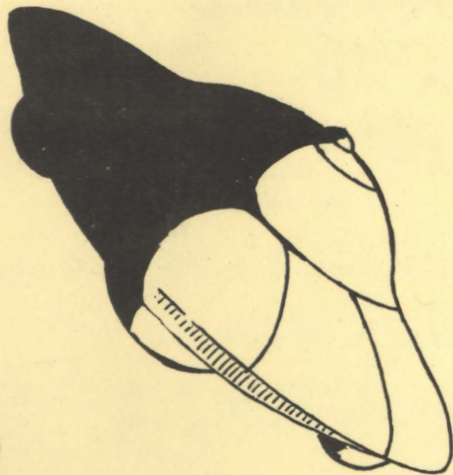


IRISH UFO NEWS

No. 6



60p

THIS
ISSUE

**PHANTOM
AIRSHIPS
OVER ULSTER!**



IRISH UFO RESEARCH

IRISH UFO RESEARCH

REGULAR MONTHLY
PUBLICATIONS -

- **JOURNAL**
- **BULLETIN**
- **NEWSLETTER**

EXCLUSIVE
LONDON

fashion

AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS



the

see our collection
with accessories

Wardrobe

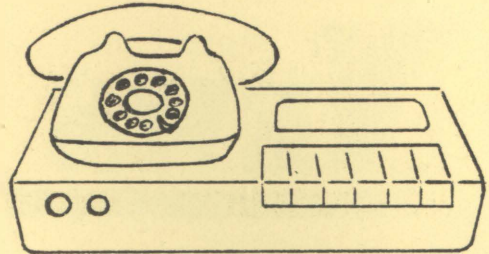
186 KINGSWAY, DUNMURRY
Telephone Belfast 617932

STEINWAY SYSTEMS LTD.

FOR
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

UNANSWERED TELEPHONES CAN

COST YOU MONEY



For free demonstration and
quotation please ring:

TEL · · BANGOR · 68505 ·

HAVE YOU HAD A UFO EXPERIENCE
IF SO THEN RING:

BELFAST

662386

24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE

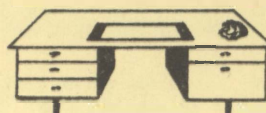
CITY OFFICE EQUIPMENT (N.I.)



TYPENITERS
CALCULATORS
PHOTOCOPIERS
OFFICE FURNITURE
PHILIPS DICTATION SYSTEMS
ELECTRONIC CASH REGISTERS
OFFICE SUPPLIES

575 Lisburn Road,
Belfast BT9.

Sales & Service
BELFAST 662997



The IRISH UFO NEWS is an independent journal of the IRISH UFO RESEARCH CENTRE and is published quarterly dealing with UFOs and related subjects. It is available free to members of IUFORC; on subscription at the rate of £3.00 per annum; on an exchange basis to other UFO organisations, or over the counter at the cover price shown. Overseas send for details.

ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION: The Editor welcomes articles, notes, letters of comment from any source. (UFOs and related subjects is interpreted very liberally.) The Editor reserves the right to amend items for presentation purposes and to refuse publication; pre-publication proofs can be made available on request. All contributions should be addressed to the Editorial address given below. Material contained in this journal does not necessarily reflect the views of IUFORC and all articles are joint copyright IUFON and the contributor (if signed).

Administration

Secretary

4 Copeland Drive, Comber,
Co. Down, N.I. BT23 5JJ
Tel: Comber 878403

Publicity

205 Dunluce Avenue,
Lisburn Road, Belfast 9,
N.I. Tel: 662386

Investigation and

Research and Library

19 Cairnshill Avenue,
Carryduff, Belfast,
N.I. Tel: 642451

Editorial

4 Copeland Drive, Comber,
Co. Down, N.I. BT23 5JJ

Membership

205 Dunluce Avenue,
Lisburn Road, Belfast 9,
N.I.

Contents:

EDITORIAL.....	2
THE 1909 MYSTERY AIRSHIPS IN THE IRISH PAPERS.....	4
'CUTTY SARK' COMPETITION.....	11
SEAFORDE EXPERIENCE.....	12
ENIGMA.....	14
WORLD NEWS.....	18
SPACE WATCH.....	22
SPECTRUM REPORT.....	27
BOOK REVIEW.....	28
BOOKS IN BRIEF.....	30

An IUFORC
Publication



All members of the Centre receive IUFORC publication free of charge and are entitled to attend the regular meetings organised to hold film shows and discussions on UFOs and related subjects. No special qualifications are required to become an IUFORC member; simply an interest in UFOs. We are purely a voluntary, non-profit making organisation dedicated to the investigation, research and documentation of reports of UFO and related phenomenon sightings. IUFORC publishes regular scientific bulletins, newsletters containing reports of UFO sightings from around the world, and regular supplements which accompany this Journal.

To have missed the recent upsurge of UFO sightings reported in recent months by the news media, one would have to have been either a blind, deaf mute; a cave dweller; comatose; or dead. Even the good old 'Beeb' gave the UFOs top of the bill on their 6.00pm and 10.00pm news programmes on Old Year's Night; sending us into the New Year with a festivity of flashing iridescence as they scooped ITV for the film report on the Auckland sightings. Certainly Page Three readers of the "SUN" on the 2nd January could not have helped but notice the UFO report and 'still' on the page next to the shapely 'earthly' body.

Are we entering the year of the UFO? (When have we heard that before!) If they are anything to go by, then certainly the first few hours of 1979 seem to indicate so. With UFO activity rife in both hemispheres it looks as if we could be in for another 'flap'.

In Northern Ireland we had our fair share of sightings and ignoring the recent Queen's University Rag Week hoax calls, these have come from virtually all parts of the Province. From as far away as Beleek to Limavady, reports have been continually streaming into the Centre's Hotline. On early Sunday morning the 1st January an RUC patrol was asked to look into a reported sighting in Glengormley (Co. Antrim) and during the afternoon several people reported seeing a cigar-shaped UFO traverse the sky from east to west. On the same date a surgeon in England reported seeing a similar object travelling in the same direction - a possible correlation.

Needless to say official comment on this recent burst of UFO activity varies from the planet Venus to space flotsam re-entering the earth's atmosphere. Undoubtedly some of these reported sightings can be explained away in rational terms and indeed the New Year's sightings were first classified as a 'fireball' and later explained as the remnants of a Russian rocket burning up, however quite a large number of the reports filtering into our organisation have yet to be explained. On the subject of explanations, I would love to know why so many, supposedly learned people come out with the Venus and 'flotsam' explanations without appearing to have given the subject some thought. Having had an interest in astronomy for many years, and having spent a lot of nights and mornings observing the heavens (the Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn; you name it, I've seen it!), I have yet to see them loop the loop, spiral towards the ground, move horizontally faster than a jet aircraft, or speed away at impossible angles to fizzle out and disappear; especially in broad daylight! And as for space flotsam; hasn't the Government told us that anything short of Skylab (which would break up anyway) would burn out long before it reached the lower layer of our atmosphere. Nonetheless, there is a lot of debris (man-made or otherwise!) floating around above our heads and by the laws of probability some of it is bound to make an appearance. However, bits and pieces of 'space junk' will burn brightly and then fizzle out like a Halloween rocket and its path is naturally downward. It will not go out and light up again in differing colours and it will certainly not behave like Barnes Wallis' famous "Dam Buster" bomb.

Sir Bernard Lovell was stated as saying the UFO flap "depressed" him; went on to dismiss the latest sightings as nothing short of science fiction and then came out with the comment that it was inconceivable that extra-terrestrial life could exist within a short distance from our Solar system. This comment is not only meaningless, but probably irrelevant in this context. And why in the name of fortune does the field of science assume that the subject of UFOs is altogether associated with 'little green men'.

The Venus probe, having rendezvoused with Venus and NASA hoping to resolve some of the enigma which is literally enshrouding earth's sister planet, it is seriously believed that the world's astronomers will soon be changing their views on the make-up of Venus by what will be discovered as a result of forthcoming data. McDonnell-Douglas are at present working on an aircraft guidance system which will revolutionise flight. It's called CCV (Control Configuration Vehicle) and it can make an aircraft do almost anything in flight; including flying sideways. I thought only UFOs could do that!

I have written these two seemingly irrelevant pieces into this editorial to amplify two very simple arguments. In the field of technology and extra-terrestrial observation, the scientist's yardstick or frame of reference is constantly changing. Changes in circumstances and development take place at such a rate that no sooner is one concept accepted, another quite radical comes along to render it "old fashioned". H G Wells, one of the forerunners of modern science fiction, thought of satellite-type weapons which were totally inconceivable in his day. Yet in this age the US and USSR confront each other with proposals of satellite vehicles which could devastate entire cities on our planet.

Today we do not know what UFOs are; those that do not fall conveniently into our present-day frame of reference - but what of tomorrow?

In this issue of IUFON we examine reports of sightings which took place over Northern Ireland during the period leading up to the First World War. We have the latest update on the NASA and European Space Agency programme with a special report on the Shuttle, and we take a speculative look at UFOs as an ultra-dimensional phenomenon. As usual we have our book review and an update on news from around the world. Unfortunately we do not have a fully documented report for this issue because of the recent pressure on the Centre, but we have included a short piece on the background of a recent sighting still under investigation.

In closing I would like to point out to all our readers that because of the recent purge or UFO sightings, a sudden upsurge of membership, and the fact that to cope we have had to completely re-organise the structure of our administration, this issue of the Journal will be appearing late. Regardless of this, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members a happy new year in 1979.

We intend opening a letter column in our next issue so if you have any comments, then let's hear from you. Send all letters to our Editorial address and mark them "Editor - Irish UFO News".

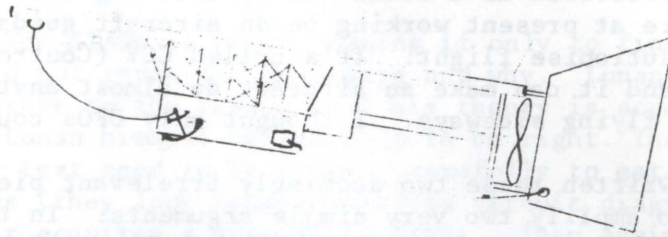
David Patterson

5 February 1979

THE

1909 MYSTERY AIRSHIPS IN THE IRISH PAPERS

by JOHN HIND



A historical approach to the UFO phenomenon carries with it advantages and disadvantages. If we study a period going back six decades or so, we can be reasonably confident that no startling new revelation about our subject will come to light; as some general, politician or scientist publishes his memoirs; alternatively as some new document is declassified. In other words we can be reasonably sure that the source material for the time is complete. The other side of the coin is of course, that we have to rely almost totally on these records and can do no useful investigation work-one cannot interview dead witnesses.

