

THE FLATWOODS MONSTER

AND OTHER TERRORS FROM THE BARKER FILES



*Mrs. May, holding a drawing of the Flatwoods entity made for the "We the People" TV show, 1952.
Photo taken by Gray Barker.*

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CRYPTOSNOBBERY

On June 24 and 25, 1989, the International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC) sponsored a conference on "Sasquatch Evidence: Scientific and Social Implications." It was held at Washington State University in Pullman, home of physical anthropologist Grover S. Krantz, one of the few reputable scientists willing to own up to belief in the existence of hairy hominoids in the Pacific Northwest. A transcript of the discussion appears in the Autumn and Winter 1991 issues of *The ISC Newsletter*.

In the second of these a curious exchange appears, involving ISC member (and CUFOS associate) George W. Earley, ISC secretary J. Richard Greenwell, and ISC vice president Roy P. Mackal:

Earley: . . . Now, there's been some jabs today at the UFO community. The UFO community is light years ahead of the cryptozoology society in organizing itself to investigate sightings, to deal with the media, to deal with the scientific and legal communities. The Mutual UFO Network has a field investigators handbook. . . . We don't have that here.

Greenwell: The UFO organizations are set up basically to attempt to prove that UFOs exist, and all the complications which go with that. Our Society is not set up for that purpose whatsoever. We are not trying to prove anything. Its [sic] a completely different approach.

Earley: I don't agree. We can still have a manual on how to handle an investigation, on what to look for, and what to look out for. This is a practical step we can take if we can submerge our individual egos—which I strongly question after two days here.

Mackal: I'd like to remind this group that this is a meeting of the International Society of Cryptozoology, and I find the discussion going on here as if there were no scientists in this room. What are we talking about? We don't need a manual! Our manual is the scientific method! To the extent that a nonprofessional does good work and follows this paradigm, we welcome it. We welcome anyone, but why do we need a manual?

And so on in that vein for a few more paragraphs. As it happens, all three of these men are old friends of



Jerome Clark

mine, and my respect for them is immense. Each is the sort of rational, intelligent, knowledgeable, critical-minded individual of whom anomaly research needs many more and of whom it has all too few.

Probably only a tiny handful of those in attendance know that both Greenwell and Mackal have a private interest in the UFO phenomenon. Like their more public interest in cryptozoology (a protoscience dedicated to the study of unknown, hidden, and unexpected animals; the name was invented by Bernard Heuvelmans, now ISC president, in the late 1950s), this private interest is sympathetic, rational, cautious, and noncredulous—very much, in point of fact, like the approach CUFOS advocates, one that has everything to do with scientific good sense and nothing to do with bug-eyed belief.

Greenwell, moreover, has a public history in ufology, as an active officer of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I would guess that the symposium participants who were making those "jabs" to which Earley alludes did not know that. Nor, one supposes, were they aware of Greenwell's contributions to Ronald D. Story's *Encyclopedia of UFOs* (1980); the title page lists Greenwell as consulting editor. As I have written elsewhere, Greenwell's efforts are most of what keep Story's directionless book from lapsing into irredeemable mediocrity. Greenwell also helped Story put together *UFOs and the Limits of Science* (1981) and again is given virtual co-author status on the title page.

Greenwell brought his considerable management, writing, and analytical talents to the ISC, whose organizational meeting was held on January 8–9, 1982, at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He has edited the ISC's quarterly 12-page newsletter and its annual journal *Cryptozoology* ever since. Both are first-rate, among the few anomaly periodicals I invariably read from cover to cover. They are available for \$30 a year from the ISC, Box 43070, Tucson, Arizona 85733.

Greenwell and Mackal met, incidentally, for the first time in late 1977. I know that because immediately prior to that meeting Greenwell was a guest at my home in Lake Bluff, Illinois, north of Chicago; when he left there, he headed straight to the University of Chicago to see Mackal. The logistics of that meeting were set up on the Clarks' kitchen phone. In their conversations at the university, Greenwell and Mackal laid plans for the world's first

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TALES FROM THE BARKER ZONE:

THREE DAYS AT THE GRAY BARKER MANUSCRIPT DEPOSITORY

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

Many *IUR* readers are, unlike me, relative youngsters in our field, and a good number have probably never heard of Gray Barker. If you old-timers who know all about him will indulge me for a moment, allow me to address the uninitiated with a few words of explanation about one of ufology's true originals.

Gray Barker (1925–1984) spent almost his whole life in the West Virginia hills, pursuing a livelihood of theater booking for a local (Clarksburg) drive-in movie; he also sold audio-visual equipment to the school system. But his consuming interest was the pursuit of flying saucers. Though he never caught any, he may have made up a few.

Barker began his saucer chase in 1952 with the peculiar West Virginia case of the Flatwoods monster and followed with a 30-year career in which he edited publications, created jokes and hoaxes, and corresponded with almost every odd character in the early history of this strange business. From George Adamski to George Hunt Williamson, Barker was involved with them all. Hardly any of what Barker did had anything to do with actual research. Instead he seemed to oscillate between having a hilarious good time and worrying about the dark side of ufology: threats, injuries, even death. Some say that Gray Barker had no serious side. It is my opinion that those visiting his collection in Clarksburg, and reading his correspondence, will disagree. This paper is about my visit back to my own West Virginian roots, and a pleasurable side trip to the Barker collection.

Barker was a great letter-writer, an original networker, and a person with a tolerance for listening to just about anything. He seemed, actually, to have a reasonably good baloney detector and regularly panned the numerous charlatans who crossed his path. Yet, paradoxically, he did not hesi-

tate to run hoaxes on other people himself. It is my naive speculation that this was his lower-class method of shaking charlatans and fools out of the bushes, while having mischievous fun in the bargain. While he was goofing around and muddying the waters, he did edit six UFO newsletters and write five books of his own. Perhaps his most interesting newsletter, from a historical point of view, was *The Saucerian* (later *Saucerian Bulletin*), 1953–1962.

His most famous, and significant, book was most certainly *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* (1956). In this book the paranoia about the silencing of UFO researchers achieved its early most sinister pronouncement. It is my belief that underneath the "playful leprechaun" of his exterior, Gray Barker believed that such dangers were very real and that these silencing episodes proved that the saucers themselves were real. Let's enter the library and see what else he has left behind for us.

THE COLLECTION

After Barker's death, his books, journals, and files were acquired by his hometown library, the Clarksburg-Harrison County Public Library in Clarksburg, West Virginia. It is housed as a limited-access collection in the genealogy building, the old Waldomore mansion which stands beside the modern library building downtown. The Barker collection has its own room, within which stand the five filing cabinets (29 drawers of materials which are the prime reason for visiting), the bookshelves (containing his UFO library of an uncounted number of volumes; the library note sheet said 300, but I estimated that about 600 books and monographs/pamphlets were shelved), and some of



Gray Barker, legendary collector of UFO fables

the more complete elements of his journal holdings (many single-copy and broken-run newsletters are hidden in file folders).

The gem of the collection is the file material, of course. In general terms it contains not only correspondence and newsletters but also small books, Freedom of Information Act documents (not FOIA'd by himself), photos, a few audio tapes, lecture notes, a few manuscripts, some clippings and case reports. It is instructive for both what *is* there and what *is not*.

What's not there is, initially, surprising to a typical serious UFO researcher. The files are almost devoid of actual cases. Where is a file on primary research documentation (i.e., UFO data, or as close as we can get to such) on any of the classics? Project Sign documents? The Grudge report? Betty and Barney Hill? Even the famous West Virginia cases of Flatwoods and Mothman are amazingly thin. Barker seems actually uninterested in the nitty-gritty research detail of any of this. The only significant amount of primary documentation in the files is the thick pile of FOIA'd government materials from Clifford Stone.

Serious academic-style research is another casualty of Barker's noninterest. There are essentially no files with labels on them like "J. Allen Hynek," "Walter Webb," "James McDonald," "Ted Phillips." The only intellectual manuscript that I found in my quick three-day attempt to plough through all the folders was one by the late Prof. David Stupple of Eastern Michigan University: "Astral Travel and Anti-Gravity, Occult Theories of Space Flight and Flying Saucer Folklore." I do not know if this was ever published. Dr. Stupple was an expert on contactees, and his interests matched the fringy nature of Barker's own. Their correspondence indicates a good friendship between the two. To some degree the book and journal collections also reflect this (to me, amazing) near total disregard of the hardcore research in our field. Oddly enough, Barker did have a file for Donald Menzel, containing a brief correspondence.

So what *do* you find in the folders? Notes about and correspondence with the spectacular and wild personalities in the field: Carlos Allende, Albert Bender, George Adamski, Truman Bethurum, Desmond Leslie, M. K. Jessup, George Hunt Williamson, Robert S. Carr, Townsend Brown, Augie Roberts, Jim Villard, Leon Davidson, Woody Derenberger, Howard Menger, Buck Nelson, Richard Shaver, George Van Tassel . . . well, you get the idea. Fans of John Keel, Len Stringfield, and William Steinman will also find interesting files there. And, of course, Jim Moseley, once referred to with great irreverence, as constituting with Gray Barker the Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee of ufology.

The Barker collection constitutes perhaps the best all-around insight into the wild side of UFOs, the embarrassing past with which we are all broad-brushed by the name-callers and gigglers of the world. And yet buried within the scams, gossip, and tomfoolery are many hints of more important and fascinating things.

THE BENDER MYSTERY

Albert Bender, an early UFO hobbyist, managed to organize a reasonably large group of similarly minded people into a loosely joined network extending to several countries. This group, the International Flying Saucer Bureau, was centered in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and accomplished two things relatively quickly: it acquired relationships with several active saucer chasers (Gray Barker, August Roberts, Meade Layne, Max Miller, Elliott Rockmore, George Fawcett, Coral Lorenzen, and branch officers in five foreign countries), and it initiated an interesting newsletter, *Space Review*. An avid networker, Bender became a focal point for flying-saucer information early in the game relative to other civilian organizations (1952).

Briefly, the history of the IFSB runs as follows:

The group was founded in April 1952 and attracted five magazine editors to its "Council" (including those of *Fate* and *Science Fantasy and Science Fiction*). By the latter part of 1952, the IFSB was expanding rapidly. At that time Bender became aware of August (Augie) Roberts, the owner of some interesting UFO pictures and soon to be a member of the IFSB research team. By January 1953 the network included all the famous names mentioned above, and Bender's ambitions for it continued to grow. He decided to create a formal investigations unit. Roberts and his aeronautically wise friend Dominick Lucchesi visited Bender in early February and thoroughly impressed him. Bender organized his investigations unit around Roberts (photography), Lucchesi (aeronautics), and Barker (chief investigator). The balance of the team became Lonzo Dove (astronomer) and the Rev. S. L. Daw. Rev. Daw's position may have reflected Bender's views that the beings in the flying saucers should be treated with friendship and philosophically expanded consciousness. This original flavor of the group made the ultimate sinister negativity of the "Bender Affair" particularly hard to explain.

It took Barker a few months to organize the procedures of the investigative unit, but his procedures were neat, serious, and disciplined. In fact, they present to us an entirely different Barker from the one we are used to: an orderly, hard-nosed researcher interested in data and documentation.

In June 1953 the IFSB investigators were pursuing the truth or falsity of an interesting Canadian sighting of multiple discs in the sky at the same time (but not interacting with) several Sabre jets. Bender kept a hand in on all these investigations and was quite skeptical in his initial reactions. Frank Scully, author of the first crashed-saucer book, the controversial *Behind the Flying Saucers* (1950), joined the organization in July. Bender had Eddie Rickenbacker set to write an article for the newsletter. In August, in an amazing event, a ricocheting "fireball" UFO blasted through a metal billboard in New Haven, Connecticut, and kept right on going across the hill. The hole was more than a foot wide in the 20-gauge steel. Naval Ordnance investigators were on the scene, but it was Augie Roberts who pulled metal bits out

of the sign and sent them to Bender for analysis: a piece of a UFO in the hands of a civilian organization!

The New Haven metal fragment was sent to a Col. Emerson (the Chief Research Consultant, a job outside Barker's investigative unit). Emerson said that he would contact friends at Oak Ridge about analyzing it. Meanwhile, another IFSB "secret document," the case report of a photo Barker regarded as of no consequence, was "misplaced" by Lucchesi, and all sorts of funny business involving Barker, Dove, Roberts, and Lucchesi and "official" visits by the government briefly ensued. These mild interactions were considered mysterious by all parties because they seemed to have no clear purpose. They were attributed to the FBI. On September 9 Bender remarked, rather pathetically when one considers what was to happen shortly, "I have not been approached as yet, but rest assured I will be prepared for them when they show up."

