

Author's impression of a

LANDING IN YUGOSLAVIA

See page 6

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THE M.O.D. AND UFOs

AN interesting article by Miss Jenny Randles entitled *The Ministry of Defence Approach* appears elsewhere in this issue of *Flying Saucer Review*. It is an article which, not unexpectedly, poses some important questions.

Annoying as it may seem to us, however, there is little doubt that the strict application of the "30-year rule" to the contents of Government files, let alone those of the Ministry of Defence, is in general justified. Equally, in view of the succession of defence cuts, it is at least understandable that the M.O.D. takes the line that time and effort cannot be spared, from what will be seen as more pressing tasks, to undertake the editing which would be necessary under the present rules before the UFO-report cases could be released. And even if they were so edited, would the remaining contents, shorn of reference to persons and places, be of much use?

Again it is understandable that they should reject the suggestion that persons reporting such cases should also be advised to contact UFOIN or FSR and since they shy away from the amateur networks and groups there is no one to whom they might pass the reports. They make it plain however that the M.O.D. investigation of UFO reports is limited to that area which involves the physical defences of the United Kingdom. If the UFO isn't displaying hammer and sickle insignia, or if it doesn't trigger the Fylingdales radar, then they are happy to file the report away.

One is left wondering, nevertheless, whether we, the public, are being best served by this attitude. Can we automatically assume that our best interests are being protected? Our feeling is that the answer to these questions is ... *probably not* — at least until the Government is prodded into setting up a UK equivalent of the French GEPAN.

* * * * *

The main purpose of the co-operation between FSR and UFOIN has been to help put British ufology on the map; to demonstrate to the world that we *do* experience sizeable and active UFO waves. Largely the standard of reporting has been reasonable; often it is good but, not unexpectedly there are mistakes and we find ourselves in the hands of the investigators. One slip-up has been demonstrated by Dr. Bob Morrell in his observations on the Rainford entity report. Despite all the good work, a failure to always maintain the expected high standard of investigation can only add strength to the resolve of official bodies like the M.O.D. to steer clear of the amateur groups.

ALASTAIR PREVOST

It was with great dismay that we learned of the death of Sqdn. Ldr. Alastair Prevost on September 8, 1978. When last I met Alastair at his home in Kent in October 1977 he was a very sick man, yet was enthusiastically concerned with his study project on the E.M. effects of UFOs on motor vehicles. A contributor to FSR, he was also a keen member of the UFOIN team.

ARE THERE UFOs THAT MIMIC?

Part 1

Ann Druffel

Our contributor from California, a frequent and welcome reporter in the pages of *Flying Saucer Review*, is a researcher and writer for MUFON, and a member of the Center for UFO Studies.

ANY UFO researcher worth his salt has come across particularly puzzling cases, in which credible witnesses will report close encounters with UFOs of odd design and precise structural detail, performing impossible manoeuvres. These will seem at first to be first-class reports deserving of careful follow-up.

Checking out standard sources during the subsequent investigations, these puzzling sightings fall apart in the researcher's hands. An ordinary man-made object — a blimp, an advertising plane, etc. — will be proved to have been in the vicinity of the sighting at the time stated. The witnesses must have been mistaken; subconsciously they must have embellished details and invented manoeuvres that their "UFO" was supposed to have performed.

Go back to these witnesses, however, and present the evidence uncovered. Try to interpret what has happened. The witnesses continue to contend that "they have seen what they have seen."

Cases such as these occur from time to time in Southern California skies and have caused the author and other local researchers much puzzlement. Invariably, the sightings have been classified as IFOs or stuck out of sight into bulging files. No real use has been made of them over the years.

To illustrate briefly the kind of case which is the specific subject of this column, let us consider the Santa Ana, California, sighting of January 2, 1973. On this smogless evening, the visibility was fifteen miles on the ground, sixty miles one thousand feet above the earth. Unusually pure air imparted a brilliance and clarity to lights and objects rarely experienced in this polluted basin.

Between 6.30 and 7.00 p.m., seven witnesses in four different sections of the city viewed a startling, vividly lighted metallic craft. The domed vehicle was complete with jaunty antennae and a lighted door.¹ The author was, unfortunately, the investigator on this promising case. It was a dismal task indeed to have to inform the awed and frightened witnesses that they had mistaken the Goodyear blimp for a craft from another world.

The Goodyear blimp was cruising Orange County, including Santa Ana, that evening between 6.00 and 8.00 p.m. Three years before, it had been outfitted by its enterprising owners with 7,560 coloured light bulbs. Flashing in varied thirty-second patterns of green, red, yellow and blue, they called the world's attention to the next breathtaking advertisement which followed on words outlined with ordinary white lights.²

The brilliant colours and oval shape reported by the witnesses conformed closely to those of the blimp. The light patterns in most cases also were similar. But the structured details, antennae, door, dome, a sound "like an electric generator" — did not conform. Above all, the meteoric speeds, rapid decelerations, immense apparent size, and angled flight paths reported were not compatible with the clumsy airship, whose cruising speed is thirty-five mph, and which was carefully ambling along at minimum 1000-foot altitude. Perhaps the most eloquent statement regarding the Santa Ana misidentifications came from the blimp's pilot himself. "How could they mistake it?" he asked. "It has GOODYEAR written all over it, and anyone within a mile of it can read the ads unless they are blind or *can't* read!"

Sine functions and ratios applied to the apparent sizes and angles of sight showed impossible correlation, in most cases, with what the blimp should present at normal cruising height.

For the sake of objectivity, however, it was decided that all the witnesses were wrong. In spite of our tactful efforts, seven puzzled, angry witnesses were left stoutly maintaining that the object was not, and never could be, the blimp.³

The same thing happened three months later in Tarzana, California on April 10, 1973. In that San Fernando Valley community, not one but *three* startling craft whose colours and shape roughly resembled the blimp manoeuvred together before departing at a speed considerably above the blimp's best efforts. But the blimp was cruising the valley that night. Again, for the sake of objectivity, the case was put down as "misidentification of conventional object." But by this time the author had begun to wonder.⁴

Three years passed, during which whirling, lighted discs which circled larger lighted discs were identified tentatively as a new type of advertising helicopter. The witnesses were as puzzled as the investigator when she tried to tell them what they had seen.

On February 1, 1977, a sighting occurred which, lightly speaking, was the straw which broke the ufologist's back. On that evening at 8.40 p.m. above Glendale, California, two young professional men (RQ and RD) flying southbound in a helicopter at 1100 feet saw a bright yellowish light passing them, going northbound at an estimated 100 mph. It was about a thousand feet to their left and two hundred feet lower in altitude. Thinking that it was a fixed-

wing aircraft flying at an illegal height, the pilot of the chopper turned his ship toward the light in the hope of catching its number and reporting it to the FAA. The object immediately came up to the helicopter's altitude and copied its turn precisely. In less time than it takes to tell, the men in the helicopter found themselves performing a Luffberry circle manoeuvre with the strangest craft they had ever seen.⁵

The word "craft" as used here is not by author's choice. It was a carefully chosen word used by two exceptionally-qualified observers. Their own words speak more picturesquely than any paraphrasing could ever do.

"It was approximately 300 to 500 feet away, orbiting in a precise 180 orbit with us. We were in at least a 500-foot orbit and going 60 miles an hour. It was an unusual-looking light, really threw off a lot of light upward, illuminating an object above it to which it was attached. It appeared to be a cylinder-shaped deal (see Figures 1 & 2). This cylinder-shaped thing was approximately 10-15 feet high and 4-8 feet wide. It wasn't another aircraft, that's for sure. It was upright, you know... it couldn't fly that way. We were wondering what the heck it was. Couldn't see any wings. Couldn't figure it out. We were more or less astonished at what we were seeing. We circled with it in precision flight for five or ten orbits. We saw markings or struts or something going up into a triangle type of thing and sticking out at an angle from the sides. The cylinder and struts or markings were dark colour, or grey. We were seeing the struts or markings from the light reflecting up. As far as whether they were dimensional or not, it would be hard to determine.

"The light was right on the bottom. It was *bright!* It was a yellowish-white which resembled no aircraft navigational light we've ever seen. It didn't have distinct edges. We tried to get a closer look at the whole thing with our gyroscopic binoculars, but the gyros weren't turned on...the plug wasn't in, so there was a lot of vibration. When [the pilot]

took the binoculars the object suddenly turned into us. It appeared as though it was going to change course and come at us. [The pilot] quickly gave the binoculars back and took over the controls again, kind of veered to the right a little, to continue on a wider orbit. But it then stayed in the orbit, but a little higher than us now.

"It definitely was too controlled, too exact, to be any kind of even remote-controlled thing.

"We said, 'let's try to get a closer look. Let's go up after it'. We changed altitudes and were going a little higher. It went higher also, broke orbit and went off into the east-southeast at about 11 o'clock position and vanished, like it turned off the light. We were in the same area that it vanished, which was up another 1000 feet and there was no fog up there, no way it disappeared in any fog or went to the east or whatever. It evidently turned off its light and took off."⁶

This February 1, 1977, sighting should be a researcher's dream. It was comprised of well-qualified witnesses, exact details, precision manoeuvres and inexplicable manner of disappearance. Yet when massive efforts were made to locate ground witnesses, none could be located who had seen the circling object or the helicopter. What *did* turn up were a series of sightings, including one on February 1st, between 8.35 and 8.45 p.m. in the same area where the helicopter performed its Luffberry circle with the strange craft. These sightings were of unknown objects, later determined to be probable hoax balloons of an unfamiliar type.

In reading through the voluminous tape transcripts connected with this case, one is struck by the fact that the two witnesses in the helicopter qualified most of their statements. They were most careful in verbal and written description. The only thing they did *not* qualify was that they were sure the object was not a balloon of any kind. They "have seen what they have seen."

In this field of UFO research, where nothing is certain and where evidence often conflicts with "reality," it is probably acceptable to ask this

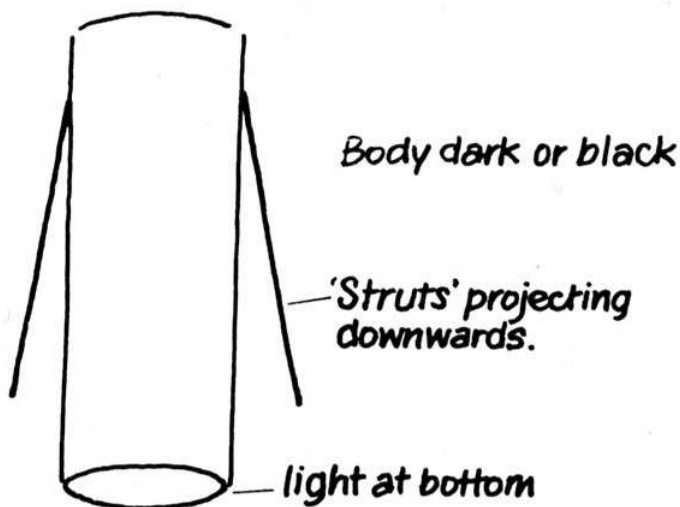


Figure 1 The sketch by R.Q.

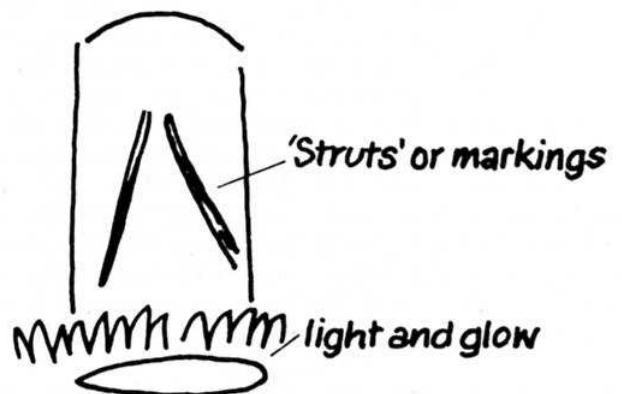


Figure 2 The sketch by R.D.

question: "Do UFOs sometimes mimic conventional objects?"

* * * * *

Serious researchers have endeavoured during the past thirty years to seek out conventional answers to UFO reports. It has been the author's experience that only about 2% to 3% of raw data sightings received turn out to be scientifically valuable "unknowns", *not* 20%, the commonly accepted figure. The case of the Glendale helicopter sighting of February 1, 1977, is recorded as a likely "unknown," or UFO.

The trouble with the Glendale helicopter case is that it happened at the same time and location as hoax balloon activity of an unfamiliar type. Are we, therefore, forced to come to the conclusion that the two professional and trained observers who were encountering a strange "craft" 1100 feet above the city of Glendale were, in fact, viewing an errant hoax balloon? In order to try to answer this knotty problem, let us consider the nature of the hoax balloon reports in Glendale on and around February 1st.

At about 8.00 p.m. on January 28, 1977, on Sparr Boulevard, which borders Glorietta Park, over which the helicopter sighting occurred, a 16-year-old girl, H.C., saw a bright yellowish light rising up in the south. As it went out of sight at the top of her window frame she ran outside to catch sight of it again, meanwhile calling to her mother. The two witnesses stood on their driveway while the light wandered eastward, then straight up again, clearing the tops of nearby trees. Above the bright, steady light was an indistinct black mass, on to which little or none of the light source reflected. It made another bend eastwards and then started drifting northerly at 12 degrees elevation, slowly rising higher. It now kept a straight path seemingly only at a couple of hundred feet, but its motion was "floating" rather than controlled. Apparent size of the light was about one-half the full moon. As it climbed, it diminished in size and slowly changed colour to orange. It disappeared from view in the NNE at 60 degrees elevation. Duration of the sighting was about ten minutes.

Rather awed by the occurrence, the younger witness was doubly startled the next two nights. From her room on these two subsequent evenings, she saw identical lights rise out of the south. On the 29th, the object remained below 20 degrees elevation, half-hidden behind trees and evidently travelling in a southerly direction. As before, the light was very bright and close. On January 30th, the light drifted towards the east, travelling upwards and disappearing behind a neighbour's house. The young girl's mother and brother were witnesses with her, and all three described the light as comparable to a car's headlights on high beams from a half-block away.

On February 1st, the night of the helicopter sighting, at about 8.35 p.m., H.C. and a 17-year-old friend, Kaye Brown, were in her room on Sparr Boulevard listening to records, when she saw the

fourth appearance of the strange light. The two girls dashed outside and watched the light, self-contained as before, manoeuvring in a lazy drifting pattern from east to west across the southern sky. At the same time, they heard neighbour boys laughing in a yard two doors down. They did not pay much attention as the boys, H.C. stated later, are "nocturnal" and always working and kidding around with friends in their garage.

As the light, with its dark mass above it, floated back and forth in the sky, Kaye phoned her mother. Mrs. Brown, who lives only a few blocks from the C. home, could not see the light, which indicated that the light was comparatively near the Sparr Boulevard location. H.C. continued to watch while Kaye was on the phone and saw the light continue an upward path into the southern sky, turn orange and fade out of sight into the distance about 8.50 p.m.⁷

Checking the wind directions later, it was determined that on all four nights of the Sparr Boulevard sightings, the winds were light. On all four nights, the wind direction was consistent with the directions of the object's travel, and on the evenings of variable winds, the drifting "manoeuvres" could be accounted for by shifts in wind direction. Therefore, it was decided that the Sparr Boulevard sightings were probably hoax balloons.

But of what type? They were certainly not ordinary hot-air or candle balloons. There were no lighted bags, flickering, or dropping of flaming particles, common to candle balloon sightings. They were not highway flares on helium-filled bags, as these have a typical sputtering effect entirely different from the steady, brilliant Sparr Boulevard objects. A valiant effort was made to track down the hoaxers, but all efforts were met with hostile silence from the suspected boys and their parents.

If any reader knows of a new type of hoax balloon which fits the above description, it would be very good to hear.

We are left with a dilemma. South of Glorietta Park, a few blocks from Sparr Boulevard, a helicopter with two hardheaded, professional observers, was circling with a precisely controlled "craft." The evidence of the hoax balloon activity was presented to these witnesses. Their answer again spoke eloquently: they unqualifiedly stated that they were certain, judging from their observation of reference points during the encounter, that they were orbiting *with* the object, not merely circling around it. No way, in their opinion, could it have been any kind of balloon drifting with the wind.

It is the author's opinion that the two helicopter observers did *not* see, and misidentify, a hoax balloon. There are points of similarity, to be sure, such as the bright yellowish light and the markings or "struts", not unlike those in some candle balloons. But there are four major points of difference between the object they encountered and the objects seen from the ground: 1. The objects of Sparr Boulevard acted like balloons, with drifting flight and lazy manoeuvres. The "craft" which the helicopter encountered manoeuvred precisely and in at least three crucial points during the observation seemed to

perform intelligent counter-reactions; 2. The dark, indistinct mass above the bright light seen from the ground reflected little or no light, whereas the object high in the air reflected light up on to two thirds of its cylindrical body. But still the reflected light is entirely dissimilar to that of any known type of hoax balloon; 3. Though carefully questioned, none of the Sparr Boulevard witnesses on February 1st saw or heard a helicopter or other aircraft near or circling around the light, even though the object that night was watched for 10–15 minutes *during* the time of the helicopter sighting. A glance at the map indicates that the major part of the helicopter encounter occurred several blocks south of Sparr Boulevard. Massive efforts have failed to find any witnesses who saw a helicopter circling with or around a light in the area involved; 4. The manner of disappearance of the helicopter's strange travelling companion was instantaneous, unlike the gradual disappearance of the objects seen from the ground.

Therefore, it seems reasonable to think that the helicopter observers were seeing a bird of quite a different feather — *not* a hoax balloon. Could it have been an "unknown" mimicking some of the

characteristics of the man-made object drifting below?

* * * * *

In Part II, next issue, some surprising correlations will be offered, comparing the Glendale object with a classic Brazilian UFO, which was involved in one of the strangest abduction cases ever recorded.

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2. Santa Ana Register, "Brilliantly Lighted UFO Sighted in Santa Ana," by Bob Kirkpatrick, January 24, 1973.
3. Skylook, March 1973, "Brilliantly-Lit UFO in Santa Ana, California Probably a Blimp".
4. Skylook, June 1973, "California Witness Says UFO is Not a Blimp".
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6. Witnesses' statements edited from two 90-minute interviews, tape-recorded and transcribed.
7. From one-hour taped interview with helicopter witnesses (Druffel files), March 1, 1977.

1942 SIGHTING ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT

J. Burns BSc.

Our contributor, a BUFORA member, lives in Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

THIS report concerns an incident stated by the witness, a German infantryman fighting in a vast battle on the Russian front, in the Tula region. The soldier is now my father-in-law.