A particularly interesting body of UFO related data dates from the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first fourteen years of this century. These reports, today daubed 'Phantom Airships' differ in one important respect from the modern UFO phenomenon: they were interpreted at the time, by those who took them seriously, as airships (powered lighter than air craft) constructed by either a 'foreign power' or a 'secret inventor'. Like the modern UFO phenomenon, the 'airship' reports seem to occur in geographically localised waves. The waves isolated so far (it seems likely that present research has only scratched the surface) are: 1896 in the US (5), 1909 and 1913 in Britain (1, 3,4) and 1908 in Denmark (2). The reports are also similar in profile to the modern UFO data, consisting of large numbers of reports of strange lights in the sky and a few stories of encounters with craft and their occupants close to or on the ground. The 'close encounters' invariably describe human occupants and 'Heath Robinson' mechanical constructions with wings, propellers, sails, etc. For those readers not familiar with aviation history it is worth noting that there were no airships operating in any of the 'flap' countries with the exception of Britain at the time of the sightings. The first British airship: NULLI SECUNDUS (first flight 1907) and two others, BETA and GAMMA were flying by 1913. These 'Blimps' were low-powered, non-rigid craft capable of only short flights under ideal conditions. The first rigid airship was flown in Germany in 1900 and by the time of the First World

War, such craft were capable of carrying out bombing raids on Britain with limited success. The first known airship flight in the US was not until 1915. The short heyday of the airship as a luxury passenger transporter on trans-Atlantic routes began with the first Atlantic crossing by air carried out by the British R-34 in 1919 and ended in 1937 when the German airship 'HINDENBERG' was destroyed by fire in the US. (7)

In the early part of this century, Germany, due largely to its chemical industry, was one of the richest countries in the world; using its wealth to build up its navy. Britain, then one of the most powerful nations, had long felt secure behind the natural barrier formed by the English Channel and the North Sea and this security was threatened by the increase in German naval power. An 'arms race' had developed in the construction of battleships and respect for German scientific and engineering capability was justifiably high. A body of rumour developed, in parallel to the establishment fear that Germany would overcome Britain's sea defence by naval power, that Germany had developed some method of rendering sea defence obsolete. In the early part of 1909 there were rumours to the effect that the Germans had tunnelled under the North Sea and had a 'fifth column' already concealed in England.

No complete survey of the 1909 airship phenomenon is yet available though at least one researcher is working on this.(6) The author set out to sample the coverage given to the 'flap' at the time by the Irish newspapers for which copies at that date were available.

Three newspapers were searched for the months of May, 1909; the "Belfast Telegraph", a broadly Unionist-oriented evening paper published in Belfast; the "Irish Times", a non-political-oriented daily published in Dublin, and the "Irish News", another Belfast published daily having a largely republican-oriented readership. The Irish Times treats the airship 'flap' only very briefly and without editorialisation, but the paper takes a much less parochial view than the other two, reporting German reaction to charges that the 'airships' were German military craft. Both the Northern papers report the 'flap' quite extensively but there is a striking difference in the character of the reporting and in the editorial attitude taken to the phenomenon.

The Belfast Telegraph opens the coverage in the Irish papers on Sat. May 15 under the headline 'AMAZING AIRSHIP STORY: It is now understood the War Office is attaching importance to the mysterious airship reported flying by night over the eastern counties. An attempt was made at first to indicate the reports as to people having seen the strange navigator in the air, but opinion is coming round to the view that the airship is, indeed, actually the airship that was first sighted nearly two months ago.' There then follows a section which itemises the sightings by witness, location and, in some cases date. This data along with the rest of the factual data from the Irish papers is summarised in Table 1. Two reports are given in some detail, those by Peterborough P C Kettle and by a 'Southend lady'. The article closes by noting that: "Two opinions on the mysterious airship prevail. One is that it belongs to an English inventor who is conducting his experiments at night in order to keep his secret; the other that it may have been a German airship released from some warship in the North Sea."

The Telegraph has more to say in its May 17 edition. However, not to

TABLE 1

SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN THE IRISH PAPERS

- 1 Robert Westlake and some man working on the steamship ARNDALE: cigar-shaped, lit object making whizzing noise: Cardiff docks: Telegraph 19.5.1909.
- 2 Lethbridge: cigar-shaped object on ground with occupant: Caerphilly Mountain, Wales: Irish News 20.5.1909.
- 3 Messrs. Grahame and Bond: complex airship on ground, occupants: Teddington, London: Irish News 17.5.1909 quoting LONDON STAR
- 4 Mr, Mrs Egerton S. Free: cigar-shaped craft, hovering. Artifact found: Clacton: Irish News 17.5.1909: Belfast Telegraph 20.5.1909
- 5 Thomas Murphy, Frank Kerr: cigar-shaped, lit craft, at distance: Belfast: Belfast Telegraph 17.5.1909.
- 6 Anon: No details an airship: Belfast Telegraph 17.5.1909.
- 7 P C Kettle: object seen 23.3.1909: Peterborough.
- 8 Mr. A J Banyard, Mrs Mary Day: 25.4.1909: March, Cambridgeshire.
- 9 P C Hudson, Mr J O Smith: object seen 24.4.1909: Ipswich.
- 10 Mrs Amy Rush and son: object seen 9.5.1909: Bury St. Edmunds.
- 11 Miss H M Biville: object seen 9.5.1909: Southend-on-Sea.
- 12 Mr Cole: object seen 9.5.1909: Stamford.
- 13 Mr Deacon: no details: Wisbech.
- 14 Mr C W Allen, Mr Brown: no details: Market Harborough.
- 15 "Two labourers": no details: Kings Lynn.
- 16 Mr Strange: no details: Peakirk, near Peterborough.
- 17 Mr Kelt: no details: Northampton.
- 18 "Royal servants": no details: Sandringham.

(Items 7-18 from Belfast Telegraph 15.5.1909.)

be outdone, the Irish News jumps into the foray with the headline: "MYSTERIOUS AERO THAT STOPPED OVER LONDON FOR A FILL OF TOBACCO: A queer story told to a newspaper by a couple of strollers." The story goes on to quote from the London "Star" a story related to that paper by Messrs. Grahame and Bond. " "We were near the middle of the common on a fairly open space 150 yards from the wood," said Mr Grahame, "and I said to my friend, Mr Bond, 'sit down a minute I find I have a stone in my shoe'. We sat down on the grass and I suddenly heard a soft buzzing sound behind me. I thought it was a motor car in the distance and I could not understand it. Then I suddenly saw it come creeping along the surface of the grass. The moment they saw us (sic) the first man, who was clean-shaven, and looked like a Yankee, swung a searchlight right round on us, and there he was doing that over and over again, blinding us with its glare, evidently so that we should not see too much of the shape of the airship. The second man, who stood in the middle of the airship, looked like a German and was smoking a calabash pipe. The German spoke first. He said: 'I-am-sorry. Have-you-any-tobacco?' I just happened to have an ounce or two in my pouch and I gave it to him saying: 'Help yourself. Here is my pouch.' I could see the shape dimly. I am not an artist, but it appeared like a collection of big cigar boxes with the ends out. It must have been 200 feet, or 250 feet long. Mr Grahame roughly sketched the aeroplane with three propellers and a big swing searchlight. He proceeded-There were two men on the aeroplane. The first man who was near the forepart seemed to be in a sort of steelwire cage, and he had a row of handles in front of him like handles of a beer

engine only thinner."

Mr Bond at this point mentioned that the German gentleman had a cap and a beard and a map in front of him. It was fastened on a board and there were red discs as though they had been stuck into the map with pins.

Mr Grahame told the end of this adventure: "We saw the tall man pull one of the levers down-just like beer engine only thinner and then he switched the light off, and the aeroplane went without either of the men saying goodbye. It disappeared in ten seconds, and was gone before we could see where it had gone to. It was a very dark night." "

Monday 17th; Belfast Telegraph: "MYSTERIOUS AIRSHIP FLIES OVER BELFAST: A nocturnal visitor. Is it from Germany? The inhabitants of the peaceful Belfast suburban districts of Malone and Balmoral are wondering today whether they have been favoured with a visit from the mysterious airship. An EVENING TELEGRAPH representative visited the district this afternoon, and interviewed a number of persons who witnessed the passage of the nocturnal visitor across the sky. Their accounts agree substantially, and it appears that at about ten o'clock a brilliant light was observed in the sky in the direction of Colin Mountain. The aerial visitant was thousands of feet high, and came steadily on in the direction of the city, occasionally dipping towards the ground but always keeping at a great altitude.

The night was fairly dark, and it was impossible to distinguish clearly what the light came from, but when it came over the Lisburn Road and across the various residential parks between that thoroughfare and the Malone Road it was just possible to distinguish in the gloom a long shaped object, and no doubt was left in the minds of those who saw it that it was an airship.

It was utterly impossible to distinguish the construction of the ship or the forms of its passengers owing to the great height, but that there were persons on board was evident from the fact that a red light was seen on several occasions flashing from it...

When it got about a mile past the mountain it appeared to slacken speed somewhat, and its flight for some time became rather slow. Then it finally rose to a very great height, and disappeared rapidly in the darkness in the direction of the Lagan." After a long section comparing this visitation with the airship seen in the eastern counties of England and a discussion of German military airship activity the Telegraph concludes: "...it seems rather incredible that a German airship should get to Ireland unobserved, but against that must be taken into consideration the fact that Germany leads the way in aerial navigation and the skill and daring of her aeronauts knows no bounds."

On Tuesday 18th the Irish Times briefly mentions several of the English and Welsh sightings and carried a (separate) article on German airship technology. The Irish News carries a letter signed "Wide Awake" and apparently intended seriously, which warns of the danger of the (supposedly German) airships. The letter closes: "I am however, sorry to say that the rulers of these countries have closed their eyes to the threatening presence of this monster of the air. Now that it has surveyed the main coasts of England, I am almost certain that it will next turn its attention to Ireland, and I would advise loyal subjects to keep their eyes fixed upon the heavens these nights. If it appears, a report should be promptly sent to the headquarters of the Belfast Boy Scouts, so that ample and effective preparations might be made to cope with the dangers which are most certainly to be apprehended." The editor of the Irish News notes briefly: "The above



letter was delivered yesterday morning, several hours before it was announced that Belfast had actually been honoured by a visit from a "monarch of the air." "

On Wednesday, the Irish News carries an item apparently unrelated to the airship mystery, but the connection will not be lost on sociologically aware readers. In the newspaper's House of Commons report: "Sir John Barlow will today ask Mr Haldane whether he has any information showing that there sixty six thousand trained German soldiers in England and a quantity of rifles and ammunition in a cellar within a quarter mile of Charing Cross." "A prophet finds no honour in his own country," begins a flippantly intended letter in the same issue of the Irish News. "Already I am looking into the

future with eyes as keen and undimmed as those of the male eagle when he fearlessly stares upon the sun; and I see a bright vision of a grateful and loyal nation gathering around me and proclaiming the glory of the man who spoke the words of warning that saved the people of Belfast from a dreadful fate.

