloon. Ruppelt pointed out in his book that many pilots have been fooled by lights.

Ruppelt has always seemed to me a very broad-minded, unbiassed and capable investigator. However, many people must have doubts as to the validity of his conclusions on this particular occasion.

Gorman told ATIC investigators “I had the distinct impression that its manoeuvres were controlled by thought and reason”.

Could not this object have been remotely controlled from some space ship miles above the earth?

I would like to quote what Gerald Heard wrote in his book on the same lines: “There is then no escaping the conclusion—as all who were in on that play agreed—that there was an intelligence guiding that ‘Light’. That is interesting, if perhaps a little too much so. What is not only interesting but heartening is that that intelligence showed itself considerate. It wanted to learn about us and it was not only clever in the way it did so, but considerate”.

Since the Gorman affair in 1948 there have been other cases involving remote controlled lights and in my submission it is a little too easy a way out to write this particular object off as a lighted balloon.

SOURCES

- The Report on Unidentified Objects*, by Edward J. Ruppelt. Doubleday & Co., 1956.
The Riddle of the Flying Saucers, by Gerald Heard. Carrol & Nicolson, 1950.