During this period, August 1942, the German Army was involved in a bitterly fought retreat, digging in in trenches and moving back every 7 to 10 days. The witness cannot recall the date, but the time of the incident was about 2.00 p.m. and there was broken cloud cover at a fairly high level. It was warm, and slightly misty with a light breeze.

My father-in-law writes:—

"During the Second World War, on the Russian front; I saw the most baffling object [*I have seen*] in my life. Out of a cloudy sky appeared slowly a huge cigar-shaped object, something like a Zeppelin, but much bulkier and rounder at the front. It was of a dull silvery colour. It remained stationary for at least a minute.

"There were no visible windows or any other sign of a gondola to be seen. What made it so amazing was the absence of any engine noise. It shot off at an upwards angle at terrific speed and within seconds was out of sight, again with no noise and no vapour trail.

"This thing was seen by quite a few

men. We talked about it but in the end shrugged it off as a mirage. It was reported to the commanding officer because it was thought it could have been a Russian secret weapon."

I have ascertained that in the first instance the object moved out of the clouds slowly, snout pointing downwards and, after levelling out and remaining motionless for the minute as described it tilted its snout upwards through the clouds. The clouds were not disturbed by its passage through them.

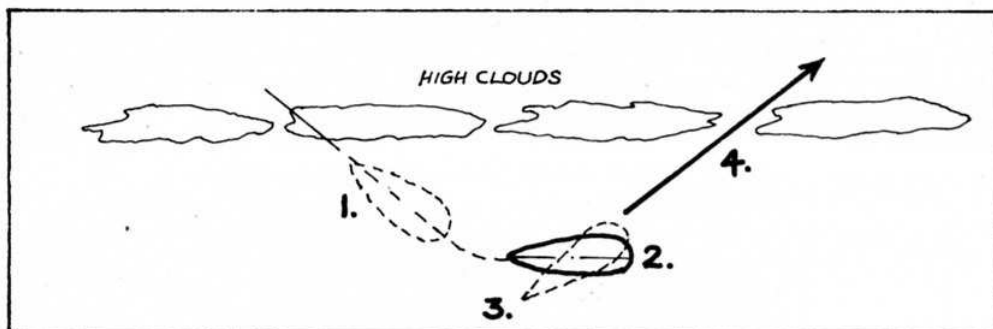
The UFO was approximately 300 yards long and 100 yards high at the thickest part (more than twice the size of the ill-fated *Hindenburg* airship). It was very smooth, had no markings,

and was of an aluminium-hued colour.

It was a daylight visitation, and the 20 or so men who saw it were quite alarmed — especially as they thought it might be a Russian secret weapon.

Based on information given by my father-in-law in a report form, and using simple triangulation and proportion, it would seem that the object was stationary at a height of 3,400 feet and was some 4,300 feet from the observer (the margin of error could be as high as 40% which in no way would make the figures insignificant).

The witness is a very practical man and does not show any interest in phenomena of this kind — other than the case just described.



1. Slow descent
2. Level, and motionless for one minute
3. Upwards tilt
4. UFO departs at "extreme speed"

LANDING IN YUGOSLAVIA

Milos Krmelj

Our contributor is a researcher, and reader of many years' standing of *Flying Saucer Review* who lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Yugoslavia

THE major witness in this case from Yugoslavia is a young lady, Angela Rajhs of STARA CERKEV near KOCEVJE. In May 1971 when the sighting took place she was aged 17.

The first report of an apparent UFO landing at Stara Cerkev came to my ears quite accidentally and in view of the length of time which had elapsed it proved no easy task to track down the principal eye-witness. However, when I did eventually make contact I found her co-operative and willing to talk of her experience. The report which follows has been constructed from the answers which she gave in interview:—

“One cool and cloudy evening at the beginning of May 1971 I was returning home about 8.00 or 8.30 p.m. I was riding my bicycle along the Stara Cerkev road when suddenly I became aware of a reddish glow and a strange “buzzing” sort of noise, something similar to that made by an aeroplane, but too close to be anything like that. I had heard a similar noise once before when I was near the church and, being curious, I stopped.

From the road I could see a bright red light which appeared to be coming from a dip in the ground in a nearby field. It was lighting up the whole area.” (Authors note: The “dip” or “hollow” is not large: it is situated near the end of a pasture which is crossed by high tension electricity lines.)

“I stepped off my bicycle and went to get a better look. Then I noticed the ‘thing’ in the hollow. It was very high and I could see the top from the road. As I got closer I could see that it was about 7–10 metres long and shaped like a giant egg or ellipse standing on three legs. The legs however were only about a metre long.

“I watched it for some minutes — say about four or five — but I was a bit frightened so I went back to my bicycle and began to ride home. I rode slowly as I kept looking back over my shoulder. Then I saw this thing take off. It rose into the air slowly and obliquely, it was turning in a sort of spiral as it rose, and the “whistling-buzzing” sound was going on all the time. It reminded me of the noise made by a jet plane. I saw the three legs being pulled inside the body. In the middle of the object I saw what looked like a yellow window but the whole surface was radiating light — even the round things on the ends of the legs. I could not see anything else on the object. Oddly enough it had been an oval shape when on the ground but in the air it seemed to be round.”

In answering questions the witness stated that she had felt a sensation of heat radiating from the object. She had not smelt anything nor had she noticed anything wrong with the watch she was wearing — either at the time or since. No trouble had been reported with the electricity supply. She knew little about UFOs but had read something in a local journal called the *Dolenjski List*. This had mentioned sightings of unidentified objects over Dolenjska.

* * * * *

We come now to the evidence of the other witnesses, Angela's mother and their neighbour. Both reported having seen the object at about the same time, the mother had just seen a red ball flying in the direction of a nearby hill but the neighbour, Alojz Krž aged 50, claims that he saw the object already on the ground at about 7.30 p.m. (some 30 minutes to an hour before Angela's sighting). He went fairly

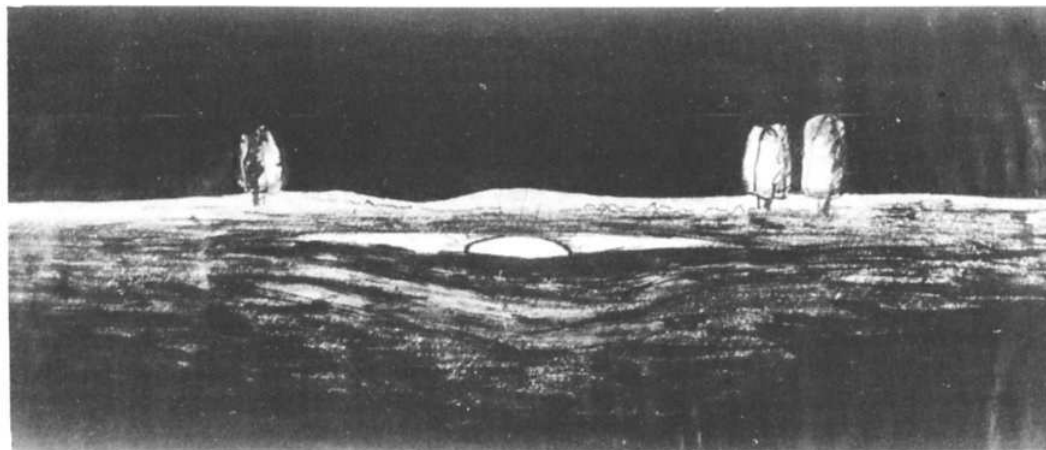


Figure 1
Initial sighting following the
buzzing: the red light in a
hollow.

Author's illustrations

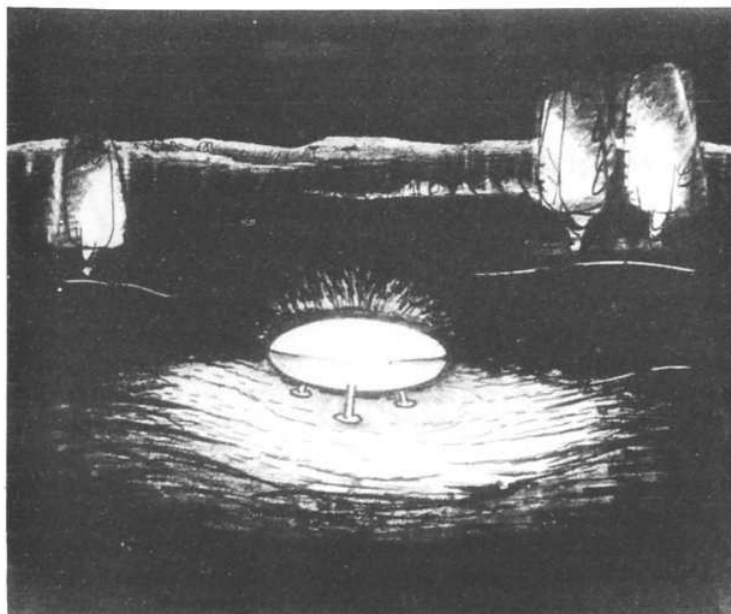


Figure 2 A "giant egg" on three legs

close to the object (to a distance of about twenty metres) and was able to give a description of the landing legs which tallies with that of the main witness, adding however that they were triangular in section. His general description of the object seems slightly exaggerated, but he freely admits that he was frightened, in fact nothing in his war-time experiences as a partisan had frightened him as much as the sight of this UFO in May 1971!

The day after the landing Angela Rajhs went back to the spot, this time accompanied by her parents who were perhaps understandably apprehensive. They saw marks on the ground consisting of a series of "pointed" holes almost as if they had been dug with an implement. They were all equally deep and so far as they could judge about 15–20 cm. in diameter.* The grass round about seemed to be burned. The family did not go close enough to make accurate measurements, however, as they were afraid there might be some sort of radiation hazard. Angela

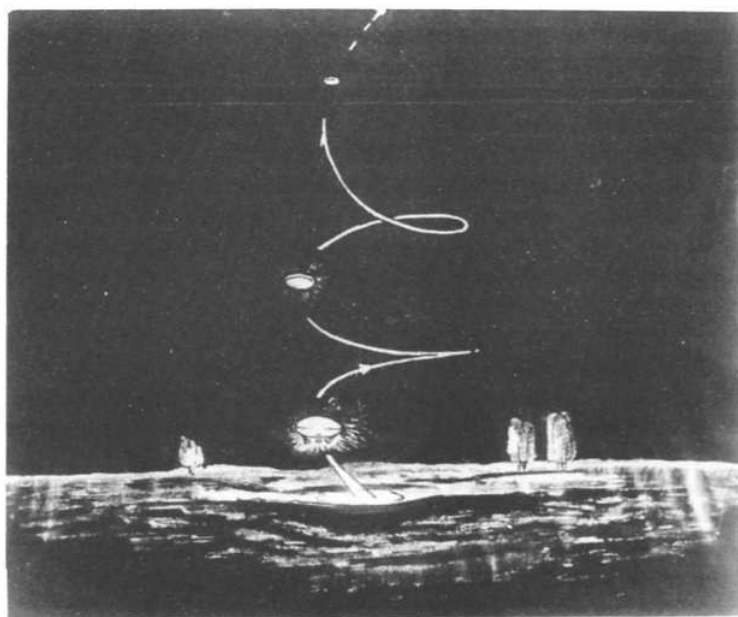


Figure 3 Take off, whistling and buzzing

says the holes were certainly there a fortnight after the event but she did not return again for some time and all traces have long since disappeared.

It is a pity that such a long time elapsed between the occurrence and my first hearing of it. This is due partly to the fact that when the witnesses reported to the local police they were subjected to ridicule and thereafter made no further attempt to report or seek for explanations. Their memories have of course faded a little since 1971 but in view of the independent sightings of the object on the ground and the corroborative nature of the witnesses' stories it seems tolerably certain that this was a genuine UFO experience.

* Authors. Note. The soil in the pasture has been examined and at the time of examination seems very hard. If the soil condition was the same at the time of the sighting I calculate that it would require an object weighing 10 to 15 tons to make the holes described.

UFOs AND SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

UFOs AND THE CHRISTIAN, by Eric Inglesby. This book is the first of its kind by a Church of England clergyman linking UFOs with the end of age battle £2.70

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AN INVESTIGATION INTO KIRK ALORE'S ENCOUNTERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

W. K. Allan

THE front page of Vol. 25, No. 9 March 1977 issue of the APRO Bulletin features a report by Michael Sinclair, APRO field investigator, of a possible Canadian abduction west of Prince George, British Columbia.

This interesting account induced a resolve to investigate further at the first opportunity. John Magor, editor of *Canadian UFO Report*, received a news item by reporter Shelley Hallock of the *Caledonia Courier* of the same incident which aroused the same desire to learn more details. Accordingly we travelled together with our wives, Lillian and Yvonne, to Fort St. James and on October 19, 1977 taped the following interview:—

"My name is Kirk Alore and the date was January 5, 1977. It all started when I was driving back from my parents' place from Salmon Arm in the Okanagan. It was about four ten in the morning and I was roughly 30 miles out of Prince George north west. I was coming up on to a straight stretch. I never met a car since I left Prince and I came up around the corner and noticed this red light about a mile away to my right. It was above some hydro towers and I just kept looking at it as I drove along. I then saw another, oncoming car. It was about half a mile away. Then I noticed this red light move, and as I watched it just shot right over the top of the car that was coming towards me. I just stared at it in amazement as if I had the urge to look at it. Then it just shot towards me at the time the oncoming car was about 300 yards away, if that. It just shot towards me, it was huge. It took up about two highway widths and it just came right towards me. At that instant a red light lit up the interior of my cab and I got strange sensations such as my arms or legs falling asleep like pins and needles. Then I swerved and missed this thing for it was coming right for me and it all happened so fast I don't remember anything after that, I sort of knocked out.

"I guess, according to our watches, fifteen minutes later or so, this guy was opening my door and he was shaking me and he was asking me if I was all right and I said 'yeah, I'm OK, I guess so.' I was sort of sick at the moment, I felt like I'd been looked over, I was aching all over, my arms, everything were sore. And our cars were about two feet apart. And he said 'The strangest thing happened to me; I came to standing outside my car.' As for me, I was in the passenger seat when he shook me. We could find no skid marks. I was doing at least seventy miles an hour when I swerved into his lane ...and there were no skid marks."

"We went to the hospital, both of us, in Vanderhoof, and they checked us over and apparently it

was just shock, and they sent us on our way. And I never did get the other guy's name and neither did the hospital. We're having a really bad time trying to get hold of him."

Magor (editor *Canadian UFO Report*): "Kirk, could you give us a description of the object as well as you can remember?"

Kirk: "It was sort of oblong. The outer shell looked like alligator skin. It had little protruding triangular wings, except they were more rounded (on the ends—see diagram). Underneath it had a circular thing moving — like an electric razor, a disc turning inside the other. It had a dome on top. It had all different coloured lights inside of it like green, red, yellow, blue — sorts of little dots — and then it had just one straight beam of red light; it shone the red light in my truck."

Allan: "How big were these little lights in the dome? As big as the spotlights in the store, or a car headlight?"

Kirk: "Smaller than a car headlight."

Allan: "They were all different colours, did the colours change?"

Kirk: "Mmm hmm (nodding affirmative), I noticed that they were changing — constantly changing back and forth."

Magor: "These lights were coming from the dome?"

Kirk: "Yes"

Allan: "This thing on the bottom, was it rounded like a Phillips electric razor?"

Kirk: "Mmm hmm."

Allan: "And it was like a single one of those heads rotating?"

Kirk: "Except one was rotating inside the other more or less."

Allan: "Were they rotating opposite ways?"

Kirk: "One would go one way, while inside there would be one going the other way."

Magor: "Kirk, you were travelling at some speed. How would you be able to see this detail?"

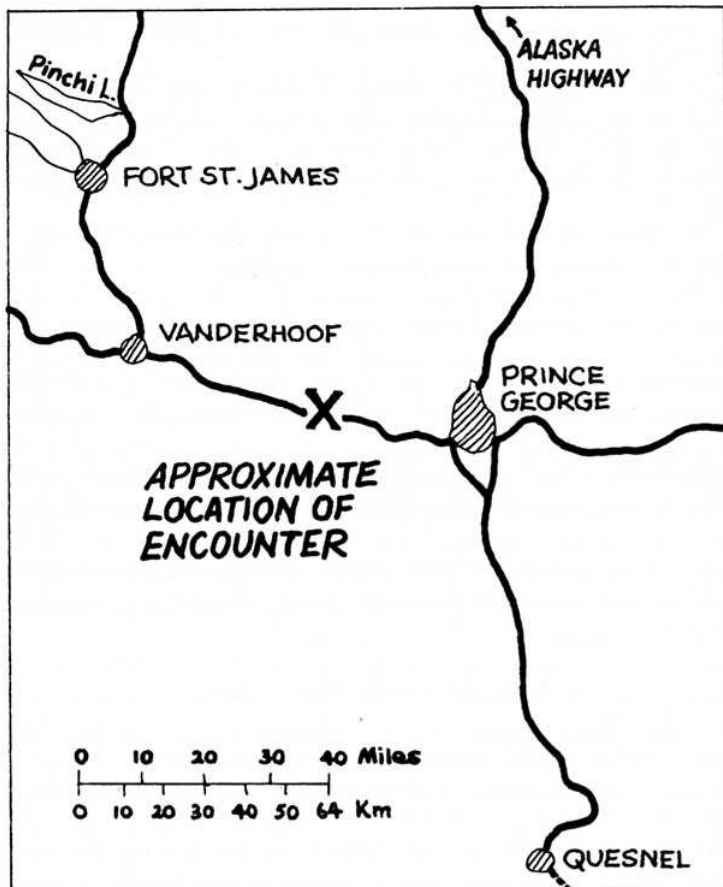
Kirk: "I just stared at that thing for the longest time when it was overtop of the oncoming car and I noticed everything in great detail. This was strictly rotary action there was no reciprocating action."

Allan: "Have you any idea what diameter those rotating parts would be?"

Kirk: "Approximately the width of the highway. I'm not really too sure about that."

Allan: "There are two rings. Did they go right to the centre or were there two rings of a certain width?"

Kirk: "Say you had a circle like this, just say 20 or 15 feet wide and then you had another one about the same width, and this one inside was turning this way



and this one was turning the other way."

Allan: "About the same centre."

Kirk: "Mmm hmm."

Major: "Could we pause a minute while I get a drawing maybe?"

Major: "What reminded you of an alligator?"

Kirk: "The outer surface of the object because of the texture, the ripples in it, and the colour was dull somewhat like alligator skin. There was no definite glow or anything like that."

Major: "One more question on the appearance. Now you couldn't see the length of it — you couldn't see the tail very well."

Kirk: "No."

Major: "But was it longer this way than it was wide?"

Kirk: "Yes, most definitely."

Major: "And it was about 120 feet wide so it might be up to a couple of hundred feet long."