A year has been added to the roll of time since I first told my neighbours that aerial warships would hover over the Northern capital (Belfast) and threatened its inhabitants with the doom of the unwary. One has already appeared; it was seen by several people, including members of the staff of the Belfast Evening Telegraph. These observers saw it with their eyes; they saw the airship with its glaring lights spinning twixt earth and heavens; they saw several things besides, but this fearful vision dwelt on their memories, and they justified my prophetic instinct by recording the result of their patriotic midnight vision.

But they did not see all that might be observed that night. I have been making preparations for the appearances of this airship ever since the autumn. The powerful telescope which procured for purposes of military observation when I vainly hoped that our Lodges (Orange Lodges: a Masonic-type organisation) would undertake the conquest of Connaught remained in my possession; so I fitted onto it an apparatus which enables me to see objects within five miles distance as plainly on the darkest night as the ordinary man can observe them in broad noonday.

Sir, though I waited until independent testimony could precede my statement, I saw that airship before it entered within the range of vision, or into the imagination of the number of Belfast Telegraph staff. I brought my refractifying, specially-patented black-midnight telescope to bear upon it; and as it hovered over the Lisburn Road, I distinctly noticed the German Emperor and Mr Patrick O'Brien MP (at this time Ireland was unpartitioned and under British rule; Patrick O'Brien was a local Irish National MP at Westminster) standing side by side; while just behind them was a well-known member of the local United Irish League and A O H (Ancient Order of Hibernians, roughly the Republican equivalent of the Orange Order), pointing out to them the strategic places which should be occupied by an invading army.

At the same moment I placed to my ear another instrument which attracts any sound uttered nearer than five miles, as a lightning rod draws into itself all the electricity within the radius of its influence; and I heard the German Emperor distinctly say - he spoke in fairly grammatical English, though his accent was not that to which we are accustomed - "In my opinion Belfast will be ours when our fleet drops 250,000 men and 1000 cannons on to the Shankill Road."

Whereupon Mr Patrick O'Brien MP said: "Sire, I entirely disagree with you. We may succeed in capturing the Shankill Road, and filling every public house, tobacco shop and confectionery store in it with Uhlans; but Belfast will never be ours until we drop 500,000 men in Sandy Row."

Whereupon the local Leaguer and Hibernian said; in an accent that fell gratefully upon my ears: "That's all very well; but when ye have the Shankill and the Bog Meadows, what the David Porter will you do about Ballymacarrett?" (Shankill Road, Sandy Row and Ballymacarrett are all Loyalist areas of Belfast).

They were still cogitating over this problem when the engines "whirred" and the dread machine swept away across the Lagan and sped on at the rate of 87 miles an hour towards the Mull of Kintyre. I was not at all astonished to read in next morning's paper that the German Emperor had arrived home: I am sure he must have felt tired. Yours faithfully, An Anxious Orangeman."

Those familiar with the 1909 airship scare will need no introduction to the Lethbridge case which is extensively reported in the Irish News on the Thursday. "INVADED!" screams the headlines, "Foreigners, an Airship and a grim message in French. What a Showman Saw and Others Verified: Fearful Scares."

The Lethbridge story is then told, in much the same manner and with the same details as in the extracts quoted by Carl Grove and Paul Screeton. However, the paper does explicitly link the airship with other strange occurrences. Under the sub-headline: "Worse and Worse!": A Colchester telegram states that although the stories that have been circulating as to German military airships hovering over Colchester are dismissed as canards, serious attention is being paid in the garrison town to the continual reports that are received by the police and other authorities as to the presence of foreigners whose sole business seems to take notes of cross-roads and buildings in the neighbourhood of Colchester. Several instances of this practice have been lately noted by the police."

The Belfast Telegraph of the same day quotes the "DAILY EXPRESS" on the "Airship Fender" found by Mrs Egerton Free of Clacton.

On Friday 21st May, the Irish News, no longer able to resist the temptation, scores political points against the English by editorialising on the subject of "Invasion Hysterics". The editorial starts by noting several hoax airship reports and disparaging the fact that the mysterious table discovered by Lethbridge turned out to be instructions on the use of a motor-tyre valve. "We know why the Brothers Wright have returned to their native country," comments the Editor sarcastically, "their miserable mechanical makeshifts....are merest toying and fancies of children when compared with the marvellous German invention which can alight on lonely mountain roads with the ease of a "carrion crow" and disappear towards the stars with more dexterity than a champion cyclist mounts his machine at the start of a race." Commenting on the note-making foreigners in Colchester: "Wild stories indicating the

hysterical fear that has taken possession of the majority of the British people."

With the end of the week, we come to the end - with a few isolated exceptions - of the coverage in the Irish papers of the airship scare.

The author's motive in presenting this data is primarily antiquarian, as well as to bring it to the attention of other researchers. However, although much more research is necessary to bring in all the data on which a useful theory could be based, he feels that some comments may be made at this stage:

1. Since none of the established histories make any mention of extensive airship testing or operation over the British Isles before the war, it is extremely unlikely that genuine airship activity accounts for more than a handful of the sightings.
2. The airship phenomenon shows profile similarities with the modern UFO phenomenon. These similarities include the description of Light in the Sky and close encounter reports, the occurrence of spatially and temporarily localised 'wave' and 'flap' phenomena and in the them-and-us interpretation (the airship phenomenon was seen as a manifestation of an alien - in the old sense of the word-technology).
3. At least one type of hoax can be identified in the data: the newspapers use the phenomenon as a vehicle for political satire. The excellent example in the Irish sample is the Irish News 'Anxious Orangeman' letter.
4. The phenomenon is well adapted to contemporary cultural specifics. The best example probably contained in the varying attitude taken to the phenomenon by the two politically oriented Irish newspapers. The Unionist Belfast Telegraph, for which the cultural specific of German invasion is relevant, treats the reports seriously; but the Irish News, for which the cultural specific is largely irrelevant, does not.

Synthesising; due to the antiquity of the reports it is probably no longer possible to come to a useful conclusion about the physical stimuli behind the reports. However, we can suggest two tentative hypothesis about the phenomenon as a whole. The first is that the phenomenon was simply a form of contagion; of mass hysteria. If this is the case, then the phenomenon shows an amazing propensity for manufacturing compelling, specific evidence for itself. The second is that the phenomenon may be of the collective unconscious, analagous to a dream premonition in the individual unconscious. After all, airships were used over Britain by the Germans during the First World War.

In conclusion, the close analogy between the airship phenomenon and the modern UFO phenomenon suggests that study of the former could help in the understanding of the latter. It is to be hoped that more complete surveys of the source literature on the airship phenomenon will soon be available.

REFERENCES

1. Grove, Carl: The Airship Wave of 1090. FSR vols 16/7;17/1
2. Wegner, Willy: The Danish Airships of 1908. MUFOB NS 9
3. Watson, Nigel: The Cigar Ship of 1909. MUFOB NS 10
4. Screeton, Paul: A Newspaper Looks at the Airship. MUFOB NS 11

5. Gross, Loren: The UFO Wave of 1896. Privately published booklet 1974.
6. Personal communications with Nigel Watson.
7. Air Facts and Feats: Guinness 1970

Photocopies of the original newspaper items on which this article is based are available for consultation at the Irish UFO Research Centre library. The original newspaper files consulted are stored in the Shankill Road branch of Belfast Public Libraries, and the author would like to thank the staff for their help and patience.

WIN » £1,000,000!

CUTTY SARK SCOTCH WHISKEY COMPETITION

Readers of New Scientist will be aware of the following offer:-

An offer of £1,000,000 has been made by the Cutty Sark Whiskey Company in association with the New Scientist....

"For a device which can be proved to have been activated to arrive on earth from beyond our solar system. Such a device must be EITHER

- (a) a craft capable of interstellar travel which has transported extra-terrestrial beings to earth. or
- (b) an unmanned reconnaissance vehicle or
- (c) a missile or
- (d) an artifact.

Will offer a prize of £1,000 for a scientific paper which is judged to contribute most to our understanding and knowledge of the UFO phenomena.

Will offer a prize of £500 for the best "Cutty Sark UFO log". This record will contain information relating to aerial phenomena, researched solely from evidence contained in the logs of the sailing ships.

I am particularly interested in 'No 2'. Any member of the 'Centre' or reader of IUFON who is interested in the competition should apply direct to Cutty Sark or to me at the address below. A full scientific paper on the subject of UFOs is a considerable task and as the competition closes on June 30th, there is very little time. I am very anxious indeed that the more respected UFO fraternity in the UK should put forward a paper; I would therefore like to invite any persons interested in such a project to write to me. The paper will involve considerable research and much dedication which could be more effectively executed by a small team of dedicated people. The paper will be published as a scientific paper as well as offered as an entry to the Cutty Sark competition. It will be published under the Irish UFO Research Centre. Do I hear any call?

Miles Johnston, 39 Antrim Road, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, N.I. BT679BW
Tel: Lurgan 2024.

