

*Late News Item ...*

## THE INSTITUTE FOR UFO STUDIES

On and off during the course of the last four years discussions have been taking place concerning the possibility of founding a research institute. There were obstacles, not the least of which was a shortage of funds.

Now, thanks to the generosity of a number of patrons, sufficient funds are available to make a start, and we are pleased to announce the forming of the Institute.

Details of the Institute's constitution, and requirements of membership, will be given in future issues of FSR which, until other arrangements are made, will also publish periodic reports of the Institute's proceedings.

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Airmail per annum extra for USA, Canada, S. Africa, Argentina, Brazil etc. \$7.00;  
Australia, New Zealand etc. £2.90, Middle East £2.10. Single copies 70p. Overseas  
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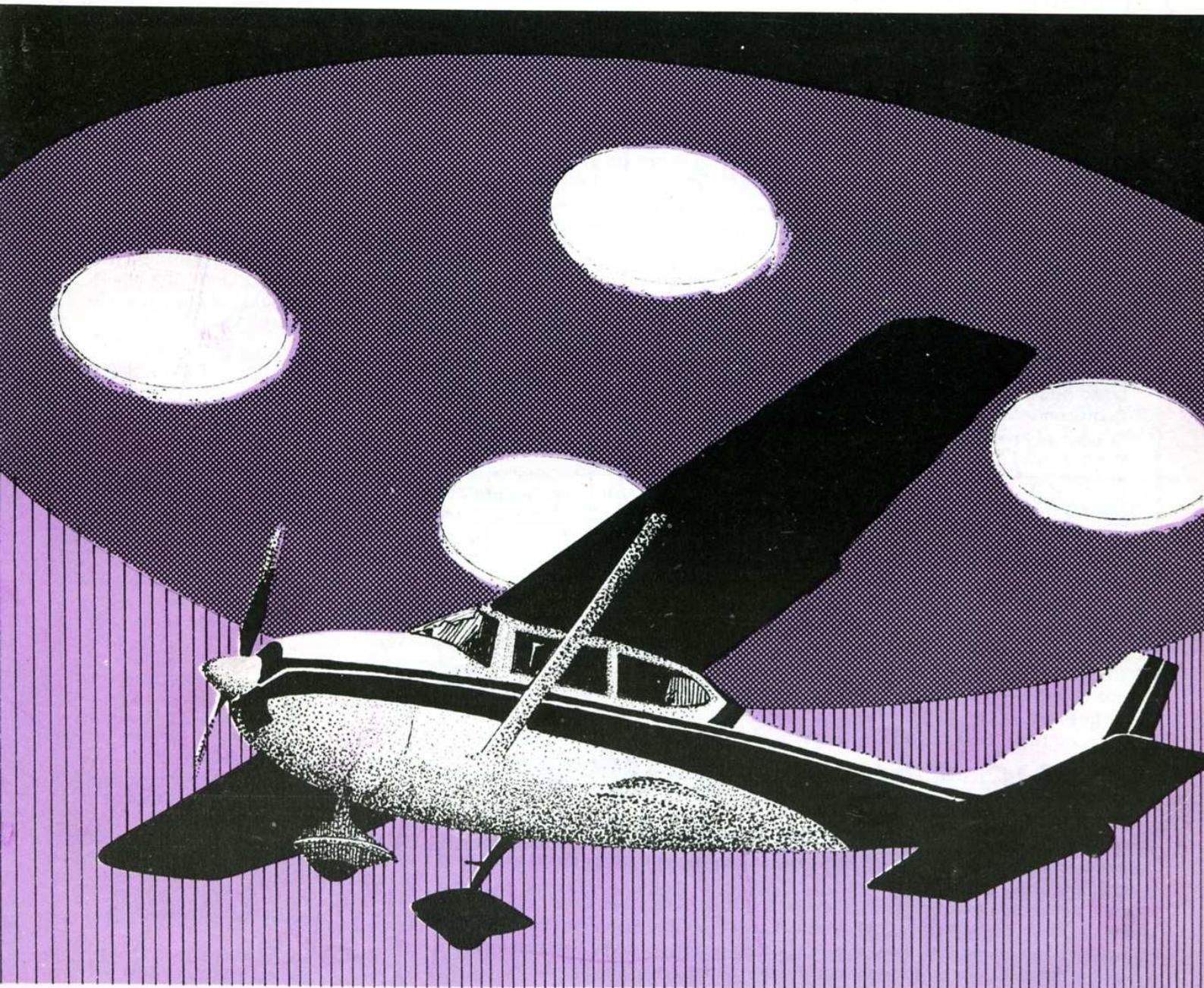
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FLYING  
SAUCER  
REVIEW



Volume 24, No. 5

70p



Our artist's impression of ...

# THE CESSNA AND THE UFO

See page 3



FLYING  
SAUCER  
REVIEW

*Editor* CHARLES BOWEN

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Volume 24, No. 5  
(published March 1979)

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For subscription details and address please see foot of page ii of cover.

# **SPANNERS IN THE WORKS**

ANYONE who was prepared to take time off from the heady business of seeing in the approaching New Year was treated to 1978's passing ufological shot, all the way from New Zealand, via Australia. By the time January 3, 1979, had been reached, almost everyone in the country — and no doubt a very sizeable portion of the rest of the world's population — knew of it by virtue of the repeated showings of the item in question, a film of UFOs said to have been taken from an aeroplane near South Island, New Zealand. By then, too, the explainers were at work, and one is forced to wonder what makes these people "tick."

Convention decrees that the editorial leader of this magazine is not the place for a sighting report, but away with dull convention; we make no apology for here recording the details.

It seems that on Saturday, December 30, 1978, an Australian TV team from Melbourne, Victoria, led by Quentin Fogarty, set out from Wellington. They headed south, with a camera mounted at the ready, in the freighter aircraft used for the purpose. They had planned to fly in an area where there had been numerous recent UFO reports, particularly from pilots and crews of Argosy airliners. There had also been a number of radar interceptions of "unknowns" above Cook Strait which separates North and South Islands.

To put it bluntly, the Australian TV crew were out hunting UFOs — a rather sophisticated "skywatch" in fact. According to their testimony they were over the Kaikoura region in the north eastern side of South Island, when they — pilots and passengers — encountered something that even they hadn't bargained for. Captain Bill Startup, a pilot with 23 Years' experience, was alerted by a signal on his radar at a range of 40 miles. In a second this had reduced to 39 miles, and the "target" turned in towards the plane at an estimated speed of 1000 miles per hour. The film, which presumably, was taken from this point, was what was shown to the world on December 31, 1978.

Early in the reel, the camera was trained on the aircraft's instruments, and thereafter through the windshield at an approaching object. It is assumed there was some degree of shake, possibly due to bumpy conditions; nevertheless the object on the film seemed to move considerably, a fact that was confirmed by the eyewitnesses. The enlarged stills revealed an object which appeared like the Moon seen through broken cloud.

It should be noted that one of the news reports mentioned the presence of two UFOs which appeared directly in front of the plane, and of another which was seen away to the right. In another report the co-pilot, Bob Guard, stated that they had watched about eight objects for some 20 minutes, objects that were intensely bright, and not unlike strobe lights. Capt. Startup remarked about one large ball of light: "No aircraft would have the acceleration that thing did." He added that, when it came within 18 miles of them, they decided to fly closer to it. When they had closed to within 10 miles the object suddenly moved above them, and then below, before shooting away at high speed.

There seemed also to be ground radar confirmation of objects behind the aircraft from Wellington. Erratic blips were reported by Mr. Geoffrey Causer, air traffic controller of 15 years' experience. We recall too, that during the broadcast relayed by BBC TV-News on December 31 at 10.00 p.m., a reference to Christchurch radar was made by people in the plane.

That then is the gist of an affair which BBC made their main news item, and to which they devoted about half of their available time, an affair which at first sight was really just a glorified lights in the sky (LITS) incident. Nevertheless it left everyone wondering. Everyone, that is, except the experts. By January 2, 1979, the debunkers were on parade. According to the *Daily Mail* of that date Sir Martin Ryle, Astronomer Royal and expert in radio astronomy, was reported to have said "...the film could have been a hoax and that he could have produced one like it within a week." In the same newspaper Sir Bernard Lovell, expert in radio astronomy, was stated to have said "...the suggestion that the object might have come from another world belongs to science fiction" although, as we recall, no such suggestion was made anywhere in the TV film from Australia. Again, in the same article in the *Mail*, Patrick Moore, TV astromoner and expert entertainer, said: "It would have been some kind of reflection, a balloon or an unscheduled aircraft. But I'm sure it came from the earth and not the skies..." Lucky man to be so sure.

Pushing aside those largely anticipated statements, and turning our minds from the Olympians who uttered them, we continued to wonder, a frame of mind that remained unchanged even when we watched Mr. Ian Ridpath on BBC-TV (the *Tonight* programme) discussing an edited showing of the Australian film, and admitting that he is not an expert in radar. Yet in the next breath he voiced an opinion that the radar images reported from Wellington Control were "angels." It is trusted that he had discussed this theory with the Wellington air traffic controller — an expert, it would seem, with considerable experience of radar — who surely must be aware of the pitfalls of anomalous propagation, the effects of temperature inversions and so on. Mr. Ridpath was also of the opinion that the TV crew had trained their camera on the planet Jupiter, a view expressed earlier on ITV by Dr. P. C. W. Davies.

Naturally the possibility exists that this hit-or-miss style of explaining may land on the truth somewhere along the line, but some statements made in public by the instant debunkers seem ill-considered to say the least. So what do these "experts" expect to achieve? Casual conversation with members of the public reveals that not only are they vastly amused by some of the utterances, but also that they interpret them as crude attempts at a cover-up. Because of this more and more people evince an interest in a topic which they might otherwise have ignored with a shrug. Thus do the habitual debunkers contrive to throw spanners in their own works.

Moral support for us came from an unexpected quarter. *The Daily Telegraph* of January 4, 1979, published an editorial entitled "Close encounters

of a kind" in which it was suggested that "...it is possible to take a good thing too far — and that is what such eminent scientists as Sir Bernard Lovell and Sir Martin Ryle appear to be doing in their immediate and automatic dismissals of the UFO sightings reported in New Zealand. 'Incredulity is but credulity seen from behind' said Coleridge. The reaction of these learned gentlemen seems to be altogether out of keeping with the spirit of scientific enquiry.

"Let us examine the facts. There are a number of pictures, purporting to be of UFOs, which are so unclear that they might depict practically anything from a road sign to a poached egg. But they were taken by people whom we would not normally distrust, and the objects they photographed were clearly visible on an independently maintained radar. The scientists who suggested that all they were seeing was Venus on a particularly bright night can therefore be safely consigned to Bedlam.\* It is true that the objects could very well have been satellites or meteorites, yet quite a few people thought they were not. Very likely they were wrong. Very likely those 15 policemen in Queensland who have just reported a UFO sighting are also wrong. The world is very full of fools... and of course no scientist would wish to join them."

And by the way, the Royal New Zealand Air Force were sufficiently impressed by the report to place two fighter aircraft on standby, ready to scramble if further radar reports of UFOs were received.