At the end of September's second week, Bender told the key IFSB members not to accept any new members until after the October issue of *Space Review*. Some interpreters of the Bender mystery have taken this to mean that Bender had already been scared into silence, but I don't think so. I believe that the infamous visit of the "three men" was yet to come and that this was just the recognition that dues were going up shortly. On September 28 Bender was still communicating normally with Roberts and Lucchesi. He was getting suspicious of Emerson and the fragment testing. "Could it be that we have stumbled onto something important?" he asked. Dom Lucchesi called him on the same day with nothing unusual transpiring.

Either late on the 28th or early on the 29th, Bender called Roberts and reported that he had been visited by the first of the notorious men in black who would surface in UFO folklore many times thereafter. He was scared away from UFO research forever. His loyalty was appealed to. The answers to the UFO mystery were given him, and they were "fantastic" and frightening. All UFO research was now "a waste of time." The October *Space Review* issue was allegedly rewritten and announced the dissolution of IFSB.

Needless to say, Barker, Lucchesi and Roberts (and doubtless many others) were stunned. What in the world had happened? No amount of quizzing of Bender could elicit anything but "I can't talk about that." Around the middle of November, two further notes:

(1) Augie Roberts had a second fragment of the New Haven "UFO" analyzed. It turned out to consist largely of copper and copper oxide.

(2) Bender, tired of facing questions he felt he could not answer, told Roberts testily, "Please do not expect to discuss 'saucers' in any way, shape or form. I do not care to talk about this subject to anyone any more. If you are making the trip for this purpose I would rather not have you come."

Barker was completely boggled by all of this. He fought with the solution to the silencing of Bender for many years. The mystery is the entire stuff of his one masterwork, *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. Neither he nor

anyone else ever solved the Bender mystery. Bender himself wrote a book in 1962, *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*, allegedly telling all. The book's far-fetched, even ridiculous contact story contributed nothing but further fog to these strange happenings.

THE MYSTERY SOLVED?

Barker and his team could not solve the Bender mystery, so what chance have we? Probably none, but one cannot resist a try. Perhaps the perspective of time could help.

From our distant perch in the 1990s, the IFSB seems an unusual organization for 1952–53. What was it doing? It was a civilian organization actually attempting scientific research on UFOs (case studies, photo analysis, metallurgy). In some significant way it may have been the first such organization probing into the flying discs in this fashion. It also had an expanding international network for sharing projects and information. One such project between Bender and his Australian and New Zealand colleagues was to plot UFO flight paths in hopes of discovering their bases of origin. What do you think U.S. intelligence thought of all this in 1953?

It requires little genius to suspect that the CIA, et al., were monitoring this organization and that several developments indicated that the stage in which the IFSB was only a harmless flying-saucer club was passing. International projects plotting unidentified aircraft flights are plenty enough to concern the CIA. Note also that this is the period during which the other burgeoning civilian organization, Civilian Saucer Investigation of Los Angeles, was being discouraged (directly) by the U.S. Air Force, and it would soon fold. Also it was the period directly following the Robertson Panel and its CIA concerns with the potential Soviet manipulability of the UFO phenomenon. What would intelligence agencies' opinions be about a bunch of Americans preaching an open-arms welcome for strange incoming ships in the sky?

The snapping of the elastic for the intelligence agencies would have been Augie Roberts's harvesting of the mysterious fireball metal from the New Haven sign—right, moreover, under the noses of Naval Ordnance investigators. What would have inspired Naval Ordnance people to be out there inspecting a billboard incident? Well, could it be—naval ordnance? Something which blasts a hole through a sign, caroms off other objects, and continues on at low levels out of sight sounds suspiciously missilelike to me. A civilian international organization analyzing American missile remnants would be bad enough in 1993, let alone 1953. Note that Augie Roberts' ultimate elemental analysis read: copper/copper oxide. Copper burns with a spectacular green (fireball) light when exposed to a high heat of friction such as when freefalling in the atmosphere. Could military intelligence, Lincoln La Paz, and the secret Project Twinkle have been concerned? One would suspect at least "mild" interest. And, even if it was nothing but a peculiar meteorite, the

military missile program was vitally interested in meteorite retrieval as well: study of the stones of heaven told much about the relationships between materials and high-speed friction.

It is my hypothesis that the IFSB was being monitored for a few months at least, and when the New Haven fragment was made known to the military (via Col. Emerson and Oak Ridge), it became obvious that the intelligence community had to act to snip this sort of civilian activity in the bud. The decision having been made to visit Bender, the remaining issue was what sort of approach to take. For example, what would he be told? The man was a civilian, and not a civilian scientist-engineer like the major figures in the Los Angeles CSI. Those individuals worked for a major military contractor. It was easy to cool them off. This IFSB situation was more of an interesting problem. Perhaps a mere appeal to Bender's loyalty as a U.S. citizen would be enough—such appeals were traditionally made—but maybe not here.

They decided to tell Bender something so fantastic and scary that he would never peep anything but nonsense about saucers again. They apparently knew their man well. They chose a theme about which he was already thinking, and this "validation" of his thoughts and fears worked.

Nobody knows what was said regarding the threat of flying saucers in the meeting between Bender and the "three men." The men were astounded at how widespread and cosmopolitan IFSB had become so quickly. ("God, but you're all over the place!", Bender says one remarked.) They told Bender that he could do nothing to help with the problem of dealing with the flying discs. ("In our government we have the smartest men in the country. They can't find a defense for it. How can you do anything about it?" Such a comment brings up Hopkins-style abductions or Nevada-style paranoiac scenarios to the mind of a 1990s ufologist.)

A certain Dr. Leon Davidson (a former Los Alamos engineer and a saucers-as-U.S.-technology proponent who is even more difficult to figure out than Bender) claimed to have had a similar visit from "three men in dark blue," and he named them: A. Dillon, Office of Naval Intelligence; John Grast, Army Counterintelligence Corps; C. N. Latker, Office of the Inspector of Naval Materiel. These men quizzed Davidson about his knowledge of developments in the Navy's secret guided missile programs. These three could have been Bender's visitors and for the same reason, but one never knows what to believe with Leon Davidson.

I suspect that the Bender affair was an intelligence game



The Barker collection is stored at the Clarksburg-Harrison County Public Library in Clarksburg, West Virginia

or experiment to see how effectively operatives could manipulate the fledgling UFO "research" community. They told him something incredible, terrorized him with that information, and later returned (a fourth man) to soften the blow and make him feel a little better about it all, as he would say. There are a million possible tales he could have been told. Barker speculated on many of them in *They Knew Too Much*. Here is one in which Bender expressed interest before the visit of the three men:

The U.S. government not only knows what the discs are but is in some sort of contact with the beings flying them. Meade Layne, founder of the occult-oriented Borderland Sciences Research Associates, would later claim that meetings were taking place at Muroc (now Edwards) AFB with President Eisenhower, that several kinds of discs were on view, and that "I have never seen so many human beings in a state of complete collapse and confusion as they realized that their own world had indeed ended with such finality as to beggar description." This sort of world-ending apparently referred to Carl Jung's reminder that "we would be placed in the very questionable position of today's primitive societies that clash with the superior cultures of the white race. All initiative would be wrested from us. As an old witch doctor once said to me, with tears in his eyes: we have no more dreams." Our own witch doctors, the scientists, were, according to Layne, the most emotionally devastated by the revelation.

Allegedly the government had been able to dismantle one of the flying discs and in doing so learned of the energies that powered its movement. These energies were not the energies of our current industrial-technological complex. They were not, therefore, the foundation stones upon which our entire economic system was built. If the new energy technology was to be employed (and it would be difficult to avoid it now that it and its superiority were known), eco-

nomic destabilization and human catastrophe would be inevitable in the transition. In Barker's Bender file is a rough piece of an envelope with someone's writing on it, not apparently Bender's. It doesn't make perfect sense, but Barker obviously thought it related to Bender's problems and stored it in the file. It reads: "[T]he Government found a new type of power—what would be [it do?] to all of the Companys [sic]? Underground Citys [sic] for three months. In the changeover, many people would die. The cause of the F.S. rather than their origin. How to make the change over without upsetting the world economy 'and monopoly' without causing economic collapse is where the idea of panic comes in if the public gets wise." The note has the earmarks of notes taken by Barker himself (as in "over the phone"), but I don't know. Some of the above phraseology shows up in *They Knew Too Much*.

Whether this or any, other specific tale was told to Bender as the truth, who knows? Barker thought that it could be part of the answer. Layne may have actually believed the story (instead of just hoaxed it). A Bender contact, Paul Rear, believed it. Dr. Davidson actually claimed in a marginal note to Barker to have personal confirmation of a similar Muroc incident later, in early 1960. Davidson to Barker: "Gray: With Eisenhower at *Palm Springs*. This weekend saucers should be seen by him like last Tue Aft. Why else not go to Augusta. Will you be aboard this *Palm Springs* flight. L.D."

Wild stuff. If the moderns think that they're any more "rock and roll" than our forebears, they have not been reading their history.

Bender may have also been told that his "Antarctic base" theory for the UFOs was correct ("Project X" which he formed to plot out flight paths of southern hemisphere UFOs with Edgar Jarrold of Australia and Harold Fulton of New Zealand). This may have continued to spin down into the hole-at-the-pole/hollow-earth notion and the bizarre claims of Richard S. Shaver; the "Shaver mystery" continued to fascinate Barker all his life. If so, the UFOs weren't from space but from a malign hi-tech robot-society of the inner planet, and perhaps it was finally breaking out to get us. The catastrophe in Bender's eyes would be simply done, for he had investigated the doomsday concepts of one Hugh A. Brown. Brown, a Columbia engineer, had been shouting the dangers of a shift in the Antarctic ice cap, destabilizing the rotational angle of the axis of the Earth. Malign inner-earth ufonauts, based in Antarctica, could easily begin this catastrophe with their awesome energies. A new devastation of the Atlantis variety would begin, as Brown had guessed had happened several times before.

Perhaps one of you can go to the Barker depository with more time and insight than myself, and piece together a more defensible theory of what the three men may have laid on Bender. Whatever the story was, it worked. Bender quit UFO research, and I believe that this was the defining moment of the entirety of Barker's career. This spectacular social event—Bender's silencing—was real, and it was



Gray Barker salutes a close personal friend

UFO-related. It was also almost certainly government-intelligence related.

For Barker, it proved to him forever that UFOs were of real significance and that there was something dangerous about knowing too much about them. It was unwise to get too close to the fire. Barker changed. No longer was he the young organized serious researcher for the IFSB. Now he became a butterfly flitting lightly over a dangerous pond. He published, but he didn't research. He talked of personalities but not cases. He entertained himself while not exposing himself. The intelligence play had worked on Barker, too.

Throughout the documents the researcher can see the schizophrenia that had entered Barker's mind. Here he would be speaking rationally and conservatively to a serious researcher like Lex Mebane or Lee Munsick, and then he would be chortling fiendishly over some weirdness he was about to pull with Jim Villard.

UFOLOGY BACKSTAGE

As an anticlimax to our story, let's just dabble with some isolated bits from the files so that you will know what to expect when you go there.

Jimmy Guieu: He was an interesting early (and still active) French ufologist who wrote a relatively rare (but worth reading) work which was translated into English, *Flying Saucers Come from Another World* (1956). He and Barker had a 1950s correspondence, albeit brief. In early

1956 he contributed to Barker's "Benderian" paranoia with the following:

"Believe it or not, Gray, but we have now in France a case of Benderism! An engineer and I are proceeding our investigations on this strange affair, but it is very difficult because the man who received a visit of four mysterious men has vanished! We know he is hidden now in southern France. This guide 'knew too much about F.S.'! We do not think the four men are French agents of government nor agents of another nation."

Guieu went on to describe a strange "optical instrument" given to the man by a female saucer pilot. The investigating engineer actually saw and handled this instrument before the recipient disappeared.

Barker, of course, was boggled by this and gave Guieu five hypotheses for the identity of the three (or four) men. Three of the hypotheses he deemed unlikely: crackpots, government agents of foreign powers, and the space people themselves. One theory was mentioned without comment: a secret society on earth. He referred to another theory with a gleam in his eye: someone in league with the space people. Note that he did not mention our own government agents. Perhaps *they* were the ones "in league" with the ufonauts.