Kirk: "Mmm Hmm, could be."

Major: "Pretty hard to say. I realize. And did it light up the road — where did the red light come from?"

Kirk: "The red light was protruding from the dome."

Major: "Did it light up the road, or was it shining upwards?"

Kirk: "It had no glow to it, actually the light never seemed to light up anything else, it just seemed to light up the dome itself."

Major: "At the last minute it just seemef to come right towards you. Is that right?"

Kirk: "Yes."

Major: "And you had lost sight of the other fellow by this time?"

Kirk: "Yes."

Major: "This guy came right in between you?"

Kirk: "Pretty well, yeah."

Allan: "How far apart were the two cars when you were finished?"

Kirk: "About two feet apart, if that."

Allan: ("Would they have collided if they had kept going" (that is were they in the same traffic lane).

Kirk: "Yes."

Allan: "Do you know what model car his was?"

Kirk: "His was a Ford Galaxy 68."

Major: "And yours was?"

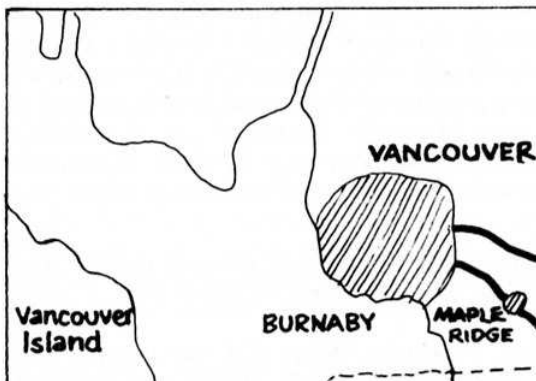
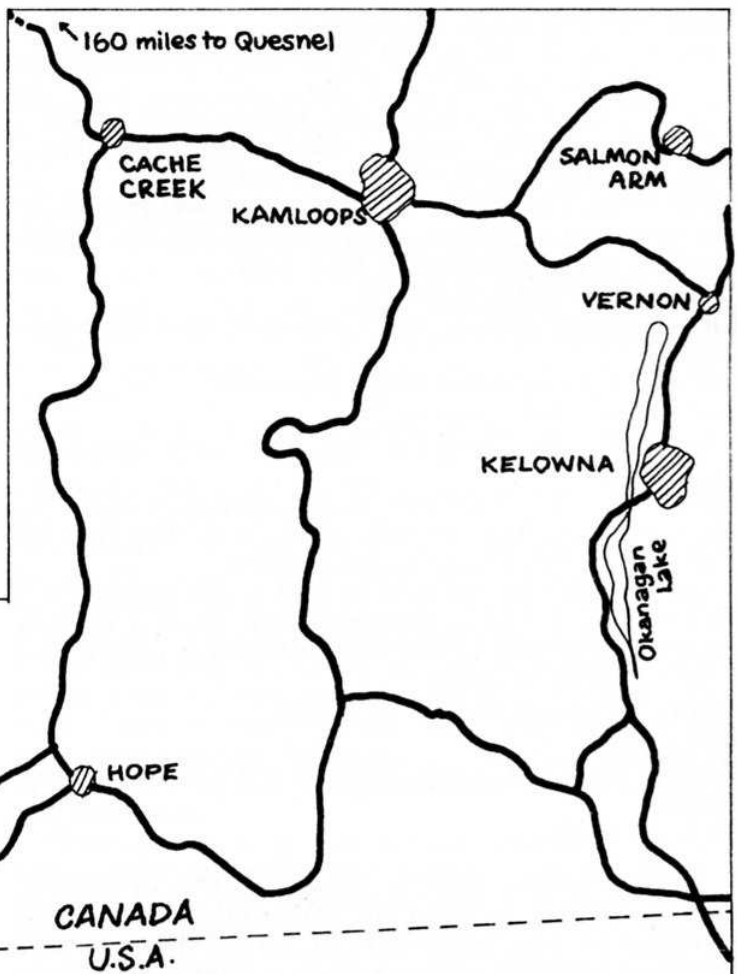
Kirk: "A 77 GMC pickup."

Major: "When the other fellow leaned in the window or whatever he did. . ."

Kirk: "Opened the door"

Major: "Did he say what he had seen?"

Kirk: "Yes, he said in his rear view mirror he saw the red light coming upon him and then as it moved in front of him he says he got the same feelings I did,



that prickly feeling. And he says after that he doesn't remember a thing. He says all he remembers are my car lights and that's it. But he did definitely see it though because when it moved out in front towards me he saw it — but all he got a glimpse of was the underneath part of it, of that circular thing, that's why I'm so definite about it."

Major: (Referring to diagram) "Now this whole thing (wing span) would be about 120 feet and this (the circle underneath) would be about half of that?"

Kirk: "They were silver coloured and one was darker than the other, that's why I noticed they were turning."

Major: (Pointing to circle detail drawing) "And what are these things in here — these lines, a sort of fan?"

Kirk: "Yes, a turbine or fan. One of the circles was darker than the other, the inside one was darker and the outside one was lighter."

Allan: "Have you any idea about how fast they would be going around — about like a 33 1/3 RPM record player?"

Kirk: "Approximately."

Major: "This thing, when it came at you Kirk, you can't certainly estimate its speed, but was it going fast?"

Kirk: "It wasn't going that fast, but it just seemed like at the spur of the moment the last moment it just shot towards me and that's when I panicked."

Allan: "There was no radio in your truck?"

Kirk: "Yes there was."

Allan: "Was it on?"

Kirk: "Yes, it was on and there was distortions, lots of it."

Allan: "What kind of distortion?"

Kirk: "Just crackling, and it sounded like my radio was going to blow up."

Allan: "Did it drown out the station pretty well?"

Kirk: "Yeah, the station was gone completely."

Allan: "Did the motor misbehave at all?"

Kirk: "Yes, I noticed that I had no power left, there was just nothing there, everything locked up, power steering, so the motor must have died."

Allan: "How did you feel?"

Kirk: "Really aching, and I ached all over for a few days."

Major: "But you drove home yourself?"

Kirk: "Yes I did — barely."

Allan: "At the hospital did they give you any diagnosis?"

Kirk: "No, they said just shock, and they asked us what we saw, and we told them, and they sort of said: 'Yeah? OK just go home and rest'."

Major: "Kirk has just said he had a polygraph test."

Kirk: "Yes, I had a polygraph test from a man in Prince George and he was from another magazine and I can't divulge his name."

Allan: "It wasn't Sinclair of APRO?"

Kirk: "No."

Major: "And you came through with a pretty clear record?"

Kirk: "Yes I did."

The following day, a check of the outpatient records at the hospital in Vanderhoof showed no mention of any such visit in all of January and February, and the administration solemnly assured us

it was the doctor's duty to record every patient presented.

And the RCMP in Prince George said they only used their polygraph for criminal investigation and as far as they knew there was no other operator in Prince George, but a reporter might have brought his own.

In the APRO report the other car was a *Pontiac* and the object's dimensions are smaller.

These contradictions caused the interview to be put in storage until some confirmation was obtained. Finally contact was made by phone with Kirk's parents who live in Salmon Arm, and later by interviews in Salmon Arm and Kelowna, which provided strong verification of Kirk's account and information on additional sightings. They told how Kirk had phoned them from the hospital early in the morning and had said the doctor laughed at their story and didn't believe them, which could account for his not entering the case on the hospital record as he was supposed to do.

Interview with Mrs. Alore

"I'm Mrs. Alore, Kirk's mother, and on Jan. 6, 1977, about ten after six in the morning, I got a phone call from my son saying he had been knocked off the road by a UFO. Naturally I was sceptical, but then by listening to him I realized that he was very upset and not really making too much sense, because he was very excited about what he had seen. He said 'I was brought to the hospital with this other fellow.' He said both of them were driving along and he explained what had happened; and I still didn't get too much from him because he was too excited at the time. And I said well 'Did a doctor give you anything?' and he says 'Yes, and I'm going to go to bed to sleep for a while, I don't have to go to work 'till noon'."

"So later on that night we phoned him about 9 o'clock to see how he was because I was quite concerned about him, and he said he had slept and he was settled down a little bit by that time, and was able to tell us, in more detail, what he had seen."

(Mrs. Alore was shown the APRO report)

"That's pretty well the story he had told us, except that he did say that before he had noticed the light, his car was missing (misfiring) and his radio was being staticky (sic), and he was a little concerned because he had just bought his truck, and had had it in the garage that day for a checkup, and he thought that something was wrong with the truck and he was kind of worried. Then he told me that's when he noticed the light and he just thought it was a plane. Then he went on to tell me just exactly his version of it. It looked like an octopus was coming at him and it really scared him. Then his dad got on the phone and he explained the same thing to him. So that's about all I can add to it that's different from his story."

Allan: "You mentioned to me that he said the doctor didn't take kindly to his story. Could you repeat that?"

Mrs. Alore: "Yes, I asked: 'What did the doctor say when you told him?' He replied: 'They just kind of

laughed ... and didn't pay too much attention.' At which I said: 'Well maybe he thought you were on drugs or something.' He kind of laughed, and says: 'Oh most likely, maybe he thought there was something funny because they didn't take me seriously.' "

Mr. Alore confirmed Mrs. Alore's account saying "We have two phones at home so I listened on one and we (my wife & I) carried on a two way conversation with Kirk, and I can confirm that he was very upset (I was a little sceptical, I guess everyone is) but he seemed so sincere."

Allan: "When he was home this last Christmas holiday did he mention the things to you that were in the paper?"

Mr. Alore: "Yes, he did. We were naturally questioning him about it and he repeated it just about as it was in the paper."

Mrs. Alore said that her son Kirk and his girlfriend had another encounter in November. Kirk had asked her not to say much about his experience and subsequent upsetting feelings and dreams he'd had, so she wouldn't repeat the many details Kirk told her, restricting herself mostly to what was published in the *Caledonia Courier* by reporter Shelley Hallock, since this was already public knowledge.

Repeater experience

Combing the telephone conversation, interview and Hallock report in the *Caledonia Courier*, the following information was obtained:

The supermarket where Kirk works is open late Thursdays and Fridays. At 11.25 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 1977, 18-year-old Kirk Alore and his 17-year-old girl friend, Mary Ann Sampson, drove out to Colony Point on the old Paaren's Beach road on the south shore of Stuart Lake, parked their truck and went for a stroll down the road. They noticed what appeared to be a sphere of glowing light hovering behind some trees on the shore, and thinking it was the moon, started to walk towards it. Then they observed that the sphere was more like a half-sphere, rounded on the bottom and relatively flat on the top.

Kirk, because of his past experiences, was very nervous (Mary Ann said "freaked out") but she wanted to go right up to it so they walked closer. A force or something stopped them, and blue sparks the size of baseballs shot off from the object which was the size of a *Volkswagen* and not more than 100 yards away. So they hastily retreated to the truck, and turned around and headed back to town, but the object followed them. It played games with them for one hour or an hour and a half. They kept playing more like games with him. He'd be driving down the road; they'd be around the corner, in the middle of the road, and he'd turn around and make a Uey (sic) and they would be there again — only these were small ones about the size of a *Volkswagen* upside down.

So they drove to the Illerbrun farmhouse half a mile from the Parren's Beach road, but the half

sphere, then hovering just above treetop level, followed and just before reaching the home it crossed the road in front of their truck and continued to follow them at treetop level. They phoned the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from the farmhouse and when the police arrived the object had gone but a peculiar odour like burnt electrical insulation remained which became stronger as they approached the exact spot of the first sighting. The police took pictures of the area which would go to Ottawa.

Kirk has been having dreams since his first sighting but hadn't had any for a month since this sighting and then Kirk and Mary Ann both dreamt the same dream on the same night. He won't tell what he dreamt, but they were identical dreams.

More repeaters

Mrs. Alore: "Last May, up in Prince George, it was about a quarter after nine at night, it wasn't dark yet, the sun had gone down but it was still twilight, and Kirk was putting a motor for our boat in the truck of the car. He said to me: 'Look at that mom, coming over the mountain, that's what I saw the night I saw that other UFO:' So we were watching it and it kept moving. It wasn't like an ordinary plane, it didn't flash back and forth, it was an ordinary red light coming at us. Finally I said: 'You'd better get your sister' (she was in the house). She came out and was excited, and we called her neighbours Mr. and Mrs. Mork, and they came out and were watching it, and finally it came up to (a position) about across the road above the trees. It looked about the size of the moon, quite bright red and it stopped as if it were watching us, and all of a sudden, in the wink of an eye, it was gone. It turned on its side and was gone: just like that, it was gone."

Allan: "You mean it turned on its edge?"

Mrs. Alore: "It just more or less like flipped and it was gone." "We all were wondering if we had imagined it or seen it, it happened so quickly. Kirk said it was exactly what he'd seen, but this was at a distance."

Allan: "And he hasn't had any further sightings?"

Mr. Alore: "Yes, I guess he has. We were talking to him the other night on the phone and he said he saw two more at a distance."

Mrs. Alore: "I was talking to Kirk either January 19 or 20, and I asked him, what has become the family joke: 'Have you seen any more UFOs lately?' and he said 'Oh yes, I was taking Mary Ann home the other night and we saw one, and a couple of nights before that we saw another one too.' I asked: 'very close?' and he said 'No not that close enough that they were kind of following us.' and that was all he said. I didn't question him any more because it upsets him too much."

That means Kirk had a close encounter Jan. 5, 1977, after midnight, the multiple witness sighting in May, 1977, the encounter when with Mary Ann in November, and two separate, more distant sightings so far in January, 1978, or five sightings within a little over a year.

TIME LAPSE EXPERIENCE IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

John Makin

This is the first UFOIN investigation by Mr. Makin who has been involved actively in the Wessex Group WATSUP for some years. He has recently started a southern counterpart to the Northern UFO Network, interlinking 17 local UFO groups. By profession he is a police officer.

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THIS report came to my attention in November 1976 and has proved extremely difficult to investigate in detail. One reason for this was the reluctance on the part of the witness to discuss his second experience after having mentioned the first in casual conversation. As it is, his true name must be withheld and we shall here call him Mr. Walker.

At the time of the incidents Mr. Walker was in the RAF. He is now in his mid-thirties and manages a public house in Sussex. He holds a pilot's licence and is a regular parachutist. He is regarded as very trustworthy, and has always been helpful.

The first encounter took place about midnight on a summer's night in, he thinks, 1962. It was a clear, starlit night and he was parked with his girlfriend of the time in an MG sports car on moorland above Holton Airfield in Berkshire. They had been there

for about 45 minutes. Suddenly, they caught sight of an object in the sky, closer than half a mile from them. Mr. Walker describes it... "It appeared to be like a slowly revolving sphere, almost a whirling mass of light. It was white. It wasn't any other colours. Just white, and if it had any...ah...heat at all, it was not apparent. But it looked as though it was on fire... It seemed to be revolving in a vertical plane as opposed to a horizontal plane, and revolving in a clockwise direction..."

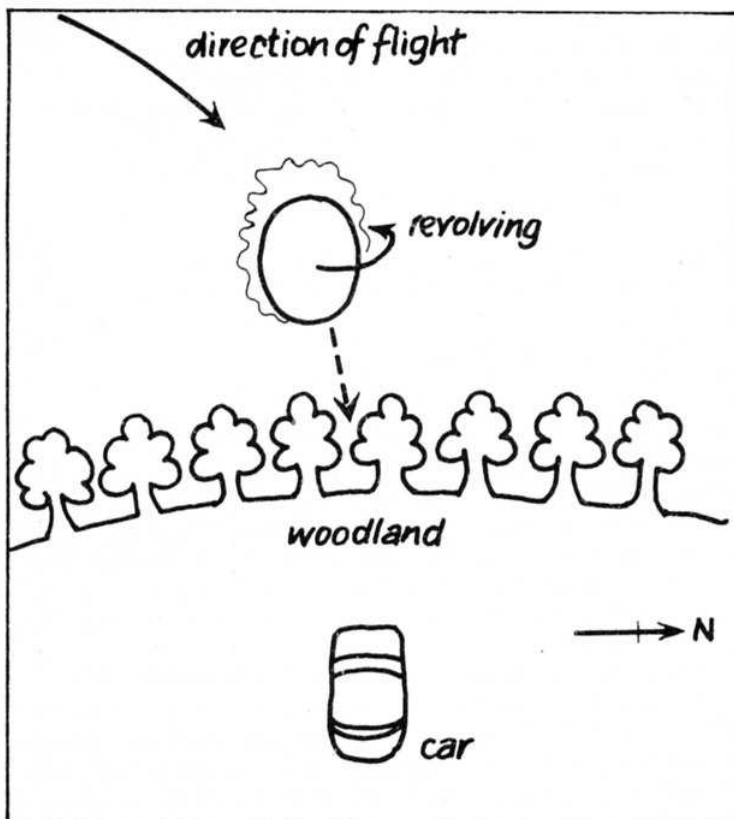
The couple watched for about 45 seconds as the sphere passed overhead in a descending arc, seeming to go down into some trees ahead of, and below them. It moved faster than an aircraft but slower than a meteorite and Mr. Walker is familiar with both. As he said: "This was certainly, without any doubt at all, not a thing that one would normally see flying in the sky."