On Sunday January 7, 1979, Mr. I. Ridpath was in the Capital Radio studio (Independent radio, London and South East England) as an expert who would answer listeners' phone-in questions. The programme went out at 4.00 p.m. A telephone call was accepted from a certain Mr. Tony Whetstone, an electronics, radar and communications engineer. This gentleman announced that he had video-taped the BBC's December 31st UFO news item, and he pointed out that during a re-run he saw that early in the film the aircraft's instruments were shown. Re-running this section he observed that the compass was gyrating in an unusual manner. (Naturally the assumption was that there was present some sort of EM effect that certainly could not be attributed to Jupiter or to angels.) Mr. Ridpath sounded at a loss for words. The presenter quickly thanked Mr. Whetstone and turned to the next questioner.+ We suspect that another spanner had been dropped in the works!°

\* A notorious lunatic asylum of bygone days

+ Ken Phillips also took part in this Capital Radio feature, and announced that he ran a "clearing house" for reports for UFOIN and BUFORA. He gave his telephone number and subsequently received a call from Mr. Tony Whetstone. He put FSR in touch with Mr. Whetstone for which we are grateful.

° Acknowledgements to *The Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail*, all of January 2, 1979, whose articles on the New Zealand incident were consulted.

# THE MISSING CESSNA AND THE UFO

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE BASS STRAIT – KING ISLAND AFFAIR

*W.C.Chalker*

WIDESPREAD media coverage has been given to an extraordinary incident that purportedly took place over Bass Strait, the ocean passage that separates Victoria (mainland Australia) and Tasmania. The events revolve around the alleged disappearance of a young aircraft pilot en route to King Island, to the north of Tasmania. The pilot and plane went missing early on Saturday night, October 21, 1978 and initial reports made no mention of any possible UFO connection. The proverbial cat "got out of the bag" late on the following day, when news of a possible UFO event first leaked out – which is unprecedented in terms of official statements in other spectacular cases. By Monday morning, the media throughout Australia were not only carrying accounts of the incident, but were quoting from actual transcripts from the taped conversation between the pilot and the Melbourne Flight Service.

The circumstances surrounding the event are well documented. The pilot was Frederick Valentich, 20, of Avondale Heights, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, and he had taken off from Moorabbin Airport at 6.19 p.m. Saturday, October 21st, in single-engined Cessna 182 aircraft owned by Southern Air Services of Moorabbin. Only the pilot was on board.

Valentich intended to fly to King Island for two reasons. To log up more night flying time and to pick up some crayfish for the officers of the Air Training Corps, where he was an instructor. He was an inexperienced night flier but although this was the first time he had flown the trip at night, he had done it several times before [*presumably by day – EDITOR*]. He intended to get back to Melbourne at 10 p.m., to join his family in a reunion with friends. The young pilot had flown with an unrestricted licence since February of 1978, and had an instrument rating.

He flew over Cape Otway (which has a lighthouse) at about 7 p.m. At 7.06 p.m. the first hint of something untoward came when Valentich contacted Melbourne Flight Service. The copy of the transcript of the conversation follows. Under the headline WHAT THE PILOT SAID, in The Sun (October 23, 1978), it speaks for itself:

**7.06 p.m. Pilot to ground – Is there any known traffic in my area below, 5,000 feet?**

Flight Service Unit: – Negative. No known traffic.

**Pilot: Seems to be a large aircraft below 5,000 feet.**

Ground: What type of aircraft?

**Pilot: I cannot confirm. It has four bright lights that appear to be landing lights... aircraft has just**

I wish to thank the many readers who have sent in news reports of this incident which received wide coverage by the world's news media. (I watched a TV report of the incident while on vacation in the United States). In particular I would like to mention the kind assistance of Keith Basterfield of UFO Research, South Australia; of Roger Thornwell of Christchurch, New Zealand; D. Anderiesz of Noble Park, Victoria; of J. Butler and the author, who with a B.Sc. hon. degree, is a Director of UFO Research Lane Cove, NSW, Australia

EDITOR

passed over me about 1.000 feet above.

Ground: Is large aircraft confirmed?

**Pilot: Affirmative; at the speed it is travelling are there any RAAF aircraft in the vicinity?**

Ground: Negative.

Ground: Confirm you cannot identify aircraft?

**Pilot: Affirmative.\***

Then, three minutes after his original transmission, Valentich reported again:

**Pilot:.... It's not an aircraft, it's... (break in transmission).**

Ground: can you describe aircraft?

**Pilot: It is flying past. It has a long shape. Cannot identify more than that... coming for me right now. It seems to be stationary, I'm orbiting and the thing is orbiting on top of me. It has a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside.**

Valentich then told ground control the object had vanished.

Ground: No military traffic in the area.

**7.12 p.m.: pilot: Engine is roughidling and coughing.**

Ground: What are your intentions?

**Pilot: Proceeding King Island Unknown aircraft now hovering on top of me.**

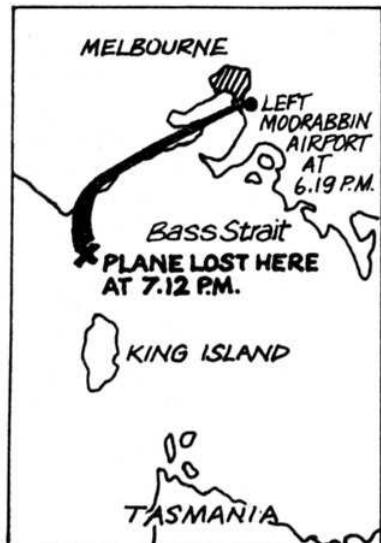
Ground: Acknowledge.

Then came the long metallic noise and contact with Valentich's aircraft was lost.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* The Australian of October 23, 1978, published a similar text of the conversation which included additionally the following:-

At 7.08 p.m. Aircraft (pilot): Melbourne, its approaching from due east of me. It seems to be



**Above:** from the Sydney Sun: artist Berto's impression of what could have happened if the Cessna had been flying upside down (turn page upside down to see).

**Cover:** Pauline Bowen's impression of the scene.

**Left:** The route taken by the Cessna.

playing some sort of game. Flying at speed I cannot estimate.

FSU: What is your altitude?

Aircraft: 4,500 feet.

FSU: Can you confirm you can't identify aircraft?

Aircraft: Affirmative.

When the Cessna failed to arrive at King Island on schedule at 7.28 p.m., light aircraft began a visual and radio search, but nothing was found. Conditions at the time were clear, with a mild north-westerly breeze accompanied by unlimited visibility. The Cessna was equipped with a life jacket and a radio survival beacon. Nothing had been heard from the beacon.

The RAAF Orion (a long range maritime recon-

naissance aircraft) from Edinburgh, South Australia, conducted a "tracking crawl" following the course taken by Valentich's Cessna and continued searching all day Sunday. The only thing found during Sunday was an oil slick lying some 18 miles north of King Island. On Monday, October 23rd, the search continued and shipping was sent to sample the oil slick to determine whether this was oil or aviation fuel. What was first thought to be debris in the area turned out to be packing cases and plastic bags floating in the sea.

#### The Witness

Fredrick Valentich was considered to be a competent pilot and was highly thought of. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Guido Valentich and one of 4 children. During interviews on October 23rd, Mr. Valentich was quoted as saying that his son was "a believer" in UFOs, and apparently had an interest in the subject which may or may not have been due to a previous UFO sighting. Eight to ten months ago, i.e. January to March, 1978, he apparently claimed he saw "a brightly lit object" in the western sky flying at tremendous speed from south to north. His father also stated that his son had read a lot on the subject and was quoted as claiming he had seen "secret UFO files." Just what this does to a percipient's credibility in the post CE3K days cannot be assessed in this case because of Valentich's disappearance. But certainly it will figure heavily in further enquiries into this extraordinary case.

#### The Theories

Inevitably, the incident has come in for its share of

speculation as to what happened. Transport department officials suggested the pilot may have become disorientated and somehow inverted his 'plane and what he saw was either reflections of his own lights on the sea, or those of the lighthouses at Cape Otway and King Island! However the 6 minute conversation on record gives no such indication, and the type of aircraft would only operate for some 30 seconds or so upside down before the motor would stop from fuel starvation. Experienced pilots publicly stated they found this explanation as extraordinary as the reported event. Meteor activity was also suggested as a stimulus. Apart from the UFO hypothesis, the possibility of a hoax cannot be entirely ruled out, however the matter is far from resolved with the disappearance.

### Discussion

The similarities with the Kinross and Mantell cases looms large, and the object described also reminds us of the Coyne Ohio helicopter case of 1973. Another single-engined plane disappeared without trace in Bass Straight on December 24, 1969. The plane crashed into the sea 8 km off Cape Otway on a flight from King Island. No trace of wreckage was ever found. King Island itself has had a number of reports in past years including one spectacular one: a "beam" case on Saturday, April 10th, 1976.

If the pilot remains missing the case could escalate into a classic mystery; if however, the pilot is found alive and well, speculation will centre on three hypotheses. Either he experienced the UFO sighting as described, or he underwent a severe disorientation or, finally, the event was a hoax of some sort. If he is found dead and the wreckage is found, the matter may be satisfactorily resolved. Only time will tell.

NOTE: This preliminary report has been based on details determined by our enquiries, on press reports, and on the many radio and TV reports carried on October 22nd and 23rd.

### Second report on the Bass Strait — King Island affair (Thursday, October 26, 1978)

Here is a record, with some brief notes, of further developments in this case.

The search for the missing airplane in Bass Strait was called off yesterday, Wednesday, October 25; the pilot and 'plane had been missing since Saturday night, October 21, 1978. No trace has been found. An oil slick located near the assumed position of the Cessna 182 during the last R/T conversation between Frederick Valentich and Flight Service Unit, Melbourne, had been sampled on Monday, October 23, but no information regarding this has been forthcoming.

*Don't forget to tell your friends about . . .*

The suggestion of acute disorientation — i.e. flying upside down — cannot be considered as a reasonable explanation of the report of an unidentified flying object. So there are two options:-

i) That the UFO report was genuine. Valentich is described as somebody who "lived for flying" and it is unlikely that he would have done anything to affect his chances of improving his status as a flier. Even if the UFO encounter report was factual, suggestions of an abduction by UFO entities are unfounded. Less critically-minded ufologists have made such suggestions when interviewed by the media, and the pilot's father, Mr. Guido Valentich, has been reported (e.g. in *The Sun*<sup>†</sup> of October 24, 1978) as believing that his son had been "borrowed" by visitors from another planet, and as saying that telephone calls he has received from various people have "reinforced his beliefs." It seems likely that speculation like this is more acceptable to him than the possibility that his son's aircraft has gone down into the sea. Although Valentich's voice throughout the "UFO transmission" was stated to have been calm, the final circumstances could have precipitated either the crashing of the aircraft into the sea, or an aerial collision. On the evidence so far available there is no foundation for speculation that there was an overt act of hostility on the part of the unknown object.

ii )That the whole thing was a hoax. This must be a consideration if Frederick Valentich turns up alive and well, but as time passes the possibility becomes increasingly less likely. It should be noted that the pilot has been quoted as having an interest in the subject, probably stimulated by an earlier sighting experience. However, even the advent of the movie "CE3K", and similar material, cannot be reasonably held against any apparent validity of the Bass Strait incident.

### "Not on Radar"

The Australian newspaper *The Daily Mirror* of October 24, 1978, carried an item stating that "Senior traffic controllers doubt that missing pilot Frederick Valentich... was anywhere near his last reported position."