THE SEAFORDE EXPERIENCE

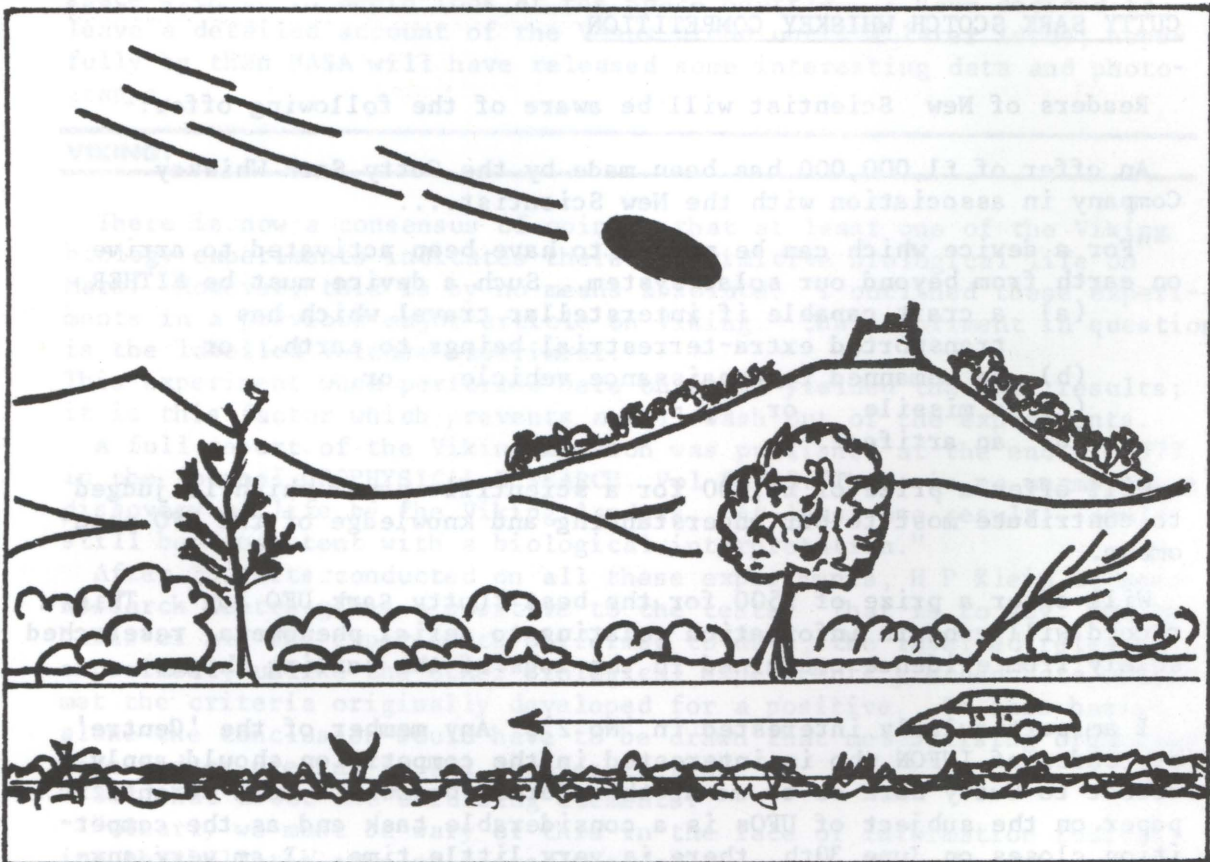
by DANNY WILSON

IUFORC INVESTIGATOR

20 Jan 1979

At the beginning of November, 1978, the IRISH UFO RESEARCH CENTRE had a telephone call from a Mr. Killen of Seaforde, County Down, stating that on the night of the 8th November 1978 he had had a frightening experience when returning home with his wife and children. The story was then passed on to me by Ken Patterson of IUFORC for further investigation.

I telephoned Mr. Killen and made arrangements to see him at his home at Seaforde where he unburdened his story to me as it happened. His wife, Mrs. Joan Killen, confirmed her husband's story, adjusting slightly

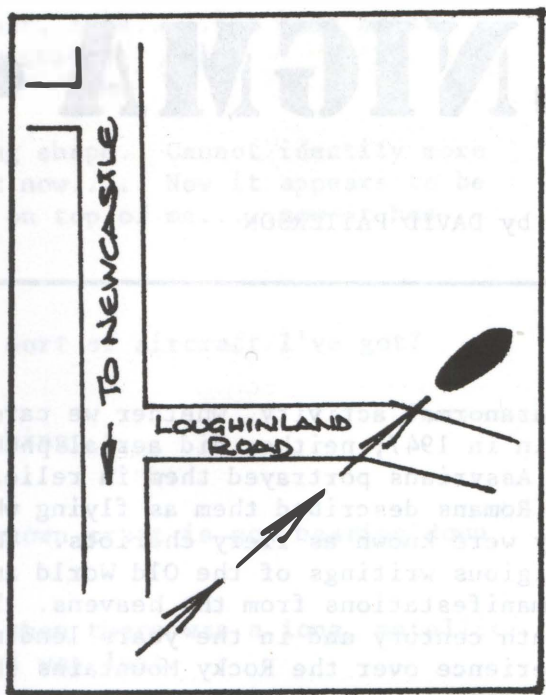


some of the details her husband overlooked.

Mr. Killen and his wife with their children were travelling home by car to Seaforde from Loughinland at about 10.55 pm when they observed a strange object larger than a Wessex helicopter travelling at great speed. To Mr. Killen and his wife, the object seemed to be about 300 feet above the ground level of the road and getting lower as it travelled. This strange object as it was described to me was giving off its own light; a

blend of yellow and orange and as bright as the full moon. It was described as almost rectangular in shape but with the corners removed. The object was sharply defined and made no noise as it moved to disappear behind a hill, leaving Mr. Killen and his family puzzled. They were very frightened by what they had seen and Mr. Killen phoned the police to tell of their experience.

After ringing the Newcastle RUC Station, Mr. Killen decided to return to see if he could follow the course of the object. At this point he again saw the object only in a different position from where he had first observed it; almost 3 miles from the original point. The time was almost midnight and it appeared to him that the object was going to land. This time he became really frightened and although he was tempted to venture further, he decided to return home.



SEAFORDE, CO. DOWN

On the same afternoon I visited him, Mr. Killen took me to the area where he thought the object might have landed, but we found no evidence of a landing. The area in question is vast.

My own comment on this sighting is still the same as it was when I first looked into the incident and it is as follows:

It is obvious that the planet Venus does not apply here. I also can not picture a fire due to the fact that the object travelled a short distance of a few miles and took almost an hour to do so. We may also exclude a helicopter, for the object made no sound and Mr. Killen was categorical in his description of an object of great brilliance with a clearly defined circumference and giving off a yellow to orange light.

The Seaforde object still remains a mystery.

Based upon unreliable and unscientific surmises as data, the Air Force develops elaborate statistical findings which seem impressive to the uninitiated public unschooled in the fallacies of the statistical method. One must conclude that the highly publicised periodic Air Force pronouncements based upon unsound statistics serve merely to misrepresent the true character of UFO phenomena.

YALE SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE - April, 1963.

ENIGMA •



by DAVID PATTERSON

Paranormal activity, whether we care to admit it or not, did not begin in 1947; neither did aerial phenomena. But flying saucers did. The Assyrians portrayed them in relief as winged discs; the Greeks and Romans described them as flying wheels and in latter biblical days they were known as fiery chariots. The Bible; the Koran - all the religious writings of the Old World and the New refer in some degree to manifestations from the heavens. In the last decades of the nineteenth century and in the years leading up to Kenneth Arnold's famous experience over the Rocky Mountains in June, 1947 they were described as flying ships, flaming spheres and ships of the stars. There can be no doubt that the phenomenon has been with us since the human race was evolved and perhaps even earlier. Whatever shape or form the phenomenon may take; be it cubed, spherical, cylindrical or elliptical it exists. But from where does it come? And is it real in the physical sense or is it an illusion,

On September 9, 1976 a Phantom F4 of the Iranian Air Force was scrambled when hundreds of telephone calls reported something unusual in the night skies over Teheran. As the aircraft, piloted by one, Lieutenant Fafari approached the brightly lit object it sped away flashing blue, green, red and orange in quick succession. Fafari made to follow when a smaller object parted company with its larger counterpart and homed in on the Phantom. Fafari attempted to fire one of his aircraft's missiles but quickly discovered that his weapon controls were "frozen". In addition, his radio and flight instruments suddenly failed. He managed to out-maneuvre the object which then rushed back towards the "mother" object. Fafari found his instruments functioning again and quickly resumed the chase. Again a smaller object detached itself only this time it headed earthward with the Phantom diving after it. Fafari saw the UFO touch down and he circled it several times, then mysteriously the object darkened and finally disappeared from sight. Fafari then returned to his base, but as he was landing a small, cylindrical craft approached him as he lined up with the runway. He watched it for several seconds as it zoomed overhead finally to disappear in the darkness. It was not encountered again.

Is it possible that Fafari, the experienced pilot, and hundreds of his fellow Iranians were suffering from hallucinations; that they were in fact simply seeing an illusion? When Thomas Mantell chased an object "which appeared to be metallic" to 30,000 feet, was it an illusion; a mirage if you like, that caused his aircraft to disintegrate and make him the first "official" UFO victim?

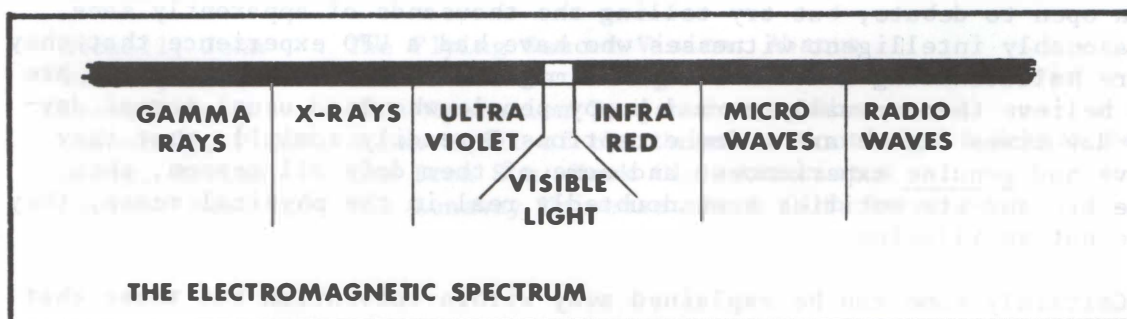
In an endeavour to explain away the UFO enigma, more and more authoritative people are turning to the realms of para-psychology to classify the phenomena. Jacques Vallee in his book THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE advoc-

ates that UFOs are not necessarily of extra-terrestrial origin in the true sense of the word but that they could come from a place in time; be a psychic phenomenon and make themselves known only to specially selected people. He sees them as being a "control system"; a source of energy which dwells in a peculiar space/time frame beyond the limits of normal consciousness. There is substantial evidence available on the existence of other planes or dimensions related to the psychic; we all know what "poltergeist" activity means, and those who have leaning towards spiritualism are convinced that there exists no less than seven dimensional planes beyond the physical life.

Exponents of the more oriental-type psychic religions believe that man has the ability to traverse the cosmos through the medium of the Third Eye. Research into Extra Sensory Perception has shown that telepathy is possible over great distances and that there are areas of the brain which see things differently from that which is seen by the conscious mind. For these areas of the brain, time and space have no real meaning. Are these then, the areas of man's brain by which paranormal activity is observed? This could explain the act of "seeing" UFOs, but what of our other senses which trigger the brain into believing that something exists.

We exist on a physical plane; occupying a place within a specific frame of space and time in which we exercise all our senses. We see, hear, smell and touch material things which our minds accept as reality. It exists because it is there and vice versa. This statement is not totally true in the field of astronomy of course; some objects, viewed through the eyepiece of a telescope or on a photographic plate, are so remote that their light takes many millions of years to reach us and consequently we may be seeing these stellar objects which in truth may have "fizzled out" thousands of years ago. If a star ten light years away "novaed" tomorrow we would not see the results until ten years hence. However, we assume the object to be in existence and an acceptable normality in the physical, because we can see it.

In his book, UFOs-OPERATION TROJAN HORSE, John A Keel goes slightly deeper into the paranormal aspect of UFOs. He sees them as sources of energy of an electromagnetic nature and suggests that largely they are invisible to our eyes; usually occupying those realms of the spectrum which are beyond the field of normal vision. Periodically, suggests Keel, the UFOs emerge from their own spectral environment into the field of normal light (visible light), assuming whatever shape or form suits the circumstance. At this point they become visible.



Keel uses the term "transmogrification" for this emergence from one spectral environment to another; an unfortunate choice considering it literally means "the changing from one form to another - as if by magic." Perhaps transmutation or even transfiguration could have been used to describe the circumstances. It is the "magic" inference I object to.