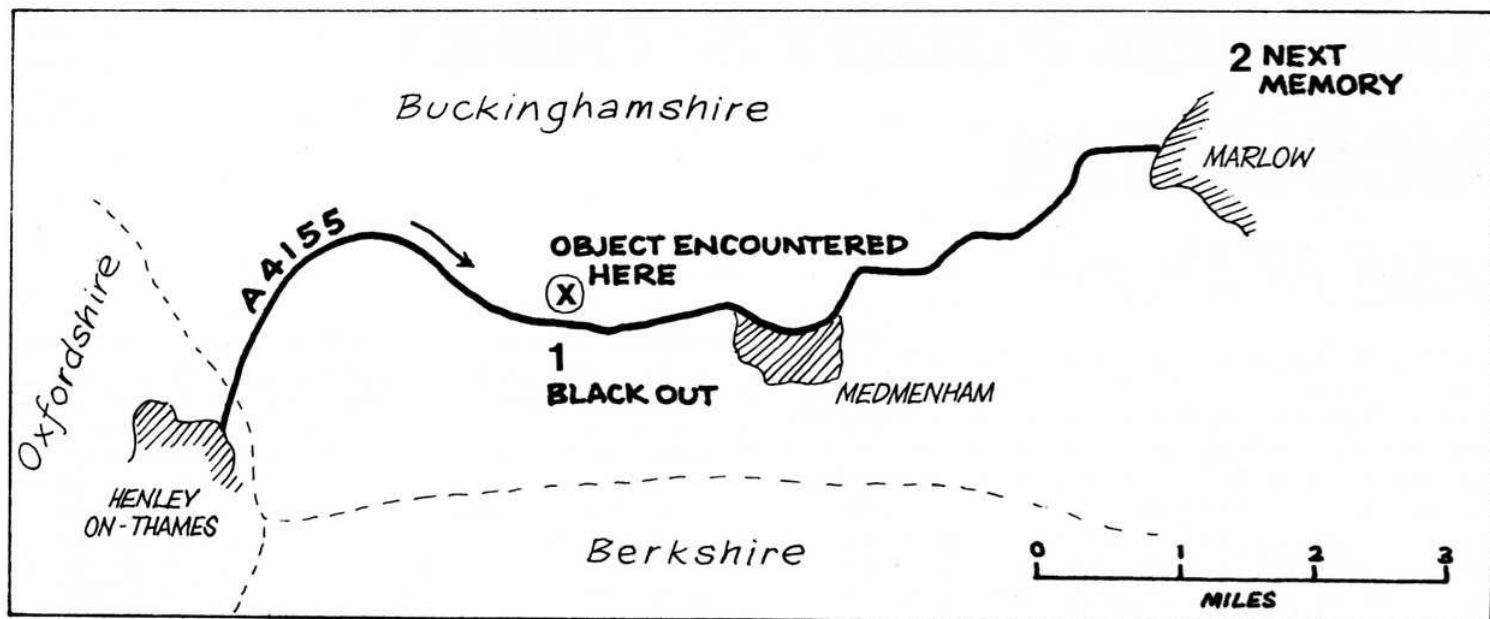
Mr. Walker was curious but not unduly alarmed. He wanted to know what it was, especially as it seemed to have landed not far in front of him. However, his girl friend had become very upset and was almost hysterical, so he agreed to drive out of the area. He turned on the ignition but nothing would happen. The electrics in the car were dead. "There was just absolutely nothing. I didn't in fact try the headlights...my main thing was to try and get the car going but, you know, nothing would work..."

At this point his girlfriend (who was an RAF nurse) became further alarmed, so he got out of the car and pushed it on to the road where he was able to let it coast gently down a steep hill (about 1 in 5). It coasted about 500 yards to the bottom and then the electrical circuits came to life again, and he was able to start the car. The couple drove away from there rather fast.

The next day Mr. Walker checked the car thoroughly. He had told himself that probably the fault had been due to a loose connection to the battery, and the vibration of the car going down hill had caused it to reconnect. However, he found that there was absolutely nothing wrong, and no apparent reason for the car to have stopped so suddenly and then to start once again.

Another strange thing was that when he next spoke to the nurse (the following day) she denied even having been witness to anything at all.





Mr. Walker is adamant that this was something very unusual. When asked whether or not it might have been something natural such as ball lightning, he said that the size, which he likened to that of a double decker bus, absolutely ruled that out.

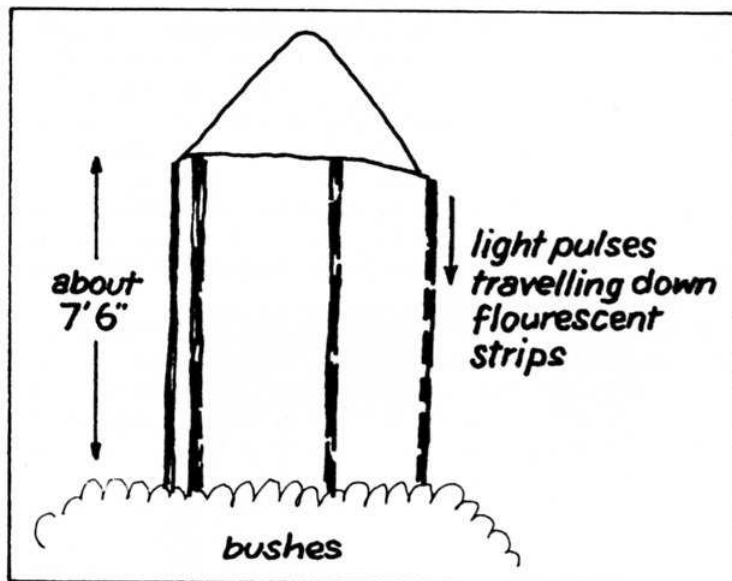
Incident number two is potentially even more strange. This took place on a winter's night in 1972, between midnight and 1.00 a.m., as he was driving along the A 4155 road between Henley-on-Thames and Marlow. At the time he lived in High Wycombe, and this was a journey with which he was very familiar. The time for the journey varies between 35 and 40 minutes, and the section between Mill End, Buckinghamshire, and Marlow, normally takes about 20 minutes.

Approaching a bend at the end of a long straight part of the road he noticed some lights by the verge of the carriageway ahead of him, and he became puzzled by them. As he drove closer he could make out a strange object in bushes just by the side of the road.

It was about the size of a telephone kiosk with a conical top. The most puzzling feature was a series of strip lights attached to the extremities of the object in a vertical position. About four or five of them were visible, and Mr. Walker feels that the overhead plan of the object may well have shown it to be hexagonal or octagonal. The strip lights were fluorescent and were pulsed with light that moved slowly from the top to the bottom. The colour of the light was not white. The witness cannot describe what it was like other than that it was fluorescent.

Seeing this strange thing he decided to find out what it was, so he remembers consciously thinking that he would stop. He recalls approaching the object, having decided to stop, and then his mind went blank until he found himself driving through Marlow, several miles further on. He looked at his watch and noticed with surprise that it was about 1½ hours later than the time he last remembered. He says: "It would be quite interesting to find out what happened. You know there was a time lapse. I can't be

accurate down to actual minutes, but there was a time lapse. But the main thing that worries me is the fact that I saw this thing, decided to stop, and then I don't remember anything. I don't know even if I did stop. Perhaps I didn't. I just remember thinking 'that looks a bit odd' and not knowing whether it was lights or a party or something..."



I think the transcripts clearly show that he was not deciding that he was seeing a UFO. In fact even in the first instance he says: "Perhaps it was something from the military." He has no interest in the phenomenon and possesses no books on the subject.

In neither instance did he recall any strange effects, although he vaguely recalls a high-pitched whistle as he approached the object on the ground in the second instance. Then all was silence until something made him look at his watch when passing through Marlow. That is his very next memory. As he told me, "I'm aware of the fact that one can have lapses, where one thinks 'Oh, I don't remember

(Concluded on page 15)

MAUREEN PUDDY'S THIRD ENCOUNTER

Judith M. Magee

READING through my back copies of *Flying Saucer Review* for 1972-73, I see that Mrs. Maureen Puddy's third encounter experience has never been published, and it occurs to me that I may not have sent the details. Some researchers and scientists now seem to be interested in accounts of alleged psychical events, and in the psychological aspects of ufology, so I have recorded the details of this follow-up to Mrs. Puddy's earlier encounters which occurred on July 5 and July 25, 1972.

About 6 months after the second incident — one Wednesday evening — Maureen telephoned me and, following a few preliminaries, told me "they" had been trying to contact her again. She was hearing voices calling "Maureen, Maureen, come to the meeting place."

Once she had gone to the door to see who was calling, and on another occasion had called out "come in" when her husband, who was confined to a wheel-chair, had asked who was calling, but there was no response. She had gone shopping and still the voice called, but when she turned to see who was trying to attract her attention, no-one was there.

I asked her to let me know when she wished to return to the meeting place, and told her that Paul Norman and I could make it that night if she so desired, to which she agreed. After describing the car we would be in, and the place where she should look for us, it was agreed to meet her between 8.30 and 9.00 p.m.

It was already dark and we waited on a rise opposite an electricity sub-station. Maureen drove up, stopped her car and came running shouting to us that she nearly went off the road a way back; I suggested she could tell me about it on the way to the meeting place.

Before going further, I should perhaps add, that as I entered her car I had the odd feeling that something was amiss. I was experiencing a tingling sensation (like that of a mild electric shock) which shortly passed off. Maureen then told me that in the centre of the front seat of her car — between where the pair of us sat there had been seated an entity, completely clothed in a type of gold tinfoil suit. As she turned her head in his direction she was so startled she almost ran off the road. It was obvious she was quite shocked by that eventful ride. So began the evening.

By this time we had reached the "meeting" place which was somewhat hidden from passing traffic by a few trees. We drew to a stop and Paul came from his car to sit in the back of Maureen's. I was still in the front seat with her.

We were talking of the last incident along the road

The first two encounters experienced by Mrs. Puddy have been described by Mrs. Magee in her article "UFO over the Mooraduc Road" which was published in FSR Volume 18, No. 6 (November-December 1972). The case had had considerable coverage in the Australian press, and particularly in the *Australian Post*, but this is the first time our contributor's new report of the third encounter, of which she herself was a witness, has been published. Her 1972 account of the huge UFO low over her car in the first encounter, with the subsequent chase along the Mooraduc Road between Frankston and Dromana, south-east of Melbourne, and the "auto-stop" by another UFO and "messages" from a "voice" may also be found in the paperback book *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* (see page ii of cover).

— EDITOR

when she suddenly grabbed my arm and pointed across her car exclaiming: "There he is, can't you see him? He's in the same clothes." I said I couldn't see him and she shook my arm saying that I must be able to. I tried to explain to her that it was probably like closed circuit television — from him to her.

She said he was coming closer to the car, in fact so close I could possibly touch him if I put my arm out far enough. However, he was standing almost by the front left headlight so I persuaded Paul to get out of the car and walk around it. As he came to where the entity was standing Maureen said it moved back to allow Paul to pass between him and the car.

At this stage he (it) motioned to Maureen to follow him, but she adamantly declared she wouldn't. I told her I would go with her but she wouldn't let go the wheel and sat firmly in her seat. She wasn't going to budge an inch!

The entity then became a little impatient trying to get her to follow him, and she became a trifle upset. He apparently disappeared beyond bushes at this point. Suddenly she started to describe the interior of the craft and said the being was there pointing to a large "mushroom" in the centre of the room. She was saying that the centre of this "mushroom" — which was much taller than the "about average" person — was like a jelly, moving all the time, and that there were lines like Roman numerals around the lower portion. The top also had some lines on it and the whole thing seemed fixed to the floor. She was apparently looking around the room and became very agitated at this point crying "I can't get out! There are no doors or windows. I can't get out."

I put my arm around her shoulder to try and calm her, and could feel tears on my hand. She really

was upset, and I directed my thoughts to the entity — nothing to lose and maybe something to gain — because I was very worried about her present state. Thinking that she may have a nervous collapse or even a stroke, I silently requested that he take pity on the poor girl. Suddenly she said: "He wants me to close my eyes." I replied that she should do so and almost immediately I felt her relax as if in a trance. Again, she continued to describe the interior, became agitated once more when finding there were still no doors or windows. After a brief period she "came back to us" and we switched on the car's interior light and asked her if she would like a cup of tea from our thermos flask.

I had just handed Maureen her cup when she said: "Oh, I'm back in there again" and repeated the description, this time a little more calmly, before observing: "He's gone. This time he's really gone. I can tell. It feels different."

She now seemed quite normal and we went ahead with our supper. We discussed the mushroom-shaped thing in the middle of the object's room, trying to identify it. I asked if it could have been a gyroscope, but apparently that word was foreign to Maureen, so "compass" was suggested. At this, she picked off a little gadget from the dashboard of the car and to my amazement, it was exactly what I visualised from her description of the "mushroom." A small compass on a suction cup. I had not seen one before, and I have not seen one since.

We didn't dare let her drive home alone in case of a return visit from our "friend" or nerves on her part. I drove to her home with her — in her car — and I believe it was between 10.30 and 11 p.m. when we arrived. We didn't take particular note of the time, but it was fairly late.

Over another cup of tea and biscuits at Maureen's home, we discussed the events of the evening with her husband Jack.

About six months after this, her husband died, and her health was not of the best either. This is understandable as Jack had been an invalid requiring considerable attention for some time, and she had two children under 9 years of age. I expect there are not too many people who could cope with these circumstances and live through such unusual UFO exp-

TIME LAPSE IN BUCKS (from page 13)

passing through (*such and such a*) village ...' but at this point the road bore right, so I would have had to negotiate that bend and in fact the road has a series of right and left hand bends after that point... I don't even remember passing the object."

This is the story as it stands at the present moment, and there is obviously a possibility that something of greater strangeness still lies in the locked mind of Mr. Walker. He has intimated that he is willing to undergo regression hypnosis and it is hoped this will be arranged. However, it was decided to present the objectively remembered information in this report and the results of any possible hypnosis sessions will form the basis of a subsequent article.

periences — two physical and one psychical — and not suffer some form of ill health!

Though I have not seen Maureen since then, I learned from a later telephone conversation with her that she was remarrying and going interstate. To this day I've neither seen her, nor heard from her.

It was an experience which excited me even though I was unable to see the being and it has since interested scientists and researchers who are taking a much more discerning view of this type of "visitation."

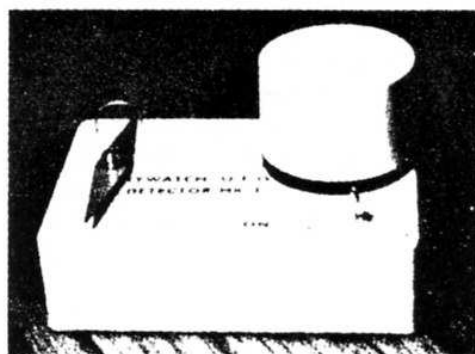
Two thoughts on this third Puddy incident:—

1. Was I also able to communicate with the entity? Did he really receive my thoughts regarding her agitated state? If so, what thoughts can they receive from more important and "delicate" situations than that particular one? Can they transmit to us?

2. Have you ever watched a "fun" hypnotist at work? "When I snap my fingers, you will go into a deeper trance...etc." Was the second (July 25, 1972) incident—about which Maureen stated that while she was sitting in her car, just prior to the voice speaking to her, "that if one could be in a vacuum, then I have been in one" — such an incident? There was no sound, nothing moved, all was calm and quiet, then the voice delivered its message. Was this third incident due to a "snapping of the fingers" when they urged her to act? If so, how many people can "they" hypnotise, perhaps even in their sleep, so that they react as "they" wish whenever they "snap" the trigger? I find that a very sobering thought.

I have relived the incident many times since that evening when I sat beside Maureen Puddy in her car. I have recorded the incident exactly as it was, with no flourishes.

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A CASE OF RABBIT SNATCHING?

Janet & Colin Bord

A report of an investigation conducted on behalf of UFOIN as a follow-up of a letter passed to *Flying Saucer Review* by the *Daily Express*.

IT has always been suspected that many unreported UFO experiences must lie hidden within people's memories, and the recent publicity given to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* shows that this is so, because many people have come forward to tell their stories. Some of them go back more than twenty years, including the incident we are about to describe. In the early days of UFO research, only the spacecraft type of sighting was likely to be considered relevant by many investigators. Recently we have seen all manner of weird happenings gathered together under the heading of ufology, and some of the older reports show that such weird happenings are not a recent development. Again, this case confirms that finding.

Today Philip Molava is a 37-year-old lifeguard living in the East End of London; in 1954, which was probably when his UFO experience took place, he was 13 years old and living in an orphanage at Shirley near Croydon in Surrey. He has always been fond of animals, and as a boy he kept rabbits. He kept the two larger rabbits and some young ones in a locked and totally predator-proof hutch close to the 'cottage' at the orphanage, but at the time of the experience he had been having trouble with them. Over a period of about three weeks, he had 'lost' about four baby rabbits. It was a complete mystery, because the youngsters had simply disappeared, on separate occasions.

None of the other boys kept rabbits and had not been stealing them, and there were no traces of the hutch having been tampered with. (The only possibility that occurred to us was that the adult rabbits were eating the young ones, as some animals do eat their young; but this explanation seems highly unlikely, 1. because rabbits are vegetarian, and 2. because no traces of the babies were found, and surely the rabbits wouldn't have eaten heads, paws, fur and all!) So he decided one night to keep watch in the small hours, to try and apprehend the culprit.

He had been by the hutch for an hour at around 1 or 2 a.m. the night after Guy Fawkes Night and therefore 7 November, when he suddenly noticed what he called a white disc flying or floating towards him in a straight line at about 5 m.p.h. It was completely silent, not lit up in any way, and had no markings or holes in it. It resembled two plates placed edge to edge, and seemed to be about the size of a large plate. It was flying very low, so low indeed that he instinctively jumped up to try and touch it. Being only 13 years old, and rather short, he could not quite reach it, and it flew overhead, over the hutch, and away. Philip naturally did not

know what to make of this, and didn't tell anyone what he had seen. He had no more trouble with his rabbits because soon afterwards his master at the orphanage drowned the young ones and sold the others!

Either the next day, or a day later, he felt strange. He "could not move a muscle," his "whole body was as if it was paralysed," and he told the master that he was ill. Unconcerned about Philip, the master gave him an orange after the other kids had gone to school, which he somehow managed to peel, but he was sick when he ate some. He was taken to the infirmary and given an injection of some kind, but spent the day in this semi-paralysed condition. His brain was clear, but his body was numbed.

Bedroom visitants

That night, again around 1 or 2 a.m., when he was lying in bed in the dormitory, "waiting for something, what, I didn't know," he saw a strange mist forming at the foot of his bed. It was the bed's width and it moved up the bed towards his head, freezing the parts of his body it passed over. Philip emphasised that the cold was not due to fear, but to the mist. Then it stopped and three figures materialised from the mist at the foot of the bed and moved so that they stood around him, two on one side and one on the other. They bent over him and he felt they were benevolent and were going to make him better. They froze his body but not his mind, and it was as if "they were making me at ease with myself."

Philip described the figures as dressed in dark or black monk-like habit, and although he tried to see their faces, he was unable to. Nor could he describe any part of their anatomy, such as hands, although he thought very hard about this. He could not tell how much time passed ("time stood still" was the way he put it), but he does remember that he tried to speak to the beings, though they did not answer. He does not remember how the experience ended, but feels that he must have "flaked out." Although there were other boys in the dormitory, none seems to have seen anything unusual, and Philip did not tell anyone what he had seen, but one boy did comment that he had heard voices during the night. The next day Philip felt well again.

Although his first experience was well remembered and fairly easily described, the "bedroom visitants" episode was less easy to make clear, and Philip strived hard to present the occurrence factually. He found it hard to answer our detailed questions, especially about the beings' appearance. He "felt the presence

of the male type," and it was "as if they were blended together," even though there were three of them. We suspect the whole event took place while Philip was in an altered state of consciousness. This was probably akin to an out-of-the-body experience or astral projection, especially in the light of his later projections (see below), although when we suggested this to Philip, he did not agree that it was a projection. However he did say "I think I'd come out of myself."