The account continued: "Traffic controllers who monitored his last dramatic message on the UFO sighting were unable to pick up his Cessna 182 on their long-range radar — yet radar conditions were unusually good. 'With conditions such as Saturday's we can even pick up King Island, which is only 215m above sea level — yet we couldn't find the plane,' a senior traffic controller said. 'We seriously doubt he was anywhere near Cape Otway...'"

After this initial bandying-about of the lack of radar confirmation as evidence that the plane was not where it was thought to be, officials have stated that the Cessna was not being tracked.

<sup>†</sup> [The Sydney, Australia, newspaper — ED.]

# THREE LANDINGS IN ITALY

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE SECOND KIND NEAR ALESSANDRIA, PIEDMONT.

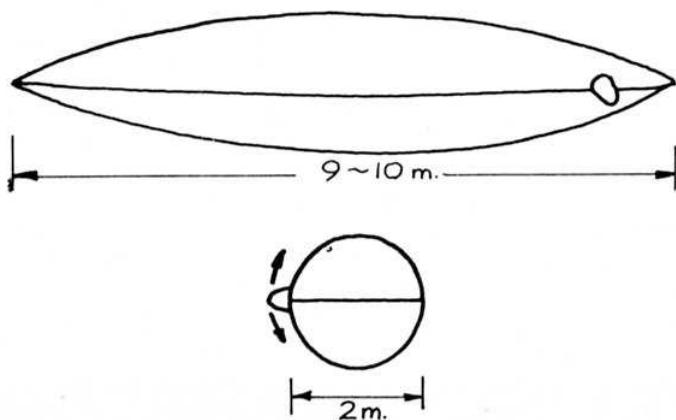
*Paolo Toselli & Edoardo Russo*

THE day was Saturday, September 2, 1978; the place, San Michele, a suburb to the west of Alessandria. Between 8.00 and 8.15 a.m., schoolboy Roberto Pozzi, aged 14, opened an upper floor window at his home and was immediately attracted by a sound which he described as being "like ducks quarrelling." The noise was also accompanied by a hissing sound.

Roberto turned to the right, in the direction of the corn-field in front of the house, and saw a cigar-shaped object of metallic appearance rise from among the maize cobs and stop opposite the tops of the mulberry trees at the side of the field. The sound stopped and the object began to swing laterally. It then departed with such velocity that it soon changed to a small sparkling dot in the sky. It seemed then to stop its ascent and swerved horizontally southwards.

The cigar-shaped object had a protuberance, somewhere between cylindrical and conical in shape, which extended from the side. During the object's swinging motion this protuberance made rising and lowering movements (see figure 1). The object (Roberto called it: "The Thing") was metallized "just like the new Ford cars" and reflected the rays of the sun on its upper side; the lower side was much darker. It has also been verified that the object was at right angles to the road, and this agrees with the disposition of the traces found afterwards on the field.

The duration of the whole observation, according to the young witness, was about 5 seconds, but we have good reason to believe that the phenomenon was viewed for a little longer than that. The length of the UFO was stated by Roberto to be of the order of 9 to 10 metres, and this is larger than the overall



The object seen from the side and from the front based on drawings by Roberto Pozzi

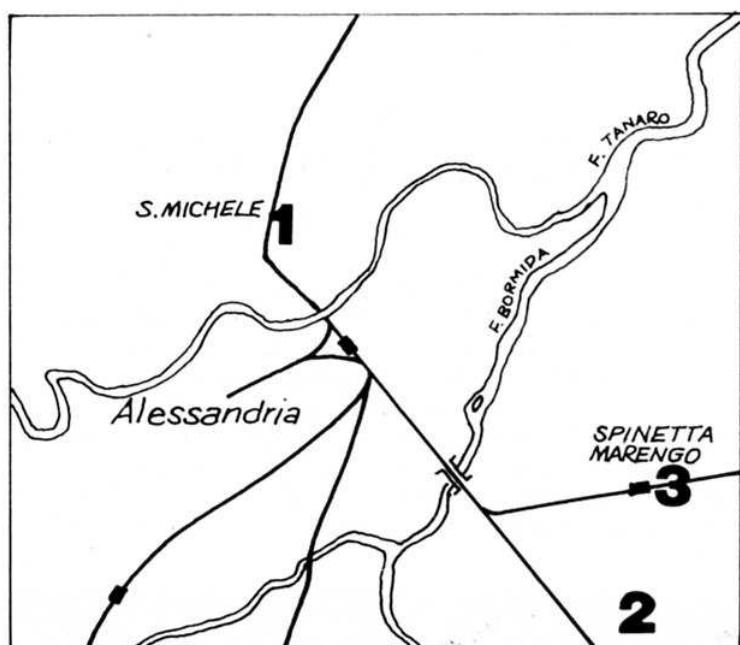
size of the trace marks, which were 6.50 metres in length.

As soon as the thing had disappeared Roberto called out to his mother, Anselma Garbero Pozzi, who was busy in the kitchen. She did not respond at first, but at last, giving way to his insistence, went out on the balcony and made him tell her all about it. After that, having seen from his balcony a "yellow area" in the field, Roberto ran down with his sister, Daniela, aged 8, to see what had happened. Their mother followed them down, and they found an oblong area where the maize plants were folded, without being broken, in such a way that the leaves were also laid flat. The maize cobs seemed dry on the outside, while inside they were still fresh. Signora Pozzi verified that the bends were recent and that the stalks were still green. The "squashed" area covered part of three of the rows of plants, two of which were folded towards the east and one towards the west. The measurements of this affected site were 6.50 x 2.90 metres, and the plants, of an average height of 2.40 metres, were folded at a level of 1.10-1.20 metres from the ground.

The landing site is about 25 metres from the road (with the road lying between the house and the site); it is also 40 metres from the railway (see figure 2).

Roberto Pozzi also saw a hole approximately in the middle of the site, a hole which appeared to have been made by a strong stream of air.

Having observed all these things the Pozzis then

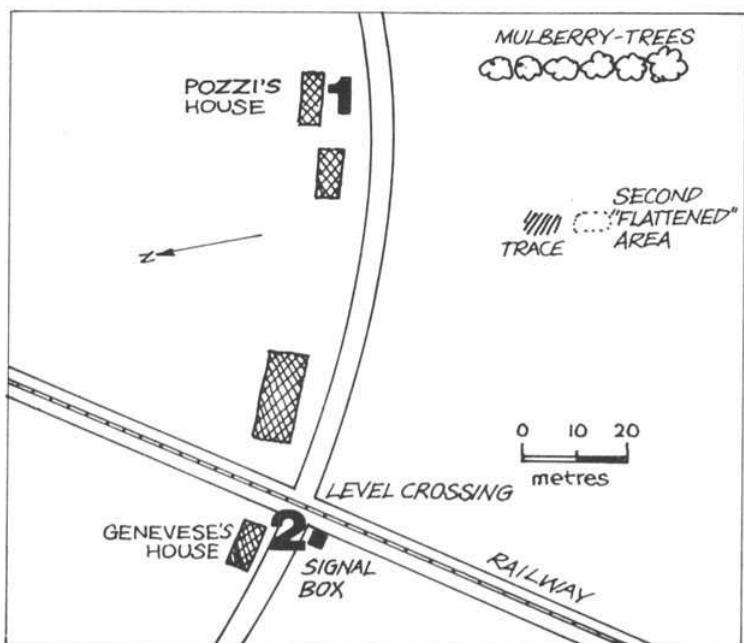


Sighting locations in relation to Alessandria

Right: Photograph of the flattened area in the field of maize. Looking South, the photograph was taken one hour-and-a-half after the sighting.



Below: The area of the landing at San Michele. Roberto Pozzi was at point 1. The witnesses of the Sunday evening sighting were located at point 2.



called out to their neighbours who ran to the site where they also saw the traces. On the advice of some acquaintances Signora Pozzi phoned the police at about 9.00 a.m. and reported the event, and a patrol car was soon on the scene. After noting the flattening of the plants at the site they put through a radio call to the scientific police. At about 9.40 a.m. a crew arrived from the scientific branch at Police H Q. These men took a series of photographs, made drawings of the plants that were not needed for analysis, and then questioned the boy.

The news of the landing (or quasi-landing) reached our ears on the Sunday evening. But in the meantime there were new developments.

#### Second phenomenon at San Michele

There was a second incident reported at San Michele, this time on the Sunday evening, September 3rd. The railway level-crossing keeper on duty, Edilia Cresta Gallo, was talking with Virginia and Teresa Cenevese (mother and daughter, 62 and 33 respectively) at about 10.00 p.m. They were by the level-crossing barriers some 50 metres from the house of the Pozzis. On the upper floor of the Cenevese house, a few metres from the signal box by the crossing, there was a Signora Tersilia Ruffinengo, aged 68. Suddenly the women saw, in the direction of Pozzi's house "...a strip of whitest light" descending from the sky. It came down between the maize field and the road, and when close to the ground the strip changed into a very bright fire-ball. This ball, about 1.5 m in diameter seemed to revolve around a vertical axis. After a moment or two this "ball" disappeared into the darkness. Some seconds later this strange phenomenon repeated itself, and immediately after that, a third time, only on this occasion the sphere was bigger, perhaps two metres in diameter, and it appeared to be approaching the women along the road. It was this last stage that was witnessed by Signora Ruffinengo. By now the women were terrified, particularly Teresa Cenevese who was experiencing an unusual burning sensation in her eyes.

The husbands now arrived on the scene, and witnessed a strange odour not unlike that associated with "burning electrical wires." Again the police were called out and they too verified the persistent odour.

On the Monday morning a first investigation was made on the spot, and during this and others, long conversations were held with the witnesses of the two

sightings. It was also observed that a second "flattened area" existed immediately behind that found by Roberto Pozzi, but it is suspected that this was the work of other local boys.

An enormous crowd of the curious hurried to the place; many took maize cobs, or pulled up plants as souvenirs, to the despair of the owner of the field. On the Tuesday the story first appeared in a newspaper, with considerable inaccuracies, but already on the Monday evening, about 100 people met to await the re-appearance of the UFO in the neighbourhood of the maize field — naturally without any result! By Tuesday afternoon investigators of the "Ufology Section" of the Clypeus Group had arrived from Turin, and among them were Roberto D'Amico and Edoardo Russo. With us they made a careful inspection of the landing place. An interesting part of this investigation was a flight over the area with Roberto D'Amico in a plane hired for the purpose. It was confirmed that the area of dried plants was surrounded by others still green, but it was impossible to determine whether or nor the drying of plants could be attributed to the presence of the cigar-shaped object.

Apart from the officers from the police headquarters, it should be noted that the Carabinieri of Alessandria also took some interest in the case and compiled a short report thereon. (The Carabinieri, an Italian military corps, is officially charged with the investigation of UFO sightings with which they become acquainted.)

### Landing at Frugarolo?

In the days that immediately followed our investigation there were new sightings over the province of Alessandria in which other investigators were involved. However, on Tuesday, September 12th we learned of an alleged landing by a UFO some days before in Frugarolo, in the district of Cabannoni some 2.5 km south-east of Alessandria. Being aware that the Carabinieri had gone to the place, we contacted the police at Bosco Marengo, a nearby village. It was confirmed that a marshal of the Carabinieri had made an investigation on the spot because they had been advised by a hunter of the presence of an unusual circular trace in a field of corn stubble.

