

# WINGED BEINGS

by Luis Schoenherr

THE observation of a winged being as reported in the March-April, 1964 issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* is not quite unparalleled<sup>1</sup>. In the Spring 1960 the Italian jeweller Salvatore Cianci and his wife were driving in their car at night in the vicinity of Syracuse, Sicily. Suddenly a little being, three feet and a half in height appeared in the beam of the headlights. It wore an iridescent or luminous overall and a diver's helmet. Instead of arms it had something what the witness described as "two little wings". Mrs. Cianci suffered a heavy nervous shock.<sup>2</sup>

What are those "wings" really? It seems unlikely that they are actually a part of the bodies of these creatures. Certainly even the most open minded biologist would regard the idea of a human or humanoid being endowed with wings with reserve. The other possibility is that the wings serve a technical purpose. They could be parts of a highly sensitive hearing device, or radiators for the internal cooling of the space suit. A space suit with a reflector for the emission of heat rays was years ago proposed by Professor Oberth.<sup>3</sup> A radiator is the more efficient the greater a surface it has. It would be less of a hindrance if mounted on the back of the space suit and could therefore be easily mistaken for "wings". The same holds true, if those appendages are not radiators but the filters

of a breathing apparatus, to minimize breathing resistance such filters would also have as much surface as possible. If this supposition is correct it must be concluded, that those beings utilize at least certain components of our atmosphere. Possibly they are even to some extent accustomed to its composition and the filters serve as a protection against bacteria only.

Another interesting feature connects the Saltwood mystery with earlier observations. The witnesses said that the being came stumbling towards them. Now, in the cases of Mme. Leboeuf and the lorry driver Suddard<sup>4</sup>, beings with a hopping or jumping walk were also observed. And these beings were described as having either no arms or as holding them close to their bodies.

Unfortunately the teenagers at Sandling Park "didn't wait to investigate". If they had, they could possibly have told us more about those strange "wings". But it is certainly less alarming to write in the study about this subject than to encounter such a being alone at night. Despite my intense interest I am not so sure, whether I should have been curious enough to wait for it.

<sup>1</sup>"The Saltwood Mystery", *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, March-April, 1964, page 11.

<sup>2</sup>Source, Agence France Press, May 30, 1960

<sup>3</sup>Oberth, *Menschen im Weltraum*, Econ Verlag, Düsseldorf.

<sup>4</sup>Constance, *The Inexplicable Sky*, pp. 243-6.

## THE MENZEL - MICHEL CONTROVERSY

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chance effect and an actual UFO sighting, in which small "objects," (the exact nature of which is still to be determined) have been dispersed and have followed straight trajectories, thus contributing to create the illusion of a star of lines? I think we should. But I do not see how, in the present state of the discussion, one could disprove the Poncey phenomenon without accepting Type-II sightings as a physical reality.

Clearly, the generality of orthotenic lines has been exaggerated. But the fact that elementary tests, which should lead to the rejection of all the lines, do not appear to do so in several occasions, and yield a level of significance higher than what experienced statisticians would consider satisfactory in more classical fields, indicates that something remains which is understood in the topography of the French sightings of 1954. Whether

this is due to a real internal law of the phenomenon we are dealing with, as claimed by Michel, or to other effects, is hard to decide. All we can say is that, from the data we had, and going through the procedure we have described, we have found the results indicated.

A theory has been presented which can be checked completely by scientific methods: we cannot see any reason why our curiosity should stop, and why we should not look for more facts. In our opinion, Dr. Menzel has not presented sufficient evidence of the unprofitability of such a study. The casinos of Reno and Las Vegas have many statisticians on their staff. Their results seem, after all, most encouraging.

\* See "Recent Developments in Orthotenic Research" *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November-December 1963, issue.

# World round-up

*of news and comment  
about recent sightings*

## ENGLAND

### Walthamstow "object from space"

The *Walthamstow Guardian* reported a most unusual incident in its April 17 issue: "An unidentified flying object hurtled through the air above Walthamstow, scythed down telephone wires, etched a deep scar in the concrete edge of the River Lea tow-path and plunged into the peaceful waters.

"That was the report received by police just before nine o'clock on Monday night (April 13). It came from Walthamstow bus driver Bob Fall, a down-to-earth man of 26, who lives with his wife and two children at 47, Upper Walthamstow Road,

"A police search party went straight to the spot, just off Ferry Lane. They found the phone wires down but a search of the banks revealed nothing. The river was dragged—in vain.

"And this week Bob Fall told *The Guardian* what happened as he drove his 123 bus towards Tottenham on Monday. He said, 'I just glanced into the sky and saw something coming towards me very, very fast. It flew straight across the road and, had I been a few yards further forward, it would have hit the top deck of the bus. I saw it cut through the telephone wires and there was a loud crash as it struck the bank.

"At first I thought the back windows of the bus had come in and, as I turned around, I saw all the passengers looking out towards the river. There was a big splash in the water. I stopped as soon as I could to report it."

"A police spokesman said that four ducks had been disturbed while the river was being dragged and that

these, flying in line, could have been the object. He stressed that the river was only four to six feet deep in this part.

"But Mr. Fall discounted this theory. 'The thing was at least nine feet long, probably more, cigar-shaped and silver,' he said, 'If it had been a bird or birds I must have seen the wings. Besides, it was going too fast'."

### Croydon UFO

From the *Croydon Advertiser* of April 10:

"An unidentified flying object was spotted over South Norwood on Sunday (April 5). 'A large star-like object, definitely not a balloon or an aircraft,' was seen moving across the night sky by a group of people in the Livingstone Road-Layard Road area.

"The object was first seen by 14 year old Heath Clark Grammar schoolboy Lee Turner, of Livingstone Road, who was taking his dog for a walk. 'It moved too slowly for a shooting star and it was definitely not a balloon or an aircraft. It was like a star in the first magnitude moving north-north-east,' he said.

"Lee ran to his uncle's home in Layard Road. His uncle, Mr. Anthony Gittens, an amateur astronomer, said: 'I have seen meteorites before. But this was unlike anything I have seen. It took about four minutes to move across the sky before it went below the horizon,' he said.

"A group of people formed to watch the object as it moved past the ITV tower at Upper Norwood.

"'I have been quite sceptical about unidentified flying objects before and when Lee has told me about other ones I have believed them to be meteorites. But this has really

changed my way of thinking," said Mr. Gittens.

"A Defence Ministry spokesman said: 'We have had no reports of an unidentified flying object being seen in the Norwood area, and we have not been asked to investigate any such reports.'"

### Croydon again

Croydon was in the news once more, a week later when the *Croydon Advertiser* of April 17 carried the following report:

"When Mrs. May Church looked out of the window of her third-floor flat in Fir Tree Gardens, Shirley, on Sunday night, she started another unidentified flying object controversy. For Mrs. Church saw a 'large, red glowing object moving slowly across the sky.' Her husband, Albert, and son, Roy, also saw it—and they watched and saw it again on Monday night.

"Yet a Defence Ministry spokesman said: 'We have no knowledge of any unidentified objects being seen. And as far as I know, there are no experimental craft flying there.'

"Mrs. Church said: 'It was between 11 and 12 on Sunday night (April 12). We saw this brilliant light—very much like a star—moving above the Crystal Palace Parade going in the London Airport direction. It definitely was not an aircraft or a balloon or a star. It took about an hour to move across the sky. At one time I am sure there was a plane circling around it.'"

### Kent Mystery

Strange animals continue to appear in England. On February 20, the *London Daily Telegraph* and many