Not "awake" until they came

Although Philip has had no UFO experiences since those just described (except for one occasion three or four years ago when he was digging and went into some kind of trance and had a vision in which he saw a "load of spaceships coming over to London...round about Christmas," and they hovered around the two steeples of a castle-like church, shining down bright beams of light), it soon became clear that we were talking to a man who has had a wealth of psychic experiences. After some prompting, because he thought it was irrelevant, he described to us his ability to sum people up at first sight, often to know incidents from their past, and sometimes to predict their future (once he met someone who he felt sure had not long to live; the man was dead within three weeks); he described experiences of astral projection such as when he "came out of" himself and watched an operation being performed on his hand, even though he was anaesthetized at the time); and he told us that although he had not been a religious child, shortly after his UFO experience he went to church and came out feeling cleansed. In fact he feels that UFOs and religion are closely connected, and continually returned to the theme of the UFO's purpose. He has strong feelings that the human race is doomed if it continues on its present course, and that the UFOs are somehow involved with our present condition and our future salvation. He feels certain that his own UFO experience brought about a change in him, from orphanage zombie to a thinking being. As he put it: "I wasn't awake until they came."

With UFOs receiving so much publicity these days, an investigator must always be aware of the witness's involvement in ufology, to try to ascertain whether an alleged experience happened as the witness

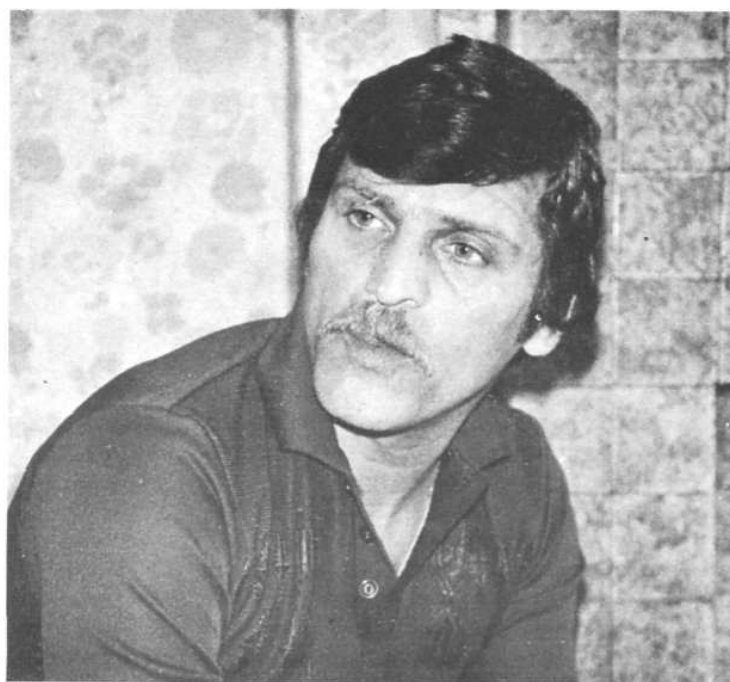
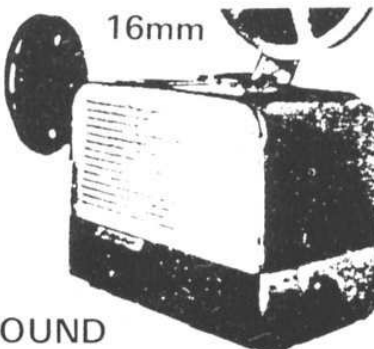



Photo Copyright Janet and Colin Bord

Philip Molava today

described it, or whether the description has been coloured by UFO literature, or even totally fabricated. In the present case, although Philip has read books by Shuttlewood and von Däniken, and is aware of such things as the Bermuda Triangle, the Betty and Barney Hill case, and the Villas Boas abduction, he is not widely read in ufology, and because of its content we do not believe that the story he told us was influenced in any way by what he has read about UFOs.

If our belief is correct, then we have an early case of 'bedroom visitants', and an early case of a UFO's interest in animal life. However, we must remember that there is no evidence whatsoever that the UFO was stealing or dematerialising the baby rabbits. The facts point to that conclusion, but we shall never know for sure. There are several cases in the literature in which UFOs have been seen to take an interest in animals (excluding the notorious Hamilton calf-napping hoax), and some researchers blame them for the rash of cattle mutilations reported in the United States during the past few years. So this strange incident is not entirely without precedent.

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THE KETTERING TASMANIA, LANDING — A STUDY

THERMOLUMINESCENCE MEASUREMENTS THAT WERE AFFECTED BY A UFO

Keith Roberts & Geoff Stevens PhD

This investigation was carried out by Mr. Roberts, Secretary of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC) and the laboratory analysis performed by Dr. Stevens, scientific consultant to the Australian Co-ordination Section of the Centre for UFO Studies.

EARLY one morning (about 1 a.m.) towards the end of February 1976 a dome-shaped object was observed close to the ground in the small town of Kettering, South-east Tasmania (about $147^{\circ} 16'E$, $43^{\circ} 07'S$). Figure 1 is a map showing the main features of the locality.

The witness (name withheld at his request) was attending a child when he looked out of a window of his home to the east and saw what he thought was an aircraft coming down at a 45° angle. He could see a white beam from an edge like a landing light. He watched this object approach for a couple of minutes and then went outside thinking it was an accident and perhaps he could assist. The object came down behind a small bank on the far side of a sporting oval that is opposite his house. The witness crossed the oval and climbed the bank and saw, about 23 metres down the other side of the bank which slopes down to Little Oyster Cove, a dome-shaped object emitting a bright white to yellow light through three or four "windows." He could hear an electric motor type of humming noise as he approached, and this increased in volume as the object took off to the east. He had a very good view of the object as it "gained elevation slowly" and then increased speed as it climbed away at a 60° angle. It receded into a point source and then disappeared. The whole incident lasted six or seven minutes.

He described the object as dome-shaped with ribbing from the top, and with a small ledge around the base which had a short vertical side. Through the "windows" he saw a tall cylindrical object similar to a ship's compass mounting and also motionless grey shapes (occupants?) that the witness described as similar to modern car seats (i.e. incorporating a head rest). His sketch of the object is presented in Figure 2. The witness is convinced that he saw a "secret government craft," and before his sighting had negligible knowledge of UFO phenomena.

The next day the witness returned and noticed that the rough grass beyond the oval had been scorched in a circular area. This grass later died and was replaced by a "tougher cutting grass." In April 1977, after the investigator eventually came to hear of the incident, the affected area was much greener than the surrounding vegetation (Figure 3). Presum-

ably the enhanced re-growth reflects the increased nutrient content in a soil in which the microscopic animal and/or plant life has been killed.

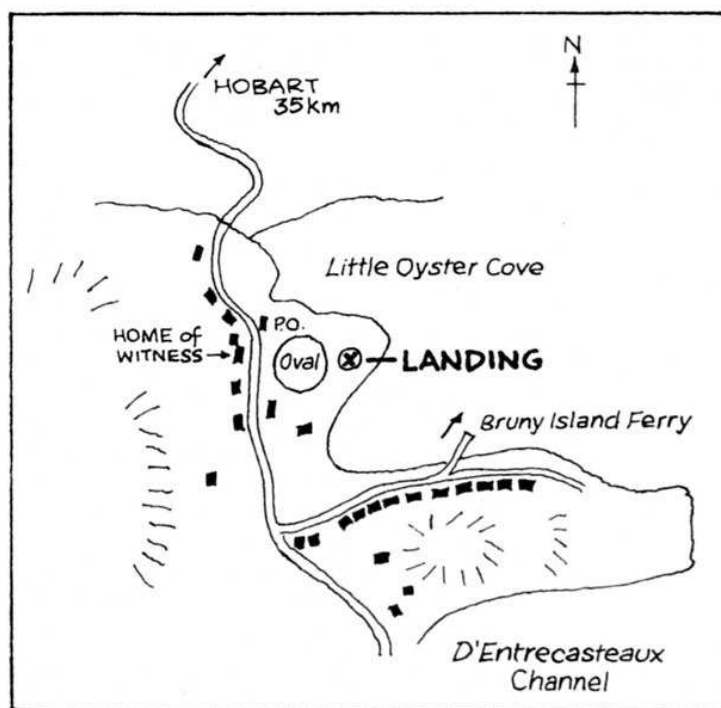


Figure 1: Kettering and surrounding area

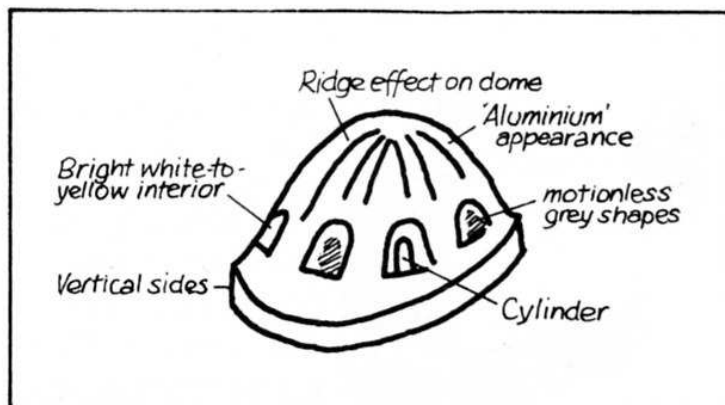


Figure 2: Sketch of object seen at Kettering

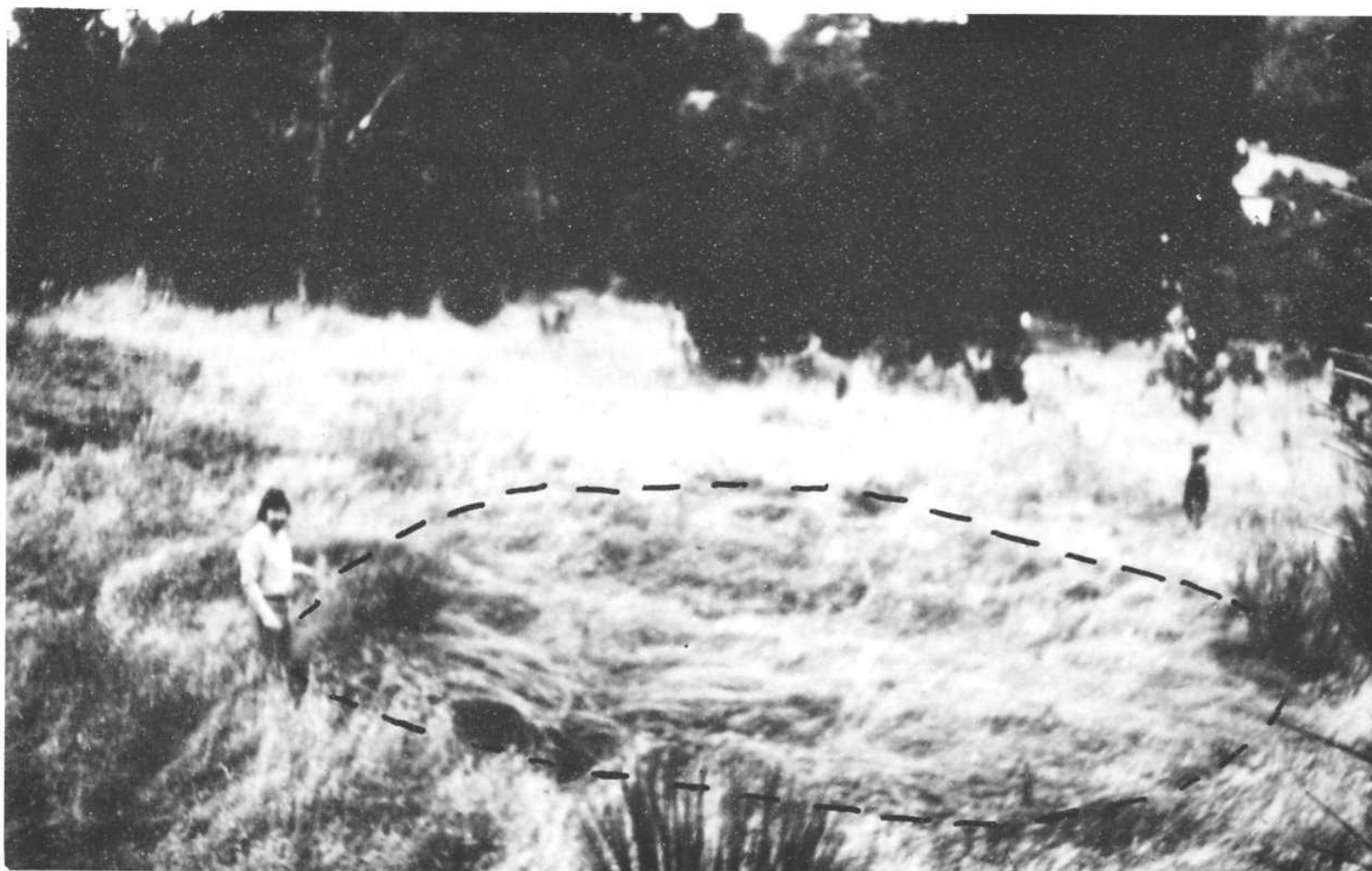


Figure 3 — Photograph showing region of stimulated grass growth that replaced grasses that were killed by the presence of the UFO. The sighting occurred in February 1976 and the photograph was taken in April 1977. In the original colour transparency the affected area stands out as a rich green region in straw-coloured background

Even though the event occurred some time ago, it was felt that in view of its high strangeness, and the good correlation of the sighting with the effects on the grass, that an investigation of the thermoluminescent properties of the soil might contribute something to the solution of the UFO mystery. Samples were obtained on October 24, 1977 by TUFOIC, and by that time the colour difference had disappeared, but the vegetation within the affected area was still noticeably thicker than the surrounding grass.

Thermoluminescence

When a non-conducting material is irradiated with ionizing radiation, some of the electrons are promoted to higher energy levels. Some of these electrons become "trapped" at certain sites and so remain at the higher energy. If the material is subsequently heated, then these electrons may receive enough thermal energy to escape from the trap. The electrons give off their excess energy as light — thermoluminescence (TL). The measurement of this TL involves heating a sample of the material and recording the light given off as a function of time or temperature.

Since most natural materials contain small amounts of radioactive elements there will be a certain natural thermoluminescence. This natural TL will depend on the age of the material and in the case of geological materials such as soils or rocks it can become substantial. Measurement of TL from these materials can give an indication of whether the material has been heated (in which case the TL would be low in comparison to a control sample) or has been exposed to an additional irradiation.

Description of samples

Five samples of soil designated A to E were taken from the surface by a small trowel according to the plan shown in Figure 4. TL measurements were carried out on the soil in three conditions:—

- (i) as received, from the top one centimeter of the clod of earth,
- (ii) after washing with water to remove clay and organic matter,
- (iii) after digesting with hydrofluoric acid (HF) to remove the more soluble mineral grains.

The samples were dried at room temperature in a vacuum desiccator and passed through a 500 μ m aperture sieve prior to TL measurement on November 10, 1977.

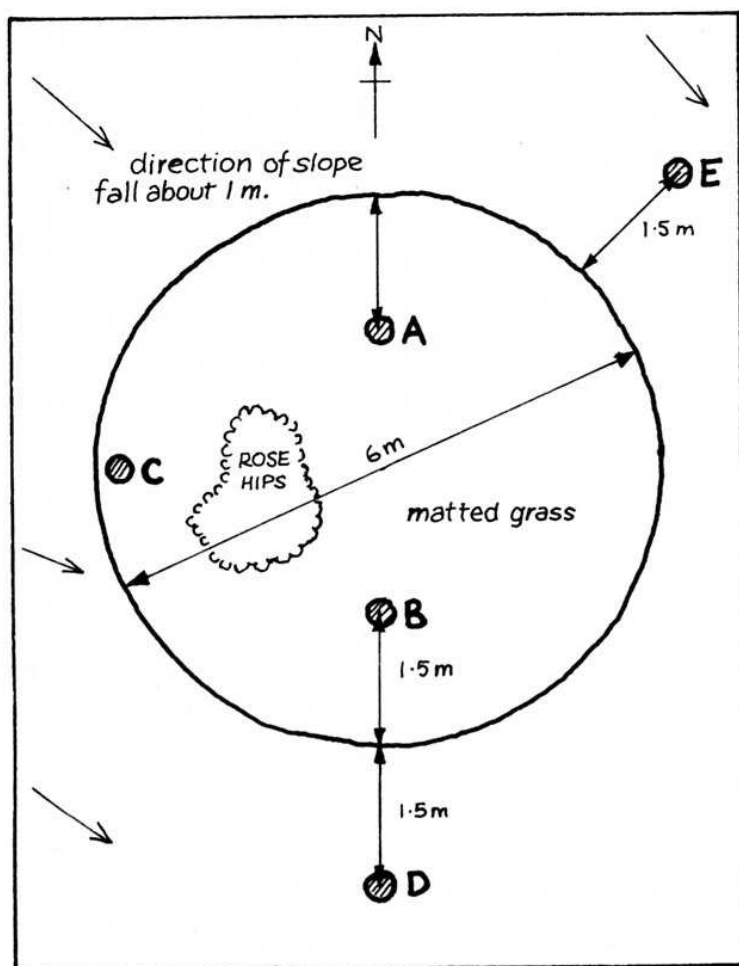


Figure 4: Location of sampling points

Results

A Harshaw 2000 A TL reader was used and the TL output plotted against specimen temperature on an X-Y recorder. The heating rate was about 3 Ks^{-1} and the specimen chamber was flushed with "high purity" nitrogen.

In general, two runs were made on each of the five samples in each of the three conditions. A typical curve from condition (ii) is given in Figure 5. The following parameters were taken from the TL curve:

- (i) the temperature at which the TL output commences,
 - (ii) the temperature of the peak or peaks in the TL plot,
 - (iii) the peak height,
- and listed in Tables 1-3.

The results show no unusual features:-

(i) The as-received soil shows a low broad peak at about 300°C with the TL output becoming apparent at about 170°C . The low TL output is typical of an opaque soil.

(ii) The washed soil shows a higher TL output due to improved light transparency. In general the output was detected at about 155°C and two peaks could be resolved (Figure 5) indicating the presence of at least two main mineral constituents.

(iii) After digesting in HF the lower temperature peak was not readily resolved indicating the dis-

appearance of the mineral fraction giving rise to the lower temperature peak in condition (ii).

Although there is some scatter, presumably due to TL sample size variations, it would seem that there are no significant differences between the three samples A, B and C from within the affected area and samples D and E from outside and the results show no unusual features, i.e. are typical for soils.

Discussion

This investigation has shown that there are no significant, systematic differences in the thermoluminescent content of soil and mineral particles taken from within the affected area and from outside.