Armed with information we went to the place and verified the presence of a circular area 4.5 metres in diameter, the interior of which was completely devoid of stubble, with the soil turned and the stones all on the surface. In the centre there was a second darker circular area, almost black, caused possibly by combustion. Near the perimeter of the larger circle we found three small spots where the soil had been covered by a dusty, almost black substance not unlike graphite, or coal dust (at a time of writing the substance is still undergoing analysis).

All around, the stubble had been trampled on in a radius of about 15 metres, by the feet of the curious.

It is difficult to decide if the traces are due to a UFO landing, or to other reasons. No witness of such a landing has come forward. But there are a number

of people who, on September 8th watched, in the evening, the low flight over the area of strange lights. The date ties in with the discovery of the traces by the hunter.

### Multi-witness landing at Spinetta Marengo

The next thing we learned was the news of a supposed UFO landing, with a lot of witnesses, in Spinetta Marengo, an eastern suburb of Alessandria. So we instituted a search for eye-witnesses of the event which took place on the evening of Wednesday, September 13th. We found many, but the main one is Angelo Ciompi, who lives in via del Ferrao, in Spinetta.

It was about 9.30 p.m. when Ciompi saw, from the court of his home, a reddish disc moving in the starry sky towards the east. Suddenly the object halted in its flight, and then dropped vertically, to disappear behind some houses. Immediately afterwards a reddish "tube" rose from the place, something like flames. Boys who were out on the street observed the same phenomenon, so Ciompi took out his bicycle, and in a few minutes came to the place where the object had descended, and discovered a fire in a semicircular piece of brushwood-covered waste land. At the same time the night watchman informed the fire brigade.

While this was going on a number of onlookers had assembled to see the fire, which remained in a semicircular area. These people testified to the presence of a very pungent odour which "caught the throat." A dense, reddish smoke had risen from the fire, too thick to see through. Some of the onlookers, however, say they saw a red object rise from the "smoke" and disappear vertically. A few minutes later firemen from Alessandria arrived and put out the fire, and the onlookers began to disperse.

That, however, was not the end of it, for throughout the evening the locality was overflowed by many bright objects which, for the most part, were said to have swooped to the place of the fire and then disappeared vertically into the night. There were numerous witnesses of this.

There was an interesting discovery which we made on the site: a number of objects which littered the place, revealed no sign of burning or being subjected to smoke, even in places where the grass or brush were totally carbonized. Examples were a car's plastic carpet; a glass bottle; a little electric motor. We found that under these — and other — objects the grass was untouched, and in no way burned. The mystery remains.

### Comments

With regard to the matter of San Michele, Roberto Pozzi experienced neither psychological nor physiological effects, either during or after the sighting.

Roberto's dog, a collie, did not display any symptoms of nervousness during the incident in the maize field, and did not react in any way during the

(Continued on page 13)

# 'MOTHERSHIPS' OVER AUSTRALIA

Paul Norman

In May, 1967, I was invited to Boulder, Colorado, for talks with members of the U.S. Air Force sponsored project headed by Dr. E.U. Condon. The purpose of the meeting was to present examples of UFO reports in Australia.

The invitation came as a surprise because I suspected the Condon Committee to be a computerized selection of Menzelian scientists, appointed by necessity, under pressure, by overwhelming and rising public interest by the worldwide flap which was occurring during that time. The purpose: keeping the "explanations" on the same old official track, sounding like a cracked phonograph record.

During the discussion the Australian scene was placed before the Project Committee, together with copies of outstanding reports recorded by various UFO research groups in Australia.

Over three years later I received a letter from Dr. David Saunders, dated September 11, 1970, which stated in part: "I well remember your visit to the UFO Project here at CU primarily, I think, because it was so informative. While it is true that the tangible information you left with us is buried in the Project files — files which Condon now treats as his personal property — you also left with us the realization that the UFO problem both exists and is recognised down there." In a followup letter Dr. Saunders writes: "I do recall some of the materials you left with the Colorado Project, but of course they all remained with the Project when I left. Condon says that all the Project materials have been destroyed. Even people who lent materials with the express understanding that they were to be returned have gotten the run-around — all the way from 'I haven't got time to look' to 'I regard this as my personal property.' Obviously, you won't be getting any of this back, so anything you can do to reconstruct the record will help."

It is thus that reports — on which private researchers spent large sums of their hard-earned money when travelling long distances to secure greater detail — are swept under the carpet when they compete with officialdom which, with its grants of public money, maintains a policy of public deception.

In his report *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (Bantam Books, New York) Section 1 "Conclusions and Recommendations" (probably the only book ever published with its conclusions at the beginning) the late Dr. Condon referred to the famous sighting by Captain Howard over the Atlantic Ocean in his BOAC Stratocruiser\* as a most unusual natural phenomenon, so unusual that it hasn't been

reported before or since. In the light of this how can any researcher in the field trust officially-sponsored projects? I personally presented three Australian cases to the project, and these were not only known among most Australian researchers, but also had been investigated by both private and official investigators. In addition I gave to the committee at least 25 other similar cases from places other than Australia.

## Over Zanthus, Western Australia

Before giving the details of the three Australian cases, I will open with an account of an event which occurred just before the closure of the Colorado Project. It is a personal report prepared by Captain Gordon W. Smith, a pilot of Murchison Air Services — Southern Airlines of Western Australia. This incident occurred in the late afternoon of August 22, 1968, above the Zanthus district of Western Australia:

"Captain Walter Gardin and myself were returning from Adelaide to Perth on a Charter Flight. The aircraft was an 8 place Piper Navajo, registration VH-RTO, returning empty from Adelaide. At first sighting I was asleep in the cabin, Walter was at the controls. We were cruising at 8,000 feet with a true airspeed of 190-195 knots and tracking 270° Magnetic.

"At 0940 G.M.T. (1740 W.S.T.) Walter abruptly wakened me in great excitement and asked me to come into the cockpit quickly. I did so, and he asked me if I could see what he was looking at. At first I didn't, because I was still suffering from the effect of sleep. However, after about thirty seconds I could see what he was excited about.

"Some distance ahead at the same level, and about 50° to my right (I was in the right seat), I saw a formation of aircraft. In the middle was a large aircraft, and formed (sic) to the right and left and above were four or five smaller aircraft. We were on a track of 270° magnetic and these aircraft appeared to be maintaining station with us.

"As we had not been notified of this traffic, I radioed Kalgoorlie D.C.A. (Department of Civil Aviation) communications centre asking them what traffic they or RAAF had in our area. The answer was

\* [Captain James Howard, his crew, and most of his passengers, saw a giant shape-changing object with six smaller "satellite" objects in attendance. When a USAF fighter plane approached, vectored on to the scene by Capt. Howard, the six objects seemed to enter the larger object which then diminished in size and "went out like a TV picture shutting off." That was on June 29, 1954 — EDITOR]

none. So I then notified Kalgoorlie that we had this formation in sight and they, in turn, notified some east bound traffic of the danger of unidentified traffic 130 NM east of Kalgoorlie.

"At about this time we lost communications with Kalgoorlie on all frequencies. We were receiving Kalgoorlie carrier wave with no voice propagation, only a hash and static. In the next ten minutes I transmitted about seven times and I believe Walter did about five times with no results.

"Also at about this time we noticed that the main ship split into two sections still maintaining the same level, and the smaller aircraft then flew out left and right but staying at the same level and coming back to the two main halves of the bigger ship. At this time there appeared to be about six smaller aircraft taking turns of going out and coming back and formating on the two halves.

"Sometimes the two halves joined and split, and the whole cycle continued for ten minutes. The shape of the main ship seemed to have the ability to change, not drastically, but from, say spheroid to a slightly elongated form with the colour maintaining a constant dark grey to black.

"However, the smaller craft had a constant cigar shape and were of a very dark colour. Their travel out and back had a peculiarity not associated with normal aircraft in that they appeared to travel out and come back without actually turning like a normal aeroplane would have to do.

"At 0950 G.M.T. the whole formation joined together as if at a single command, then departed at a tremendous speed. It did not disappear as, say, gas would, but it departed in about three or four seconds diminishing in size till out of sight.

"The weather at the time of the sighting was fine, with no haze above 5,000 feet and about 2/8 alto stratus cloud to the south of us and the other aircraft.

#### "NOTES ON UFOS:-

1. The distance from our aircraft of the UFOs would be impossible to guage because the prerequisite for establishing distance is to know size; the size of these objects is unknown. However, for comparative size, the main ship compared with a Boeing 707 as seen from about ten miles away.
2. Immediately after the departure of the UFOs radio communications were restored.
3. Neither Walter nor I had the presence of mind to check if any deviation existed in our magnetic compass or Automatic Direction Finding equipment whilst in the proximity of the UFOs.
4. The whole formation maintained the same distance and bearing from our aircraft for the duration of the sighting.

"Captain Gardin and I discussed the sighting at length during and after the event, and came to the following conclusions as to whether or not the UFOs were (a) Balloons, (b) Gases, (c) Tricks of light, (d) aircraft:

- a) If the sighting were balloons we considered it impossible to see these balloons from thirty

miles. This would have been the distance covered by the aircraft from the first sighting to the disappearance. The UFOs maintained the same distance throughout whereas a free balloon would have a closure rate with us of 195 knots (our true airspeed) and would have at least passed us.

- b) The same argument as above.
- c) If they were tricks of the light, the colour of the UFOs should have changed at some time or another because the sun had had a considerable traverse, coupled with our westward travel during this time. Also due to the last two facts, any refracted light would have changed form drastically whereas the UFOs had very little change of shape or colour.
- d) We conclude that the UFOs were in fact aircraft with the solidity of aircraft, except perhaps for the fact of the ability of the larger UFO to split and change shape slightly."

#### The Toompang display incident

The observers of the following incident were interviewed by Mr. Jack Giuliano, editor of *Young Witness*, Young, N.S.W. I have spoken to him about this and other sightings. He said that he was sure these men were describing an incident as they saw it. I also followed up with an inquiry to Dr. Gascoyne, at Mt. Stromlo. He will make no additional comment.

Mr. Giuliano's article is taken from the issue of *Young Witness* of June 5, 1961:

"I spoke at the weekend to several men who watched smaller objects leave and return to a big sky object. The men were members of a seven-man lamb-marking party at Toompang. They watched the sky drama at midday on Wednesday [presumably May 31, 1961 - ED]

"I make no explanation of what the men saw. But I am convinced the men saw something. Any attempt to explain the happening away by smart remarks would be futile. The men are all reliable and unimaginative.

"I have rung both Mt. Stromlo Observatory at Canberra and the State Weather Bureau.

"Dr. Gascoyne, of Mr. Stromlo, said he could not hazard a guess about what the explanation might be. He asked for a copy of the report.

"A meteorologist at the Weather Bureau said that no equipment used by the bureau "would behave in that way."

"The man who first mentioned the story told me, 'I don't want my name mentioned. People will ridicule a fellow. But I know I saw this thing and I've seen some queer things in my time. Five of us saw it, in fact.'

"This is the story this man told me: 'We were marking lambs on Toompang. Near the lunch hour we heard what we thought was a jet. I looked up for the jet and saw an eagle-hawk, way up in the sky. I was taking a bit of interest in the eagle-hawk, when we heard another sound, as if the jet were overhead again. But I still couldn't see a jet.'