M. K. Jessup: He was an early UFO researcher, more intelligent than most and close to beginning the ancient-astronaut hypothesis and the idea that UFOs were closely connected to the Bible. Jessup was to enhance the paranoia quotient of the field by "mysteriously" committing suicide in 1959. He and Barker conducted a friendly correspondence between 1954 and 1957.

Jessup's letters show a practical man, fairly upbeat, who was trying to make a living. He was convinced that there was something very big involved with UFOs. His views of some of the UFO superstars indicate a man with good crap-detection skills and surprisingly down-to-earth appraisals of the sociology of the field. A few telling quotes:

"I can sure understand your gripe re the hoaxers. I have always felt the same way about Van Tassel, but you'd be astonished how many people, otherwise apparently sane, who believe completely in him." Barker had told Jessup that Van Tassel was fleecing old people with claims of his rejuvenation machine.

"What about this Menger character? I think he is outright hoax . . . is the whole field getting worse—or better?" "It would be my off-the-record opinion that he is a complete hoax or at least self-deluded."

"Frankly, and very confidentially, I have never accepted ANY story of space riding and take a dim view of all reports of contacts. Again frankly and confidentially I do not believe that ANYONE is [in] communication with space craft by light beam, radio, or any other method. Whenever contact is finally established it will certainly be done in a dignified and official manner and not through crackpots. But don't quote me, for I still want to sell some books."

Barker had earlier told Jessup how his newsletter renewals fell off after he told readers that the platitudinous

"metaphysician" Monkla of Mars was not real. Both Barker and Jessup realized that there were elements of flying-saucer fandom so undiscriminatingly mindless that any negative comments about anything, however stupid, were bad for business. Let us repeat Jessup's comment for today: Is the whole field getting worse—or better?

One person who they agreed was untouchable and unattackable was George Adamski. Notwithstanding our fond reminiscences of Ruppelt, Keyhoe, McDonald, and Hynek, the king of early ufology was undeniably Adamski. In a survey of Barker's readership by Prof. Stupple as late as 1975, it was found that twice as many readers had read and recommended Adamski than any other author. The next leading writer was Menger. The first scholarly researcher was Hynek, who ranked fourth. Almost no others were even listed. This is like our own era regarding UFO abductions, where the pop culture insists on being wowed by believe-it-or-not tales rather than serious investigations. Knowing who was buttering their bread, Barker and Jessup deemed it best to let Adamski alone.

"I get the idea sometimes that Adamski may have hypnotized some of these women and given them post-hypnotic suggestions," Jessup confided to Barker. "In any case their devotion could not be greater if Adamski was, in fact, the Deity himself. It's a funny situation and I wish I understood it better. Personally, I find it expedient to be evasive re Adamski and others, rather than taking sides, and I think you should do likewise when making public speeches."

Nevertheless in Jessup's estimation the UFO phenomenon had its powerful and important side: "[I] don't think the UFO deal is really terrifying—they've been here (if any) too long for that. . . . It seems to me that maybe it's just that the human race is, all-of-a-sudden[,] growing up and becoming aware of its true place in the universe and will have to swallow its ego in favor of a new type of coexistence . . . and maybe that in itself is terrifying."

In Jessup's evolving correspondence he lets Barker in on the growing problems of a young organization, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). He himself changes dramatically in his opinion of NICAP's first chief officer, the physicist T. Townsend Brown. Brown goes from a highly trained intellect with great organizational potential to a pseudoscientific huckster out to make a buck. This latter estimation may have been closer to the truth. In Barker's Brown file a World War II pamphlet shows Brown huckstering something called the Sidereal Radiation Laboratory. Its purpose? To use measurements of solar radiation to predict the stock market.

Desmond Leslie: He was the coauthor of Adamski's coming-out-party, otherwise known as *Flying Saucers Have Landed* (1953). Needless to say, he bought his coauthor's story lock, stock, and barrel. In his letters to Barker, he buttressed his views with strong arguments in favor of the Adamski-like Coniston saucer photo and its analysis by Leonard Cramp, who held it to be identical to the Adamski scoutcraft pictures. He defended the son who photographed

the saucer with the interesting news that both he *and his father* had had their consciousnesses so expanded by the son's experience that they were both now psychic. I doubt that this persuaded Barker.

Leslie says many other amazing things. Two British astronomers have separately reported Adamski machines in space, he avers. Two high-level British officials are interested in saucer information. The "earth-satellite" exists—this is 1954—and probably is the mothership for one extraterrestrial race. Van Tassel is a hoax, but Bethurum, Fry, Galbraith, and Allingham (who eventually would be revealed as nonexistent, the invention of English debunker/prankster Patrick Moore) are not. He is fascinated by a Florida scoutmaster's claim that a UFO zapped him. Barker responds that the scoutmaster, D. S. "Sonny" Desvergers, is probably unreliable, so don't get too enthusiastic. Leslie is down on New York ufologists. Titles like "Supreme Commander," he says, connote nothing but "supreme egos with very little at their command."

We'll let Leslie go, with this enigmatic quote which doubtless got Barker's paranoiac mind working:

"I have been playing over the Buck Nelson (a contactee) tapes very carefully and some of the things he says lead me to believe that the ship he contacted was of earthly origin. More I cannot say without suffering the same fate as our friend Mr. Bender."

The Straith letter: This document, a notorious fake, appeared to indicate that Adamski had the support of the U.S. Department of State. In the January 10, 1985, issue of *Saucer Smear*, Jim Moseley, confirming a long-standing suspicion, confessed that Barker and he perpetrated this hoax with an unnamed confederate. We have seen that Barker felt that Adamski was directly untouchable but that Barker felt that all these contactees were screwballs or con men, doing damage to any chances of figuring out the real nature of the UFO phenomenon. Whether Barker really wanted to figure it out any more, who knows?

But the mischievous child was still operative, that's for sure. It is my opinion that such hoaxes were Barker's way of stirring the ufological pot in a way that gave him control for a change, and he could sit back and watch the goofs, the witch-hunters, and the sincere people sort themselves out. The Straith letter was just another bit of tomfoolery which, however, showed incredibly bad judgment. The using of official U.S. government stationery left Barker open to serious federal charges. Barker had to bluff it out until he died. Some of the correspondence:

James Villard to Barker (November 20, 1957): "Thanks for IB Stationary—we'll send out thousands more hoax letters (aren't we evil)! If you want any State Dept., National War College, United States Information Agency, or The Voice of America Stationary, I can get for you."

Barker to Villard (November 22, 1957): "Send me ALL that stationary you mention, and I promise you I won't get in trouble over it—just shut up a few people, that's all. The first trick I'll play will be on Moseley himself if you will act

as a confederate."

Villard to Barker (December 1957): "Here is the stationery I promised for you. Have fun!"

Barker to Villard (December 16, 1957): "Thanks also for the stationery—will go into this further when I see you next."

Villard to Barker (the following year): "Poor Straith. Have you read Max Millers [sic] account in *Saucers*? Ha ha ha ha ha ha. I know most of those people he talked to personally. He is really off the track. But it all adds to the confusion. Heh eh eh eh."

SHOULD YOU WISH TO GO

As I stand on the porch of my family home in New Martinsville, West Virginia, I can look northward about 40 miles to Budd Hopkins' original home in Wheeling. Rotating to the southeast, and about at the same distance as the Mothman flies, is Barker's Clarksburg. It's a nice, slightly economically depressed West Virginia city—reachable by a good modern superhighway. Surprisingly, there are *no hotels whatever* in the downtown area, wherein lies the library. Plan to stay outside town between Clarksburg and Bridgeport in one of the motels, all standard chain types. Bring your car, or if not be sure you get the bus system down pat: it's quite nice, but if you miss one, you've a 90-minute wait. (Also the ridership in part resembles Zone of the Neuron-Deactivated Stare-Zombies, harmless I think. Maybe it was because I was from Michigan and thanked the bus driver.)

Someone who is not only perfectly normal but darn near perfectly helpful is the main contact person for the Barker collection, John Nesbitt. What a pleasant, fine fellow—the sort of West Virginian who makes me happy to be one. You must contact him at the library ahead of your visit so that he can give you the expected schedule of open hours at the genealogical collection. On an average day the Waldomore mansion is open 9 to 5, but there are several exceptions. Plan to spend several days unless you have a *very specific* research target. I spent 3½ days, and it wasn't nearly enough.

If you're a famous ufologist and you let John know early enough, maybe you can arrange a speaking engagement for the local group. (No one wants to hear what I have to say so it was just research and motel rooms for me.) John's office phone is (304) 624-6512 at the library. Go and have fun. Who knows, you may get to meet someone from the Pentagon. They say a colonel had visited before me. I just missed my chance to meet a man in black. ♦

Michael D. Swords, Ph.D., is editor of the Journal of UFO Studies and professor of natural sciences at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

CE2 IN THE EASTERN URALS

BY RICHARD F. HAINES

While on duty as captain of the local militia (police), Boris Ivanovich Vladimirov was riding in the right seat of a patrol vehicle with another patrolman at about 9 o'clock local time. Suddenly both men noticed an unusual pattern of colored lights located to the right side of the road about 25 meters away in a freshly plowed field. It was early in the winter of 1984, approximately at the end of September or early October, and the snow had not yet fallen on this part of the eastern Urals, about 120 km northwest of Chelyabinsk. The nearest medium-sized town is Karabash about 35 km to the northwest. The village of Byramgulovo sits at the eastern tip of the Argazinskoye Lake.

The collective farm on which this event took place has broad rolling fields with occasional stands of white pine that are characteristic of this region. The soil is dark and rich, and the road was rutted and muddy. The author inspected the area on May 8, 1992, and noticed that there were a large proportion of small rocks (typically 1–4 inches long) lying everywhere on the surface with a density of from five to 20 per square meter; they contained a high proportion of quartz.

The two men saw a large lighted triangle outlined by many large, round, colored lights. Capt. Vladimirov drew a rough sketch for the author from memory during the site visit which has been redrawn in Figure 1. The object seemed to sit on or just above the ground. The sketch shows 11 lights on the lefthand and righthand sides of the object and 13 up its middle. Each light was equally spaced about $0.7 D$ from each other where D = the diameter of each light. No object was seen other than the lighted triangle. He said that they just stopped the car and stared in amazement at the object.

The lights around the edge of the object flashed sequentially, like a theater marquee, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 1. They turned off in a regular manner. Each cycle began with the light located at (a) on the left "leg" appearing to move upward simultaneously with the light at (b), at the top of the object, which seemed to move downward along

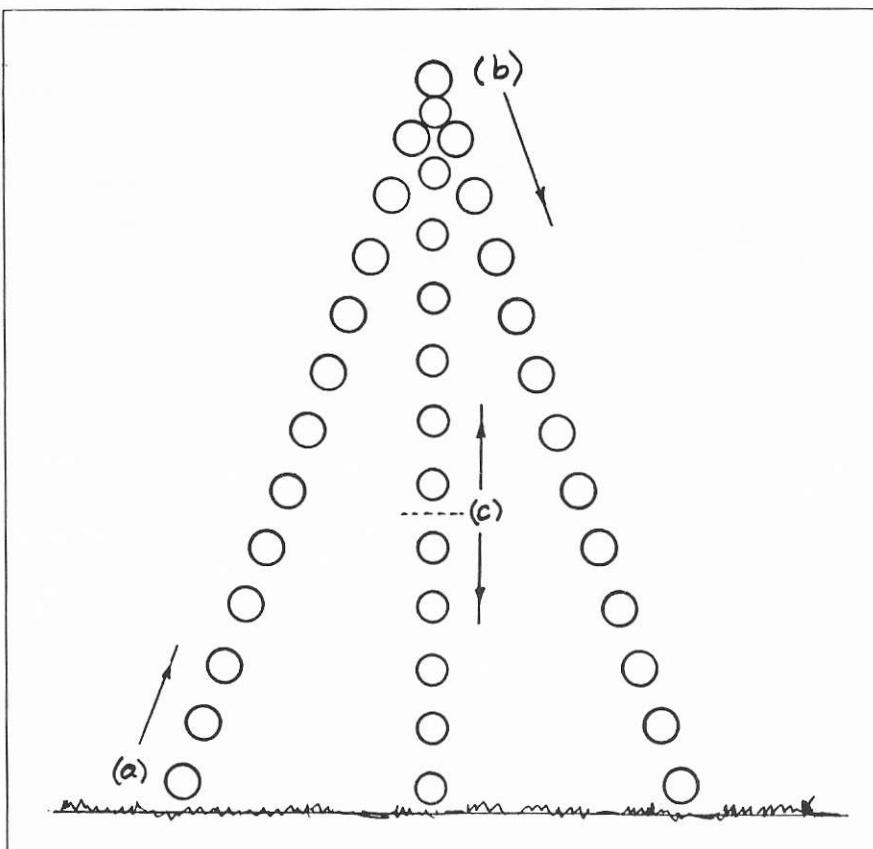


Figure 1

the right-hand side. At the same time the vertical row of lights at the center flashed upward and downward from (c) in the same regular rhythmic rate. He said that each light looked like it was behind a "thin silk cloth."