The TL output from samples taken from the top one centimeter of the soil generally commenced at about 170°C with variations from about 155° to about 200°C . The TL from the washed samples was generally first detected at a lower temperature i.e. about 155°C with variations from about 136° to 162°C . This improvement in TL detection is presumably due to the improved transparency of the washed sample.

Because heating removes the thermoluminescence from the sample, we can be sure that the same have not been recently (in geological terms) heated above the temperature at which the TL is first detected, i.e. above about 155°C .

Because there are no significant differences in peak heights (and TL output generally) we can conclude that the radiation exposure of the five samples is similar. Furthermore, the amount of TL recorded is not unusual for a soil. The amount of radiation required to kill plants and to cause stimulated re-growth is possibly around 5000 rads and most likely higher. (The short term effect of only 500 rads on an adult human is severe sickness, with 50% chance of death without treatment). The effects of such large irradiation doses would be expected to be detectable in the TL output from the soil minerals despite the long delay between the event and the investigation.

We can thus conclude that no large doses of ionizing radiation were associated with the object seen in February 1976 and probably none at all.

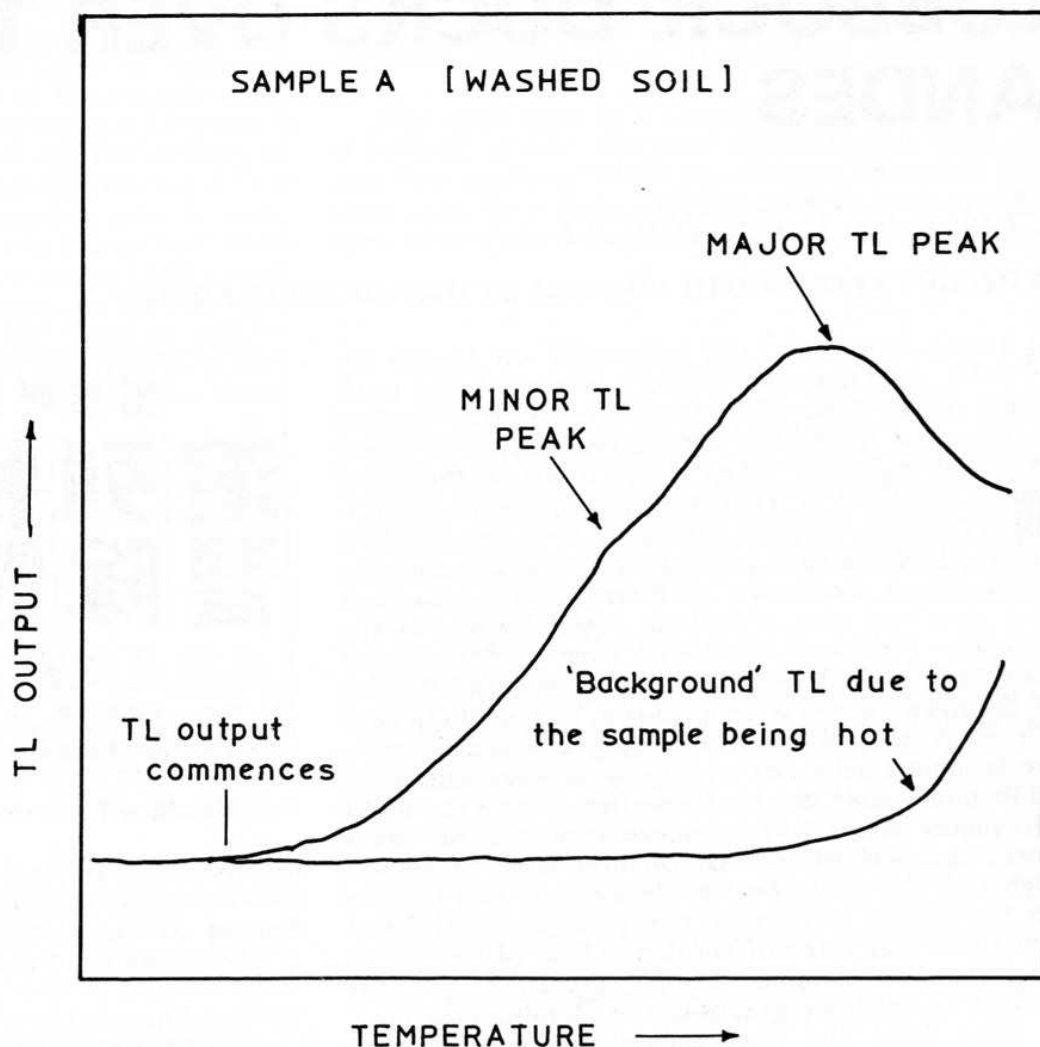
In contrast to many soil analyses, while these tests have revealed no detectable differences between the affected area and the controls, we can state:-

(i) The death of the grasses was not caused by substantial heating of the soil. The soil on the surface had not been heated above about 170°C and soil about 5 cm down had not been heated above about 155°C .

(ii) The death of the grass and subsequent stimulated re-growth was not caused by large doses of ionizing radiation.

These observations have consequences for certain models of UFO propulsion. For example, J.M. McCampbell (*Ufology*, Celestial Arts 1976) has estimated that UFOs generate about 1 MW of microwave energy. Such energy would be expected to cause substantial effects in a soil directly beneath the

Figure 5: Tracing of TL curves. The background curve is obtained on a second heating. This is the authors' own graph.



object, but confirmation of these effects was not found in this study.

Conclusions

An apparently reliable witness has described the landing of a metallic, dome-shaped craft which emitted light through three or four "windows" and through which he could see internal details. The object made a humming sound similar to an electric motor. The manner in which the sighting was un-

covered seems to rule out the possibility of a hoax and the event has received no publicity.

Measurement of the thermoluminescence from soil and soil mineral samples from the area where vegetation had died as a result of exposure to the UFO were carried out about 20 months after the sighting. The results showed that the soil had not been strongly heated (not over about 155°C) and also that large amounts of ionizing radiation were not involved. No evidence was found for any ionizing radiation.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FSR . . .

Report on a landing at Uzès
Carlos de los Santos and the Men in black
Jelly-like entities at Machynlleth, Wales
The Stonehenge Movie
Amoeba-like UFO over Oxfordshire
Are there UFOs that mimic – Pt. II

Charles Gouiran, et al
Jerome Clark
Andrew Collins
Peter Warrington and Jenny Randles
Bob Webb
Ann Druffel

LUBBOCK DUCKS OVER THE ANDES

Gordon Creighton

A REPORT FROM SOUTH AMERICA BY WAY OF HONG KONG!

AT approximately 2110 hours CST on August 25, 1951, in Lubbock, Texas, a group of five professors from Texas Tech., and a graduate student working for his Ph.D., were sitting outside enjoying the cool night air when they observed the rapid transit overhead of what they all took to be a formation flight of eighteen UFOs. At least one hundred other people in and around Lubbock also saw the phenomenon, and many of them, it seems, also felt that they had seen something decidedly out of the ordinary. However, as all who have studied *Project Blue Book*¹ will know, the six academics and the rest of the eyewitnesses were mistaken, and most grievously so, for what they had seen were merely the luminous bellies of a party of airborne ducks. At 2330 hours, and shortly thereafter, during the night of August 31, 1951, a college freshman of Texas Tech. observed the passage of three more formation flights of the ducks over his house, and had time to get his camera and secure two good photographs of one flight and three of another. These pictures have since become famous in the literature of "our subject" as the photographs of the "Lubbock Lights."

Since 1951 the phenomenon has continued to crop up regularly and there are similar reports from various parts of the world. For example, a few years ago, in the small town where I live, not far from London, a policeman's wife telephoned me to say in confidence that a formation flight of twentyfive of the ducks had just been seen here, and that "the usual Police report had gone forward to the usual place." (More than this the good lady felt that it would be unwise for her to say.)

From South America — particularly from Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and especially the region of the Andes — there has been a steady trickle of such accounts, of which at least fifteen will be found in my various reports from that Continent for FSR since 1961.

Two new accounts that reached me recently are indicative of the same patterns, suggesting that the Lubbock Ducks are still on the wing above the mighty Cordillera of the Andes.

The first of the two new reports is from the Buenos Aires office of the French News Agency, Agence France-Presse (AFP), and is dated April 12, 1978, but I have not yet managed to see it in its original French or Spanish text, so I am obliged to take it from the Chinese version² which appeared in the Hongkong daily newspaper *Ming Pao* for April 14. For this timely Chinese clipping, I am most grateful to our friends (*needless to say, already FSR subscribers!*) Dr. Paul Siu (Siu Kin-Kwan) and

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Headline from the Ming Pao daily of 14.4.78

his beautiful wife Sabrina, with whom Mrs. C. and I had the great pleasure of travelling across Western Europe as far as Vienna in the summer of 1977.

My rendering of this Chinese report is as follows:—

The headline reads:

ANDES MOUNTAINS A PARADISE FOR UFOs. SEVERAL TENS OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS IN FORMATION FLIGHT SEEN BY MANY WITNESSES DURING PAST WEEK. "JUST SHOOTING STARS," SAY THE EXPERTS.

The report is datelined Buenos Aires, April 12 (AFP).

"The Chief of Police in the small town of Catamarca in north-western Argentina stated in today's evening papers that he has seen a formation of unidentified flying objects pass over.

"This is only the latest of countless reports received during this past week from eyewitnesses. The area skirting the foot of the Andes has become a veritable resort for UFOs. This state of affairs commenced last week when, in the small town of Ma-Hsi-T'e³, in the Province of San Luis, a number of inhabitants observed, at night, about thirty brightly glowing UFOs performing manoeuvres in the skies overhead. Since then, talk in that whole town has been of virtually nothing else. In their homes, on the streets, in the cafés, everybody is discussing it, and as time goes by it seems that more and more folk are reporting that they have seen them, so that even the World Cup has been totally forgotten.

"Then, just as the excitement was beginning to die down, a crowd of workers in the town of Mendoza saw a similar formation of UFOs pass over. These eyewitnesses all say that there were thirty saucers, in

perfect formation, which went over Mendoza and then vanished from sight towards the Andes.

"And now, to cap it all, the Chief of Police of Catamarca has joined the ranks of the eyewitnesses, and given his own official testimony. On Thursday⁴ evening, just before nightfall, he and the officers of his staff saw about thirty brightly glowing UFOs shoot across the sky and disappear towards the west. And, by the time this strange news item had itself passed over the Andes, and had reached Chile on the other side, Chile too was beginning to have its own wave of UFO reports. Early last year, as will be recalled, Chile had the case of the military patrol who said that they had encountered beings from a flying saucer.⁵

"However, the Bureau for the Investigation of Space Phenomena says that all these stories of flying saucers in formation refer to nothing more than meteors⁶, of which there are always some showers every year during the early part of May."

* * * * *

The second report, for which we are much indebted to FSR's Correspondent in Venezuela, Sr. Víctor Gesua of Caracas, is also an AFP wire originating in Argentina, and comes from the Caracas newspaper *El Universal* of May 8. My translation from the Spanish is as follows:—

"San Luis, Argentina, May 7. (AFP). It has been revealed here today that a squadron of some forty flying saucers, in perfect formation, has passed several times to and fro across the air-space of this province of Argentina, which lies some 400 kilometres to the west of Buenos Aires.

"According to reports received by the local newspaper, *La Voz del Sud*, and by their regional correspondents, the first sighting of these UFOs took

place during the night of last Thursday.⁷

"The eyewitnesses say the weird craft passed overhead bathed in a tremendous greenish-blue glow.

"The craft were in V-formation, and in the course of several of the fly-overs the formation split up into two sections which, so the dumbfounded witnesses say, then came together to form the V-pattern again after executing perfect curves."

References

1. See *Project Blue Book*, edited by Brad Steiger, Ch.IV (Ballantine Paperback Books, N.Y., 1976).
2. They know how to prepare roast duck to perfection in China, the *Peking Duck* being especially famous in their cuisine. Chinese readers must have been thrilled to learn from the paper that these savoury birds abound in South America as they do in Old Cathay, and even fly around in disciplined formations there — no doubt *oven-ready*, as we say of our turkeys.
3. I have been unable to identify the place rendered in Chinese as Ma-Hsi-T'e. (For those who are interested, I might add that Buenos Aires comes out in Chinese as Bu-Yi-No-Ssu-Ai-Li-Ssu; Catamarca as K'a-T'e-Ma-Chia; Mendoza as Man-Du-Sha.)
4. Thursday, April 6, 1978.
5. See *The Arica Encounter*, in FSR Vol. 23, No. 5.
6. The study of Astronomy and related cosmic phenomena is an absorbing, full-time job. It would consequently be a bit churlish of us to expect the personnel of the Argentine Bureau for the Investigation of Space Phenomena to be *ornithologists* too, and to know that this particular pesky phenomenon had long ago been identified — not as meteors but as luminous ducks — and by the most prestigious ornithological experts of our planet, the staff of *Project Blue Book*!
7. Thursday, May 4, 1978. (Do these ducks have a preference for *Thursdays*?)

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UFO WAVE OVER RUSSIA

A FURTHER REPORT FOR FSR FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Translation from the Russian by Gordon Creighton

UFOLOGISTS had predicted a new UFO "Wave" for 1977, and in fact it has occurred.

I have already had the pleasure of sending you the clipping from the newspaper *Sotzialisticheskiye Industriya* of September 23, 1977, giving the report about an "unidentified natural phenomenon". We have dubbed this UFO the "Petrozavodsk Jellyfish," for short.

Further new reports and interrogation of the witnesses have now shown however that there have been many phenomena of this same kind in the regions around the Baltic Sea. So many, indeed, that it is now possible for us to speak of the "*Baltic UFO Wave of 1977*."

At the start, the newspapers announced to the public that "an unusual phenomenon of nature" had been seen in the sky over Petrozavodsk at 4.00 a.m. on September 20: they simply said that something like a star hung stationary over the town, and then changed shape into a sort of "jellyfish" of glowing plasma.

When subsequently all the accounts had been gathered in from the eyewitnesses, it turned out that, at precisely the same time (morning of September 20, 1977) similar sights had been seen over many towns and inhabited spots around the Baltic — from Pskov and Leningrad to as far west as Helsinki and Murmansk, and over Lakes Ladoga and Onega, and over Karelia. In a whole series of cases the scenes described by the witnesses were similar: they spoke of the arrival of a star which came flying over, and which then proceeded to emit from itself into the sky a glowing cloud, a jet of glowing gas, and then looked like a luminous structure variously described as star-like, or like a lampshade, or like a jellyfish, and so on. Yet again, however, in many of the cases the sighting accounts were very different from this, some of them coming very close to the "classical" UFO shapes: a saucer: a sphere: a cylinder; a dirigible, and so on.

It now turns out, furthermore, that this Baltic UFO Wave went on for two months — if not longer.

Thus, at Petrozavodsk, on September 30, October 20, October 28, November 4, and November 9, the same sight was seen again there as had been seen there on September 20. The most interesting and most mysterious features of it all have been the material traces left by the UFOs: after the sightings over Petrozavodsk it was found that in a number of houses the panes of the windows bore round holes drilled right through them — just as though the glass had been melted — and a few centimetres in diameter.

Feliks Yurevich Zigel's UFO investigation group have been trying to gather in and correlate all the data about this Wave, and Zigel is preparing his manuscript for a book about it all.

We are indebted for this report, the first one ever specially written from Russia for FSR, which has reached me from the same correspondent and reader who supplied the press clipping about the "jellyfish" seen over Petrozavodsk in the early morning hours of September 20, 1977.

G. CREIGHTON

Furthermore, a *Catalogue of UFO Cases in the USSR* is under preparation, suitable for computerization.

References (by translator):

1. See World Round-Up in FSR Vol. 23, No. 3, and the article, *A Russian "Jellyfish"*, in FSR Vol. 23, No. 4.
2. Dr. Feliks Yurevich Zigel, an engineer, has for many years past been recognized as the most prominent of the UFO investigators in Russia.
3. Should this *Catalogue of UFO Cases in the USSR* ever reach the point of being printed, and issued to the public, there may be a possibility (so I am privately advised) that a copy of it might be made available to us. I doubt very much however whether publication is likely in any near future!

Fortean Times

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE HUMANOID ENCOUNTER AT RAINFORD

Robert Morrell

Chairman of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society, and editor of its journal,
Dr. Morrell is also a founder member of UFOIN

IN concluding her report of an alleged encounter with a "humanoid" at Rainford, Merseyside (*FSR* Vol. 23, No. 6, 1978, pp 3-6), Jenny Randles expressed the opinion that the four witnesses saw "something very unusual," for which neither police or ufologists can discover any "plausible explanation". In view of the particulars presented in the article I find this conclusion rather astounding, and can infer from it that no real thought was given to the case or, perhaps, there was a strong desire to create mystery where none actually existed.

The investigation of the case, which was not undertaken by Miss Randles, leaves much to be desired. Vital information is completely omitted, including, for example, data concerning the weather. Questions which should have been asked of the witnesses appear not to have been put, thus leaving the reader to make assumptions when such should not be the case. Scant attention is given to the physical and psychological state of the witnesses, even though a superficial examination of the factors involved reveals this to be of crucial importance. The investigation is said to be a UFOIN report, but I fear it does that organisation little if any credit. One does not wish to be hyper-critical, but if ufological investigation reports are to be treated seriously they must be as full as possible.

The sighting, we learn, took place while a party of four men were driving home after an evening out. We are not told what they were doing during the earlier part of the evening, but from the context of the story we can infer that it was social in character. We are told that during the journey, and before the sighting, they had stopped for a drink. However, despite what is known about the effect upon individuals of drink, we are not given any information as to whether the individuals concerned had taken any intoxicants earlier in the evening. We gather from the report that the police "...were able to confirm that the men were not in any way intoxicated." To this we may ask whether they were tested, but we search in vain for the answer. Perhaps the investigators imagine that drink does not impair an individual's mental and physical faculties, indeed the report states that it does not, at least in the case of a single drink, but as we do not know whether the men had been drinking earlier the observation in the report is useless. However, even if only one drink had been taken it has to be born in mind that the hour was late, sometime after 11.15 p.m., the men had been out all evening, it was probably cold — the report does not mention the weather but in a reference to another sighting said to have taken place in the area

the previous day, January 1st., mention is made of it being cold and moonlit. In all probability the car's heater was on, so we have a combination of factors which make for fatigue and drowsiness on the part of the occupants of the car, not excluding the driver. This much we can gather from the report, despite the investigators' claim to the contrary, and so the level of awareness of the witnesses is, to say the least, highly suspect.

