

Editor: RON TOFT

Chairman: OMAR FOWLER, M.I.S.M.

Secretary: RICHARD BEET

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+ " SAUCER " SEEN NEAR HENLEY +

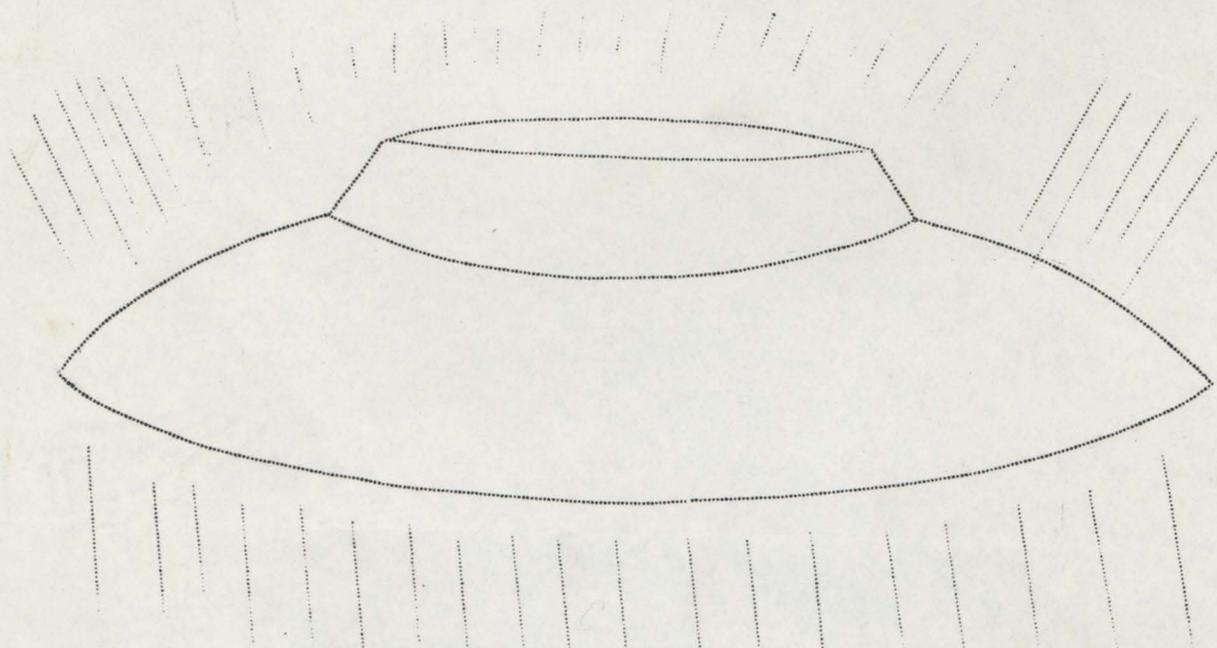
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A classic "saucer" shaped U.F.O. was seen hovering in the sky for a short while near Henley-on-Thames on November 4. It was observed by Mr. Richard Froud, who is employed by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Culham, Berkshire. He saw the U.F.O. at 7.25 a.m., while driving from Wargrave to Henley-on-Thames.

Says Mr. Froud in a letter to S.I.G.A.P. - "The cloud was low and dawn had almost broken. Then on the windscreen appeared a "saucer" shaped object. At first I thought it was a reflection on the glass, but putting my finger on it, I found it to be outside. At this point I had a very uneasy feeling. The object was hovering and seemed to be glowing like a fluorescent strip-light. Then some trees came between us and I did not see the object on the other side. It was not the Moon, and being very keen on aircraft, I can say that it was not any of our planes, or one belonging to the U.S.A. or Russia.

Mr. Froud adds: "For many years I have kept an open mind about "flying-saucers". But now I am certain that they are here".



Sketch of the object seen by
Mr. Froud on November 4

(N.B. This particular U.F.O. bears a resemblance to the "Adamski" type of saucer, although slightly more elongated).

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+ THOUSANDS SEE "BALLS OF FIRE" IN SKY +
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+                               By Ron Toft +
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Police stations up and down the country were inundated with calls on November 20 after thousands of people had seen "balls of fire" flashing across the sky shortly after 7 p.m.

I first heard about the sightings on the "News At Ten" television programme, and I must admit that my hopes were immediately raised that this was the start of a new U.F.O. wave. But it wasn't. As you probably know by now, the "fireballs" turned out to be nothing more mysterious than a Russian rocket burning up in the atmosphere.

World famous satellite expert Mr. Desmond King-Hele, who works in the Space Department at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, told me that the rocket was part of the booster used to launch the satellite Cosmos 253 on November 13. The satellite, whose mission was undisclosed, is thought to have been recovered safely in the Soviet Union five days later. The section of the booster which burnt up upon re-entry was about 20 feet long and weighed 1½ tons.

Mr. King-Hele went on to say that pieces of the rocket could have reached the ground intact - but where was impossible to say at present. For out of the thousands of sightings of the "burn-up", the R.A.E. has received only two accurate reports. Pointed out Mr. King-Hele: "We would like to know the exact compass position and elevation of the bits of the rocket".