It is not clear whether these light sources shown in a narrow beam only in the direction of the witnesses or in a wider beam which could have been seen from different locations. Figure 2 presents the appearance of these lights from different vantage angles assuming either (a), a flat front surface to the light source, and (b), a cylindrical front surface (as viewed along direction 1). Note that in (a) the apparent shape of each light would be an oval when viewed off angle (along direction 2) while in (b) it would be a circle (viewed along direction 2). The eyewitness maintained that all light sources were round. This suggests either cylindrical or spherical surface to each light source radiating in all directions. This is what is implied by the testimony.

The estimated "on" duration of each light was about 1.5 seconds with an "off" duration of 0.5 seconds. Figure 3 portrays this temporal pattern for three adjacent light sources,

A, B, and C with time extending horizontally across the drawing. After an unknown period of time all of the lights simply turned off and they could not see it any more. He could not recall whether all of the lights extinguished simultaneously or not.

The next day the captain returned to the field and found three round depressions in the soil about 10 inches deep and

36 inches in diameter. They were at the corners of an equilateral triangle 8 meters apart. Calculations indicated that if the object was simply three cylindrical tripod legs weighing 200 pounds per linear foot the entire object would have weighed about 97,200 pounds (32.4 tons). The soil depressions may or may not have been caused by accelerative forces.

THE PRIMARY WITNESS

Boris Ivanovich is a police officer with many long years of practical experience of all kinds. He is used to dealing with stressful situations calmly. Standing almost six feet tall with a solid build, he was an imposing figure to the townsfolk. He knew the citizens of the village and surrounding areas personally and said that he had no idea who could have contrived such a hoax given the extreme poverty in the region. His eyesight is still good, as determined by his answers to my questions about sighting various details on the distant horizon. He does not wear eye glasses. I could find no reason why he would make up a story like this; it could not enhance his career (he was soon to retire) and could make him the laughing stock of the entire area.

DISCUSSION

The top of the object was remembered to be at about 60 degrees above the horizontal. The point on the ground directly beneath the top, assuming an equilateral tripod leg arrangement was about 28 meters from the observer. Given these dimensions, the object would be about 157 feet tall. I checked for the possibility that the lights seen could have been a reflection of lights inside or outside the vehicle off the windshield. None were found.

If the bottom of each of the three rows of colored lights represents the sources of the three ground depressions that were found, then the vertical (central) row of lights was located at either a lesser or greater distance from the witnesses than the two side rows.

Since the vertical row of lights was visible either the body of the object was not opaque or this (central) row was located nearer to the witnesses.

The witnesses estimated each light to be about the same brightness as a village street lamp (tungsten or equivalent; 500 watts). If

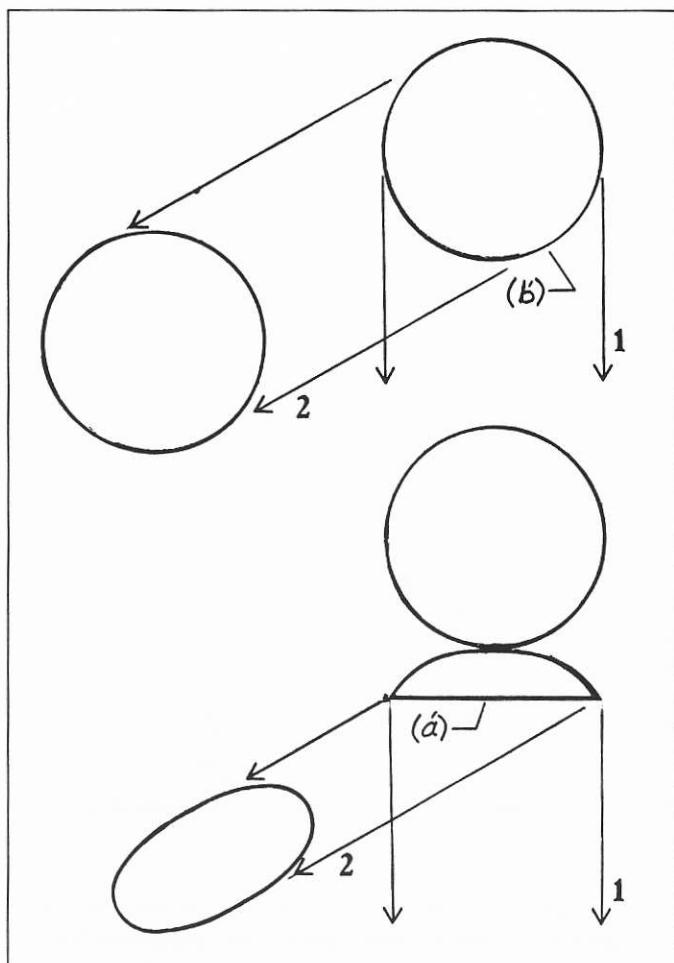


Figure 2

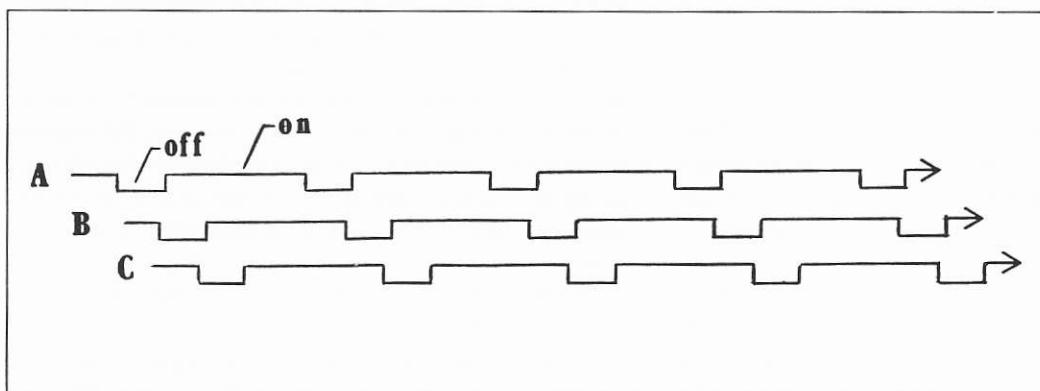


Figure 3

there were 35 light sources on the object this would require 17.5 kilowatts of power neglecting power losses in transmission. What is the source of this large amount of electrical power? That these sources were probably not normal incandescent sources is suggested by the high speed at which each seemed to appear and disappear. A gas discharge type of luminous source is more likely.

While the main witness did not count the exact number of lights on the object, the fact that the witness drew his sketch carefully, that the number of colored lights was as large as it was as well as being the same on both sides, suggests either that (1) there really were eleven lights as claimed or (2) there were at least this many lights and possibly more.

Other questions include where the electrical timing and on/off switching circuitry was located for these lights and why did these lights sequence on and off as they did? Does this imply some functional relationship with its power

generation, distribution, or transmission within the object or perhaps serve only to attract attention to itself. The latter seems more likely since (1) there are so many other UFO cases of this same kind in which the observer or observers do not see the object or objects until the object(s) suddenly lights up, as if they are trying to be seen, and (2) the object was invisible both before and after the event. The possibility of a perceived temporal discontinuity (via amnesia) during the sighting is possible either immediately before or after the above events took place.

The cause of this particular sighting event remains a mystery. ♦

Richard F. Haines, Ph.D., an IUR contributing editor and leading investigator of the UFO phenomenon, is a research scientist specializing in psychology and perception. This is one of a continuing series of reports of his research in the former Soviet Union.



LEGEND OF THE SPITSBERGEN SAUCER

BY OLE JONNY BRÆNNE

For almost 40 years rumors have told of a crashed flying saucer on the remote island of Spitsbergen. As the story goes, the wreckage was discovered by jet pilots and later transported to Narvik, Norway, where an investigation determined it was composed of unknown metallic alloys and was of extraterrestrial origin.

But what really happened—if anything happened at all—on Spitsbergen in or around June 1952? In this article we will document the story's evolution over the years, with all the surrounding rumors, elaborations, and misunderstandings. The article is a summary of a 38-page special issue of *UFO*, the periodical of UFO-Norway, devoted entirely to the Spitsbergen legend.

Some of you are no doubt familiar with the basic elements of the story, but let us start nonetheless at the beginning, with the original source. We believe the first mention of a saucer crash on Spitsbergen probably appeared in an article in a German newspaper, *Saarbrücker Zeitung* on June 28, 1952. The piece was entitled "Auf Spitzbergen landete Fliegende Untertasse." An English translation follows:

FLYING SAUCER LANDED ON SPITSBERGEN

The puzzle finally solved? "Silvery disc with dome of plexiglass and 46 jets on the rim." Soviet origin?

Narvik, mid-June.

Norwegian jet planes had just started this year's summer maneuvers over Spitsbergen. A squadron of six planes were approaching, at maximum speed, the Nordaustlandet, where units of the supposed opponent had been reported. The jets had just crossed over the Hinlopen Straits when crackling and rustling noises could be heard on all earphones and radio receivers. Radio contact among the jets was no longer possible; all means of communication between the jets seemed to be out of order. The radar reading, which had been showing "white" since from Narvik, was now on "red." This indicated an alert, the approach of a metallic alien object equipped with a radio direction finder that had a different frequency from that of the fighters.

Nevertheless, the highly experienced pilots were able to communicate with each other by means of circling and diving, so that each of them was aware of their common situation, each one searching the horizon with the utmost attention. The six fighters circled for some time not finding anything that was out of the ordinary.

By chance, Air Capt. Olaf Larsen happened to look down. Immediately he started to dive, followed by his squadron. On the white snowy landscape, the crusty surface of which had an icy

ABOUT SPITSBERGEN

Svalbard is a group of islands, six of them of substantial size. The group lies between 76° and 81° N., about 930 km north of Tromsø. The islands, which have belonged to Norway since 1920, cover an area of about 62,000 km² and are mostly covered by ice and snow. They are treeless but do contain 125 species of extra tough arctic growths. The highest mountain is Mt. Newton, rising to 1700 meters.

The Hinlopen Straits, the site of the alleged crash, separate the islands of Vest Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet. The straits, in a north-northwest configuration between 79 and 80° N., are 120 km long and 10 km broad at their narrowest point.

The current population of the islands is 3500, some 2000 greater than it was in the 1950s. Norway and the Soviet Union have an agreement on coal mining on these islands. Most people living here work in the mines. In recent years tourist traffic has increased noticeably, owing to the islands' natural beauty.

glitter, there was a metallic, glittering circular disc of between 40 and 50 meters diameter, which was even brighter than the icy snow. Between some wires and a tangle of supporting struts in the middle, the remains of an apparently partly destroyed cockpit protruded. While circling for 60 minutes, the jet pilots could neither detect any sign of life nor determine the origin or type of the vehicle. Finally, they took course for Narvik in order to report their strange findings.

Just a few hours later, five big flying boats, equipped with landing skis, took off for the place of discovery. They landed safely next to the bluish steel disc, which was sitting in a bed of snow and ice of more than one meter's depth.

"Undoubtedly one of the infamous flying saucers," claimed Dr. Norsel, a Norwegian rocket specialist, who had insisted on joining the flight. He also established the reason why all means of communication of the fighter planes had broken down on entering the zone of the landing spot, and why the radar equipment had signaled alarm: a radio direction finder equipped with a plutonium core was undamaged and transmitting on all wavelengths at a frequency of 934 Hertz, which is not known by any country.