In the early fifties the British Ufologist Harold Wilkins further expounded the theories of materialisation and de-materialism (mat and demat) of extra-dimensional objects (UFOs are known to appear and disappear quite suddenly and dramatically). The situation is not unlike a person entering a room by one door and making his or her exit from another door; say on the opposite side of the room. Could this analogy fit the UFO phenomenon? Do they appear via some unknown dimensional gate; from one spectral environment to another; from one frame of space and time to another?

In practice the concept of invisible portals, or "windows" as they are often referred to, leading from one spectra or dimension to another may be totally inconceivable to our minds at present; purely for the realms of science fiction. However, as a theory it is no more ludicrous than that the concept of a black hole with its singularity is an entrance to another universe and a companion white hole (quasar) being a corresponding exit. The idea of multi-universes is no longer totally disregarded by astronomers and astro-physicists; it may not fall into their present day frame of reference, but they no longer consider the idea inconceivable or postposterous in the extreme.

The belief that UFOs are an energy source is not without merit; UFOs have been reported hovering near electric pylons. It is quite possible that the reason behind this is to draw off power or energy to supplement energy within the phenomenon which has been exhausted. Again it is quite possible that as an electromagnetic source of energy it may be attracted to electricity as lightning is attracted to the conducting trace on a church steeple. In the very early days of the flying saucer scare, witnesses often reported seeing purple blobs which may have prompted Eric Frank Russell to write his very famous SF thriller SINISTER BARRIER. In his story, his purple globes are an intelligent life form which existed outside the normal spectrum and were a form of living energy. Last year a woman in England was badly burned when a spherical object flew in through her kitchen window, hovered over her cooker and then exploded. This sort of phenomenon is known and recognised as ball lightning; it is undoubtedly an energy source and can be decidedly dangerous in the extreme. As yet we do not fully understand this sort of phenomenon.

Whether UFOs are psychic phenomenon or sources of energy is a question open to debate, but try telling the thousands of apparently sane, reasonably intelligent witnesses who have had a UFO experience that they were hallucinating and the reception might be somewhat cool. If we are to believe these usually normal happy people who lead usual normal day-to-day lives (there are a few exceptions I readily admit!); that they have had genuine experiences, and some of them defy all reason, then the UFO and its entities are undoubtedly real in the physical sense; they are not an illusion.

Certainly some can be explained away within convention but those that

stubbornly non-conform and cannot be explained away in simple down-to-earth terms must have a causation. So assuming they are not of extra-terrestrial origin (not from this planet), and this article in no way is meant to advocate UFOs are not E-t, or to deny the extra-terrestrial paradox, then the UFO could be an ultra-terrestrial phenomenon; something that is with us all the time but which usually exists outside our field of vision, leaping into our space/time frame to puzzle us.

In the history of human reasoning there have been many attempts to define the limits of possible knowledge, but no interesting attempts to conceive what the extent of these limits would mean and where it would necessarily lead. By necessity science is based on experiment and observation. It cannot have dogmas. It creates its own taboos and these taboos compel scientists to shut their eyes and ears to a whole series of inexplicable and unintelligible phenomenon.

C. Flammarion, in his book UNKNOWN FORCES OF NATURE said: "Matter is not all what it appears to our senses, to touch or vision. It represents one single whole with energy and is the manifestation of the motion of invisible and imponderable elements."

UFOs have beleaguered man since the Beginning; they have come bearing gifts to few, anguish to several, and puzzlement to many- undoubtedly they will continue to appear to provoke our thoughts. We do not know what they are or from where they come. It may be that they are extra-terrestrial craft with the "inconceivable" ability to traverse vast distances in very short periods of time; perhaps for them time does not really exist. It may be that they are ultra-dimensional with the capability of enigmatically travelling through many differing space/time frames; from one dimensional plane to another. It may be that they are ultra-terrestrial; existing beyond our field of vision, but slipping into our field of vision from another yet undiscovered area of the spectrum.

UFOs - even if they are all of these things, and it is not impossible that this could be the case - are an enigma. One thing is clear - they exist.....SOMEWHERE!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Michell, John : The Flying Saucer Vision: Abacus
Vallee, Jacques : The Invisible College: Dutton
Keel, John A : UFOs-Operation Trojan Horse: Abacus
Ouspensky, P.D. : A New Model of the Universe: Routledge & Keegan Paul
Berry, Adrian : The Iron Sun: Book Club Associates
Davies, Paul : The Runaway Universe: Book Club Associates



WORLD NEWS

ufo reports from overseas

AUSTRALIA :

UFO MYSTERY: NOMAD IN HUNT

So said the leader in Perth's Daily News on October 23 last year. The case they were referring to was the mystery disappearance of Fredrich Valentich, a 20 year old pilot instructor in the Bass Str. between Australia and Tasmania. The Daily News report goes on to say that Valentich contacted his Air Control after seeing a long shape hovering over his single-engined Cessna 182. The object was green in colour, looked metallic and appeared to be equipped with a bright light. The conversation which took place between Valentich and his Control allegedly took six minutes, although according to some reports took longer...as long as thirty minutes. An official spokesman stated that highlights only of the conversation had been released to the Press and that which was taken up by the Perth Daily News follows...

FSU(Flight Service Unit): No known traffic. (This after pilot had asked if other aircraft in the vicinity)

PILOT: Seems to be a large aircraft below 5000 feet.

FSU: What type of aircraft?

PILOT: I can't confirm. It has four bright lights; appear to be landing lights. Aircraft has just passed above me around 1000 feet.

FSU: Is large aircraft confirmed?

PILOT: Affirmative. At the speed of travelling, are there any RAAF aircraft in the vicinity?

FSU: Negative.

PILOT: Melbourne, it's approaching me from due east. Playing some sort of a game. Flying at speed I cannot estimate.

FSU: What is your altitude?

PILOT: 4500 feet.

FSU: Can you confirm you cannot identify aircraft?

PILOT: Affirmative. It's not an aircraft, it's.....(at this point there was a break in the transmission)

FSU: Can you describe aircraft?

PILOT: It is flying past. It is a long shape. Cannot identify more than that. Coming for me right now.... Now it appears to be stationary. Now it's orbiting on top of me.....now it has disappeared!

FSU: Confirm that it has vanished.

PILOT: Affirmative. Do you know what sort of aircraft I've got?

FSU: No military traffic in area.

PILOT: Engine is rough-idling and coughing.

FSU: What is your intention?

PILOT: Proceeding to King Island. Unknown craft is now bearing down on top of me.

FSU acknowledged that message, then there was a long, metallic click and contact with Valentich was lost.

Another report in the same paper stated that the Federal Dept. of Transport was withholding parts of the tape recording but a source informed reporters that there had been no break in transmission and that Valentich had gone on to describe the UFO in detail. It was understood that there was no indication of panic or alarm in Valentich's voice during the transmission.

PORTUGAL :

Dozens of Portuguese bombarded the national radio station in Lisbon with reports of seeing a large unidentified flying object hovering over the city. According to the reports, the craft was large, round and festooned with red and white lights. The craft flew between 500 and 800 feet above the ground.

ITALY :

Reports of UFOs as bright as the sun caught Rome's overworked police force unawares. The reports, many coming from two specific neighbourhoods in Rome, were taken in hand by the Italian Government Network who later explained the UFOs as pieces of the US satellite PEGASUS burning out as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere. NASA officials discounted the Pegasus theory claiming that it was still in orbit at the time of the Rome sightings. The Italian Government have yet to come up with a more plausible explanation.

ISRAEL:

Hundreds of Israelis reported sightings of UFOs over the Holy Land recently. The reports, coming from several areas included descriptions of glowing red globes over the town of Haifa, to glittering red, blue and white lights in the noon sky over Jerusalem. A military spokesman for the Israeli air force stated that nothing had shown on their radar and refused to comment further. The police authorities also remained tight-lipped about the sightings; their only comment being that UFOs were outside their jurisdiction.

However, one lone policeman was reported to have driven up to the Mount of Olives to obtain a better view of the phenomenon and his report corresponded to those received from the numerous excited callers. He said that he saw three objects, each the size of street lamps and shining red, blue and purple - "like a sparkling diamond in the sun." He was also reported to have said that the objects moved up and down like the monitor blip on a electrocardiograph machine.

USA:

Under the US Freedom of Information Act no organisation has, or is ever likely to be taken to the courts more than the Central Intelligence Agency; that awesome spectre which seems to be at the forefront many clandestine manoeuvres both at home in the US and abroad. Undoubtedly the CIA will be embarrassed by many 'pressure groups' but none more determined than North America's Ufologists; in particular the Pheonix-based "GROUND SAUCER WATCH" who recently obtained a court order granting them access to 1000 pages of CIA documents on UFOs since 1949.

A startling revelation resulted when the documents were examined by GSW experts: they came across a sworn affidavit made by two now retired US air force colonels which stated that they had seen the bodies of extra-terrestrial beings; taken from the wreckage of two crashed UFOs.

Ground Saucer Watch, delighted with this sudden "turn up for the books", quoted the two US colonels as stating that the beings were 1.2 metres (about 4') in height, had silvery skin and wore metallic suits which had been literally welded to their bodies in the inferno after the crashes.

The Pheonix-based UFO organisation is not yet finished with the CIA and its secret files. They intend to pursue the entire matter until the bitter end; delving deeper into the CIA's documents. Determined to find dozens of artifacts stored in the CIA vaults which they say will constitute material proof of the evidence of UFOs.

NEW ZEALAND:

UFO SIGHTING DRAMA

AUCKLAND...The Royal New Zealand Air Force ordered an alert yesterday after a television news team filmed what it said was an unidentified flying object. Aviation authorities reported the UFO apparently was

tracked by radar as well. The air force put a Skyhawk jet fighter on special standby alert to chase any newly-sighted UFOs. (Edmonton Sun Tuesday January 2, 1979)

So said the Canadian paper, well voiced on the topic of UFOs, reporting on the Auckland sightings.

But here at home, that monument of credibility the BBC had us all jerking upright in our seats when their newscaster calmly announced a film showing UFOs over New Zealand. And what was the story?

Two television cameramen had hopped onto a chartered Argosy plane to rendezvous with a UFO reported by the pilot of a commercial airliner. The Captain of the aircraft had reported seeing a brilliant white light moving at tremendous speed.

The two cameramen eventually sighted the strange visitor to New Zealand's skies and began to record the scene. At one point the pilot of their aircraft was informed by Ground Control that there were "unknowns" in the vicinity of his plane and he saw several objects approaching from the rear. The cameramen reported seeing more than fifty UFOs in the 5½ hours they were on board their aircraft.

The film, when it was released to press agencies around the world, showed the UFOs as slightly flattened spheres and jerking erratically in the viewfinder. Radar reports also confirmed that several unknowns were converging on the Argosy from distances of up to 30 miles.

An air force Orion maritime plane was scrambled to investigate the phenomenon - its crew did not report any sightings.