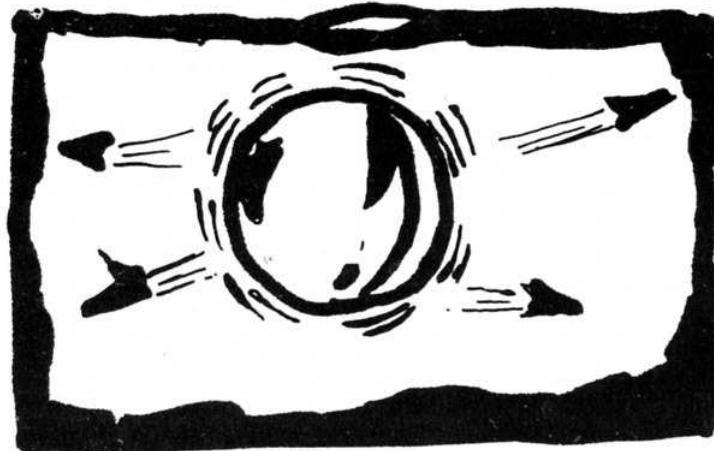
"Then I saw this round object. It looked like a silver star, and seemed to be over Wyalong, it was so

high up and so far away. It was stationary. I said to the others — there were seven of us — "Get a load of this."

"One man is short-sighted. Another who is not could not pick up the object. But four others did, and watched it off and on for over an hour, possibly two hours.

"I saw one object leave the first object and go to the left, and later two others go to the right, then come back.

"One of the other men said he saw two objects go to the left. I wouldn't know about that. We were working marking lambs, and we weren't able to keep an eye on it all the time.



#### Toompang sighting, based on a sketch in the Young Witness

"The objects I saw leaving the stationary object seemed round. But when the one I saw leave it on the left came overhead as it went towards Young, I could see it seemed to be V-shaped.

"But what tricks me is that nobody else has mentioned anything about it. When I went home the first thing I said to my wife was, 'Has anything come over the air about anybody seeing things in the sky?'

"She told me nothing had. I don't know what I saw, but I know that when the objects left the stationary object on the right-hand side they went out to the side and then went straight up fast. The one that passed overhead towards Young was really travelling."

"A second man backed this up. He said he could not say that any of the objects were V-shaped. They all appeared to him to be round, shimmering slightly in the sun. At times the silver sheen winked a little on the small objects as they were leaving or returning to the main object. They left slowly, then went out at high speed, circled and returned, slowing down as they approached the big stationary object. 'They then seemed to land on it or go into it because they disappeared when they reached it,' he said.

"This man also said there was no chance of its being an optical illusion of any kind. 'Three or four of us at a time watched an object leave the big object commenting about where it was going and what it was doing.'

"This man said he had told the others that 'somebody should phone some authority about it.'

"But a combination of being four or five miles from a phone, of having work to do, and of risking scorn decided them against this. However, the man did get a pair of dark glasses out of the glove box of his vehicle. The glasses made it easier still to watch the things," he said.

Mr. Neville Sheahan, a 'Toompang' employee, said he was one who saw the objects repeatedly. Mr. Sheahan, who gave permission for his name to be used, said the large object seemed to him to be round, with a dome on it.

"The small objects which left it seemed flatter. A tennis ball could have covered the big object. We watched them when we sat down to lunch.

"About two o'clock the sun moved around in that direction and we couldn't see the things any more against the strong light," he said.

"Mr. Jim Hobson, of Moppity Rd., who also gave permission for his name to be used, said that he looked up for the object when the first man mentioned it. 'I looked for it, saw it, and said, that's only a star.' The others said, 'How could you see a star in the daytime?'

"Next thing I saw another object leave the first one and go out to the right. I knew then that it wasn't a star but I couldn't say what it was."

"All the men said that there was no doubt the object was a manufactured one. They also said that it was so unbelievable that if any of them had seen it on his own he'd have 'thought he was mad.'

"All the men were interviewed separately. Their stories agreed in substance, with just enough discrepancy to testify to the truth of their stories.

"They were all asked if they knew that two naval officers at Canberra Naval Base had photographed a round, glowing object at night recently, and that this object could not be identified by the astronomers. All said they knew absolutely nothing of any other report."

#### Rev. Lionel Browning's encounter in Tasmania

The second case which I presented, and which was destroyed by Dr. Condon, was an incident which occurred October 4, 1960. The case was later investigated by professor James E. McDonald. Since the Rev. Browning's encounter has already been told in the language of the ufologists, the following account is in the late Dr. McDonald's words:

"Near Cressy, Tasmania, a sighting was made by two reliable witnesses on October 4, 1960. Rev. Lionel B. Browning, an Anglican clergyman, was admiring a rainbow as he and his wife looked out a window of the rectory. It was 6.10 p.m., the sun was just setting in the west. A curtain of rain concealed Ben Lomond ridge off to their east and extended through the southeast and to their south. Mrs. Browning suddenly called Rev. Browning's attention to what they both first interpreted as a large aircraft emerging from a rain curtain nearly due East. Although the Brownings never felt entirely sure of

the range of this object, they estimated it at perhaps 3 miles, since the object seemed to be over an estate known to be at that distance. Their first guess that it was an aircraft was next modified to an aircraft stalling, since the speed of the object was crudely scaled from the subjective size and distance.

"I had an opportunity to interview Rev. Browning in July, 1967, and verified contemporary press accounts. He and Mrs. Browning quickly noted that the cigar-shaped object seemed to lack wings, and had several vertical bands or ridges on its grey-coloured surface, and some odd protuberance on its forward end. They watched it glide northward for about a minute before it suddenly stopped in mid-air and hovered over the ground at an altitude they very roughly guessed at 400-500 feet. Then, from out of the rainclouds farther east, there came about half-a-dozen much smaller objects, of perceptibly discoid form, the Brownings stated. These smaller discs moved much faster than the larger cigar-shaped object, at speeds that Rev. Browning stated to me might have approached jet-aircraft speed. He stressed that these smaller objects skipped like stones on water, a phraseology that I learned from associates of Rev. Browning did not originate from any previous study of UFO reports, since, prior to that October, 1960 sighting, Rev. Browning not only ignored UFO reports but took a very negative view of the authenticity of most such reports.

"The Brownings next saw the discs seem to take up a formation around the cigar-shaped object, which had been hovering motionless during the approach and formation of the smaller objects (whose diameter the Brownings guessed at perhaps some tens of feet, in contrast to the perhaps tenfold larger length of the cigar-shaped object). Then, the entire assemblage started moving towards the South, back into the rainshower out of which the large object had first been seen emerging, whence the group was lost from sight, terminating the observation after a total elapsed time estimated by the witnesses as about two minutes, perhaps as long as three minutes.

"These objects were illuminated by the setting sun, and Rev. Browning emphasized to me that there was a distinct difference in tone between the dull grey of the larger object and the shiny, metallic lustre of the smaller disc-like objects.

"The Brownings, after a brief discussion of this event (which by then they construed as some Russian devices), called the nearby airfield to report it, which ultimately brought it to the attention of the RAAF. I have recently had a letter from the RAAF officer who did the interrogation of the Brownings who states in his communication that the Brownings 'impressed me as being mature, stable, and mentally alert individuals who had no cause or desire to see objects in the sky other than objects of definite form and substance.' That impression is attested to by many others who know the Brownings personally, as I established by direct queries in Hobart and Melbourne last year.

"My questions as to the ultimate public explanation which the RAAF put on the sighting

elicited somewhat bitter comment from Rev. Browning, comment which I later found elaborated in press clippings made available to me by the officers of a very creditable private UFO group in Melbourne, the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS). The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, RAAF, made official explanation early in 1961: 'The phenomena was the result of the moonrise associated with meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting. On 4th October, 1960, moonrise (full quarter) at Cressy would have been visible shortly after 1800 hours and in an ESE direction. The objects apparently seen were near the sky-line in an easterly direction. The presence of "scud" type clouds, moving in varying direction due to turbulence in and around the rain squall near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects.'

"Such an 'explanation' has a curiously familiar ring to anyone who has studied large numbers of USAF 'explanations' of UFO sightings. One can quickly establish that the moon was full on the date of the Cressy sighting and that it would have risen not in the ESE but a few degrees north of east. And, still worse for the official explanation, there was not only a dense rain storm obscuring all the eastern sky as seen from the Cressy rectory, but the highest mountain range of Tasmania lay behind those dense clouds to further obscure the just-rising full moon. (Ben Lomond, summit 6160 ft., lies to ENE of Cressy, and the ridges extend off to the south and north from that summit point.) From my own viewpoint, as one interested in atmospheric optics and in unusual refractive and reflective anomalies, the official suggestion that 'scud' subject to turbulent motions could (had the moon not been wholly obscured by rain and mountain) be optically distorted into anything remotely resembling the phenomena reported by the Brownings seems entirely out of question. (Because USAF explanations have many times asserted, as has also Dr. D. H. Menzel in his writings on UFOs, that the sun and the moon can be 'reflected' off the sides or tops of clouds, it may be well to state that nothing in decades of meteorological optical observations supports such a notion, save for the phenomenon of the 'undersun,' which involves specular reflection off tabular ice crystals falling in completely non-turbulent air, and visible only from an aircraft or elevated vantage point. Sun and Moon do not yield anything like distinct images by reflection off the walls of clouds, all UFO explanations invoking such optical absurdities are unreasonable. It might be added that Menzel has repeatedly erred in referring to sundogs, i.e. parhelia, as resulting from 'reflection', since that familiar optical effect is caused by ice-crystal refraction.) In asserting such a meteorological explanation as was issued by the RAAF intelligence office, little evidence of scientific knowledge was exhibited, unless that office felt that the essential features of the Brownings' account had to be simply disregarded as unreliable. Yet the interrogating RAAF officer who investigated the case had no such inclination.

to disregard these witnesses' description of their observations, nor do I"

\* \* \* \* \*

Professor McDonald was well qualified to evaluate both the witnesses description and the RAAF "explanation", since he was Senior Physicist in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona and one of the first scientists to make a thorough study of the UFO phenomenon.

\* \* \* \* \*

The third case involving a large parent object apparently operating with smaller objects, which I

presented to the Colorado University project, was the famous Rev. Gill case in Papua†. This is so well known that it is not necessary to repeat it.

After years of struggling to inform the general public through the medium of publications, the press and public lectures, Gallup Polls are showing that ufologists are winning the fight against officialdom which has followed an outmoded policy of "systematically debunking UFO reports in order to distract public attention from them."

† [The account of this event was given by the Rev. Canon Norman Crutwell in FSR Special Issue No. 4, *UFOs in Two Worlds* — EDITOR]

### THREE LANDINGS IN ITALY (Continued from page 8)

"spheres" incident during the evening of Sunday.

After a first examination by the Agricultural Institute at Turin of the maize cobs which we collected for them at the landing place, it has not been possible to fix the reason for the premature "drying" which, of course, could have been caused by natural factors.

It is interesting to note that Roberto Pozzi tends to identify the cigar-shaped object which he observed as an experimental (secret arm) Russian or American aircraft. Before his sighting Roberto had seen the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and had read Dr. J. A. Hynek's book *Rapporto sugli UFO*

(*The Hynek UFO Report*) which a friend had lent him. Nevertheless we think his testimony is genuine, and that he really underwent the experience he has described.

In the same way we think the CEII incidents at Frugarolo and Spinetta Marengo which, unlike that at San Michele, have not received publicity and have not been reported in any newspaper, are very interesting. The enquiry goes on.

