

MAIL BAG

Diminished prejudice

Sir,—I would move that the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* is to be congratulated on the depth of perception and painstaking fair-mindedness he brought to bear on his review in Volume 16, No. 4, of FSR (July/August 1970) of the book *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*.

In many ways J. A. Keel may well be considered the "enfant terrible" of the UFO-critical scene in the 1970s—at least on the European side of the Atlantic—and I, for one, would find it hard to be as charitable and as completely unprejudiced toward Keel as our Editor.

By Charles Bowen's critical method I am better appraised of, and less prejudiced against, Keel's approach to the UFO mystery than by anything that has gone before.

Wilfrid Daniels, 134 Weston Road, Stafford.

Surprises ahead?

Dear Sir,—The "open letter" by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, headed "A Question of Integrity", is to be welcomed by all lovers of Truth. We have witnessed over the years cries of "Let's have a Scientific Enquiry to settle once and for all, the vexed question of UFOs." We have had such a Committee and we have noted how "impartiality" is defined when employed by such bodies. I think it will be a long time before the genuine seeker after Truth in these matters will seek recourse to savants for the answers.

Your own article, sir, "Quod Erat Demonstrandum", like that of Captain Ivar Mackay, stresses the possible psychic solution to the enigma of UFOs. As you rightly remind us—persistently so—we must be "open" to all the varied phenomena that comes our way.

We are at a very important juncture in our researches—much that the world has "forgotten" is coming back into consciousness. Much more humility on the part of certain sciences is observable. Given integrity (as per Webster) and application to our studies, who knows what surprises lie ahead?

Ernest W. Shepherd, 303 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.

More UFO photos

Dear Sir,—The following article was given to me by a friend. He said that he

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.

cut it out of the Spanish magazine *GARBO* and that it corresponds to the issue of May 27, 1970. The translation is as follows:

"Bahia Blanca, Argentina

The Return of the UFOs

"A formation of UFOs has been photographed with excellent results. They were photographed over the city of Bahia Blanca, which is 760 kilometres from Buenos Aires. The photographer used a camera with a telescopic lens and managed to capture several objects which flew overhead emitting rapid and irregularly-spaced light signals. The photographer presented his snapshots to the local press, saying that the phenomenon had lasted for fifteen minutes. The same photographer had reported seeing flying saucers in 1965, also over Bahia Blanca."

I suppose that someone from Argentina has already brought you up-to-date on this. If not, I should think it worthwhile investigating. You might be able to get hold of some of these snapshots for publication in *Flying Saucer Review*.

Russell-B. Guérard y Holmes, Madrid, Spain.

That Spitzbergen saucer

Sir,—In his article *Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part 2* (FSR Vol. XVI, No. 4, July/August 1940), John Keel dismisses the flying saucer crash on Spitzbergen as a hoax, adding: "I visited the Swedish Consulate and ran a check through the available reference books. We were unable to locate any of the names mentioned in the article. Meanwhile, Brad Steiger asked his Scandinavian researchers to try to track the story down. They came up with a blank. More recently, the Finnish film producer Mr. V. Itkonen launched a search of his own. He discovered that the newspaper generally credited with the origin of the story had not even existed at the time. We can state categorically that the celebrated 'Spitzbergen flying saucer crash' was nothing more than a cheap journalistic hoax."

No wonder John Keel scored a blank trying to locate these names. To begin with, he went to the wrong Consulate. The Spitzbergen Islands belong not to Sweden but to Norway, so it is understandable that in a Swedish

Consulate no reference was available on the persons involved in the matter.

John Keel said the report of the crashed saucer on Spitzbergen had originally appeared in the early 1950s "... in a European tabloid, noted for its devotion to fictitious scandals." The "European tabloid" is probably *Le Courrier Interplanétaire*, organ of the *Association Mondialiste Interplanétaire*, founded by Professor A. Nahon of Lausanne, Switzerland. In its issue for January 1, 1955, it ran a story with an interview with Lord Dowding, the British Air-Marshal, who was quoted as saying:

"I believe in the existence of flying saucers, for the volume of material to substantiate it is fantastic. They are of extraterrestrial origin. In this field, the results of the researches of a senior commission of the Norwegian Army are significant. The experts' examination of the remains of a flying saucer which crashed some time ago (July 1952) in the mountains on Spitzbergen is said to have yielded some conclusions of the very greatest interest. The president of the said commission, General Gernod Darnbyl, recently declared:

"The crash on Spitzbergen Island is very conclusive. However, our scientists do not want to quit their investigation of the enigma yet . . . In the first place, there is a misunderstanding which needs to be cleared up, for at one time it was said that this crashed disc was probably of Russian origin. We wish to state emphatically that it has not been built by any country on earth." And the General went on: "The investigatory commission is not going to publish an extensive report until these sensational facts have been discussed with U.S. and British experts." (Also quoted by Jimmy Guieu in his *Blackout Sur Les Soucoupes Volantes*, published by Editions Fleuve Noir, Paris, 1956.)

Maybe we shall find the clue to this whole business in the closing words of this General Darnbyl. The C.I.A. had just begun to clamp down on the subject, and it is understandable that the "American experts"—probably the folk at Project Blue Book—had referred the matter to higher quarters. The result of which was a total blackout on the story of the crashed saucer at Spitzbergen, probably imposed through the American Ambassador in Oslo.

One thing would be interesting: to

make a search in the Norwegian press of the period, to see if any news of the crash had filtered through to the public before the lid came down. Who would conduct such an enquiry?
Antonio Ribera, Barcelona.

[John Keel slipped up on his geography if he consulted the Swedes about Spitzbergen, but we should note that he says that Mr. Itkonen, from nearby Finland, failed to validate the

story and that Brad Steiger's "Scandinavian researchers" also came up with a blank. "Scandinavia" includes Norway, so it is hard to believe that the necessary probes have not been conducted in that country too.—EDITOR.]

MORE ON THE IMJÄRVI CASE

Sven-Olof Fredrickson

Our contributor is Secretary of the Göteborgs Information Centre for UFO Study (GICOFF), Kjellmansgatan 9, 413 18 Göteborg, Sweden.

OUR first account of the Imjärvi, Finland, case of January 7, 1970, which was published in the "World Round-up" column of *Flying Saucer Review* for May-June 1970, contained information about a disc, seemingly created by the illuminated circle above the snow. In our main report, published under the title *A Humanoid was seen at Imjärvi* in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* for September-October 1970, I fear we omitted any mention of this disc. I have checked all letters and notes and have confirmed that the disc is part of the story, so here, to put the record straight, are details which should be read with our main case report. Please turn to page 14 of the September-October issue: in the final paragraph, the circle, one metre in diameter, is described, and the sentence concludes "... while around it there was a black edge, about 1 cm wide (see page 16)." Now add:

After a couple of seconds the circle began to decrease while at the same time it rose slowly upwards, creating a little disc. This disc remained motionless for only about two more seconds before suddenly vanishing into the tube under the object. Then a thick red-grey mist descended over the place, so that the men could not see one another. Looking then towards where the original circle had been, they once again saw an illuminated

ring, exactly similar to the first one, and one metre in diameter.

The reader should then continue to read as from the top of page 15.

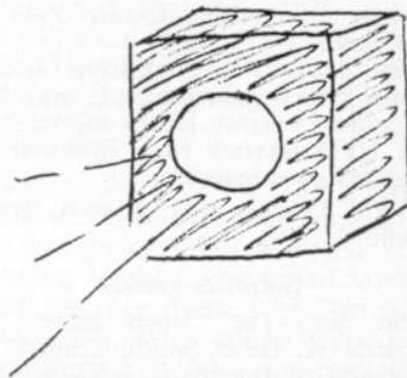
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Now, a few more details. Here are drawings of the face of the creature which Heinonen and Viljo say they saw, and of the black "box" from which emanated the pulsating light which the creature is stated to have aimed at Heinonen.



The face of the creature

The distance between the two men and the creature is estimated to have been about three metres.



The black "box"

About the post-encounter illness suffered by Aarno Heinonen: i) he vomited regularly for nearly two months, ii) his urine was not black for several months, but for slightly less than one month.

The very latest news we have had from Imjärvi concerns Heinonen, from whom we received a disturbing letter around about the end of September. He tells us that he is no better, and that he has a pain in his back, and others elsewhere in his body. He wrote that he was afraid he would be unable to send further letters as he is having much trouble with his right arm. He says he is very tired, and can do little work. Furthermore, he has a kind of network before his eyes all the time, and suffers from many headaches. He still feels as though he has warm water "going around in his stomach."