Numerous explanations were given for the cause of the UFOs; some sources stating that the sightings were reflections of arc-lamps used by Japanese squid fishermen - they were 106 miles from the area. Other sources stated the UFOs were mirages but did not go on to explain why the delusions were picked up on the aircraft and ground radar.

UFO INVESTIGATION

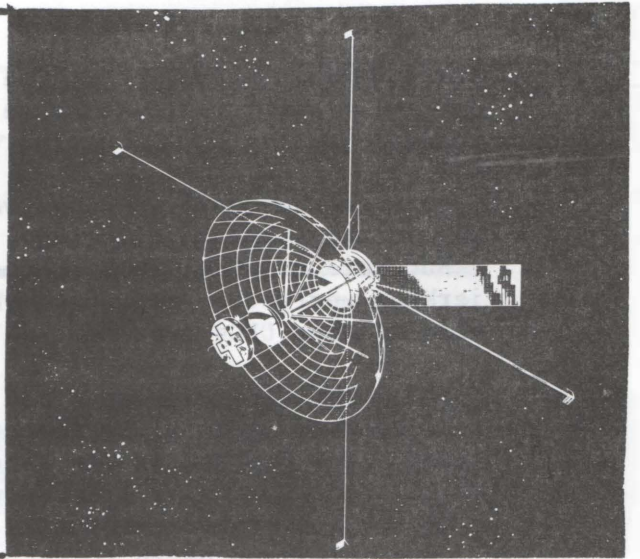
We have dozens of sighting reports still awaiting investigation on our files. They have had to be set aside because of our limited investigating resources. Although we do not ask for any special qualifications from our members other than an interest in the subject of UFOs, we do however ask for certain qualities from our investigators who must be officially registered with us and the UK UFO Investigation Network. As an Investigator one must have patience, diplomacy and common-sense.

In the reporting of UFOs, correlation is all too important and consequently research and detective-work is a necessity through the various sources we have at our disposal. Our reports are circulated all over the world and therefore we endeavour to remain known as a credible scientific research group.

If you think you've got patience, diplomacy and common-sense and you are interested in UFOs or related subjects, then we would like to hear from you. Contact John Hind who is IUFORC's investigation co-ordinator.

space watch

by MILES JOHNSTON



With UFOs the size of 747s being photographed in places as far away as the Middle East and New Zealand, here is an update on the latest in space with an in depth look at the Space Shuttle. I have decided to leave a detailed account of the Venus probe until a later issue; hopefully by then NASA will have released some interesting data and photographs.

VIKING:

There is now a consensus of opinion that at least one of the Viking biology experiments indicates there is primitive biological life on Mars. However, this is by no means absolute. I outlined these experiments in a previous major article on Viking. The experiment in question is the labelled release experiment.

This experiment when performed here on earth yielded the same results; it is this factor which prevents a full wash out of the experiments.

A full report of the Viking mission was published at the end of 1977, in the journal *GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH*, Vol 82/28: "There is no unambiguous discovery of life by the Viking landers. At least one result...could still be consistent with a biological interpretation."

After 26 tests conducted on all these experiments, H P Klein of Ames Research Centre gives a positive to the tests. That is to say: "On the basis of all the experiments performed to date, the labelled release experiment, unlike the other biological experiments yielded data which met the criteria originally developed for a positive. On this basis alone the conclusion would have to be drawn that metabolising organisms were indeed present in all samples tested!"

But what about the oxidising elements?

"clearly we must be wary of this in the face of information indicating that all the samples tested yielded oxygen in the gas exchange experiments upon the introduction of water. The evidence for strongly oxidising chemicals in these samples is quite convincing."

However, Levin and Straat are still maintaining that no chemical tested was able to reproduce the same result as in the Mars tests. So, the best solution would be to go back and try again.

There is presently a raging debate as to what experiments should be included on the twin lander/rover mission in 1984. Sagan claims: "the possibility of life on Mars, detectable by biology instruments, is astonishingly very much open...to return to Mars without active biology instrumentation would be sheer madness." Unusually prolific language for Sagan I must say; my opinion precisely. Thus doubtless we shall know for certain in 1984.

VOYAGER

Voyager 1 will pass Jupiter as only 49 Jovian radii on March 5, 1979. Thus deep in Jupiter's radiation fields, we can expect good data and imagery of the four Galilean moons circling the planet.

It will arrive at Saturn on November 12, 1980; passing the moon Titan within 4,000 kilometres; obtaining imagery of this moon which has an atmosphere and which should be extremely interesting. Data will be obtained on three other moons, and with occultation of Saturn's rings, we can expect some stimulating data. After this, Voyager 1 will join Pioneer F/G in the oblivion of extra-solar space.

PIONEER ON VENUS

I shall only briefly outline this mission presently in progress both on and around Venus. Already Russian radar has indicated a surface relief of only 5 km; with Earth 30 km and Mars 20 km. But what else can be expected with considerable surface moulding; lava flows; basins; canyons; plateaux and circular features like craters. This American effort is mainly an atmospheric mission despite the landing probes which have been referred to in the news. However, these were not built to survive a landing, even one did for an hour.

As the first orbiter only reached the planet in early December, there is still a great deal of data to come for analysis.

SPACE SHUTTLE

WHAT IS SHUTTLE?

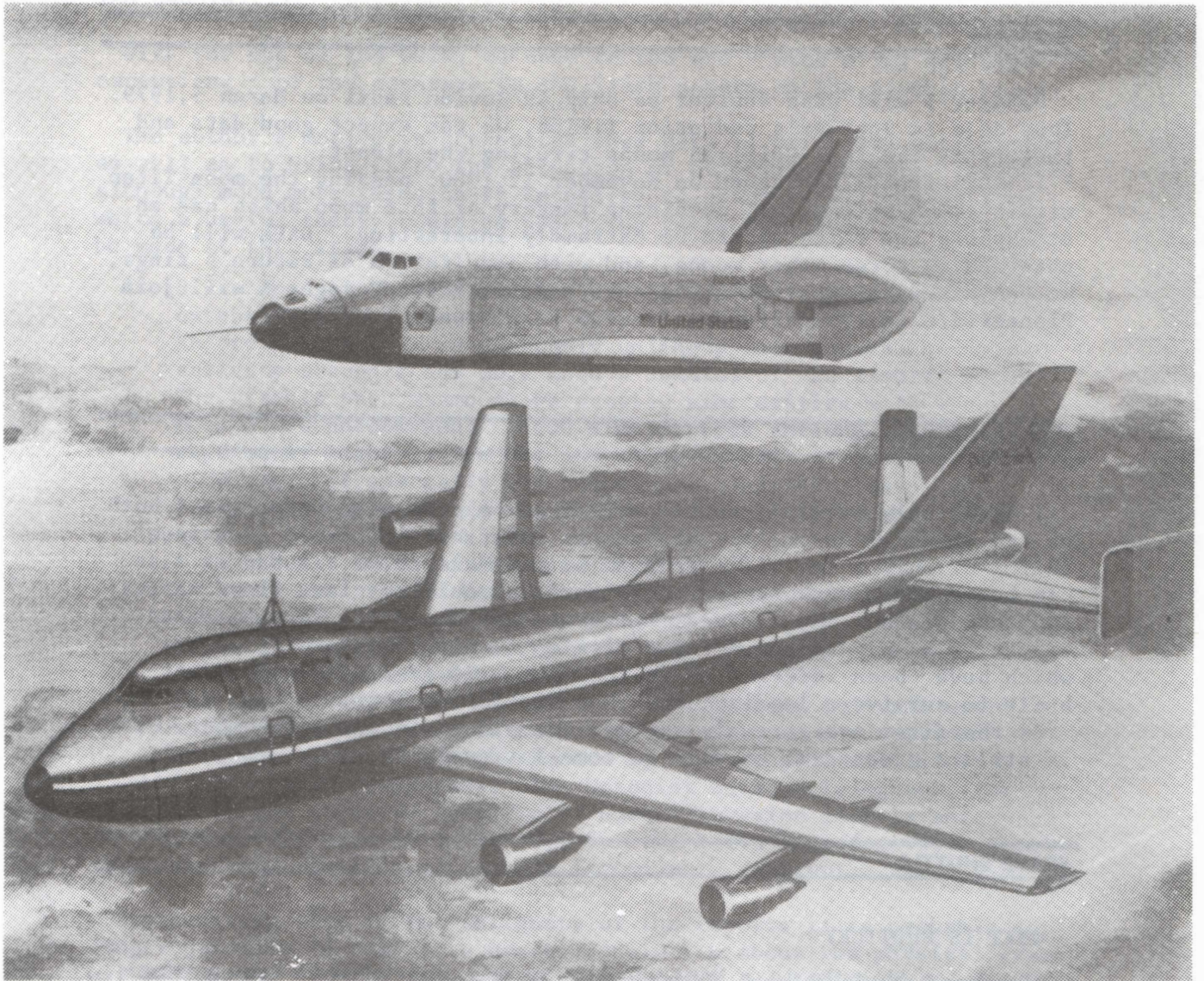
The Space Shuttle is a NASA/USAF re-usable space/orbit transportation system. Five Space Shuttles will be developed. They will be used by NASA and the Air Force over the next ten years to ferry vehicles, ie, the European Space Agency's Space laboratory and the space telescope into orbit. It will be used to launch larger, more complex satellites into higher orbits, using additional boosters on the satellites. It will be used to construct large space stations.

PRE-SPACE TESTS

Shuttle Orbiter 101 or the USS Enterprise began its flight tests in December 1977. This particular orbiter will not fly until 1980, or 1981 as it was not designed for space flight. One primary reason being it has no main boost engines; these having only been perfected recently behind schedule. The second unmanned Shuttle, Orbiter 102 will be launched nearly six months late; in August or September 1979, from the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral. The Air Force Shuttles will be launched from Edwards Air Force Base in California. Originally it was intended to hold six tests. However, the first five proved so successful the final test was scratched.

But what exactly were the tests?

Firstly, the 747 used to drop test the orbiter had to be tested for take off stability and capability. This involved running the piggy-



back pair to take-off speed and rotate. It was a great relief to see the cumbersome pair, with the Lancaster-type tailfins on the specially strengthened 747, actually taking off.

As can be seen from the Flight Plan, the Orbiter, once through re-entry is on its own.

The first tests were performed with a protective shroud over the three main (mock) engines; this to give Fred Haise and his crew a chance first time. The shroud was used to reduce drag caused by the engines.

Perhaps the most critical part of these flight tests was the approach and landing test separation; 46 seconds into the separation, the orbiter has 3 seconds to clear the area, otherwise a real disaster could occur-120' in three seconds!

THE SHUTTLE CREWS

Fred Haise (42): back-up for Apollo 8 and 11 and lunar module pilot for Apollo 13. Also back-up for Apollo 16. Commander first crew.

Fullerton (39): support crew for Apollo 14 and 17. Lieutenant-Colonel USAF.

Engle (43): astronaut support crew for Apollo 10 and 14. Commander second crew. Colonel USAF.