During the same period as the Alessandria affairs — the first fifteen days of September — there has been a big wave of UFO visitations throughout Italy, including several CEII and CEIII cases.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

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# NEAR-LANDING IN 1946 IN JOHANNESBURG

UNUSUAL OBJECT, AND ENTITIES, OBSERVED IN SOUTH AFRICA

*John Judge*

John is a field investigator for CONTACT (UK), and a member of the UFOIN team, who is active in the East Kent region where he worked with the late Sqdn. Ldr. Alastair Prevost. This is his first published report in FSR, which he prepared from material forwarded to UFOIN following the major UFO series in the *Daily Express*, and from interviews with one of the witnesses.

J OHANNESBURG, the "commercial capital" of South Africa, stands at more than 6000 feet above sea level, thus making it the highest city in the continent. It is famous for its surrounding gold mines, and is densely populated. A percentage of the housing is, therefore, "high rise" in nature, in order to accommodate this great influx of people.

In 1946 the area around Dalver Street was typical of the city at that time, with many flats above shops forming a square block that contained some waste ground in the centre. One corner of the square was taken up by the Langum Hotel, a building of some 45 feet. This was the scene of a most peculiar encounter of the third kind that was to befall Vida Goldsworthy and her younger sister, Mrs. Naudwin.

The younger of the two girls moved from Britain to South Africa before World War II, leaving behind her sister Vida, who was six years older and then unmarried. After her marriage to a South African, Mr. Naudwin, she soon invited Vida over for a holiday which was scheduled to last for some three months. This commenced in May 1939, but the onset of the war interfered with this, with all ships being commandeered for military purposes. Vida found herself stranded and had to make the best of it and sit things out. She obtained a job working for the government and took a flat with her sister in Dalver Street, since Mr. Naudwin was quickly drafted into the army. Here they continued to live for the next seven years.

In placing the date of the incident we are certain that it happened in 1946, because it was shortly before Mr. Naudwin came out of the forces. It was also during the summer months, thus placing the incident well before the first UFO publicity and the resultant excitement and, in some instances, hysteria.

It was a warm, still night, about 12.15 am (local time). There were many stars visible. Vida and her sister had been to the local cinema and, on their return decided to take their dog for a walk before retiring to bed. They gained entrance to the waste ground behind their flat by way of an area where a demolished house once stood. They released the dog from the lead and it ran on to the waste ground without hesitation while the two women stood on

the pavement at the entrance, chatting idly about the picture they had just seen.

Suddenly there was a loud thud, as if something had struck the ground somewhere in the darkness before them. Anxious in case an African had thrown something at their dog, they looked around. It was then that Mrs. Naudwin saw the object and drew her sister's attention to it as it hovered over the Langum Hotel by only about five feet, being therefore about 50 feet above the ground. Both women were mystified, having never before seen anything remotely similar, but they were not unduly alarmed. They automatically considered it was some new kind of military device, which was odd, but not out of place in the post war situation. At the time the significance of what they were observing was by no means apparent, and it was much, much later before this was realised.

## The Object

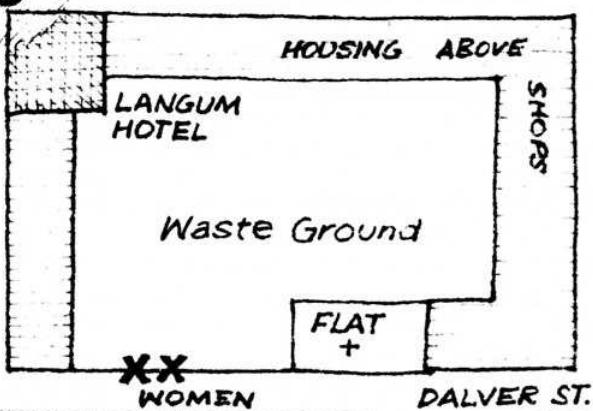
The thing that hovered, partly over the hotel and partly over the roadway behind it (some 200 yards away) was basically rounded. In the shape of a saucer with a round ball in the centre. When first seen the ball was split exactly in two by the central saucer shape.

The witnesses were able to obtain a very clear view of the object as it hovered quite silently. Whether or not the "thud" they had heard was connected with the object is not known. In size it was about 25 to 30 feet across and about 15 feet high. The rim was of a brownish colour while the centre of the saucer was white. The central ball was a bright golden colour.

Having dismissed it as a military vehicle the women began to lose interest. They had only watched it for a few seconds but already their gaze began to move away from it. It was then that they noticed that the dog was by their feet and very calm.

At this point they heard a clicking noise and, immediately following this, the central ball began to drop down through the saucer shape, with a noticeable gap, and stopped when it was directly level with the roof of the hotel. There was no visible hole

**UFO**



through which the sphere could have passed. The underside of the saucer was clearly seen as the object itself seemed to be tilted slightly away from the women (thus explaining, perhaps, the discrepancy between the estimated height of the sphere as 15 feet and the gap between object and rooftop as 5 feet).

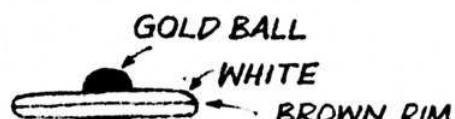
The ball remained in this detached position for some seconds and then there was a second loud click.

it was a military craft of some type. As the ball raised itself above the main body a further dimension was added to the mystery by the appearance of two figures. They had seemingly entered the gap below the sphere during its passage upwards through the main body of the object.

These entities were human in appearance and could have passed quite easily for ordinary persons. They were almost exact replicas one of the other. Estimated to be about seven feet tall they had a fair European skin colouration (possibly Scandinavian?) The hair was short, fair and wavy, and the beings were well built. Vida Goldsworthy describes them as "very good looking."

The figures were wearing an all-white uniform of some type which was gathered in the middle by a brownish belt (possibly with a buckle fastener). There were two pockets at chest height, one on either side of the tunic top, and there were pleats running down the sides. Vida Goldsworthy also feels that there was a line of buttons down the middle of the tunic top, but she is not certain of this. There was a stiff "stand-up" collar at the neck. The legs were mostly obscured, as also were the sleeves, which throughout the encounter were behind the backs of the entities.

**Phase 1**



Hotel

**Phase 2**



Hotel

**Phase 3**



The ball now moved upwards *through* the saucer again, although once more no hole was apparent, and finally it detached itself above the saucer. This, it was estimated, was some 8 or 9 feet above the main body of the object. The sphere was then seen to be supported by two dark "metal" pillars. They gave off no light and it was just an impression that they were made of metal, but Vida Goldsworthy clearly recalls seeing the sky between them.

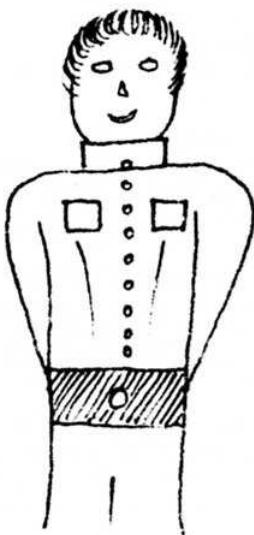
When the sphere was supported above the main body the witnesses became aware that the object was in fact rotating in an anti-clockwise direction. It may well have been doing this throughout the observation. The object retained the shape until it disappeared from view (which was accomplished, after some two minutes, by simply floating away out of view behind the hotel).

#### **The Entities**

By now the witnesses were aware that they were watching something extraordinary, but still believed

**Above:** The swift sequence of events

**Right:** A sketch of one of the entities, based on the witness's recollection more than 30 years after her brief encounter



By their body angle and their posture the witnesses felt that the entities were standing on a raised surface and leaning against an invisible rail of some kind. There was a distinct impression that the beings were watching the two women throughout this phase, although they were never seen to move.

### Conclusions

The women discussed the experience between themselves, but mentioned it to nobody else, not even Mrs. Naudwin's husband when he finally returned home. They maintained their belief that the object was a secret military device, and Vida Goldsworthy still believes this to the present day.

Vida Goldsworthy returned to Britain in 1950. Now aged 78, articulate and intelligent, she lives in Kent. She never married. So far it has not been possible to trace her sister. She has recently moved to another part of South Africa, but as soon as we have the new address attempts will be made to obtain her side of the story. However, the event did take place some 32 years ago and there is no certainty that she will recall it as clearly as her sister.\* This is especially true in view of the lack of importance both women placed upon it at the time.

It was only when Vida Goldsworthy read the *Daily Express* series that she decided to divulge her story and she has shown no wish for her story to be

\* [Why shouldn't she recall it clearly? we should bear in mind that she was the one who first saw the *UFO* and drew her sister's attention to it, which would seem to indicate she was possibly the selected witness—EDITOR]

publicised on a wide scale. She appears to possess little knowledge of the *UFO* subject, and this was apparent by the way she struggled for the right words to describe the object. After several attempts the best she could offer was "a round thing with half a ball on the top, and half a ball on the bottom," but her drawings make the classic flying saucer shape quite clear.

So far as can be ascertained Vida Goldsworthy has neither psychic experiences, nor any other encounters with the *UFO* phenomenon. It remains to be seen what the situation is for her sister.

One interesting thing to ponder is the nature of the "thudding" noise that aroused the witnesses' attention. It should be noted that there were few windows at the back of the buildings overlooking the waste ground, and virtually no street lighting. Consequently it would be quite natural for the object not to have been seen by anyone, including the women. Did the noise, and the subsequent clickings (seemingly unique in such incidents) act as a signal aimed quite specifically at these witnesses? American ufologist Ted Bloecher has remarked how humanoid encounters often give the appearance of being stage managed. Things take place precisely where someone can see them, although it would have been very easy for the event to have occurred without any possibility of witnesses. It is almost as if the entities want to make sure they *are* seen. In this case — if, as seems likely, we are dealing with the *UFO* phenomenon — something seems to have gone out of its way to make sure that two middle-aged women saw what it wanted them to see that Summer's night.

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**THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND *UFOs*** *Dr. Roberto Pinotti*

**THE GATWICK AIRPORT SIGHTINGS** *John Judge*

**CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A *UFO* "MISSILE"** *Trevor Whitaker*

# **UFO LANDS ON SPANISH AIR FORCE TARGET RANGE**

**WHAT'S MORE, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ADMITTED IT.**

*Gordon Creighton*

LIKE other countries, Spain has allocated certain wild and deserted parts of the country for use as military target ranges where live ammunition can be used. The Spanish Air Force has two such polygons. One near Teruel (due east of Madrid), and the other in a particularly desolate tract of territory to the north of the province of Navarre and lying on the right (southern) bank of the river Ebro. This tract is known as las Bardenas Reales, and is several kilometres in extent. According to articles in the Spanish press, it is used for live target practice by not only the Spanish Air Force but also the United States Air Force (by virtue of the Hispano-American Agreement on Co-operation).

On January 5, 1975, the following brief but interesting Logos agency report from its correspondent at Zaragoza, datelined January 4, appeared in the Madrid newspaper *ABC* under the following headlines: *Unidentified Flying Object Over Military Zone of Las Bardenas Reales*, and, below that: *Senior Officers from the Base come to Zaragoza to Report to Air Force Zone Authorities*.

"At about 11.00 p.m. last night, an unidentified flying object landed on the firing range. A few minutes later the device took off and vanished in the skies.