S.I.G.A.P. was also flooded with reports. Chairman Omar Fowler received eight phone calls and Secretary Dick Beet, three. Dorking police were so inundated that they rang S.I.G.A.P. Area Investigator Dick Munford to assist with the inquiries. It was getting on for midnight when Dick eventually left the police station!

One person who saw the re-entry of the Russian rocket was Mrs. Pamela Green, of South Road, Horsell, Woking. She said she saw the bits of the rocket for between three and four minutes. "I could make out approximately between 30 and 50 separate pieces, mainly white with red and orange", said Mrs. Green in a report to S.I.G.A.P. She went on: "They looked like a cluster of lights travelling at the same speed. But occasionally one would appear to lose speed and then catch up again. It rather gave the effect of a rocket on Guy Fawkes night, but much wider and longer. The speed was difficult to assess - I can only compare it with an aircraft travelling at say 500 m.p.h. at 2,000 feet".

If any members saw the pieces of the rocket and took compass and elevation measurements, would they please send the relevant details to me. I will then pass the information on to Mr. King-Hele.

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A number of U.F.O.s reported recently in the Surbiton area have turned out to be searchlights used in the making of the film: "The Battle of Britain".

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+ GLOWING OBJECT HOVERS OVER SCHOOL +
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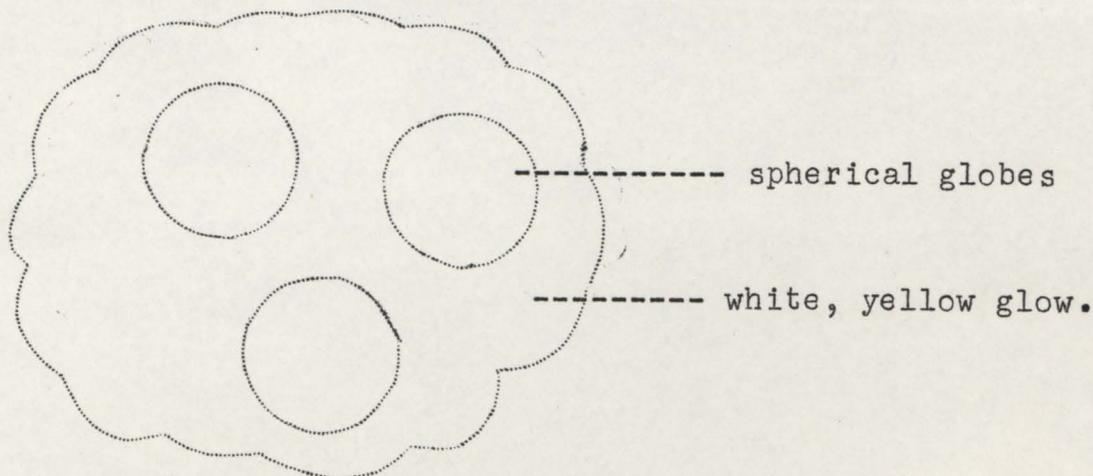
"A round yellow glowing object" was seen by six Chertsey schoolchildren on July 24.

It all began at about 9.30 p.m. Lesley Otley and her friend Marlene Bremner, both aged 14, were standing in the grounds at Meads Secondary School, in Chertsey Road, Addlestone, after helping with an end-of-term concert. Suddenly they saw "The Thing" hovering in the sky. Both girls rushed into the school to get more witnesses, and a few moments later brought out Burt Scuffham, Michael Wardley and Douglas Antill. All five claim they saw the U.F.O. accelerate rapidly and shoot away into the distance. Another pupil at Meads Secondary School, 15-year old Stephen Williams, also saw the object - at 11.30 p.m. while walking home. He said it appeared to come from the Staines direction and disappear over Addlestone.

Describing the object, Lesley Otley, who lives in Western Avenue, Penton Park, Chertsey, said: "The object was large and glowing bright yellow. It was larger than a plane and moved considerably faster than one. We first saw it when it was stationary. It then moved quickly and was out of sight behind some trees. It re-appeared a few minutes later and returned to the original spot. It then moved further away. It seemed to descend while moving away, but this may have been because it was moving away so quickly. The object did not make any noise".

Said Burt Scuffham, who lives in Victory Road, Chertsey: "For many years I have been interested in flying-saucers. I used to pray that I would see one, and when I did, well, it came as an incredible shock. To be perfectly truthful, I don't know what I really saw on the night of July 24. It may have been a visitor from another Galaxy, or something far more tangible".

Following an article in "The Surrey Herald", an Addlestone couple came forward and said that they had also seen "The Thing". They were Mr. John Read (23) and his wife Veronica (24), of Meadowlands Caravan Site. Mr. Read was the first to see the object. He was standing outside his caravan at about 10.30 p.m. Immediately he called his wife and her brother, 27-year old David Byrne. According to their account the object came from the Shepperton direction, hovered over the caravan site, grew very bright, and then suddenly faded and shot away back where it had come from, a red and white light flashing. Both adults and children agreed that "The Thing" moved faster than any plane.