Truly (38): selected for the USAF Manned Orbital Laboratory Program, September 1969. Also support crew for A.S.T.P. (Apollo/Soyuz) and all Skylab. Commander US Marines.

SKYLAB

One of the first missions for Shuttle was to boost the falling Skylab, either into a safe burn-up, or into a much higher orbit. However, continuous delays and technical problems with the brand new Shuttle orbiter engines; combined with past unusual solar activity, has meant that Skylab will enter the Earth's atmosphere and burn-up uncontrolled sometime this year; most certainly in 1980. So keep an eye out; below 50° latitude north or 50° latitude south... 89 tons coming your way soon!

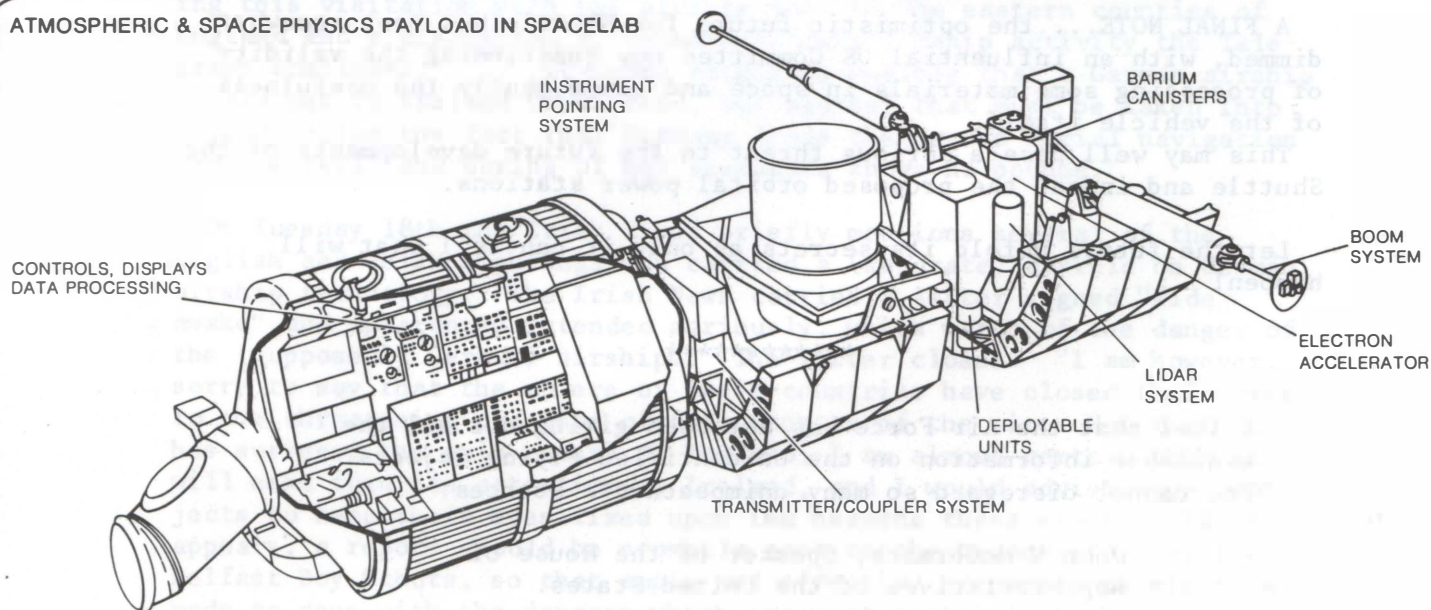
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY SPACELAB

Two hundred and twenty-two scientists have been selected to participate in the first Spacelab mission in 1980. They represent the USA and fourteen other countries, including the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Spacelab concept:

To meet the very broad range of mission objectives, the lab consists of either one, two or zero pressurised compartments with unpressurised equipment mounting platforms (pallets). Moreover, the Spacelab system includes supporting sub-systems, mission dependant support equipment, ground support equipment and Shuttle interface equipment.

ATMOSPHERIC & SPACE PHYSICS PAYLOAD IN SPACELAB



THE FIRST SPACELAB FLIGHT

Spacelab 1 is to be delivered to NASA by April, 1979 and will be launched sometime in the late 1980s. The prime mission objectives for the first flight will be:

1. Verification of the Spacelab design aspects and capabilities.
2. Successful accomplishment of significant scientific applications and technology objectives.

Spacelab will be launched from the Eastern Test Range; Cape Canaveral and will remain in the cargo bay of the Shuttle for the duration of the mission. In later missions the complete lab will be left in space for periods of several days or weeks.

The two payload specialists will work complementary shift so that scientific experimentation can continue 24 hours a day.

The craft will orbit at an altitude of 250 kilometers; an inclination of 57° in a flight lasting one week.

Among the experimentation covered by the mission will be those involving: Atmospheric physics, Plasma physics, Solar physics, Astronomy and Life Sciences. The actual number of experiments is quite large.

SPACE TELESCOPE

This major step forward in science's effort to understand what goes on in our universe has finally reached the design stage. This is after years of uncertainty as to whether it should be 'Go' at all. This space telescope, to be orbited by Shuttle in 1983, will orbit earth at a nominal altitude of 500 km (311 miles).

Being outside the Earth's atmosphere will increase the observatory's ability 50 times to see fainter objects and seven times more remote objects; the angular resolution some ten times greater. Certainly we all hope its gyros work, as with Skylab their failure to work properly nearly jeopardised the quality of deep space observations from the station.

A FINAL NOTE...the optimistic future for Shuttle has been somewhat dimmed, with an influential US Committee now questioning the validity of processing some materials in space and consequently the usefulness of the vehicle itself.

This may well pose a serious threat to the future developments of the Shuttle and indeed the proposed orbital power stations.

Let the future unfold its secrets as only it can tell what will happen!

I feel that the Air Force has not been giving out all the available information on the Unidentified Flying Objects. You cannot disregard so many unimpeachable sources.

John W McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

TRUE - January, 1965.

SPECTRUM REPORT by OWEN McQUAIL

News from the Dublin based UFO research organisation

UFO activity which had been for the latter part of 1978 at a minimum, sighting-wise, has in the South taken a spectacular leap as it has elsewhere in the world in the current 'flap'. With communications and transport strikes of one kind or another, investigations have not been keeping pace - the weather being another inhibiting factor, of course. Allen Lawler, Peter O'Duyer, Tom Higgins, Brendan Medlar all have cases under review.

The organisation has had a reasonable amount of publicity in recent months. On one local Radio station three members and an SF writer answered questions on a phone-in programme. Then on Capital Radio, John Hind and Owen McQuail had a marathon 2½ hour phone-in UFO programme. Two weeks later Mrs Anne Matthews and Owen McQuail once again had the same amount of air time in a phone-in on the subject of psychic phenomena. The interest aroused has prompted some of our members to organise the Psychic Research branch of Spectrum and the inaugural meeting will be held in the Mont Clare Hotel on Monday, 12th February at 7.30 pm. This meeting will not be open to the public.

We had to decline the offer of a TV show as no member could converse as we say "through the medium". A couple of newspaper articles which the Irish Press group of newspapers produced resulted in quite literally scores of letters arriving with reports of sightings, requests for membership, information, etc.

At a meeting held under the worst possible conditions weather-wise, combined with transport strikes, we had an attendance of approximately 80 people. The meeting was of a general discussion-type and on a show of hands in an answer to a direct question from chairman to the audience, over 75% said they believed UFOs were quite particularly from "outer space" (the quotes are mine - as the term has always puzzled me for its sheer inanity). The audience did not wish to specify or differentiate between the Solar System or elsewhere but taking the age group - youngest 9 years old and the oldest about 70 - and people from all walks of life, there is no doubt that this vote should at least seem to be indicative of people's desire to actually believe in visitors from space - as distinct from what our old friend John Keel calls ultra-terrestrials.

We look forward to closer co-operation with our Northern colleagues to further the aims and pursuance of Ufology in Ireland.

RESEARCH DATA

We are always interested in obtaining data on strange occurrences, sightings, incidents and experiences related to all forms of aerial phenomena whether psychic, electromagnetic or otherwise. Any information you would care to provide: old press clippings, writings, letters, etc would be carefully examined and either copied if you requested the data to be returned, or retained in our Research Library. All response would be gratefully acknowledged. Write to us at the IUFON Editorial address.

BOOK REVIEW

MAN AND THE STARS

CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION
WITH ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE

by DUNCAN LUNAN

Originally: Souvenir Press 1974
Now in p/b: Corgi 1978; £1.25

This is a warning:

WE SHOULD BEGIN TO PREPARE OURSELVES NOW FOR
CONTACT WITH CIVILIZATIONS FROM ANOTHER GALAXY

So it states quite dramatically on the rear cover of Duncan Lunan's *MAN AND THE STARS*. The front cover, which certainly attracts one to the book almost immediately, is equally spectacular and would compare favourably against the cover of any recently re-published E E 'Doc' Smith science-fiction novel.

However, just what is Lunan trying to tell us in his 400-page extravaganza. It is, as you might guess from those profound words on the rear cover, about communication with (dare I say it!) extra-terrestrial intelligence.

The source of Lunan's inspiration was a series of discussions among members of ASTRA (Association in Scotland for Technology and Research in Astronautics). Lunan was President of ASTRA at the time and chaired the talks. The book is basically a two-part narrative; the first part on the initial phase of Inter-stellar Colonization out to 12 light years and based on the ASTRA discussions; the second part on contact with Other Intelligence which was written "in the light of new and dramatic information".

Surprisingly, in PART ONE, in which he asks several pertinent questions like; Will there be suitable planets, Will there be suitable ships; What form will life take; Is the journey really necessary; (Questions which are totally hypothetical as they simply cannot be answered; no matter how long or good a book may be), Lunan carefully avoids the use of superlative scientific jargon and unlike others, absolutely refuses

to become ensnarled in the Relativity net. In fact, ignoring space/time continuums successfully one would not be faulted for thinking that Lunan had never heard of Einstein. Lunan naturally answers the questions himself quoting Bussard, Wheeler, Dole and Uncle Tom Cobbley and all. Needless to say Arthur C Clarke, SF veteran and prophet has also been blamed.

In his chapter on expected life forms, Lunan writes in detail, jumping onto the RNA/DNA merry-go-round with tremendous zeal and expounding theories on life of almost every description; from humanoids with great barrel-like chests to insect forms more intelligent than the average run-of-the-mill soldier sauba ant. He even speculatively suggests the feasibility of life forms similar to the ever friendly dolphin.

As far as justifying the event (of making such a journey in the proposed pulse rockets, fusion and photon starships and stellar ram-jets), Lunan equates it with the explorers of yesteryear: Columbus; Magellan; Cabot, etc. He envisages the event not only because of man's eternal desire to "explore new worlds where no man has gone before" (my words and not Lunan's) but because of man's need to survive as a species. After all, who are we to say there will not be an Armageddon on this world due to man's inhumanity to man. However, considering the practicalities involved in a mission of this nature, the concept of one giant space-ship of some kind is quite insane.

