

# THE CASE OF BRUNO FACCHINI

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AT 10.00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 1950, at Abbiate Guazzone (in the district of Varese, Northern Italy) a most singular adventure befell Signor Bruno Facchini, who was 42 years old at that date. A skilful and highly esteemed worker, he was employed by a local industrial firm, and was living in a little house on the outskirts of the town, a few metres distant from the provincial highway leading to Milan.

On the evening in question the region had been swept by a violent storm. Just before 10 o'clock the rain had stopped. Far off in the distance the last flashes of lightning could still be seen, and Bruno Facchini had stepped out of the house to take a breath of fresh air. After a glance at the sky, which was now clearing, he was re-entering the house when his attention was drawn to a peculiar flashing a few hundred metres distant. Here are his replies to the questions which we put to him during our interview:

**Question.** What happened on the evening of April 24, 1950, when you stepped outside from your house?

**Answer.** I was just coming back in again when I noticed some strange flashes a few hundred metres or so from the house. As there is a high tension power line passing over right at that spot and a pylon with electrical equipment standing right in front of my house, I immediately thought of the storm we had just had, and of the possibility that it might have damaged the electricity system. So I put on a pair of old boots and decided to go over there and have a look at what had happened. I proceeded with the maximum caution as I was afraid there might be broken power-lines lying about on the ground. When I had got to a point where I was underneath the power-line and I had noticed nothing abnormal, I decided once more to go back indoors.

**Question.** Why didn't you?

**Answer.** I was close by the power-line, and everything appeared to be normal and then, just as I was on the point of coming back to the house I saw the strange flashing again, and this time I could see that it was a little further away from where I stood. So I decided to go closer. It was a dark night, but I had no fear, I didn't believe in ghosts. When I did get closer, I caught sight of an enormous black shadow, almost round in shape (it looked like a ball with the top part flattened). In the middle of it I could see a little ladder, and from the top of the ladder was coming a greenish light.

I was now able to have a close view of the source of the flashing, that is, I saw quite clearly an individual who, from the top of a pneumatic lift (of the type made with a base, an extensible shaft, and a platform on top) seemed to be standing and

While, so far as we recall, there have been only a few cases in which UFO percipients claimed to have observed entities walking around landed craft and seemingly inspecting the hulls, rarer still are the cases where it is claimed that actual repairs were being carried out. We have just given one such case in Ted Bloecher's *UFO Landing And Repair By Crew* (FSR Vol.20 Nos. 2 and 3).

Here is another remarkable story of the same kind, involving (as we may speculate) an object which may have been damaged in a storm. And metallic material is alleged to have been left by the occupants of the UFO.

GORDON CREIGHTON

doing a welding job. I could see quite clearly that the individual who was welding was wearing a diving-suit and a mask.

My curiosity now aroused, I stepped closer, and now also saw two other individuals, likewise in diving-suits and masks, moving about very slowly around the machine, which caused me to think that the suits they were wearing must be very heavy for them. The machine, which was of a dark colour, showed metallic reflections when lit up by the flashes coming from the welder.

**Question.** What were your thoughts at that moment?

**Answer.** I knew that the intercontinental airport of La Málpensa was only a few kilometres from there, and that there were military airfields at Vergiate and Venegono. So I thought I was looking at an aircraft that had suffered a forced landing, and I told the men that I lived close by and asked them if they needed any help. The only reply I got were some incomprehensible guttural sounds.

I tried to guess what their intentions were, and I got the impression that they wanted to invite me to get up into the machine. Then I heard a noise like the sound of a "gigantic bee-hive," or perhaps it might be better to say "like a big dynamo," and I saw, inside, another ladder going up, and all around, on the walls, tubes, cylinders and gauges. In that precise moment I realized that it couldn't be an aircraft, and I was seized by a sensation of panic and fled.

But after I had run a few paces I turned round, and saw one of the pilots grab a sort of camera that he was carrying round his neck and shoot a beam of light at me. I carried on running, and simultaneously I had the impression that I had been struck by a blunt instrument or, to put it better, by a powerful jet of compressed air, and I fell to the ground, landing, for further measure, right on top of one of the boundary stones marking the edges of the fields.

**Question.** Did you lose consciousness, or did you retain it?

**Answer.** I felt severe pain from the bruising, but I was perfectly conscious.

**Question.** What did you see after that?

**Answer.** It seemed as though they were no longer interested in me. I got the impression that they had wanted to punish me for my disobedience, but I was sure that they did not desire to do me any harm. The individual who had been welding had now come down (the lift on which he was standing had in fact descended, its tubes re-entering) and the two others who had remained on the ground picked up the lift, now reduced in size, put it into a small box and stowed it inside the machine, the ladder was drawn in, and the door closed. Everything became dark. The noise like a beehive continued. Then, all of a sudden, it grew louder, and more powerful, and the machine rose at fantastic speed and vanished into the darkness.