Burt Scuffham's sketch of "The Thing"

British U.F.O. Research Association's Annual Meeting: Nov. 23, 1968.

Report by Group Secretary Dick Beet

Following the main agenda of the Annual Meeting, in which our Chairman, Omar Fowler, was elected to the Executive Committee, there was an open debate on U.F.O. research. This was initiated by Stephen Smith, Director of B.U.F.O.R.A. Research, and Dr. John Cleary-Baker, Editor of the B.U.F.O.R.A. Journal, and Evaluation Officer.

Stephen Smith suggested that U.F.O. researchers should concern themselves with the job of investigating sightings and not to become involved with decrying political or military authorities. He stated that there were now 200 investigators throughout the country.

Dr. Cleary-Baker said he felt that B.U.F.O.R.A. should confine serious research to U.F.O. landings or near landings, although all aspects of the phenomena should be probed. B.U.F.O.R.A. Vice-Chairman Lionel Beer, in answer to Dr. Cleary-Baker, suggested that all reports, however insignificant, should at least be recorded.

Anthony Durham, of Cambridge University, informed the meeting of the advances made with the collection of U.F.O. data for use with the I.B.M. 7090 Computer. It is hoped that S.I.G.A.P.'s new preliminary sighting report forms will contain facilities for machine readable data.

Richard Farrow, Assistant Research Director and S.I.G.A.P. Area Investigator, said that he would like to see all member-societies covering B.U.F.O.R.A. members in their area. Thus, if any sighting was reported and the member-society were unable to cover it immediately, then the independent member would be able to investigate it.

Dr. Cleary-Baker suggested that some form of training for investigators, a view strongly endorsed by S.I.G.A.P.

Edgar Hatvany asked if it was possible to employ the use of a computer to establish the probability of a sighting occurring in any one location. Anthony Durham stated that the capital cost for supplying automatic data handling equipment and the means of operation for one year, would be around £2,000.

The meeting concluded with a mention of the investigations carried out in Stoke-on-Trent last year by amateur astronomers Roger Stanway and Anthony Pace, who together wrote "The Flying Saucer Report". Their new work is "Manual for U.F.O. Investigators and Researchers". They proposed that if endorsed by the committee, it should be adopted as the standard B.U.F.O.R.A. Manual.

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Four more people have joined S.I.G.A.P. They are:

- M. A. Searle, of 11 Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey.
- Miss M. L. Lampard, of 71 Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey.
- A. Sholl, of 8 Pewley Hill, Guildford, Surrey.
- R. J. Timmis, of "Greystones", Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey.

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S.I.G.A.P. is now listed in the new edition of the Guildford telephone directory, in both white and yellow pages. Our "Yellow Page" classification is "Research and Development Organisations".

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Most of you probably remember that our consultant John Adams gave us a talk on Spectroscopy earlier this year in which he described how to make a simple spectroscope. I have in fact made one, and apart from teething troubles, works reasonably well. If you do not feel inclined to make such an instrument, which is designed for the analysis of emission spectra from light sources, a commercial model is now available from "Proops", of 52 Tottenham Court Road, London. The cost quoted is £3-10-0d. But if enough members are interested a reduction may be obtained. Please write to me.

- Dick Beet.

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Mrs. Jean Fowler, wife of S.I.G.A.P. Chairman Omar Fowler, is to audit the British U.F.O. Research Association's accounts.

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S.I.G.A.P. Foreign Correspondent Keith Burnett received last month a letter from Russia. It was very kindly translated for us by Gordon Creighton, President of B.U.F.O.R.A.

The letter, which is from Aleksandr Kazantsev, reads: "There is no special organisation in our country that deals with U.F.O. problems. But the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences contemplates publishing in 1969 a large collection entitled: "THE INHABITED UNIVERSE", under the editorship of Academician B. Konstantinov, Vice-President of the Academy. In that collection you might find answers to all the questions that interest you. You can order the collection through the NAUKA Publishing House in Moscow".

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The next S.I.G.A.P. meeting will be held on December 17, 1968 at the Plastic Coatings Factory, starting at 8 p.m. Two space films are being shown. The first is "Doorway to Tomorrow, a 28-minute colour documentary on the John F. Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. In place of "Clouds of Venus", which we have been unable to get, is a 30-minute colour documentary entitled: "Legacy of Gemini", which shows the major accomplishments in America's two-man Gemini programme and their relationship to the three-man Apollo programme. The film includes the best of Gemini photography.

Forthcoming B.U.F.O.R.A. meetings, which are held in Kensington Central Library, starting at 7 p.m., are as follows:

January 4, 1969: Brains Trust. An opportunity for members, and non-members for that matter, to put the association's officials "on the spot" and ascertain their views on many matters of interest to U.F.O. students.

February 1, 1969: UFO Occupants - Methods and Motives. A talk by Gordon Creighton, world famous U.F.O. researcher.

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About 15 luminous U.F.O.s were seen by several people over Algiers on the night of Thursday, November 14, according to a report in the "Daily Telegraph". Described as being "roughly triangular" in shape, the objects were flying in a northerly direction at a high speed.

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