In the final section of PART ONE Lunan tells us that by the end of the twenty-first century, there will be vehicles capable of whisking up to one thousand people off to these new worlds. Before that, the "explorers" will have passed the point of 'no return'. These first pioneers, numbering a hundred or so, will be made up of specially selected people: agriculturists, environmentalists, geologists, etc, and of course, military personnel to protect the pioneers. (From themselves or aliens?)

PART TWO is also sub-divided into two main sections; the first dealing with the theory of contact: what we should do when confronted by extra-terrestrials; are their motives benevolent or otherwise. I do not intend to dwell further on this particular sub-section of PART TWO; not because it is merely theory, but because it deserves a vastly more detailed and lengthy debate.

In the final section of PART TWO - Application: The News from Bootes; Did anyone follow it up; Is anyone here now? - we have at last reached the part of Lunan's expose which is supposed to make us sit up in our seats. This section, whether contrived or otherwise, tells us with the help of diagrams relating radio pulses to constellation patterns that from 1927 we have been receiving intermittent signals from outer space: from a probe launched by an intelligent source in the region of Epsilon Bootes.

And now we arrive at the section entitled DID ANYONE FOLLOW IT UP? and I find it almost a contradiction of everything that Lunan has said in his previous sections. Here he bomb-blasts everyone from Von Daniken to Adamski; everything from the theories of Yucatan to the hidden mysteries of the Orient. Quite frankly I don't blame him, but it's the way he does it which amuses me! After all, if Lunan castigates Von Daniken for contriving his theories of E-t intervention, and critic-the exponents of the Gods and Spacemen, why has he resorted to such

vague speculation. He has taken radio pulses coming from outer space and in total belief that he is right, formulated them into a schematic drawing of the journey of a space probe from Epsilon Bootes; sent off 13,000 years ago by a civilisation on the verge of destruction. He even goes as far as to suggest remnants of that civilisation might be following behind it in their faster-than-light transporters.

And why does the first half of MAN AND THE STARS insist that stellar travel is possible for us in the not-too-distant future and yet gives no credence to the possibility that other intelligences who could be hundreds; indeed thousands of years ahead of us, could not have travelled to Earth in our ancient past. (I'm not a fan of Von Daniken I will have you know).

However, MAN AND THE STARS is worth reading if only to find out how man should or should not reach for the stars and why. Lunan has gone to great pains to prove to the reader that his theory is acceptable and unquestionably Lunan himself believes it to be right. The drawings which accompany the text need to be studied carefully to establish the signal relationships (they look remarkably like circuit diagrams!) and I suggest the reader acquires a magnifying glass. Then again, perhaps my copy of MAN AND THE STARS was a poor one.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

NEW HORIZONS: Journal of the New Horizon Research Foundation, P.O. Box 427, Station F, Toronto, Canada M4Y 2L8 -- parapsychology research in Canada.

WHITAKER'S ALMANAC, 1979: - everything from the position of Pluto to the gestation period of the guinea pig, with some useful information too!

MODERN MYSTICS AND SAGES: Anne Bancroft: Paladin 1978:- Gurdjieff to Castaneda's Don Juan.

ZETITIC SCHOLAR: c/o Dept. of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, USA:- a refreshing unbiased scientific review of all areas of anomalous phenomena.

UFOs: A SCIENTIFIC ENIGMA: D A Seargent: Sphere 1978: - a serious and useful contribution to UFO literature, though badly mauled by the publisher's representation

HOTLINE - 662386

THE LORDS DEBATE ON UFOs

Reporter: John Hind

With 1979 only 18 days old, a strong contender for the title "ufological non-event of the year" emerged. On the evening of the eighteenth of January, the House of Lords debated a motion put forward by the Earl of Clancarty: 'To call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), and to the need for an intra-government study of UFOs, and to move for papers.'

Now, the Right Honourable the Earl of Clancarty will be better known to ufologists as Brinsley Le Poer Trench, author of no less than seven books on the subject of UFOs. Trench's books have been described as an escalation of absurdity, and each seems to contrive to present a theory more silly than the last. His latest book "MYSTERIOUS VISITORS" asks: "Are the young men and women of today's permissive society an alien race?" From any other sixty-eight year-old member of the House of Lords one could take it that that was meant as a joke, but Brinsley means it absolutely seriously.

"Absolutely seriously" is the way that the Upper Chamber's seven hundred year old tradition demanded that the sixty or so Lords and Ladies present take Clancarty's speculations, though at times it must have been quite a strain. To be fair, Clancarty was considerably more restrained than usual, but his continued overt assumptions about the phenomenon must have been wearisome at times to some of the more sceptical Lordships.....

THE DEBATE

The Lord of Kimberly spoke next. The Earl, who derived most of his material from the Aetherius Society was to prove to be the main champion of the theory that there is a deliberate cover-up of the truth about UFOs. He managed to reduce this position to absurdity later in the debate by suggesting that the astronomer, Sir Bernard Lovell, had deliberately lied to Lord Hewlett on government orders.

Some colour was brought into the debate by Lord Davies of Leek who quoted his 'old mother' as saying: "Always remember, my boy, Solomon did not ask for cleverness, he asked for wisdom"; and Shakespere. The use of the dagger scene from Macbeth to illustrate the effect of a laser hologram is certainly original, but the relevance of the latter to the subject in hand is far from clear. Indeed, Lord Davies showed himself to be a master of the irrelevant connection with allusions to angels, the Virgin Mary, H G Wells, the Crusaders, Peter the Hermit, the Loch Ness Monster, Queen Elizabeth the First, Philip of Spain, Einstein, spiritualism and the synchronicity of ghosts (?). The Welsh aristocrat capped his contribution by calling anyone who doesn't believe in extra-terrestrial intelligence "anthropological arrogant specimens". I don't know what that means but I like it!

One of the more perceptive contributions to the discussion was made by the Lord Bishop of Norwich; giving the religious point of view. After making it clear that the (Anglican) church encouraged the progress

of science and welcomes the possibility of scientific research on UFOs, the Bishop quoted sections of the Bible which suggest that there is life elsewhere in the universe. However, he saw a danger that the mystery surrounding UFOs is "producing a 20th century superstition in our modern and scientific days which is not unlike the superstition of past years." The religion of UFO belief is a kind of "ersatz spirituality", (I like that too!) adopting technology as God, yet reacting against materialism. Unfortunately - though predictably - the Lord Bishop's address becomes a sermon at this point extolling the superiority of Christian truths and lamenting the danger of these truths becoming obscured by the new religion of the extra-terrestrial. You see, in theology the difference between 'truth' and 'superstition' is merely belief.

Lord Hewlett set himself up as a spokesman for the "scientific establishment" based on a conversation with Sir Bernard Lovell, Director of Jodrell Bank. He based his argument on the fact that the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, in thirty years of operation has never detected a UFO. He repeated this argument four times. Unfortunately, none of their Lordships were able to point out how nonsensical this argument was. Any kind of telescope is unsuitable for detecting UFOs since it is capable of 'looking at' only a small portion of the sky at any one time. A radio telescope is doubly unsuitable because it can only detect objects which emit or absorb radio waves, and radio waves which have a frequency to which the telescope happens to be 'tuned' at the time. One might as well proclaim the non-existence of electricity on the grounds that it has never been detected on a microscope! Lord Hewlett later confirmed our impression that he knows very little about astronomy by using the light-year as a unit of time.

The Earl of Cork and Orrery suggested that the term 'ufologist' was ugly - a bit like calling a student of the United Nations a 'unologist'. He suggested the alternative term 'teratologist' derived from the Greek for a marvel or a wonder. I must say I couldn't agree more, but I hold little hope of getting the name changed now.

Lord Strabolgi closed the debate by commenting in his capacity of government spokesman. He suggested that there may have been some inexplicable sightings, but that the government had no evidence that these represented extra-terrestrial craft. This was basically the point of view expressed by the French Defence Minister, M. Galley. The British Government is not involved in any kind of cover-up: "there is nothing to have a conspiracy of silence about". But the Ministry of Defence does not release information primarily to protect the witness. The government did not see any justification in spending public money in an official study.

At this point Viscount Barrington rose to ask the government spokesman whether a Black Hole is an object or not. (When this was put to the vote, the House split on party lines: the Conservatives maintaining that they are objects, based on the law of Conservation of Energy (1939), Labour predictably taking the opposite view; and the Liberals taking refuge in the uncertainty principle.)

Summing up, the Earl of Clancarty quoted Sir Fred Hoyle (on the 'galactic telephone directory') and withdrew his motion for papers.

SOME RECOMMENDED BOOKS ON UFOs

Below is a selected list of books recommended by the Irish UFO Research Centre. The first section contains books written in a popular style for a general audience and which provide a good introduction to the subject. The second section is a sample of the serious UFO literature for those who like - or need - a greater depth of treatment, and the third contains background reading on subjects associated with ufology.

Books which we consider to be unreliable or over-speculative have not been included, but these form an essential part of the UFO genre and should not be ignored by serious students of the subject.

Most of these titles, and more complete bibliographies, are available for consultation only, at the Centre library.

Suitable for the newcomer to ufology.

UFOs: A Scientific Enigma : D.A.J.Seargent : Sphere, 1978

The Humanoids: Ed. C.Bowen : Futura 1974

Close Encounter Cases From Flying Saucer Review: Ed. C.Bowen : Signet 1977

The UFO Enigma : D.H.Menzel & E.H.Taves :Doubleday 1977

Beyond Earth: Man's Contact With UFOs : R. & J.Blum : Corgi 1974

The Crack in the Universe : J-C.Bourret : Spearman 1976

UFOs Explained : P.Klass : Random House 1974

UFO: Flying Saucers Over Britain : R.Chapman : Mayflower 1969

For the scientist or more experienced ufologist.

UFOs: A Scientific Debate : C.Sagan & T.Page : Norton 1974

Ufology : J.McCampbell : Jamac-Holman

The UFO Experience : J.A.Hynek : Corgi 1972

The Hynek UFO Report : J.A.Hynek : Sphere 1978

The Edge of Reality : J.A.Hynek & J.Vallee : Regnery 1976

UFOs: The Psychic Solution : J.Vallee : Panther 1977

Passport to Magonia : J.Vallee : Tandem 1975

Anatomy of a Phenomenon : J.Vallee :Tandem 1974

Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky : C.G.Jung : R.K.P 1977

UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse : J.A.Keel : Abacus 1973

The UFO Controversy in America : D.M.Jacobs : Signet 1975

Some associated background reading.

Intellegent Life in the Universe : Shklovskii & Sagan ; Picador 1977

Psychic Exploration : E.Mitchel : Putnam 1976

The Books of Charles Fort : C.Fort : Dover 1974

The Psychology of Perception : M.D.Vernon : Penguin 1975

Bigfoot : J.Napier : Abacus 1976