**Question.** Could it, in your opinion, have been any kind of combustion engine or jet engine?

**Answer.** No! It wasn't that sort of noise, and I saw no kind of light. To me it seemed far more like an electric motor or one run by compressed air. Something very silent. I don't think anything would have been audible from it after they had reached a height of 500 metres or so. It was certainly a matter of a few seconds, after which all was as silent as the tomb again, and I was standing there alone in the field with my eyes glued to the sky. I couldn't see any moving light. Only the stars shining and glittering sharply in the clear night sky.

**Question.** Can you give me any further details about the clothing of the pilots?

**Answer.** They were wearing dark grey (or at any rate it seemed to me grey) diving-suits, which I thought were heavy, in view of the difficulty in movement that I noticed. On their faces they had masks, also grey. I could see a tube hanging down from the level of the mouth and with an opening at the end of it. This led me to think that the tube could be joined to another tube, or to a cylinder. During the brief bursts of light from the welding, I thought I could see that the skin of the face behind the "glass" of the mask was light-coloured. Their form was human, and their height around 1.70 metres.

**Question.** Do you know any foreign languages? Did it perhaps seem to you that you could understand what language they were talking?

**Answer.** I know a little French, and during the War I heard German, though not understanding it. But I can rule out those two languages. The pronunciation was in single syllables, and the sound was guttural. When I asked them whether they needed any help, one of them replied with a sound like "Gurr, gurr!" Maybe however the words as they reached me were distorted by the mask. I distinctly noted two large earphones of the type used by radio-telegraphers, but bigger.

**Question.** On their heads or backs did you notice any antennae such as are invariable shown in Science Fiction?

**Answer.** No. No signs of antennae or anything similar.

**Question.** After the strange machine had gone, did you go back to the spot? Did you call other people to see it?

**Answer.** No. I went home quietly and spent a sleepless night. Next day I returned to the spot to look for my cigarette-case which I had lost. I saw some marks there, not very visible however, as the soil of the meadow, which was under grass, was pretty hard. The marks consisted of four round impressions about one metre in diameter and set in a square, about six metres apart. I also noticed burnt grass, and a few bits of metal, which I picked up, and which were probably the residue left from the welding.

**Question.** What did you do during the following days?

**Answer.** I reported the matter to the Police Headquarters in Varese and investigations were carried out on the spot by the Authorities. I had an analysis made of the metal, which turned out to be "an antifriction metal." It was a shiny metal, with a granulous surface. What is more important is the fact that I have never got over the shock that I suffered. Even today, years after, from time to time I feel hot flushes on the face without any signs of fever.

My interview with the witness terminates here. Several other residents of the neighbourhood saw something strange that night, but there is no information as to what.

A few days after the experience, Bruno Facchini began to have pains in that part of his back where the beam of light had struck him, and the area started to turn black. The pain lasted for over a month.

As regards the pieces of metallic evidence found, these were analyzed by the Institute for Testing Light Metals (*Istituto Sperimentale dei Metalli Leggeri*: Report No. 530954/4157 of September 30, 1953: "Examination of Some Metallic Fragments Attributed to a Flying Saucer," wherein it was established that — "...the sample received consisted of three small metal fragments of a yellowish-white colour and with a total weight of 1.64 gms. The percentage results of the chemical analyses made are as follows:

|        |        |          |        |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Copper | 74.33% | Tin      | 19.38% |
| Lead   | 4.92   | Antimony | 0.52   |
| Zinc   | 0.33   | Nickel   | 0.08   |
| Iron   | 0.02   |          |        |

plus minimal traces of silver, aluminium, and magnesium. The fragments in question thus consist of a 'leaded bronze' with a high tin content. The micrographic structure appears entirely normal for a bronze of the type in question, in cast state. The presence of no rare elements was detected, nor of any elements generally held to be abnormal for an alloy of this sort. It is very probable that the fragments examined by us came from the packing layer of a very — bearing.\*"

\* One word (*sollecitato*) not understood in the context in which it is used here, — G.C.



## References (Bruno Facchini case)

*Notiziario U.F.O.*, No.37 (Jan./Feb. 1971), pp. 19-22.  
*Dischi Volanti* No.1, March 1960 (pp. 19-20), Investigation by Pino Carminati Ghidelli of Milano.  
*Deomenica del Corriere*, April 1952.  
*Rivista Aeronautica*, May 1953.  
*Operazione Plenilunio*, by Renato Vesco. (Pub. Mursia,

1972), pp. 237-239; 254-256, 268, note 3.