The route taken by the driver to get home was through a desolate area, being a "little used" coach road. This implies that the driver was familiar with the area otherwise he would have opted for a better marked road; nevertheless, during the drive he made a wrong turn. Miss Randles ascribes the reason for this to the featureless geography of the surrounding land, although one would not have expected to see much of this on any road so late at night at this time of year. The driver quickly became aware of his mistake and braked hard, after which the car skidded and ended up in a small ditch. This suggests that the driver was rather tired, and the wrong turn was due to this fact. It was immediately after the car had halted that the occupants saw what they described as "a figure," and what the report depicts as "basically humanoid." The total time of the sighting is given as twenty seconds. Specific details are given of the figure, from which we must gather that the people in the car were giving it their rapt and undivided attention. However, I contend that the report indicates that this could not have been the case and it is doubtful whether any real attention could have been devoted to the object. What does seem to be indicated is a measure of panic followed by a rapid retreat, and the subsequent collective build-up of a vision of something far removed from what it was in all probability that was actually seen. I do not suggest that the description owes more to imagination, stimulated in rather chaotic conditions, and fuelled later by an element of fear, than it does to actual fact, and I contend that the report as given supports this conclusion.

I have already shown that there is every likelihood that the people in the car were tired and probably dozing off during the journey. The car makes a wrong turn, the brakes are jammed on, there is a skid, and the car ends up in a very minor ditch. This would have rapidly awakened the car's occupants, and, if reference is made to the photographs illustrating the article, we see that the car stopped very near a line of trees and a hedge. It is highly probable that within the car the situation presented to the

minds of the passengers was one of the possibility of an impending crash, in short, an element of shock was introduced, and not something to permit of clear thought. Shock takes some time to overcome, so if in addition something else unexpected and odd-looking looms up, the sum effect would probably be an element of panic. And significantly this is exactly what the report tells us. The driver was asthmatic, and at this point had an attack of asthma; Miss Randles suggests that this was brought on by fright caused by seeing the figure. I think not, but suggest instead that it was brought on by thoughts that the car might hit the trees. We must bear in mind here, and the photographs emphasise this, that the road was very narrow, and added to this was the darkness with, perhaps, moonlight which, as we know, can play tricks with the vision.

Did the people in the car actually see anything which could have appeared like a "humanoid figure," or were their imaginations playing tricks on them? I think they did, and furthermore I feel the report to give some strong clues as to what it actually was. Of course this cannot be demonstrated beyond doubt, but I would submit that it is a "plausible explanation," something which the report said evaded both police and ufologists.

The description of the setting presents the area as "open mossland," with little human habitation other than farms. In short, it is farm land. An examination of the photographs used to illustrate the *FSR* report shows very narrow roads bounded by hedges and trees, with one, however, which shows part of the road to be unhedged and unfenced on both sides, while the ditch is far too shallow to present any obstacle. It so happens that the present writer is not unfamiliar with the area from childhood, and thus I am aware that it was used for grazing cattle. The investigators did not see fit to mention this, nor is there any indication of them having looked into it. So one cannot exclude the possibility that what the rather shaken-up individuals saw from their car was a cow which had strayed on to the road. It is not too difficult a task to envisage the figure depicted in the report as a cow observed head on, particularly when we consider the circumstances in which it was seen. The light source was car headlamps and possibly moonlight, which would produce an interesting combination of light and shade, plus some sinister shadows. Remember too that the witnesses were in a car which would set them low down, thus making the figure appear larger. However, this does not explain the flashing lights mentioned, and by no stretch of the imagination can a cow be said to possess the ability to create this effect. How can this be explained, then? In point of fact there is no real difficulty here, for if we remember we shall call to mind the fact that the car had just turned a corner, and it is highly probable that the turning indicator light had been flicked on. What the passengers saw could very easily have been the reflection of this flashing light in the beast's eyes. We are told in the report that the "box" which held the lights "stood out in relief." Now cows frequently stand viewing something with their heads lowered, which certainly would explain the position. The flashing lights are

said to have been red; direction indicator lights on cars are amber. The arms were very short — the report mentions eight inches — so could they have been the cow's horns emphasised by a combination of light and shadow?

In short, the more one thinks about it the more the similarities start to emerge. As cows would normally be part of the scene in a country area it would not be unexpected if the police, when later visiting the site, ignored any in the fields, for the beast on the road had had ample time to wander off back into the field. Cows are curious beasts and will approach objects which arouse their curiosity, thus it is not without some significance to note that Miss Randles refers to the "figure" as taking "three or four steps" towards the car in a hesitant manner.

This case presents a whole series of factors which, if reflected upon, help to provide a natural and simple explanation of the sighting. In the light of them I feel it to be highly unlikely that the passengers in the car saw a "humanoid," and certainly the case has no connection whatsoever with UFOs. What we have is nothing more than a rather blown-up instance of mistaken identity, plus ufologists who fail to investigate the case as thoroughly as they should.

Postscript

Although Jenny Randles excludes the possibility that this incident could have been a hoax on the men in the car, and I feel her reasons for doing so are sound, she does not examine whether or not they could have invented the story themselves. As an alternative to the sighting being a case of misidentification I cannot rule out the possibility that it is fiction.

The people in the car had been drinking. They admit this, but they deny being drunk at the time (*Daily Mail*, January 4, 1978), and this must itself arouse suspicion in that to witnesses at the time they could well have *appeared* to be drunk. Miss Randles quotes the police as stating that the men were not intoxicated, but she fails to mention the time factor between the incident and their first encounter with the police. The nature of the events during this period could well have helped to sober up the people concerned. The police appear to have conducted no tests on the men, so a denial of intoxication is based simply on appearance, which is hardly acceptable as a reliable method on which to draw conclusions in a case of this nature.

I do not think that we can rule out the possibility that on the way home the car was being driven faster than admitted, took the wrong corner at speed — the skid marks on the road are consistent with this idea, almost crashed into the hedge, and so shook up the occupants that the driver had an asthmatic attack. This aroused so much concern on their part that they stopped at the farm for help, and invented the humanoid tale to divert attention from their condition. There are strong penalties against drinking and driving.

All in all, then, I would suggest that this case be treated with extreme caution, and the possibility that it was invented by the people involved should not be excluded when considering it.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE APPROACH

Jenny Randles

I N Britain we tend to look rather enviously at the official pronouncements of other countries. When we see the President of the United States of America supporting the reality of the phenomenon, or the French Minister of Defence speaking to the nation on radio and saying: "Yes UFOs are real," we feel rather left out. Just what are members of our officialdom doing, saying, or thinking about this problem?

Of course, we do not really know the answers to these questions. We know, however, that there is a section of the Ministry of Defence (Department S4 Air) which is publicly responsible for making comment about the UFO phenomenon. It is also said that the staff consists of no more than a couple of junior clerks. Whether there is more to it behind the scenes we are obviously not going to find out. We know that M.O.D. investigates some UFO incidents, and that they do not inform witnesses of the results (if any). Their published statistics indicate the familiar "10% unexplained," posing inevitable questions.

I decided to push the Ministry as far as I could, expecting of course that I would not get very far with this policy. On May 17, 1978, I wrote a long and rather detailed letter. Basically, I used the line that I was about to enter full time work in the UFO field and would like to establish a link with their department as we seemed to be working towards the same objectives. I made it clear that I was not trying to proclaim the existence of extraterrestrial spaceships and that they were probably as aware as I was that the evidence (such as it is) seems to point away from this direction. I also added that I did not say that they were hiding information nor that they should open their files to me. I accept their reasons for not doing this. All I proposed was a meeting with them to discuss possible areas of co-operation since we had a number of cases that they might find most illuminating and, probably, *vice versa*.

Controversial stuff, I realised. The reply was dated May 26th, signed by a Miss G.J. Jamieson. I quote:—

"As you know the Ministry of Defence interest in UFO reports is solely to see if they have any bearing on the defence of this country. Our interest is not confined to those reports which originate in the vicinity of defence establishments; all reports are examined to see if they contain any defence implications..

"Investigations over a number of years by the authorities directly concerned with the air defence of the UK have so far produced no evidence that UFOs represent a threat to this country... The records of past sightings are closed to the public because publication would involve a good deal of editorial work both to preserve the anonymity of the people who have written to us and also to delete any

reference to classified subjects... The files must therefore remain closed under the rules laid down by the Public Records Acts which at present precludes disclosures until 30 years have elapsed since the last action taken on them. The earliest UFO records we hold are dated 1962... I should add that the Department does not dismiss the possibility that intelligent life could exist in outer space, but no evidence has reached the Ministry of Defence to date to suggest that UFOs have extraterrestrial origins."

Interesting stuff, to be sure (especially that last portion) but hardly a direct answer to my letter. Presumably, the hope was that I would "go away." But I did not. On June 6th I prepared my next move.

Basically, I asked — if all their study of UFO reports had brought them no evidence of a defence threat and if they were not interested in the problem if it appeared to have no "defence implications," why continue to waste time over the reports? Why not promote some other authority to handle UFO reports, perhaps based on a University. I suggested that we knew scientific teams willing to do this. Surely the public could be re-educated into reporting to them. The other point I made was that, whilst I did not contend that the Department was deliberately suppressing information, some of the public and the media obviously did. This was because they never offer replies to witnesses who write to them and they refuse to undertake the limited effort in editing just one or two case reports to let scientists see the type of data they are handling. The extra workload here could surely be minimal while the payoff could be considerable in terms of public image and scientific progress.

The reply took a little longer this time. On June 23rd it arrived and I quote from parts of it:—

"I am sorry that you cannot accept the position as stated in my earlier letter, to which there is very little of substance that can be added... There is certainly no question of the Ministry of Defence suppressing facts about UFOs. The reason for protecting the anonymity of UFO reporters is simply that all forms of correspondence received from the general public is regarded as confidential.

"Consequently if UFO reports were made available to public scrutiny every single piece of paper would have to be edited to remove the identity of the observers, or their written permission would have to be obtained to divulge the information provided. We just have not the resources to undertake such a formidable task and there is no guarantee it will be undertaken in the future. This editing would still have to be done if the reports were made available to a university or scientific organisation... As you know

we have to satisfy ourselves that UFO reports have no implications for the defence of this country and the defence specialists naturally draw upon classified information where this might be relevant to a specific report... Reports received in the department are passed to the specialist authorities directly responsible for the air defence of the UK. Such staff have access to all information available to the Ministry of Defence and they can call on the full resources of the Department, including scientists. I cannot of course comment further on their investigations... My statement that investigations over a number of years had so far produced no evidence that UFOs represent a threat to this country was certainly not meant to imply that past investigations were considered to be a waste of time; nor do we presume that nothing of defence interest will appear in the future... Having satisfied ourselves on the defence aspects we do not carry investigations beyond our defence interest to a point of positive identification of the object seen... your letter implies that the Ministry of Defence does not discharge its duty to the public in the field of UFOs in a responsible manner. I can only repeat that pressures on the defence budget are so severe that expenditure of public funds on activities outside our strictly defence interests cannot be authorised."

This letter was a very long one, and I presume they hoped that it would finally get rid of me. They still refused a meeting, insisting it would be a waste of time. On June 28th I decided to have one last attempt, making sure I asked specific questions that I felt they had failed to answer so far. I also made a last brave effort to get something out of them by suggesting that they could further the cause of serious research—without effort to themselves—if when a report was made to them they were to simply suggest that the person involved should contact UFOIN or FSR at the same time. Clearly they could not attempt to find an explanation owing to lack of time, but if the case was referred to an experienced UFO investigator everyone might benefit.

The reply this time took a full month; it was dated July 28th. Perhaps Miss Jamieson was on holiday or perhaps I was now felt to be just a bit of a nuisance. Certainly the reply was short and to the point;

"I am sorry that we cannot agree to your suggestion that people who make reports of UFO sightings to a service base or establishment should be asked to telephone or write to you. You will no doubt realise that were the Ministry of Defence to indulge in any form of sponsorship of your particular organisation, requests for similar assistance from many other

associations would inevitably follow..."

However, they did provide a better response to my questions, which mainly concerned the statement made in 1974 by M. Robert Galley (the French Minister of Defence).

"We are aware of the group GEPAN, set up at the National Centre for Space Studies in Toulouse, France. The United Kingdom has, however, no formal links with the group. So far as we know, the French Ministry of Defence view does not differ significantly from our own. However, with regard to M. Galley's broadcast I would direct your attention to the House of Lords official report (Hansard) of 9 March 1978 when it was stated that the Ministry of Defence has the official transcript of the broadcast and that nothing in it indicates the existence of a threat to the United Kingdom. For a number of years we have stated openly that the Department has no evidence that UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin and no evidence that they represent a defence threat. *Nor have we ever denied that there are many curious and puzzling phenomena in the skies.*" (My italics-J.R.)

So — where do we stand? Do we accept the M.O.D. letters as giving a real reflection of what goes on? Personally, I think that one can read a few significant things into these statements and realise that the Ministry are not withholding facts (as such) but may be keeping their interpretation of these facts to themselves. It may well be that they are right in saying they have no evidence that UFOs are of an extraterrestrial origin or that they pose a defence threat. In my ten years of UFO research I have not come up with anything which might contradict this. So, if the problems posed by the "curious and puzzling phenomena in the skies," are still unsolved it, may be that like us they are still searching for the truth and accept that research into UFO sightings is by no means, as they say, "a waste of time."

Perhaps the best summing up is that the Ministry seem to have had as much contact with the phenomenon as we have as ufologists. Since their opinion, they claim, does not differ significantly from that of the French Government they must also accept the existence of UFOs *per se* (indeed the last sentence of their reply to me virtually admits this). In other words, they have studied the data, recognised that it is worth continuing study, and have obviously reached some tentative conclusions — as have ufologists. I think we can take it that they know *at least as much* as we do, but — a sobering note to end on — if their study is limited simply to an assessment of the physical threat to the defence of this country can we assume that the knowledge they have of the subject is being properly applied?

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DOWN ON A STAFFORDSHIRE FARM

Martin Keatman

Our contributor is a member of the UFORA team in Staffordshire and is therefore a colleague of UFOIN investigator Derek James. This is his first full investigation for the network.

TITTENSOR is a small village a few miles south of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Surrounding it are many farms, breeding cattle and pigs, and one of the farmers is Arthur Johnson (who is in his mid sixties).

Mrs. Johnson works at a nearby hospital and every night her husband regularly departs from the farmhouse at 9.55 p.m. for the short drive to collect her when she has finished. The incident took place one cold, winter's night in December 1977. The exact date is unknown but the weather was fine, the sky was clear and there was a vast panorama of stars.

Mr. Johnson had been driving down the lane for less than a minute, and was about 300 yards from his door, when he caught sight of two very large bright lights placed one above the other. These were in the ESE at about 50 degrees elevation and were very unusual. Pulling up into a small turning area, muddy due to earlier rain, he considered the prospect that this might be a helicopter. The car window was open so he stretched his head out, but there was no sound.

Feeling more puzzled than ever he switched off the car engine. Getting out of the car he clambered up a small embankment in the hope of obtaining a better view. As he did so the object turned and he could now quite clearly see its shape. It was travelling very low (estimated altitude about 100 feet) and came within 50 yards of him, crossing the road ahead from right to left. In fact Mr. Johnson is sure that it was so close that he could have hit it with a stone had he thrown one. Yet it remained totally silent.

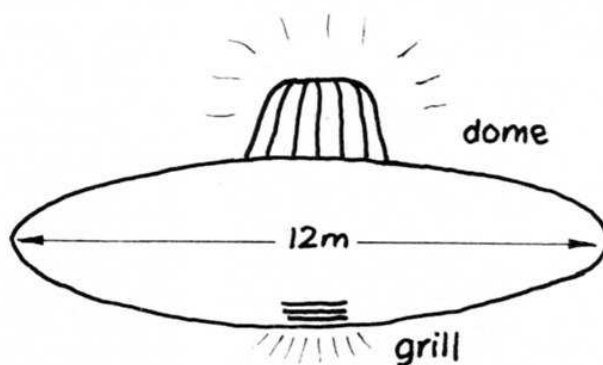
Passing over the road it banked sharply so that it passed over a hedgerow beside the lane and above some telephone lines. It then came to a point above a tree where it banked to the right, and moved off silently in the direction of the village. The witness got back into his car and continued his journey as the object moved away into the distance.

Obviously Mr. Johnson had an excellent opportunity to study the craft in great detail as it passed by so close. Its speed was slow enough to allow it to be in clear view for about half a minute.

In shape somewhat — and certainly in its motion — it reminded him of a submarine passing through water. It was roughly cigar-shaped, tapering at both ends, and had a "pill box" type of dome on top. Its size was fairly carefully assessed as 40 feet long and 10 feet across at its widest point. It seemed to be metallic in composition and was glowing white from a bright illumination elsewhere on its body. It was not self-luminous all over.

The "dome" seemed to be made of a transparent material and was apparently symmetrical (again about 10 x 10 feet). It contained about five or six vertical struts which were dark, and of unknown composition because of an intensely bright white light radiating from the inside.

The only other observed feature of the object was a grill on the central underside. This again looked to be metallic but had no definite shape. It consisted of several uni-directional bars and seemed to be about 4 feet long. Again there was a very intense white light coming from this.



The UFO, based on Mr. Johnson's sketch

The grill and the dome were the only two sources of light, but this was so strong that it lit up the ground beneath where the object passed. The light was diffuse and seemed to be exactly the same as from any normal light source.

Naturally enough the witness was somewhat perturbed by this, but was interested to know if anything had been seen from the village. He reported it to the press, which carried a brief local mention. He then wished that he hadn't bothered! Within a few weeks he had been inundated with phone calls, letters and UFO group report forms — all of which he ignored because the last thing he wanted was a fuss surrounding his observation. His wife had become very disillusioned with the whole affair and was rather annoyed by my investigations (thinking they would precipitate more publicity). After promises that this would not be so, and that we simply wanted an account for those interested, she relented and this report became possible.

MULTI-WITNESS SIGHTINGS OVER THE FIRTH OF FORTH

David Sydeserff

THE East Central area of Scotland is renowned for its agriculture and one cannot fail to miss this point if ever in the area. The land is generally flat with fields stretching before the eye. With the agriculture comes livestock, mainly cows, sheep and poultry. It is also an area of coal-mining, dating back to the 18th century; In fact the land is strung by the still evident pathways of the old mining railways. To the East Lothian region Edinburgh is regarded as "the Toon" (town), although Haddington is the principal town of the country.

Most of the incidents that make up this very complex case were not reported in the local media, and thanks are due to Dr. A. J. Rostron, science teacher at Tranent Secondary School, who was a great help in collating and investigating some of the reports. Personally, I have interviewed 19 of the 27 witnesses. Dr Rostron has interviewed most of the others.

The date we are talking about is May 17, 1977; at the start of ten days of intensive UFO activity over the whole of Britain that was to be the central point of the 1977 wave. The next day saw the landing and entity report from New Elgin, Morayshire (1).