"Several of the senior military officers at the Las Bardenas Base have arrived in Zaragoza this morning to report to the Headquarters of this Air Force Zone concerning the incident.

"There was an Air Force accident at the Base in 1972. The aircraft plunged to the ground at high speed, but the two crew members were both able to escape by parachute. It was said at the time of that accident that, as the plane was falling, a strange luminous object was observed in the sky overhead.

"The affair gave rise to much talk and discussion in the surrounding districts of Las Bardenas and Las Cinco Villas."

If this report had not let a few cats out of the bag, at any rate it had permitted a small pink nose to appear, and nobody should have been surprised therefore, when the same newspaper, *ABC*, of four days later, January 9, 1975, carried a Cifra release with the following neat explanation by the Spanish Air Force under the headline: *It was due to Optical Effects caused by the Moon's Halo*.

The text of the release is as follows: "The Press

Office of the Third Air Force Zone states that, after all necessary investigations have been made, no proof has been found to suggest that unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have flown low over, or have landed on, the firing range at Las Bardenas Reales (Province of Navarra).

"The present official notice arises out of the supposed landing of a UFO at Las Bardenas Reales on the 3rd instant, which matter has been the subject of talk and comments gathered by the news media from the region of Las Cinco Villas and the Navarran bank of the river.

"According to the reports, certain eyewitnesses of the occurrence were said to have seen the object emit vivid flashes and then take off again and vanish shortly after it had landed."

On that very same morning however, January 9, 1975, another Madrid newspaper carried a rather different Cifra agency report about the matter, which I also reproduce in full; the headlines were: *Military authorities nominate special Judge. Did a spy-UFO land on the firing range at Las Bardenas Reales?*

"The military authorities of the Air Force Zone III have appointed a judge to preside over the enquiry in connection with the unidentified flying object which is said to have landed early in the morning of January 2 on the Air Force's firing range at Las Bardenas Reales and regarding which there are conflicting accounts.

"The report of his finding will be conveyed to the Air Ministry who, if they deem it fitting, will issue a statement about it.

"On contacting the town-hall authorities in Arguedas (Province of Navarra), a town that is near the firing range, *Informaciones* were assured that they have received no report of any local resident having seen the UFO. Pursuing our inquiry further, we finally managed to speak to the person who did see the unidentified flying object. He is Lt. Campos, an officer stationed at the firing range. He has refused to furnish any kind of information regarding the strange occurrence, because the case is at present in the hands of the authorities and *sub-judice*..."

"The appearance of an unidentified flying object over the range may be related to one of the numerous exercises against electronic devices which the Air Force carries out periodically. Should such be the case in this instance (and the appointment, for the

first time ever, of a special judge in this fashion would seem to indicate that it is the case) then the military secrecy in which these exercises are swathed will probably preclude the issue of any public statement on the matter. Nevertheless the possibility should not be ruled out that it may indeed have been a true UFO, an unidentified flying object. The UFOs started appearing around 1947 in our own era, although it is affirmed that they have existed for more than 5,000 years. In Spain, according to recently compiled statistics, there have been one hundred UFO landings between 1925 and 1970. In the Province of Navarre alone there has been one UFO landing (in 1969.)

"According to those who investigate these UFOs, we are at present in the sixth phase of their activity here. This phase, which began in 1954, is directed at objectives that are emphatically military; the fourth and fifth phases were devoted to ecological, biological, and geographical exploration.

"On the other hand, this is not the first time that a UFO has landed in a Spanish Military enclave: five years ago another UFO was observed on the military airfield at Reus."

\* \* \* \* \*

So far as I can judge from the material at present available to me no official statement was in fact put out by the Spanish Air Force about the Las Bardenas case. In his article<sup>1</sup> on another landing (at Burgos) which Sr Pere Redon, Deputy-Director of the Spanish Centre for Interplanetary Studies, published in their journal *Stendek* (No. 19, March 1975) he complained of the excessive secrecy of the Spanish Air Force in UFO matters (which he compared unfavourably with what he considered to be the more open policy of the Spanish Army) Where the Air Force were concerned, he said that "...it was all secrecy and denials, with attempts being made to nullify, by means of a smoke-screen, all knowledge of what had really happened. From the outset, this policy has put us in mind of the various denials issued in recent years by the U.S. Air Force. It is because of this different approach by the Spanish Army and the Spanish Air Force that we are unable — at least for the time being — to publish a study of the case which occurred at Las Bardenas during the night of January 2, 1975."

We have seen an example of the "smoke-screen," namely the statement (quoted above) which the Press Office of the Third Air Force Zone put out on January 9, explaining the UFO story as "due to the optical effects caused by the Moon's halo."

One has to give them credit. As the years have rolled by it must have become harder and harder to hit upon a fresh explanation for UFOs, and so far as I know this is the first case in which the Moon's halo has been branded as responsible for a landing on the surface of our Planet.

The next development in the Las Bardenas story (at least so far as I can ascertain) came early last year,\* when on January 8, 1977, the Spanish magazine *Personas*<sup>2</sup> (no. 166) dropped a bombshell in the form of a long cover story by news reporter J.J. Benitez, in which he claimed that on October 20, 1976, he had

interviewed a highly placed official of the Madrid government, who had confirmed to him that the Spanish Government knew that UFOs exist and (like everyone else) had been quietly studying them for many years. This official allegedly handed to him 78 folio pages containing resumes of twelve of the most spectacular UFO cases in the government's files.

The title of J.J. Benitez's article is: *UFOs over Spain: There are official proofs. Documents from our Government recognize twelve cases of "Unidentified Flying Objects."*

Owing to its length, I will merely extract and quote here that portion of it which refers to Las Bardenas for Las Bardenas, after all the talk about the halo of the Moon, turns out as we now see, to be one of the best UFO cases that the Spanish Government has on its books!

It seems that on the night of January 2, 1975, some Air Force privates, a sergeant, and two poachers, were in the Arguedas-Tudela area, within the limits of the firing range, and that they say not merely one UFO but *several* which landed in the target-zone.

According to the sergeant's statement, he was on duty that night, and at 11.00 p.m. received a telephone call from the operator in charge of the telephone network, to the effect that the surveillance towers had reported that lights had been seen moving about on the terrain of the firing range. He took a pair of binoculars and got up on to a hillock, from where he was able to observe an object "... shaped like an inverted cup," with white lights on the upper and lower parts and intermittent white and amber lights on its sides. He was unable to give an exact estimate of its size, but thought that it might have been of the approximate size of a truck. The UFO remained on the firing range for about half an hour, and took off and departed at 11.25 p.m.

The weather conditions that night were fine and clear, there were no clouds, and the outlines of the nearby mountain ranges stood out sharply. The sergeant detected no sound from the UFO. When the object took off, he said its course was at first northwards, but then when it reached a point level with the second surveillance tower it began to climb steeply and veered off to the north-east and was quickly lost to sight.

While the UFO was in flight above the firing range a powerful light on its underside was directed downwards and lit up the whole area around about.

The accounts given by the other enlisted men (who were on duty on the look-out towers) bore out the statement of the sergeant. The best view of the UFO was secured by those on the main tower as it climbed past them.

#### Notes and References

1. For a translation of this Article, see *The Landing Near Burgos*, in FSR Vol. 23, No.2.
2. We are indebted to Sr. Russel Guérard y Holmes for the full text of this article.

\* [Mr. Creighton wrote his article in 1978 — ED]

# MORE EVIDENCE FOR THE PSYCHIC LINK?

*Janet & Colin Bord*

Another report specially prepared for *Flying Saucer Review* after investigation for UFOIN

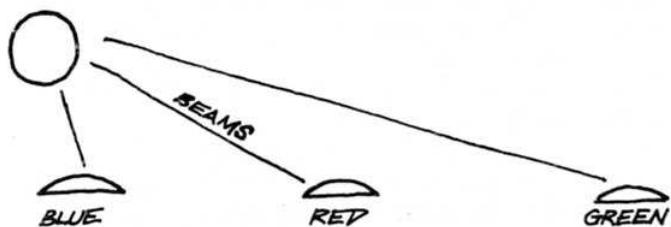
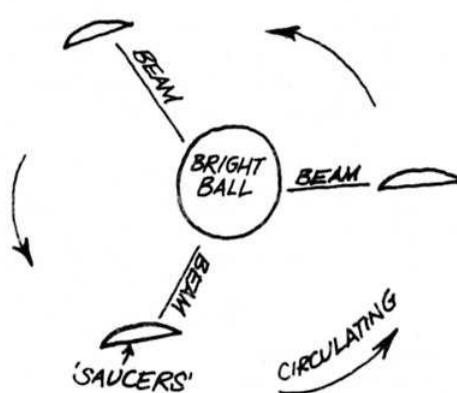
THE UFO EVENT initially reported by David Busby took place in 1975 close to his home near Shifnal, Salop, but when we talked to him we found that this was not his first UFO experience, and the case became more intriguing, for here we had a "repeater" who was also psychic. Also we ourselves may have experienced some kind of "interference" at the site — but let the case speak for itself, beginning with Dave's 1975 sighting. The sequence of events is quite complex, so we thought it best to quote his own account as given in a letter to us. His sketch, here redrawn, also helps make it clearer.

"It was a night about the end of July '75. I was walking up the track to my home [a cottage on a lonely hilltop, approached along a rough track through fields and past a wood] at about 11 pm. It was a clear warm night when I saw a very bright ball of light in the sky. It was about 20 yards across and circling round it were three saucer-shaped objects each one about 15 yards across, a blue one, a red one, and a green one. Each were sending flashes of light to the ball-shaped object in their own colours. This happened for about 15 minutes, then the three objects started moving across the sky side by side but the ball didn't move. These three saucer shapes just kept going backwards and forwards (as if they were looking for something). After about half an hour the bright ball of light started pulsating and it sent out three beams of light to the saucers. As they hit the saucers they turned into the same colours as the saucers. At that moment the saucers shot across the sky and into the big ball of light, which then spun

around very fast and it went all colours like a catherine wheel, and it then shot off across the sky like a fire ball."

When he told us about the sighting, Dave added the information that "... you could sense an awful lot of power... there was like an electric atmosphere in the air." Towards the end of the display, the ball "seemed to be getting whiter and really hot" and although Dave was around 200 yards away from it, he could feel the heat. There was no sound from the objects at any time, and he only noticed them in the first place because when out at night he tends to look around at the stars. The objects were over the trees to his left, and he estimates that he stood on the track near his home and watched the display for around an hour before the 'fireball' shot off across the sky, trailing flames. Dave experienced no physical after-effects. He often sees lights in the sky in the same area, and sometimes sees objects during the daytime, which he knows are not planes because they are stationary. However, he has never had any other major sighting — except for an intriguing experience he had when he was 5 or 6 years old, which would make it around 1960.

It was a warm summer's day and he was playing alone in a cornfield near his home, the same cottage he lives in now. It is interesting that the spot where this first experience took place is very close to where he watched the 1975 display. He remembers that the corn reached up to his chest. Suddenly he found himself "floating off the ground" — about 15 feet off the ground, he now estimates. He was not at all scared, for he was still at the age when children can take almost anything for granted. His first thought was: "I've learned how to fly!" Then he noticed that above him was "a great big round disc" which was silent, and he immediately realised that it was a flying saucer. This may seem strange in such a young



Diagrammatic representation of David Busby's 1975 sighting prepared from sketches which he made for the authors



**David Busby shows Janet Bord the place where he saw the 1975 UFO**

*Photograph copyright Janet & Colin Bord*

child, but by 1960 flying saucers were making frequent appearances on TV and in comics, and so most children were familiar with the concept of the flying saucer. Again he was not frightened. Nothing further seems to have happened.