A precise inspection of the remote-controlled flying disc that landed on the Nordaustlandet of Spitsbergen due to interference problems, led to the following indisputable information:

1. The flying object, which has a diameter of 48.88 meters and slanting sides, is round and was unmanned.
2. The circular steel object, made out of an unknown metal

compound, resembles a silver disc. After ignition, 46 automatic jets, located at equal distances on the outer ring, rotate the disc around a plexiglassed center ball that contains measuring and control devices for remote control.

3. The measuring instruments (gauges) have Russian symbols.

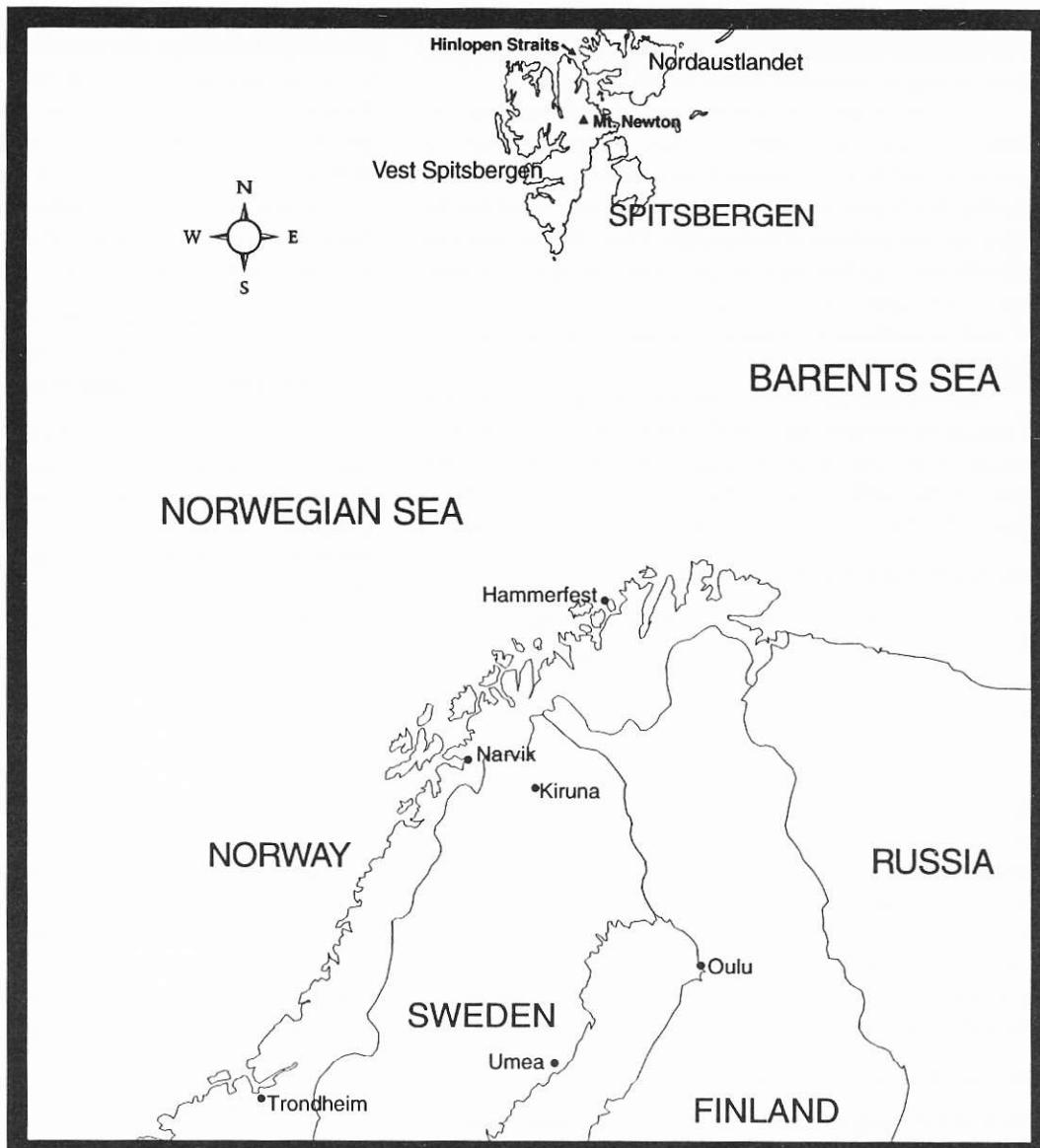
4. The action radius of the disc seems to be more than 30,000 km, and the altitude over 160 km.

5. The flying object, which resembles one of the legendary "flying saucers," has sufficient room for high explosive bombs, possibly nuclear bombs.

The Norwegian specialists assumed that the disc had started from the Soviet Union and had gone down over Spitzbergen due to a mistake in transmitting or receiving, being incapacitated because of the hard landing. The strange, remote-controlled, unmanned jet plane will be brought to Narvik on board a ship for further investigation. After hearing of the description of the disc, the German V-weapon designer Riedel stated: "That's a typical V-7 on whose serial production I have worked myself."—J.M.M.

The author of the *Zeitung* article, J.M.M., has proven untraceable. Newspaper archives have no useful information on the matter. The very same article was also published by another newspaper, *Berliner Volksblatt*, on July 9, 1952. In early August 1952 the story got another mention in the German periodical *Der Flieger*, in a piece by a Dr. Waldemar Beck. This mention probably spread the story to a far greater audience, even carried by the AFP news service into the CIA archives. Later authors often refer to the *Der Flieger* version.

Several points in the *Zeitung* article are of particular interest. They include the speculation about possible Soviet origin as well as the mention of the names of two persons presumably involved in the discovery and investigation of



the disc itself: Air Capt. Olaf Larsen and Dr. Norsel. This we must keep in mind as we proceed with our investigation.

A few books published in 1953 and 1954 briefly mentioned the Spitzbergen story. I refer specifically to Donald E. Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*, Harold T. Wilkins' *Flying Saucers on the Moon* (published in America as *Flying Saucers on the Attack*), and Jimmy Guieu's *Les soucoupes volantes viennent d'un autre monde* (an English translation appeared in 1956 as *Flying Saucers Come from Another World*). Additional information comes then to our attention through yet another German newspaper, *Hessische Nachrichten*, which published this account on July 26, 1954:

"FLYING SAUCERS" ARE NO FABLE

Norwegian military report of "unknown flying object" on Spitsbergen.

Only now a board of inquiry of the Norwegian General Staff is preparing the publication of a report on the examinations of the

remains of a flying saucer crashed on Spitsbergen, presumably some time ago. The chairman of the board, Col. Gernod Darnhyl, stated, during an instruction lesson for Air Force officers:

"The Spitsbergen crash was very rewarding. True enough, our science still faces many riddles. I am sure, however, that they can soon be solved by these remains from Spitsbergen. A misunderstanding developed, some time ago, when it was stated that the flying disc was probably of Soviet origin. It has—this we must state emphatically—not been built by any country on earth. The materials are completely unknown to all experts, either not to be found on Earth, or processed by physical or chemical processes unknown to us."

According to Col. Darnhyl, the board of inquiry is not going to publish an extensive report until "some sensational facts" have been discussed with experts from the USA and Great Britain. "We must tell the public what we know about the unknown flying objects. A misplaced secrecy may well one day lead to panic!"

THE NORTH POLE, BASE FOR UNKNOWN?

The Norwegian fighter pilots, Lt. Brobs and Lt. Tyllensen, who, since the Spitsbergen event have been assigned as observers of the polar area, claim that, contrary to American and other sources, the flying discs have already landed repeatedly in the northern polar zone.

"I believe that the polar area is an air base for the unknowns. Especially during snow and ice storms, when we, with our machines, must retreat to our base, it is my belief that the flying objects take advantage of this to make landings. I have, shortly after such bad weather conditions, seen them land and take off three times," said Lt. Tyllensen. "I noticed then, that having landed, they execute a very speedy rotation around their axis. During flight, and take off, or landing, the brilliant light prevents any view of the events behind this wall of brilliance and on, or inside, the flying object itself."

ENOUGH OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Col. Darnhyl thinks that, within the next twelve months, a solution to these technical problems will be found, or, at least, science will be on the right track towards solving the UFO problem. "We now have material at hand, on which we can start. That means laboratories can start the work right away and they might give us preliminary results shortly. Norwegian scientists think that the material from Spitsbergen can only give away its secrets by nuclear crushing; this because it does not change either at absolute zero, when air is liquefied, or at the highest temperatures technically possible with our technology. Also, every chemical treatment has been tried. Scientific results will only be released subsequent to a UFO conference in London or Washington."

The communication from Swedish TV-set owners, that their reception recently was interfered with every time flying saucers were reported over northern Sweden, caused sensation in circles of the Norwegian board of inquiry. In consequence of this Col. Darnhyl hopes, sooner or later, to track down the communication system of unknown flying objects.—Sven Thygesen

Perhaps many will think that this is a change for the better. The wreckage is no longer of possible Soviet origin but

extraterrestrial. And we also get additional names: Chairman of the board Col. Germod Darnhyl (misspelled Darnbyl by some later sources), and Norwegian Lts. Brobs and Tyllensen. Sven Thygesen, the author of the *Nachrichten* article, is another person we have not been able to trace. Yet in this case we have a name, not just initials.

A new twist to the Spitsbergen story appears in the December 19, 1954, edition of the Norwegian newspaper *Verdens Gang*. It goes like this:

SOUTH-AMERICAN REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER IN NORWAY!

Contradicts information of it having Russian writing

The Uruguayan newspaper *El Nacional* of Montevideo has recently, with big fuss, brought a message "about the Norwegian scientist Hans Larsen Løberg's discovery of a flying saucer on Heligoland." It concerns, says the newspaper, the same flying saucer that "was reported to have fallen down into the mountains of Spitsbergen in August 1952."

Mr. Larsen Løberg says that this saucer in reality crashed (fell down) on Heligoland (Hålogaland—Helgeland?) which is a small island in the North Sea (Nordsjøen), used as a submarine base by the Germans during the war. Of Hans Larsen Løberg it is said that he won a prize in physics in Hungary. The newspaper also features his picture.

Larsen Løberg also retracts the rumor that the saucer was supposed to have Russian writing. It had, he says, a diameter of 91 feet and a thickness on the middle of about 70 feet. In the spaceship's control room they found a number of push-buttons. It was deduced that it could travel aided by the magnetic forces that hold the planets in their position in space, and these forces are controlled by said buttons. They found no engine in the spaceship, nor could they discover any rivets, fuses or bolts. The outer surface was shiny and transparent.

PILLS AND HEAVY WATER

The material used was as light as aluminum, but very much harder, and probably much heat-resistant. Of the things found in its interior, they noticed some water that was three times as heavy as normal water, and a few pills which were taken to be food. There was also an apparatus which probably was a radio. It was quite small and had no antenna. They also found some books, probably navigational instructions, in a completely unknown writing. The doors of the spaceship were open. Just inside of the doors were seven bodies, burned beyond recognition. Scientists are of the opinion, according to Larsen Løberg, that the bodies were of men at the age of between 25 and 30 years, about 1.65 m tall. All had perfect sets of teeth.

BEAM-GUN

Dr. Hans Larsen Løberg could also tell about the finding of a completely unknown weapon, a beam-gun which used magnetic rays. This gun, he thinks, explains a number of strange incidents in the USA. In Wyoming, Oklahoma City, Pittsburgh, and New York windows were broken, for unexplained reasons, on thousands and thousands of cars. And it must be obvious, he says, that the young

pilot Mantell, who during a flight reported on radio that he had encountered a flying saucer and shortly thereafter crashed in pursuit of it, must have been shot down by this beam-gun.

CREW BURNED TO DEATH

The reason for the crash of this saucer, he thought, had to be that it was affected by the American hydrogen-bomb explosion. The material of the spaceship, and its apparatus, resisted the enormous heat, but the crew burned to death. The newspaper which picked up the story in Brazil, admits that it sounds fantastic, but draws attention to it not having been officially denied!

VG has investigated, in Oslo, whether there is a scientist by the name of Hans Larsen Løberg, but everyone queried, and who ought to know about him, says that the name is completely unknown.

Obviously somebody is mixing two versions of the story here. We are told that the saucer fell not on Spitsbergen but on the German island of Heligoland, in the North Sea. We are also given information about a magnetic beam-gun, heavy water, pills as food, books with unknown writing, and bodies. None of this has previously figured in our sources.