On May 17th the weather was very clear and sunny with very little cloud cover and practically no wind. All ages given in this report relate to May 1977, and owing to the number and variety of the incidents the reader is advised to study the sketch map of the area at this point and familiarise

Our contributor is a newcomer to the UFOIN team, and his investigation of what was an exceedingly complicated affair has produced this, his first report. He lives at Tranent, East Lothian, in the middle of the flap area. As he says; "I can visually trace the paths of the UFOs as I sit and write now, but what I was doing that evening I simply cannot remember!".

J. RANGLES (SECRETARY UFOIN)

himself with the locality.

It will be useful to examine the data in six stages:—

1) At a time *before* 21.20 Mrs J. E. Foley, wife of a teacher, and living in Joppa, observed two objects in the NW sky over Granton. They hovered at about 1000 feet and were both roughly round in shape, although one was slightly larger than the other. Both were coloured pink and seemingly joined together by a horizontal "cable". After watching the objects for a minute or so she ran to fetch binoculars. When she returned one of the objects had vanished, and as she watched, the other faded away.

2) 13-year-old Stewart McKenzie was watching a group of boys playing football behind his home at about 21.05. From Tranent he could look out NNW over the Firth of Forth and, at an estimated 2000 feet., about 10 miles away he could see an object, smaller than a civil aircraft, moving west at aircraft-like speed. It looked like a sombrero hat, discoid with a dome on top. There was a belt of white 'kitchen lights' on the base and a flashing light on top. After a minute he became

disinterested in the UFO and went back to watching the football.

3) At about the same time as in the previous stage, 13-year-old Frankie Kraviec, also in Tranent, was looking south from his garden when he was distracted by an object hovering over West Windygoul Farm. It was saucer-shaped with a dome on top, coloured white, but reflecting the setting sun. For at least two minutes stayed in the same position and he too got fed up with it, turning his attention elsewhere.

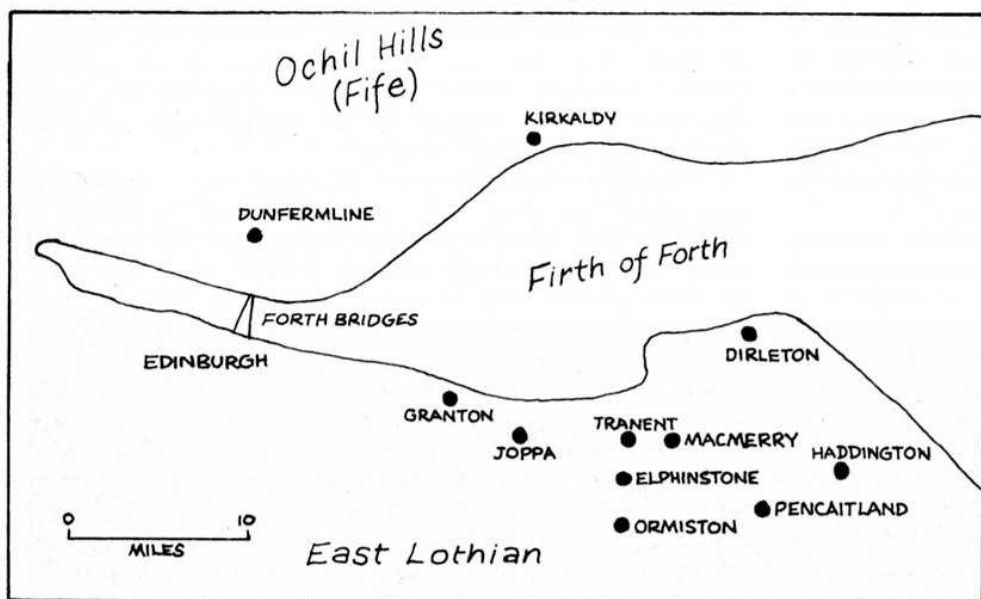
Meanwhile, Frank McLoughlan, also aged 13, from another part of Tranent saw an object moving slowly (estimated at about 20 mph) from south to north, heading for the coast. It appeared as half the size of the sun in the sky, was silvery coloured with a round flat base and a flashing red light on top. It hovered over the top of 'Tranent for about fifteen seconds.

The two objects in Stage 3 are obviously not the same, but there is remarkable similarity between the observations of Messrs. McLoughlan and McKenzie.

4) This relates to the only phase of the activity reported in the media, and involves at least 11 witnesses. It spanned a broad time range, indicating a slow moving phenomenon.

At MacMerry, Stuart Logan, aged 13, and five others (including adult showpeople) were standing by some stalls at a travelling fair. It was just *after* 21.20 and the sun had now set. They saw in the WNW towards Granton a dull yellow flattish oval with white smoke or vapour trailing from the rear. The size was estimated to be that of a 'wee lorry'. After being still for some minutes it began to move slowly northwards and descended out of view over the County of Fife to the north. It was in view until 21.50.

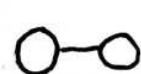
D. Rutherford from Edinburgh reported what seems to have been the same thing (2) He describes a pinkish oval over Granton moving northwards towards the Ochil Hills in Fife. It



hovered for about 20 minutes, from 21.30, at an estimated height of 1000 feet before moving. Attempts are being made to trace a man in Edinburgh who claims to have photographed this phenomenon.

Mr and Mrs McCulloch of Dirleton reported an object to the west at 21.40 (3) It was in the distance over the Forth Bridge area, and was observed through binoculars. It looked like a silver cigar which moved quite rapidly over towards Dunfermline where it pulsed six times and headed to the north and the Ochil Hills. By now it was glowing bright red and was finally lost to sight about 22.30.

Meanwhile in Dunfermline at



Stage 1: Mrs. Folley, Joppa



Stage 2: Stewart McKenzie, Tranent



Stage 3: Frankie Kraviec, Tranent



Stage 4: Frank McLoughlan, Tranent



Stage 5: Stuart Logan, MacMerry



Stage 6: Sandy Cunningham, Pencaitland



Stage 7: William Ritchie, Ormiston

The objects claimed to have been seen

21.45 Mrs A. Hutton saw a reddish saucer that was ablaze with light moving towards the Ochil Hills, and at 22.00 17-year-old John Quinn of Tranent saw an object over the Firth moving slowly and looking like a golden-yellow, flattened oval. It was about one third of the apparent size of the moon.

5) These reports are between similar times, but are quite different in character to those in stage 4 related above. They do not seem to be explainable just as poor observation of the phenomena previously reported.

13-year-old John Anderson of Tranent observed a flat object looking like a "gramophone disc" moving from MacMerry towards Tranent on a very slow course. It followed several tight spirals over Tranent and then moved away to the SW. It was observed for 15 minutes sometime between 21.30 and 22.00.

At the same time 13-year-old Colin Scott of Tranent observed a domed disc to the SW. It performed 3 or 4 tight spirals over the town at a fast speed and then moved off SW at some speed. The dome particularly was glowing very brightly and seemed to be quite small. The time was the same as that for John Anderson.

14-year-old Heather Smith of MacMerry was looking west at the same time and she saw an object in the distance performing tight spirals.

At 22.00 it was "lights out" at Tyneholm House, a Dr Barnardo's home for orphaned children at Pencaitland, 13-year-old Sandy Cunningham was reading a book and looking south over a clear and open view when he spotted an object moving SE. He called out, and a total of seven people were able to observe the object, including two staff members, Mr Thomas Kemperer and Miss Jane Player. The object was oval and yellow/white in colour, surrounded by an aura of some kind. It moved slowly and was viewed until about 22.10 when it stopped for a few seconds and went on to disappear from view behind trees.

6) The last stage has several contradictions within it, but relates to specific area, to the south of Tranent.

13-year-old Adam Young of Ormiston is a keen bird watcher. Upon hearing a partridge in the fields outside his home he looked out as dusk fell (about 21.40) and saw to the west a small thin silver/white oval. On the underside was a small red light and the whole object sparkled. It was over a disused 'coal bing' (tip) and moved to the north at the height of an electricity pylon. It did not seem large and was about half a mile away. He called his parents and they watched the object also, partly from outside the house (to eliminate window reflections). The object was in view about ten minutes.

Meanwhile 16-year-old William Ritchie was standing with other youths to the SW of Ormiston and had the 'bing' in clear view. Time was about 22.00 when they saw a stationary object close to the summit (about 200 feet). It hovered for ten seconds and then moved off quickly towards Elphinstone (to the north). The object was described as 30-40 feet long, and oval-shaped with a dome on top. On top of this was a red light and there were white lights on the base.

Meanwhile, at about this time, 13-year-old Brian Young of Elphinstone observed an object like a domed disc, but it has not proved possible to trace this witness for more detailed questioning.

Investigations

Investigation of these incidents has led to a plethora of theories but no solutions.

Some of the reports may relate to aircraft description distorted due to distance, but no corroborating aircraft have been found to have been in the area. The RAF advised; "We did not have anything in the air in that area." Other reports are obviously not aircraft unless the descriptions are wildly exaggerated.

Mr D. Allan Pickup from the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh said that he had received a number of calls but had disregarded them as relating to "fluorescent clouds of Barium vapour released from rockets to study airflow and the Earth's magnetic field in the upper atmosphere." However, the Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston knew of no such experiments on that day, and the Rocket Range on the Isle of Benbecula (Outer Hebrides) confirmed that there were no rocket launches that day.

Consequently, the investigation has reached a dead end. It does seem feasible that some logical explanation will be uncovered, particularly for stage 4 of this report. The behaviour of the phenomenon is certainly like that of a high flying weather balloon reflecting the setting sun. In the circumstances this seems worth bearing in mind.

However, it does not seem probable that any one object can account for all the reports, and indeed we seem to be dealing with a least four different phenomena (ie stages 1 & 4, 2 & 3,5 and 6). There are several points to note a) The descriptions of a domed like object in many of the sightings are consistent, and perhaps significantly relate very closely to the object sighted by the witnesses at New Elgin the next day (1) although this event was not publicised before appeared in *Flying Saucer Review*.

b) The objects are reported to have travelled in several different directions, therefore ruling out any suggestions that all were moving with the wind.

c) From what we know of past activities of the UFO phenomenon it is not inconceivable that the existence of an event liable to lead to many misidentifications (such as a weather balloon or a barium cloud release) is used as a blind for more genuinely UFO-orientated activities. After that, even genuine sightings will be branded as false together with the misidentifications — even if, as in this case, careful investigation proves the impossibility of this.

References

1. Randles, J. *UFO and Entity reported in Morayshire FSR* Vol. 23, No.4 of 1978.
2. See *Scottish Daily Record* of May 31, 1977.
3. See *East Lothian Courier* of May 20, 1977.

MAIL BAG

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.

The name of the game

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I have read Philip Creighton's article (FSR 24/1) with the greatest interest but only a modicum of understanding. I am no scientist. But with every issue of FSR it seems to me that the plot thickens. Mr. B.J. Hall "jibs at the concept of control of the human race" (p.32), whereas Philip Creighton and Andrew Collins make it abundantly clear, if only unwittingly, that this is what the game is all about.

Thus Andrew Collins: UFO entities "reproduce through humans" (p.10) and "they gave the child Kevin a lot of things to do when he grows up" (p.15); and Philip Creighton: "minds can manipulate objective reality," etc. (p.19).

History is one long story of the control of the many by the few. If the few are divinely inspired, well and good. If not ...! For a great many years (my letter in FSR 2/4 1956 refers) I have warned against just this sort of control by demonic powers. The pace is now hotting up and I hope that my book *UFO's and the Christian* will do something to stop the rot.

Meanwhile, congratulations on maintaining such a high standard of objectivity and integrity through thick and thin.

Yours sincerely,
(Rev.) Eric Inglesby

Spring Cottage, West End Gardens,
Fairford, Glos. GL7 4JB
July 14, 1978.

Multidimensional intelligences?

Dear Mr. Bowen,—As you know, two major hypotheses are currently at loggerheads with each other concerning the UFO phenomenon: the extraterrestrial hypothesis and the human parapsychological hypothesis. Neither of them is convincing.

I therefore would like to propose a third hypothesis which seems to me more acceptable:

Behind the UFO phenomenon hides an *Extradimensional Intelligence* (located in the 5th or 6th dimension). It knows everything about us, who live in a quadridimensional world. It is not malevolent, but it makes fun of us by manipulating us as it pleases.

We are probably not the only ones to be so manipulated. All extraterrestrials in our Milky Way galaxy as well as in the other galaxies, whatever the degree of their cerebral development, must also be controlled by this Extra-

dimensional Intelligence. We cannot, however, rule out the possibility that the most advanced among the extraterrestrials or extragalactics graduated to a higher plane of existence and were thus incorporated into the Extradimensional Intelligence long ago. It is possible that we, too, shall end up by being assimilated in the far-off future, say, 2 billion years from now.

The UFO phenomenon is therefore neither of extraterrestrial origin nor of a human parapsychological nature. The UFOs (like the Loch Ness Monster, the Bermuda Triangle and other inexplicable phenomena) are manifestations of the Extradimensional Intelligence whose true nature and intentions will not be revealed to us for at least a billion years.

This Extradimensional Intelligence, however, is controlled in its turn by an Ultradimensional Superintelligence located in an even higher spatiotemporal dimension and so on and so on...to the infinite. In other words, there is an infinite hierarchy of spatiotemporal dimensions and corresponding intelligences. Let's not forget that the Universe is infinitely multidimensional.

Sincerely yours,
Julian H. Kaneko
9, Crêts de Champel,
CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland.
July 27, 1978

The following letter, which was datelined Florence, October 28, 1977, has been handed to me by Mr. Creighton for publication as a "Letter to the Editor." It is published here without comment as we cannot possibly know who is right.

— EDITOR

The Carlo Rossi Case

Dear Mr. Creighton,—With regard to Dr. Marianti's letter (FSR, Vol. 23, No. 1, p. 31) I should like to say something about the case of Carlo Rossi at San Pietro a Vico. I am speaking on behalf of the authors of the book *UFO in Italia* and myself.

From the letter in question and from your comment on same, one has the impression that the version of the Rossi case in the book *UFO in Italia* is wrong (even with regard to the date). On this subject I would like it to be known as follows:

1) The version of the Rossi case given in the book *UFO in Italia* was drawn from the newspaper *La Nazione* of September 29, 1952, where an interview with the eye-witness was published after he had reported his sighting to the *Procura della Repubblica* of Lucca.

2) The sketch which had been published by the same newspaper agrees exactly with what the witness had told the journalist. Therefore it is not correct to say that "the drawing used in the local newspaper was only a journalist's imaginative contribution."

3) The "new version" of the "new sketch" began to spread only in 1975, when the eye-witness, who died long before, was not able to confirm or to deny any longer. Note that none of Carlo Rossi's relatives mentioned the "new facts" at all in the course of the inquiry made by the Gruppo di Ricerca of Prata in January 1973. On the contrary, the son of Carlo Rossi, Sergio, confirmed that all things occurred exactly according to the version given in *La Nazione* of September 29, 1952.

4) The divulger of the "new facts" is Maurizio Rossi, grandson of the witness, who at the time of the sighting was not yet born; his source is Sergio Rossi, his father, who at a certain moment declared that he remembered the "correct version" of the sighting of Carlo Rossi (his father), and it is he who drew the alleged "correct sketch" of the UFO. Unfortunately he is not able to show either the alleged original writing of Carlo Rossi or his alleged original sketch. Note that this unexpected recollection of Sergio Rossi occurred in 1975, two years after that he himself had asserted that the version of *La Nazione* had been completely right.

5) After having got knowledge of the alleged "new facts", the authors of *UFO in Italia* and I took care of publishing them in the *Giornale dei Misteri* (No.66, page 17). Nevertheless, as documents in Carlo Rossi's own handwriting have not been shown, we think that the present assertions of Maurizio and Sergio Rossi have to be accepted with caution. In fact we admit they may have been led (maybe unconsciously) to "rationalize" the old account of their relative, who obviously used words and images according to his intellectual and cultural level. It is our conviction (also shared by the most authoritative ufologists

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in the world) that it is advisable to distrust "re-elaborations" carried out after many years, when the eye-witness is dead, above all, when these "re-elaborations" are not based on incontestable evidence. On account of this, the authors of *UFO in Italia* and I think that the old version of this case of San Pietro a Vico (published in the newspaper *La Nazione* and based on the words of the witness himself) is still the one that sticks the most to the facts.

Thanking you in advance for your attention,

With my very best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Pier Luigi Sanj

Via A. Baldesi 21

50131 Firenze, Italy

Alleged official studies

Dear Sir,—With reference to Sir Victor Goddard's letter published in FSR Vol.24, No.1, and in view of the fact that it was I who wrote to him concerning the two alleged official studies, I feel that a reply is necessary.

Sir Victor is in an unrivalled position to make his six statements, and because of that I generally accept what was stated. However, I take exception to the fact that he seems to think that I represent yet another

case of a serious investigator chasing a wild and baseless rumour.

May I ask Sir Victor how one is to assess the validity of a rumour, without first investigating the formulation of the rumour, and making attempts to gain as much information as possible (whether it be positive or negative) relevant to the rumour's subject matter, on which a final decision (which may not even be *that* final) can be taken as to whether it is an unfounded rumour or fact (probably based on circumstantial evidence)?

It was because of my attempt to gain information on the two alleged official studies that I wrote to Sir Victor.

Whilst on the subject of the alleged official studies into UFOs, there are two rumours currently circulating that may be of interest to FSR readers.

Apparently, during a daily newspaper's front page coverage of UFOs a few months ago, a reporter had interviewed a Ministry of Defence spokesman who let slip that there was a secret government UFO study centre based in Acton, West London. This was not printed in the newspaper but was mentioned to the data research co-ordinator of the UFO organisation of which I am a member, who in turn told me. The only clue I

can find which may be relevant to this matter, is that in Kelly's Post Office London Street Directory of 1977, under Bromyard Avenue, Acton, W.3, is a list of various government departments among which is one quite simply entitled — Air Ministry. Maybe the P.O. have not realised that this department ceased to use this name years ago.

The second rumour concerns a government department in Cheltenham — The Department of Aerial Studies, (ND HQ) — which (if it exists) supposedly has close links with the CIA, NORAD, BBC Intelligence Units and the Metropolitan Police, amongst others. In one particular — and esoteric — UFO periodical there was published recently a supposed copy of one of the Department's classified memoranda listing UFO contactees for the year ending the 22 February 1978. Fact or fiction — who *can* tell?

It is all too easy to dismiss such things because there is no proof in support of their truthfulness, but then again, what proof exists to confirm that they *are* wild and baseless rumours?

Yours faithfully,
Paul Pinn,
64 West Hallowses, Mottingham,
London, SE9 4EX.
July 14, 1978.

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