## Translator's Note

My shorter version, published on page 4 of FSR Vol.9, No.2 (March/April 1963) agrees on all substantial points with the fuller one given above. I took it from a series of articles on UFO reports in Italy by Renato Albanesi for the *Domenica del Corriere* (issue of October 28, 1962).—G.C.

# World round-up

*of news and comment  
about recent sightings*

## England

### Manoeuvres over the Thames estuary

The following signed statement about an event last summer was sent in by Mrs. D. Marks, whose interest in the subject of UFOs had been aroused by reading *The Humanoids* and other books. The witness is her brother, Ronald Clarke, who lives in Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, and who, because of the ever-present possibility of ridicule, had not told anyone else of an experience that puzzled him. He had no knowledge of the subject and only told Mrs. Marks because he learned of her recently acquired interest:

"At approximately 11.00 p.m. on Sunday July 14, 1974, I was driving along Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, when I saw a large bright light in the sky. As it was such an exceptionally large object I stopped my car to have a further look.

"The object appeared to be above the River Thames, or in that vicinity, travelling very fast from the direction of London towards the Southend area of the estuary.

"After travelling some distance, during which time it seemed to pass quite close to an aircraft travelling in the opposite direction, the object stopped and hovered for approximately one minute during which time the huge light dimmed and grew brighter at regular intervals. It then proceeded to return in the direction from which it had come, passing out of my view behind two blocks of flats. When it reappeared a large flash like the tail of a rocket was emitted momentarily. It then passed behind another block of flats and did not reappear immediately on the other side.

"I waited approximately three minutes, whereupon the object reappeared, travelling again towards the estuary, now even faster than the first time. When it had reached virtually the exact position where it had hovered before, the light just disappeared.

"One minute it was travelling very

fast, the next it was gone and although I waited quite some time it did not reappear."

## Wales

### UFO over Milford Haven

From the *Western Mail* of February 27, 1975, we learn how—

"A new twist to the UFO mystery came last week with the sighting by two Pembroke Dock teenagers of a strange white light over the Haven. This and another independent sighting were reported to the police.

"Sixteen-year-old Ted O'Mara, 25 Church Street, spent Tuesday night of last week at the home of his friend, 14-year-old Roy Roberts, 23 King Street.

"After watching a soccer match on television the boys played cards before going to bed.

"Roy said this week: 'My bedroom overlooks the Haven and while we were playing cards — at about 12.45 a.m. on Wednesday — it was suddenly filled with a very bright light. We looked out of the window and saw an object spinning across the sky.'

"Ted O'Mara recalled that the object was high over the Haven Bridge when they first observed it.

"It was a cone of light, red on top and spinning so that we could see that there were three other different coloured lights on it, blue, green and orange. The sky was clear and the night was still, and when we opened the window we could hear a whirring noise, like the humming of a top. It seemed to be hovering when we first saw it, but it suddenly moved off at fantastic speed, the fastest I've ever seen anything move in the sky, towards Milford Haven and westward. We watched it for a few more minutes and then there was a faint flash, like distant lightning, and it disappeared."

"Neither boy was sure of the object's height, but Roy said: 'As the outline, in the shape of a cone, was so well lit, I got the impression that it was not very high. If it had been

moving at a great height the outline would not have been so clearly visible to the naked eye. It was a beautifully-clear night, with no cloud.'

"Another sighting was made by Miss Heather Kiff, a member of the staff of the Mentally Handicapped Unit at the South Pembrokeshire Hospital, who saw the object as she was going home shortly after 12.30 a.m.

"The police at Pembroke Dock said yesterday that they had received no other reports concerning the mysterious object.

"It was only last summer that the police themselves were involved in a UFO sighting at nearby Pembroke. Three officers on pre-dawn motor patrol duty in the town spotted several strange objects moving at great speed across the town. The objects were also seen by a number of boys camping out on Monkton shore.

"On the north side of the Haven there have been recent reports of UFOs at Hook and at Clarboston Road."

Credit: F.W. (Ted) Holiday.

## Scotland

### Bright UFO buzzes climbers

This item is taken from the *Scottish Daily Express* of October 14, 1974, —

"Two climbers came down a mountain last night and told of a weird, brightly-lit flying object which passed close to them early yesterday.

"Policeman David Dawson, 33, of Fort Matilda Place, Greenock, and Alan Kerr, 25, a civil engineer from Aldutha Avenue, Dumbarton, were returning from Tower Ridge, on Ben Nevis when they spotted the UFO.

"At about 4 a.m. we were sitting resting when it happened," said Constable Dawson. 'A bright light appeared about 400 feet below us, as if it was travelling along the bottom of the glen. At first it looked like a star.'

"Then it rose and came above us, about 600 feet away, and we could