In addition we obtain yet another name, our seventh: Norwegian scientist Hans Larsen Løberg. The *Verdens Gang* article refers to an Uruguayan newspaper, *El Nacional*, which again has a Brazilian source. Our South American contacts have not yet been able to locate this article, but we have managed to track down the first mention of the Heligoland story as published in *Sir!*, a pulp men's magazine, for September 1954:

FIRST REPORT ON THE CAPTURED FLYING SAUCER! by E. W. Grenfell

On a tiny island in the North Sea off the German coast, a secret investigation is in progress to determine whether hydrogen bomb explosions in the Pacific Ocean knocked a flying saucer to earth. Preliminary findings were revealed recently in Oslo, Norway, by Dr. Hans Larsen Løberg, a retired Norwegian scientist, who said investigators have already made some startling discoveries.

In his report, Dr. Løberg said the mysterious cracking and shattering of automobile windshields in several U.S. cities a few months ago may be explained when results of the investigation are in. Because, he added, the grounded saucer is reported to carry firing instruments capable of shattering glass with magnetic rays.

The saucer came down on Heligoland, a small island which the Germans used as a U-boat base during World War I. Since the island is only a speck of land in a large body of water, Dr. Løberg believes the disk was forced to earth when H-bomb blasts created conditions of atmospheric pressure that made flight impossible.

It was not a crash-up, and investigators found most of the saucer's instruments in good condition. On ground near the ship were found the bodies of seven men, all burned beyond recognition. They may, or may not, have been passengers aboard the weird flying craft.

Dr. Løberg, one-time winner of the Hungarian Physics Award,

said descriptive details of the saucer were told him by a fellow-scientist who is with the investigating team on Heligoland.

If magnetic rays from the flying saucer shattered auto windshields, then police in several American cities will close the books on a case which drove them to the boiling point a few months ago. It all began in the city of Bellingham, Washington, where horrified citizens learned that, in one week's time, 1,500 automobiles had turned up with cracked windshields—and no one could explain the reason why. Bellingham's 34,000 people began to wonder if ghosts had invaded their midst. Even house and store windows slithered into bits. The windshields at times cracked up while cars were in motion, but no one could pin down any concrete cause.

While the astounding story made headlines throughout the U.S., Bellingham's city officials were dodging frantic citizens, police were going crazy, and local glass manufacturers were making a fortune. Then windshields began failing apart in Wyoming, in Oklahoma City, in Pittsburgh and finally in New York City. Nobody, not even glass experts, could come up with a reasonable explanation.

The saucer's magnetic ray gun, which Dr. Løberg believes responsible for all the disintegrating glass, may also provide a solution to yet another mystery—an airplane crash near Fort Knox, Ky., on January 7, 1948. On that day an unidentified object was sighted over Goodman Air Force Base [sic] at Fort Knox by both military and civilian observers. Air Force Captain Thomas K. Bandell [sic], flying his plane over the base, radioed the Goodman [sic] tower and reported the object was travelling at half his speed.

"I'm closing in now to take a good look," he reported. "It's directly ahead of me and still moving at about half my speed. This thing looks metallic and of tremendous size. . . . It's going up now and forward as fast as I am. That's 360 miles per hour. . . . I'm going up to 20,000 feet and if I'm no closer I'll abandon chase."

The time was 1:15 P.M. and that was the last radio contact Bandell [sic] had with the Goodman [sic] tower. Several hours later, his body was found in the wreckage of his plane near the base.

If the Heligoland saucer's magnetic ray gun is in good condition, it may reveal the power to shatter airplanes as well as glass.

Dr. Løberg contends the craft apparently landed under guidance of its own instruments and the investigators studied it at a distance for two days before risking closer observation. The area where the saucer came down was bombarded with cosmic rays, Geiger counters and other protective devices before investigation began.

The seven charred bodies found around the saucer are yet unidentified. Their clothing was burned away completely and there were no clues to indicate whether they were passengers aboard the craft, or whether they were Heligoland residents ventured too close to the saucer too soon. Curiously, all seven men seemed to be from 25 to 30 years of age and of the same height—about five feet eight inches. All had excellent teeth.

Investigators have one theory: That the seven men were passengers who were consumed by fire inside the descending ship. The blaze had been caused by sudden changes in atmospheric pressure condition inside the saucer's hermetically sealed cabin. Atop the craft was a trap-door through which the seven bodies

could have been thrown by the impact of landing.

Even more curious were the ship's measurements. It was 91 feet in diameter and the cabin 70 feet high. In fact, all dimensions were dividable by seven. On the control board were a series of push-buttons, but investigators are still studying the interior mechanism to learn what propelled the saucer in flight.

Dr. Løberg's theory is that the disk may have travelled by harnessing magnetic lines of force which scientists know encircle the nine planets of the solar system. He points out that there was no motor and no propeller, but if magnetic force is involved, the saucer would move just as a nail moves when approached by a magnet.

The landing gear resembled a tripod of three metal cylinders which would revolve in any direction. There were no bolts, rivets or screws on the saucer and in the construction were found two metals which are entirely unknown to scientists. Outer metal of the ship was light in weight and resembled aluminum, but it was so hard that even 15,000 degrees Fahrenheit could not melt it down. Two men could easily lift one side of the saucer.

Although it was not immediately established that the seven burned men were former passengers of the ship, investigators found equipment inside which definitely resembled living quarters! Well-enclosed bunks were ingeniously placed on one side of the cabin's interior.

A liquid resembling water but almost three times as heavy as normal drinking water, was found in two small containers. On a wall-bracket was a tube filled with a large number of pills, possibly tabulated food.

The saucer's radio, which had no tubes, no wires and no aerial, was about as small as a king-size cigarette package. Pamphlets and booklets, which seem to deal with navigation problems, were also found but investigators are still trying to decipher the script used in the text.

Dr. Løberg emphasized that when the Heligoland investigation is completed, the report will add a new chapter to flying saucer history.

Where, or by whom, these two stories have been mixed up is a question perhaps resolvable when we obtain the South American articles, but it is clear that we are dealing with two different stories.

Now, moving forward to November 1956, we find that the Dutch magazine *UFO-Gids* published, with minor changes, almost the same text as the *Hessische Nachrichten*. But the Dutch magazine does not credit *Hessische Nachrichten* for the story. Instead it lists *Stuttgarts Dagblad* for September 5, 1955, as its source.

In later accounts, *Stuttgarter Tageblatt* has been alleged to be the source of the Darnhyl version, a story that had surfaced already in 1954. Evidently someone tried to germanize *Stuttgarts Dagblad* and did not investigate his source.

Several authors have used *Stuttgarter Tageblatt* as a source for the Spitsbergen story. It is, in fact, a nonexistent newspaper. Neither CENAP nor other researchers have ever found any trace of either such a paper or such an article published on, or around, the date given by *UFO-Gids*.

Actually *Stuttgarts Dagblad* may simply mean "a newspaper from Stuttgart" in Dutch.

In 1966 Frank Edwards' best-seller *Flying Saucers—Serious Business* gave the Spitsbergen story new life. In it Edwards claimed to have corresponded with a member of the Norwegian board of inquiry. He said, "In 1954 when I wrote to a member of the Norwegian Board of Inquiry which had investigated the Spitsbergen case, I received, after four months, a cryptic reply: 'I regret that it is impossible for me to respond to your questions at this time.' Could he, then, answer my questions at some other time? To that inquiry I received no reply. I am recovering from the shock."

Edwards' account must be judged suspect. He does not name his alleged contact, and copies of the letters, which one would have thought Edwards would include in his book, did not appear there and have yet to surface anywhere.

NEW TWISTS

In 1968 Arthur Shuttlewood's *Warnings from Flying Friends* recounts an article by Bruce Sandham, "Invasion from Space," said to have appeared not long before in an undated issue of the *Western Daily Press*. Sandham claims that a Catalina flying boat, not six jets, discovered the object, and he gives May 1952 and not June 1952 as the date. He cites no sources.

Through the years the Spitsbergen story has surfaced in a number of books and magazine articles, so many that in this article we can deal only with the most important ones—that added new information, or still more confusion.

Oh yes, confusion. More of that is supplied in 1986 by William S. Steinman and Wendelle C. Stevens, authors of *UFO Crash at Aztec*. First of all Steinman, the primary author, gets the Spitsbergen and Helgoland stories mixed up. He says that seven dead beings were found near the Spitsbergen saucer. He also gives us new "data" which assert that the pilot who first discovered the saucer, and reported his find, never came back.

The most recent article of note is "New Information on the Spitzbergen Saucer Crash" by William L. Moore, in *Focus 5* (December 31, 1990). Moore includes a translation of a French newspaper article which appeared in the October 15, 1954, edition of *Le Lorrain*. It tells of a Swiss report published by D.A.T. (Territorial Air Defence) on flying saucers, describing World War II Schriever/Habermohl/Miethe Nazi saucer experiments. The Spitsbergen wreckage, from one of these aircraft, was "recovered by Canadian commandos." Moore, who has not done his homework, states that "this account remains the best and most authoritative explanation I've heard so far for the Spitzbergen saucer crash rumors."

A MODERN INVESTIGATION

This is, basically, the Spitsbergen UFO crash/retrieval story as of today. Now we can either let it keep wandering from

magazine to magazine or conduct a little basic research and investigation to check the story out. What I will do now is to tell you what investigation others have done, what investigation I have done myself, and finally we will concentrate our attention on the Norwegian Air Force jets around the winter 1951/spring 1952 period.

If we look at page 118 of Robert G. Girard's *An Early U.F.O. Scrap Book* (1989), we find an undated newspaper clipping which is most interesting. It tells what the *Der Flieger* article said about the incident; it remarks that "Norwegian Air Force headquarters denied all knowledge of the report and said it never had heard of Dr. Norsel." This clipping is probably dated around August or September 1952.

In 1954 the Norwegian newspaper *Verdens Gang* made inquiries, in Oslo, about the name of Hans Larsen Løberg (as we remember, involved with the Helgoland story), but everyone asked, who presumably would have known or known of such a man, stated that the name was unfamiliar.

AMERICAN INQUIRIES

The UFO Evidence (1964) recounts NICAP's effort to look into the story. When the organization wrote to the Norwegian Embassy in 1958, it got this reply: "Our Air Force's UFO material is mainly of security graded nature and cannot be put to the disposal of NICAP." The letter has been used as evidence of a secret classification of the Spitsbergen incident report and analyses, but in fact it does not mention that case specifically, just UFO-related documents generally. And UFO-related material being classified at that time, ties in with my own research.

According to *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (1969, known informally as the Condon Report), "it seems well established that this story has no basis in fact."

FURTHER INQUIRIES IN NORWAY

Norwegian researcher Arne Børcke visited the Ministry of Defense in late 1973. There he sifted through all the material it had about this case. Ever since the story surfaced in 1952, the ministry had received numerous letters from interested persons but beyond that knew nothing of any such incident.

Another Norwegian, Jon-Ingar Haltuff, determined in 1978 that the original story was an impossibility, physically as well as politically. Kevin D. Randle, who would later achieve eminence for his research on the Roswell case, rejected the story and so wrote disparagingly of it in Ronald D. Story's *Encyclopedia of UFOs* (1980). Margaret Sachs, author of *The UFO Encyclopedia* (1980), writes that "although rumors continue to circulate about the alleged Spitsbergen crash, no conclusive evidence has been presented to support the story."

My own research consists of sifting through the entire 1952 edition of *Svalbardposten*, the local newspaper for Svalbard/Spitsbergen. I found no mention of any saucer

crash. Neither were there any such stories in any of Norway's main newspapers, *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet*, *Morgenposten*, or *Verdens Gang*, in 1952. I also checked all editions of *Hjem Er Hvem* for the period 1912–1984, the Norwegian equivalent of *Who's Who*. None of the names mentioned in connection with our story figured in any of these editions.

During 1990–1991, through correspondence, I learned that the Defense Museum in Oslo had no knowledge of any of the names mentioned in the published accounts. The authorities at the museum do not consider it likely that Norwegian jets could have operated around Svalbard in 1952.

The Press and Information Division of the Norwegian High Command do not have any papers on the Norwegian pilots and military personnel allegedly involved in the event. They do, however, have data on all those officers who did exist.

NORWEGIAN JET FIGHTERS

Then we come to the aircraft. According to all the versions, except the one by Bruce Sandham, the wreckage was discovered by jet pilots. The only jet fighters in the Norwegian Air Force in 1951–52 were De Havilland DH 100 Vampires (in three versions: FMK3, FBMK52, and TMK55) and Republic F-84 Thunderjets (in two versions: F-84E and F-84G).

According to information supplied by the Defense Museum as well as the available literature, the Vampire jets were stationed at Gardermoen AFB (about 50 km north of Oslo). Because they had an action radius of only 980 km, we can definitely rule these out.

Our last, and only, alternative is therefore the F-84. Six F-84Es were delivered on September 10, 1951, and were included in Squadron 334 at Sola (outside Stavanger). These were the only F-84Es delivered to the Norwegian Air Force. During the spring and summer of 1952 Norway received 24 F-84Gs. Two hundred were delivered, in all, with deliveries completed in 1955. F-84G had an action radius of 1610 km, so this looks promising. But that's all. Why?

Because, according to research done in part by Anders Liljegren and myself, the airfields in northern Norway were either too short or in the process of extensive upgrading to meet the new NATO standard. All F-84 aircraft were stationed in the southern part of Norway at the time, and then the action radius becomes too short. In addition, it was said that the aircraft circled around the saucer wreckage for almost an hour. In other words, the story is hopeless.

CONCLUSION

The Spitsbergen story, along with the Helgoland story, is—as readers will already have surmised—fiction. The original authors, mainly J.M.M. and Sven Thygesen (if these were their real names), had a cursory knowledge of Norwegian military aircraft but beyond that were too ignorant to pull off an entirely successful hoax.

Even if this case is empty of substance, we may safely predict that it will continue to show up in print for years to come, as long as there are "researchers" who think it deserves their enthusiastic attention and will not allow prosaic truth to stand in their way.

A POSTSCRIPT

Not much remains to be said after Ole Jonny Brænne's thorough compilation of sources on the Spitsbergen legend. The bibliography of the original Norwegian text refers to no fewer than 165 sources. Still, a few pieces remain to be laid out for the puzzle to be more complete:

(1) The original articles in 1952–54 resemble the modern tabloid stories of "impossible phenomena" of the sort that plague ufology in the West (and now the East). To a casual, nonenthusiast reader the small details of these stories often ring a warning bell. The enthusiast, however, pays no attention to such matters. When, for instance, "Sven Thygesen" reports on interferences noted by north-Swedish television-set owners in the summer of 1954, "Thygesen" obviously is unaware that the first small chain of Swedish TV transmitters were not put into operation until 1956, and then only in the southern, more populated areas.

(2) The Spitsbergen and Helgoland yarns (as well as the Nazi-saucer saga and other similar legends) cannot be understood without a look at the sources and the cultures from which they get their inspiration.

Nineteen fifty-two, when the Spitzbergen story first surfaced, was a particularly tense year in Europe. In June the Soviet Union shot down a Swedish DC-3 radio/radar reconnaissance aircraft over the Baltic (the plane and crew are still missing, but Russia recently admitted guilt) and also shot down a Swedish Catalina search-plane on a search mission for the DC-3. These and similar incidents heightened tensions in central Europe and the northern theater.

Several stories published during that period more or less attributed saucers to the Kremlin. Particularly interesting, in connection with Spitsbergen, is the UFO sighting of East German mayor Oskar Linke in the spring of 1952, published only weeks after the Spitsbergen yarn. "When I saw this object, I immediately thought that it was a new Soviet military machine," Linke stated in a report which went to the CIA.

In the summer of 1953 Danish sources speculated about a Russian saucer base in the Arctic. In October 1952 the Norwegian marine base at Horten and the Oslofjorden estuary was reportedly violated by an airship "of unknown construction." The Swedish Air Force had a series of unknown blips ("angels," Russians, or unknowns) on its Baltic radar scopes in 1952–53, particularly after the Washington radar cases and the U.S. wave noted by most European papers.

As with the Nazis, a decade before, the extreme secrecy of Communism led to much unfounded speculation. For instance, in June 1955 the American *Aero Digest* spread the

rumor that the Russians had successfully developed a photon rocket which they were now testing from submarines.

This was fertile soil for rumors. Loren E. Gross reports (in *UFOs: A History, 1953, August–December*, p. 5) of Russian use of disinformation to spread tales of ray weapons and flying saucers in central Europe.

(3) The Spitsbergen story was, from the start, emphatically denied by Norwegian authorities, but denials usually have no credibility in the UFO community. Gross notes (*UFOs: A History, 1952, June–July 20th*, p. 31), based on Blue Book files, that the U.S. Air Attaché in Oslo was asked to confirm the incident. The Norwegian Air Force informed the attaché that the saucer story was "definitely false."

This exchange was also reported in the Norwegian newspaper *Morgenposten* (October 27, 1952), where Maj. Ole Mehn-Andersen of Luftforsvarets Overkommando (LOK) stated, as an example of saucer sensations created by the newspapers, that "one evening I had a telephone call from a foreign embassy which had been given the sensational news that a 'flying saucer' had landed on Svalbard and had been investigated by a Professor Norsel."

(4) Finally, let me add yet one more twist to the Spitsbergen legend as told in a letter written to AFU associate Åke Franzén on November 11, 1968. The author is a certain B.S. (full name known) of Stockholm:

"The case of the Norwegian fighter pilot. A Norwegian fighter pilot on reconnaissance over Spitsbergen reported to his base in northern Norway, that he had sighted a saucer that had landed on Spitsbergen. The message, received by the control tower, is quickly spread among the base personnel. The pilot had taken a close look at 'the saucer.' An unconditional secrecy was ordered among the staff of the tower, but it was too late.

"The pilot does not return, but is believed—by the staff not associated with those in the tower—to have landed at another base. Friends of the pilot start looking for their mate, but he has disappeared without a trace. He is even left out of all the papers, and when his friends visit his home district, his name is no longer in the parish register. The story has been given me personally by a Norwegian air mechanic who did his military service at the base at the time of the incident. Personally, I ask the question: Is this disappearance due to actions by Norwegian defense, or are the UFOs behind it?"

When Håkan Blomqvist, in 1986, queried B.S. for further details, he got a strange reply which raised questions about the informant's mental state.

It is obvious that the Spitsbergen story has taken on the qualities of an urban legend, embroidered with each telling of the tale.—*Anders Liljegren*

Ole Jonny Brænne is a prominent figure in Norwegian ufology. This is a slightly revised version of an article which originally appeared in AFU Newsletter 36 (1991), published by Archives for UFO Research, Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden. Anders Liljegren, whose postscript follows this article, is editor of the Newsletter.

LETTERS

VALLEE WAS RIGHT

To the editor:

I owe Jacques Vallee a public apology and wish to set the record straight.

In a letter to the editor published in the May/June 1990 issue of *IUR*, I commented at length about what was then Vallee's latest book, *Confrontations*. Part of the book was devoted to Brazilian cases that he and I had investigated at different times.

I expressed surprise at his report that one person died and perhaps 20 had been injured in a series of sightings in the Colares area in the late 1970s. My two visits to Colares and lengthy talks with the Brazilian Air Force officer who led a military investigation indicated no deaths and only four or five had been burned.

Some people may have interpreted my statements as criticizing Vallee and accusing him of being careless in his investigation. That was not my intention. I simply said I came up with different statistics.

Since then I have made half a dozen unsuccessful attempts to determine what happened in Colares, but it was only recently that I learned that Vallee was, indeed, correct all along. In September I visited Belém, a large city near Colares, and talked with the doctor who treated many of the injured and the person who died.

Bob Pratt
Lake Worth, Florida

THE ROSWELL SERGEANT

To the editor:

Who would have thought that after the revelations about Gerald Anderson's phone bills there would be anything more to say about his alleged involvement in the 1947 Roswell case? A few loose ends remain, however, and they must be tied up before we put this whole affair behind us.

First and foremost is a confession Anderson made in mid-September of this year. He admitted, to various leaders of the Mutual UFO Network and to Stanton Friedman and John Carpenter, that he had faked the phone bill in an attempt to embarrass me. This, of course, proves that my and Donald R. Schmitt's "Missing Time" (*IUR*, July/August) is an accurate account. After failing to tell the truth about the length of the phone call, Anderson forged a document to corroborate his story.

In a letter dated November 18, Richard Hall writes, "Certainly this is the last nail in the coffin of his story. As you point out, if he is capable of doing this nothing else he says can be trusted at all."

But one area of apparent corroboration has managed to find its way into the literature. Fred Whiting, in his contribution to the CUFOS/Fund for UFO Research monograph *The Plains of San Agustin Controversy, July 1947: Gerald Anderson, Barney Barnett and the Archaeologists*, claimed, "Bill Brazel told Don Berliner that 'Captain Armstrong' was accompanied by a *black soldier* [emphasis in original]."

On page 85 of Friedman and Berliner's *Crash at Corona*, using without attribution an interview conducted by Schmitt and me, Brazel is quoted as follows: "... his name was Armstrong, a real nice guy. He had a [black] sergeant with him that was real nice."

Because Schmitt and I had that interview on tape and because Brazel did not use the word black during that conversation, we wondered how the inclusion of the word could be justified. Hall, in his November 18 letter, wrote, "I asked Don Berliner about the '[black] sergeant' quote, and he said Brazel *did* make that statement in his presence."

Schmitt and I were both at that meeting, and we didn't hear the word used. Naturally there are those who can claim that it boils down to the same two sides lining up on opposite sides of the spectrum. Fortunately there is a simple way to resolve the issue. Ask Bill Brazel.

On March 24, 1992, Schmitt called Brazel and asked him if the sergeant was black. Brazel said, "Absolutely not." Since the conversation was not recorded, we believed that a record of some sort had to be made.

On December 5, 1992, that was done. I said to Brazel, "I've got one quick question for you if you don't mind. Remember when we brought Don Berliner by?"

"Yes," Brazel said.

"He's now saying that you said the sergeant with Captain Armstrong was black."

Brazel said, "No. I didn't say that . . . because it ain't right. . . . To my recollection anyway, that's not right. In fact, I don't think there were any colored people in that whole contingent."

That would seem to end that aspect of the controversy. Brazel says he never described the sergeant as black. Therefore the word ought not to have been inserted into the interview transcript.

The whole idea that Brazel somehow corroborates the Anderson tale is not unlike the attempt to link Glenn Dennis, the Roswell mortician, with the Anderson story. Friedman has made much of the fact that Dennis told him about a nasty red-haired officer and a black sergeant. Within a few weeks Anderson was telling a similar tale.

Anderson even created two identikit sketches of Armstrong and his sergeant, whom Anderson named Roosevelt. Friedman sent copies to Dennis, who responded that he didn't recognize either of them. When we showed him the sketches again recently, he again said he didn't recognize them.

Friedman has possessed that information for more than a year but has never bothered to mention it. It becomes just one more in a long list of failed corroborations.

Kevin D. Randle
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

ETs AND GAME THEORY

To the editor:

What makes the most sense to me is Michael D. Swords' provocative "Does the ETH Make Sense?" (*IUR*, September/October) is the suggestion that game-theory be applied in an attempt to better understand the meaning behind UFO activity.

No doubt a task of this kind, if done in a truly comprehensive fashion, would be daunting, but it certainly deserves a try. That such an obvious and empirical approach hasn't already been undertaken is, to my admittedly novitiate way of thinking, distressing.

Prof. Swords speculates that the human race could be designated an "opponent" in this obscure, obtuse, and uneven match. But how can we be players when we haven't even figured out what the rules are yet? Perhaps an answer to the question recently posed by David M. Jacobs ("What Do Sightings Mean?", *IUR*, January/February): "Why are there sightings at all?" The answer may be that we are being challenged to take up the challenge, to fully engage in the effort to determine what moves are being made and what our logical responses should be.

It is apparent that someone is trying to tell us something. The entire history of the UFO enigma virtually shouts out this obvious observation. The course of events appears to resemble a scenario—a strategy. Perhaps the aliens' message is a solution in itself: an invitation. Perhaps our solution to this puzzle is to adopt some sort of strategy, to finally play the game. Apparently this is a decision we have been unwilling to make.

The game-theory approach could be invaluable in helping us stop kibitzing around.

Mark Packo
Stratford, Connecticut

UO LICENSE PLATES

To the editor:

Surely the best way of comparing the two Medjugorje photographs (*IUR*, March/April) would have been to display them side by side using the same image size. Figure 3 does not accomplish this, and the reader must therefore judge for himself. Also Bruce Maccabee's insistence that the two objects are one and the same seems a bold leap of faith. Did he get the license plates?

Jennie Zeidman
Columbus, Ohio

PILTDOWN MAN IN GULF BREEZE

To the editor:

I am not wholly convinced that Ed Walters' photographs are genuine, but to write them off unequivocally as fakes requires more than an allegation or two. In March/April *IUR*, in his "The Gulf Breeze RUFOs," Zan Overall apparently has no problem with accepting Tommy Smith's claims as gospel. It strikes me as odd, however, that young Smith did not think the publication of Walters' photographs was taking the "hoax" too far. Instead he waits some two years to go public with his exposé. He claims to have told his father about the hoax almost at the outset. Again, it is odd that Mr. Smith, a lawyer, did not see it as his civic duty to nip the whole affair in the bud.

I wonder if we are overlooking the possibility that a third party is at work here. Someone with a good reason for wanting to create an atmosphere of distrust and confusion could not ask for a better scenario.

But if Gulf Breeze turns out to be a hoax, so what? There will be a few red faces and far too many I-told-you-sos—nothing ufologists haven't had to bear before. Remember, anthropology survived the Piltdown man.

Terry Endres
Cleves, Ohio

EDITORIAL—continued frompage 3

cryptozoology society. So I guess I can claim some small footnote in ISC history.

All that said, I find Greenwell's remarks at the Sasquatch symposium disheartening, at their worst expressive of what William Corliss once called "anomaly snobbism."

Most sociologists and philosophers who have written on controversies at the edges of science agree that cryptozoology, parapsychology, and ufology are special cases. If none has yet secured a firm foothold in mainstream science, they are nonetheless judged some cuts above popular occultism, and they focus on phenomena that are not always easily dismissable. All, moreover, have attracted—in varying degrees—the interest of individual scientists and other serious inquirers and have produced a body of literature which documents their claims in competent fashion.

Of these parapsychology has the longest history as an organized discipline, beginning in the early 1880s with the formation of the Society for Psychical Research in London. Cryptozoology's origins are a bit more nebulous, inasmuch as scientists, naturalists, journalists, and explorers had for centuries shown intermittent interest in unknown animals and some major works (A. C. Oudemans' *The Great Sea Serpent* [1892], as one especially notable example) had been published. In its present form, however, cryptozoology can be traced to zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans' influential *On the Track of Unknown Animals* (1958), and Heuvelmans is called the "father of cryptozoology." The first ufologist is

not hard to identify: Charles Fort. Before anyone else Fort recognized the repeated occurrence over time and space of anomalous aerial phenomena, collected reports, and tried to make sense of them. His *The Book of the Damned* (1919) is the first UFO book.

He also, it should be said, had an interest in what would be called cryptozoology, and his books are full of reports of "monsters" and unusual animals of various kinds. In some instances he suspected a link between alien visitors and strange creatures—or even, once in a while, a confusion of one for the other. Remarking on a 1902 observation by the captain and crew of the *Fort Salisbury* of a strange machine (what today we would call an "unidentified submarine object") in the waters of the equatorial Atlantic, Fort remarked wryly, "So doubly damned is this datum that the attempt to explain it was in terms of the accursed Sea Serpent."

Besides Greenwell, Ivan T. Sanderson, a British-American biologist and nature writer, is the one other significant cryptozoological figure to have a public identification with ufology. Sanderson, who seems to have seen himself as Fort's heir, championed everything from giant penguins to living dinosaurs to lake monsters to the Bermuda triangle to atmospheric life forms ("space animals") to teleportation to visitors from other planets and dimensions. His UFO books, written toward the end of his life (he died in 1973), are deservedly forgotten, though he deserves to be remembered, I think, for his witty and original observation that alien intelligences may be "overcivilized and quite mad." Whatever his excesses, however, much of Sanderson's cryptozoological writing and research is of enduring worth and still gets cited even in the works of more conservative practitioners.

In ufology a cryptozoological strain of sorts runs through the entertaining and quasifactual writings of John Keel and other occult-oriented fringe theorists. These chroniclers would have us believe that Sasquatch-like hairy bipeds are either UFO occupants or the creations of the paranormal energies that also bring UFOs and other weirdities into being. Perhaps the most extreme advocate of this esoteric doctrine, the late F. W. Holiday, author of *The Dragon and the Disc* (1973), held that lake monsters were demonic serpents and UFOs agents of the universe's benign forces, the two locked in eternal conflict. At one point Holiday even had Loch Ness exorcised, in the abortive hope that thereafter people would cease spotting dragons there. As a joke a young Scandinavian reported an encounter with UFO beings on the shores of the loch, and poor Holiday rushed into print—more than once—with a full account.

IUR has a firm policy in this regard: we do not publish manuscripts which treat cryptozoology and parapsychology as ufological concerns. Our view is that ufology's baggage is already weighty enough. We see nothing to be gained in picking up somebody else's as well. We certainly do not expect to see UFO articles in serious parapsychological and cryptozoological journals, and we do not.

We do, however, expect a little respect. *IUR*'s refusal to involve itself in the concerns of our fellow protosciences says nothing about the quality of their evidence, or their legitimacy as intellectual enterprises. We think it is entirely appropriate to conduct scientific investigations of puzzling anomalous claims and phenomena, and we support all such efforts. We also understand that we, cryptozoologists, and parapsychologists share, in a general social sense, some of the same problems interacting with mainstream science, media, critics, and mass culture. We all have to deal, moreover, with vexing questions about eyewitness testimony, witness honesty, and the like (this is true more of ufology and cryptozoology than of laboratory-oriented parapsychology). But that aside, cryptozoology's and parapsychology's particular concerns are different from ours, and so are the kinds of phenomena each enterprise is seeking to document and, beyond that, to understand.

The histories of the disciplines are different, too, in ways that do not necessarily conform to logical expectation. Though parapsychology's claims about ESP and psychokinesis are radical in the extreme, for complex historical reasons parapsychology has something of an academic base and a respectability that, if marginal, is sufficient to give the Parapsychological Association affiliate status with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (to the intense displeasure of parapsychology's more militant critics, it might be added).

At least in the form defined by ISC, cryptozoology represents the most conservative of the three protosciences, though it has had to struggle for legitimacy and has withstood withering attacks from the likes of the late eminent paleontologist George Gaylord Simpson. Professional debunkers habitually speak of cryptozoology's concerns in the same breath as crystal-gazing, palm-reading, and spell-casting—just as, of course, they speak of ufology's and parapsychology's, all dangerous "pseudosciences."

The attacks on cryptozoology usually do not rise much above this level of fatuousness, and in most cases the critics cannot be bothered to educate themselves about cryptozoologists' real methods, interests, and intentions. Cryptozoologists resent this, understandably. And so do ufologists, particularly when charges of a comparable sort come from someone who ought to know better.

Let us take consider Greenwell's four sentences on the superiority of cryptozoology to ufology.

"The UFO organizations are set up basically to attempt to prove that UFOs exist." Since this is a blanket statement (or, more accurately, accusation), we must presume he includes CUFOS here. In point of fact, CUFOS has no more a corporate position on the existence of UFOs than ISC has on, say, the reality of yeti or giant octopuses. Our position, like ISC's, is that a certain class of scientifically neglected anomalies is amenable to proper investigation and furthermore merits such investigation, since there seems a reasonable prospect of our learning something we had not known before.

"Our Society is not set up for that purpose whatsoever. We are not trying to prove anything." These words are disingenuous. If ISC is not seeking to "prove anything," why bother to exist at all? As its critics have not failed to remind it, if ISC does not succeed in proving anything, it may well be a pseudoscience. Or, more charitably, if it cannot produce a single specimen of a large unexpected animal, cryptozoology will be judged a branch of folklore, not a subdiscipline of biology. That does not mean, of course, that every time ISC members mount expeditions to remote regions, they must come back with positive assessments of the ontological status of the creatures they went looking for, any more than CUFOS field investigators pronounce every report they examine an authentic instance of UFO visitation. But to be motivated to go into the field, one ordinarily considers it at least *conceivable* that a genuine unknown will be documented at the end of the inquiry—the major reason, by the way, debunkers hardly ever participate in these kinds of on-site efforts, as indeed why should they? They "know" there's nothing there anyway.

Even more to the point, to anybody who knows any prominent cryptozoologist, or who reads ISC publications, it is unambiguously clear that cryptozoologists as a whole are convinced that some extraordinary animals are real—and I mean *extraordinary*, right up to the mysterious *mokele-mbembe*. Mackal journeyed to the Congo twice in search of it, and Greenwell accompanied him on the second expedition. Mackal wrote a fascinating book on all this, *A Living Dinosaur?* (1987), in which he expresses his conviction that sauropods (long-necked dinosaurs) probably survive in the vicinity of Lake Tele in the Congo. *Cryptozoology*, which has devoted many pages to sympathetic treatments of the *mokele-mbembe* question, even published a technical report by a Congolese government biologist who claimed to have seen it himself. Greenwell once told me that he regards the witness as absolutely reliable.

There is nothing wrong with holding a reasonable opinion, based on evidence and analysis, and trying to "prove it" to others. That, after all, happens in scientific discourse all the time. And if ISC isn't trying to prove that cryptozoology is *about* something—other, that is, than the collecting of unverified rumors about exotic wildlife or the documenting of the sorts of perceptual errors that cause witnesses to mistake ordinary animals for unusual ones—what in the world is the point? Why call such an exercise "zoology" at all? Can one conceive a branch of knowledge that is not, in one way or another, trying to "prove" something?

ISC, like CUFOS, would not exist if its members did not feel they were doing something important or useful, or if the phenomena—or at any rate some of them—at the focus of their attention were nonexistent or trivial.

It does not follow, of course, that ISC and CUFOS seek missionary roles, or have the slightest desire to preach the cause on street corners or to pass out tracts at airports. What we *would* like to do, from our respective positions, is to

persuade serious-minded people that cryptozoological animals and UFO phenomena merit something better than sneering dismissal—funding, perhaps. Beyond that we hope that our investigations will produce interesting new findings which one day will expand human knowledge.

Mackal: "I find the discussion going on here as if there were no scientists in this room. . . . We don't need a manual! Our manual is the scientific method!" To the cryptosnobs who felt the need to make repeated "jabs" at the UFO phenomenon (I have no reason, I should add, to think Mackal was among them), ufology is the domain of the cracked and the gullible, while cryptozoology is a pure enterprise governed solely by the "scientific method."

ISC gets points, true, for having received the at least implicit blessing of the Smithsonian Institution. Neither is it surprising that cryptozoology should be less off-putting to some mainstream scientists who recognize the essentially conservative nature of the discipline's basic premise—that large animal species may yet be uncatalogued—even if some *specific* assertions (*Sasquatch*, *mokele-mbembe*) are radical by any definition. Nor ought it to surprise us that cautious scientists, intrigued by cryptozoology's possibilities but nervous about their association with what some of their colleagues may deem an absurd pursuit, should assuage their anxieties by recourse to the cheapest of all stunts: the bashing of another controversial area of research, even if they know next to nothing about it. *I may believe in the Loch Ness monster, but I'm not one of those fools who think there's anything to UFOs*, the dreary refrain goes.

Actually, anyone conversant in the literature of cryptozoology—and over the last year I've read a whole lot of it, as part of the research for a book to appear this spring—will be struck at how soft most of its evidence is. Much softer, dare I say it, than the most compelling UFO evidence. Where cryptozoology's most interesting claims—those, that is, concerning animals which if proved to exist would constitute scientific discoveries of historic magnitude—are concerned, one looks in vain for something equivalent to, say, the Trans-en-Provence CE2. A number of cryptozoological animals regarded as possibly real are recorded only in second- or third-hand sighting reports, and some of those go back centuries, sometimes *many* centuries. This is not to say that such data are inherently worthless, but one would think those using such shaky evidence to argue for the existence of an uncatalogued animal species would at least have the good grace to exercise a bit of modesty.

Cryptozoology, furthermore, has its share of nut cases, and ISC's battles against them mirror the battles serious UFO organizations have waged against imaginative, overwrought souls pushing exotic ideas or peddling dubious stories. At their best cryptozoology and ufology strive to conduct their business in scientifically responsible fashion. They wrestle with many of the same problems and face many of the same hurdles. It is arrogant and foolish to presume that one has a greater claim to intellectual virtue than the other.—*Jerome Clark*