Dave remembers being lowered to the ground, and then his next memory is of awakening in the corn field from a sleep of around two hours. He went home and told his mother that he had seen a flying saucer and had learned how to fly, but hers was a natural reaction of disbelief! Again he cannot remember any physical after-effects. Although we questioned Dave closely about the flying saucer in an effort to get a more detailed description of it, he could not remember anything, except that it seemed very big and might have been metallic. It is in his favour that he did not supply us with spurious information in a effort to give us what we wanted.

One naturally wonders whether Dave was perhaps taken up into the UFO on this occasion, but there is no evidence to suggest this. We did not suggest this to Dave, not wishing to colour his memory or give him ideas. It is difficult to question a witness without bringing up the subject you are most interested in! But later we did talk generally about UFOs landing,

and it was clear that (a) he knows little about actual landing cases, in fact may not be aware that any have been reported, let alone abductions, and (b) had no such memory of the kind of experience having happened to him. Because of his apparently frequent sightings, we felt it best not to enlighten him too far, or to question him too keenly on a possible abduction, in case he does have further experiences in the future. We do not feel that Dave made up the events he described to us, because a hoaxter would surely have had himself abducted from the corn-field into a hovering UFO. Also, although Dave had read about UFOs it was clear he knew very little about them. He is 23 years old, and has an open and natural manner. We did not detect any signs of lies or exaggeration, nor can we think of any reason why he should fabricate such stories. His account of his 1975 sighting, which we tape-recorded when he met him, agrees in detail with the account he had already written to us in a letter, despite the complexity of the phenomenon.

On our asking whether he had ever had any psychic experience, Dave responded by telling us about the time a door catch moved by itself in the cottage, accompanied by "...a very, very cold feeling

all round." He also described some kind of out-of-the-body experience he had after an accident, and told us that he can sometimes predict what will happen or be said by someone in the immediate future. It is possible that, being of a psychic temperament, Dave is particularly receptive to UFO events: or they may be attracted by his psychic energy pattern. Whatever the explanation, the fact remains that a psychic young man has had two significant UFO sightings and a number of minor sightings, all in the same area near Shifnal.

We usually record our interviews with UFO witnesses on a small and unobtrusive cassette recorder, using a fresh cassette for each interview. We did so on this occasion, and in order not to interrupt or disturb the witness we never check that the recorder is operating properly, except a quick visual check that the tape is moving from one spool to the other. On playing back our recording of the Busby interview, we found that a large chunk of the interview was missing. First Dave described the fireball and three UFOs, and this was recorded. As soon as he finished describing this, the recording was interrupted by a loud crackling noise, which soon subsided to a softer background crackling. No voice

could be heard, and so we have no recording of Dave describing his childhood cornfield experience, or the LITS and daytime UFOs he has seen. We then asked him if he had ever had any psychic experiences, and as he began to answer, there is a clicking noise on the tape, a background hum can be heard, and Dave's voice. He fades again later, during his telling of his out-of-the-body experience, and his voice does not return before the end of the interview. Later we checked the tape, thinking it might be faulty, but we were able to record on the first 'blank' stretch perfectly well, using the same recorder. At the time of making the recording with Dave, we were standing outside his cottage, within sight of the place where he saw the fireball and UFOs, and not far from the cornfield. We do not know whether this has any significance, and not knowing anything about tape recorders we realise we may be making mountains out of molehills, in that there may be a perfectly straightforward explanation for what happened. However, we felt we should put the facts on record. We have had trouble with this recorder before when interviewing UFO witnesses. It is not an expensive machine and we are thinking of replacing it with a better one in case the faults are purely mechanical.

## **UFO PHYSICS-PART 2(a)**

### *Jan Heering*

IN the introduction to this series of articles (see part 1) it was argued, following James McCampbell, that UFOs very probably fly by levitation, i.e. by reducing their (inertial and gravitational) mass to a small value.

Contrary to what Mr. McCampbell writes at the end of his work (401), however, such a performance is incompatible with some of the most important laws of physics as we currently understand them, the main problem being that the law of conservation of energy does not permit "shielding" of inertia.

#### **4. Extreme Accelerations - (de) - materialisation Phenomena - "Structured Light"**

So why is this theory discarded immediately? Because it conforms so well to the observational facts. Cases such as (405, 406, 407, 408), indicate that UFOs must have a very high power/mass ratio. However, there is no evidence of an adequate amount of power,

and their mass must consequently be small, even unnaturally small, in relation to their size.

For a more detailed discussion of these points the reader is referred to references (401,402) and the introductory section of part 1 of this series and, if he wants to go into the nature of inertia, to references (403, 404). Indeed (403) is a very interesting popular exposition, while (404) is highly technical. In spite of the serious problems associated with it, McCampbell's theory is the most attractive ever proposed to explain the flight characteristics of UFOs. All other antigravity theories leave the inertia problem unsolved, while non-antigravity theories leave all problems unsolved.

In view of the frequent reports of unbelievable accelerations, it need not amaze us that UFOs sometimes seem to disappear instantly.

- see (410, 411). At Evillers (407) a UFO accompanied by a small

red satellite (see part III, 7) repeatedly switched between two different positions. It did this instantaneously without any observable transition. It is often thought that instantaneous disappearance must involve some form of dematerialization, but a simpler explanation is that the UFO accelerates so fast that the human eye is unable to follow it (401). Extreme deceleration then results in the sudden appearance of the UFO.

Nevertheless, there is a persistent notion among ufologists that UFOs exhibit materialization and dematerialization phenomena. Dematerialization is understood to be a process of transition from a conventional material makeup to a different state of matter/energy as yet unknown to science and invisible to us, while materialization is the inverse process. Clearly, UFOs utilizing these (hypothetical) processes would be able to appear and disappear at will.

That leads me to compile a small list of requirements which a "hard" dematerialization case would have to satisfy: (a) Daytime sighting; (b) observer(s) within a few tens of metres of the object; (c) object looks solid and leaves physical traces; (d) object fades away slowly without movement.

With this list in mind I started reading Ted Phillips' *Physical Trace Catalogue* (411), but not one of the 561 relevant cases was found even to remotely qualify as a convincing instance of (de)-materialization in the above sense. This means such cases must either be extremely rare, or are non-existent. However, UFOs have been observed to fade away slowly: On the Col D'Aspin (412) two hunters observed a bright disc or sphere sending a "slow flash of lightning" (a kind of "solid light"?") to the ground. After the flash had reached the ground, an identical object suddenly made its appearance close to the first one and started to do exactly the same, but before long the scene began to fade and disappear.

In reference (413) F. Lagarde of *Lumières dans la Nuit* draws attention to two baffling observations: In the first case two spheres were seen to merge after a link had formed between them. Then after some 50 seconds, the resulting single sphere faded and disappeared. In the second case a yellow disc with orange dome was observed to emit a yellow streak which developed into a similar, if somewhat smaller, object. This second object in its turn produced a third which was identical to itself and the three objects became enveloped in a big, crescent-shaped, yellow-orange light. Again everything began to fade and disappear. The entire observation lasted for more than one hour and many people witnessed it.

[The following subsection has been inspired by Mr. Lagarde's repeated remarks in LDLN on "intelligent spheres." See for instance (413) and his postscript to (424).]

The above three cases immediately suggest an important

question: *Do UFOs have a conventional material structure?* Considering the evidence currently available to us, I think the answer must be: "not always". The 'intelligent spheres' observed at Aveyron (415) are prototypes of a category of UFOs which seem to consist of nothing but light. The classical "foo-fighter" of World War II vintage (414) belongs to this type, and one only has to read (423) to realize that in the past such UFOs together with less esoteric things like swamp gas, must have given rise to many will-o'-the wisp stories.

"Foo-fighter" type UFOs have the following characteristics (412-430)

Their shape is generally spherical with a diameter varying from 10 cm or less (421) to about 5 metres (425) or more.

They display intelligent and often playful behaviour. In some cases the conclusion that they are living beings is almost inescapable (415, 424). Sometimes they react to or affect the thoughts of the witness(es) (415, 418, 421, 425). The spheres at Aveyron (415) were themselves the "passengers" of another, bullet-shaped UFO.

They seem to consist in whole or in part of light, possibly with a gaseous or plasma-like substrate or even without a conventional substrate at all.

Cases like (417, 424, 425, 426, 427) show us the existence of a most interesting phenomenon, which I have called "structured light." That is, while the UFO (or at least part of it) gives an impression of immateriality, it is nevertheless highly structured. More or less well-defined zones seemingly consisting of "solid light" (see paragraph 1) and of different colours, intensities and densities, can be distinguished in it.

Zones close to the centre of the object are often denser (less transparent, milkier) than the more peripheral ones and, generally, the entire structure

is subject to internal change with zones floating around slowly, changing colour, disappearing, etc. Sometimes the entire internal structure disappears and the sphere becomes homogeneous (and vice versa). At Evillers (424) one of the spheres of 'structured light' was accompanied by a very small satellite, which spiralled in and out of it and gave off flashes of coloured light (see part III, 7). They have at their command a "switch-off/switch-on" node of movement — if it can be called that — (415, 420, 425, 427, 428), whereby a sudden disappearance ("switch-off") is followed by a sudden reappearance ("switch-on") somewhere else.

It is interesting to note that there is a perceptible delay between the 'switch-off' and the 'switch-on' (415, 420, 427). Where is the object in the time interval between disappearance? The extreme acceleration theory does not help us here, although these UFOs almost certainly have negligible mass and a very high power/mass ratio.

Sometimes light beams are seen coming from them (423, 424). They often emit non-reflecting light (415, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421) and they have been observed to split into two more or less identical objects (418, 430), to merge (413, — first case), to fade away (412, 413 - first case) and to join (429).

Their structure is extremely flexible. In case (418) the object adapted its shape to the exterior of a car, in (420) it faded, flared up again, shrank and disappeared in a flash. At Shuttlewood (421): "When it reached the netting, the globe of light fell to the ground giving off a display on impact not unlike a fireball. It then regained its normal shape, made a searing sound and started to ascend the netting." At Uzès (417) a very luminous cylinder came out of the globe and stretched toward the ground. A few seconds later

the UFO suddenly disappeared.

The observational facts I've found are less tangible than the ones originally sought, but they are in many ways even more interesting.

The "structured light" phenomenon seems to indicate the existence of more rarefied, more volatile types of matter. "Foo-fighter" type objects consisting of such matter exhibit

phenomena such as "fade-out's," the "switch-off/switch-on" effect, merging, splitting and shape changes. (The chance of observing a "fade-in," if it ever happens at all, is slight and I haven't been able to find any examples.) All this strongly suggests the existence of "soft" (de)materialization. In processes of "hard" (de)materialization and metamorphosis (if they ever occur — see also paragraph 6), involving

objects of conventional material makeup, "structured light" might conceivably act as an intermediate state (this is of course highly speculative). In (part III) I intend to go further into the matter of merging splitting and metamorphosis.

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401. Ch. 7 of *Ufology* (see reference 1 of first article in FSR Vol. 22, No. 5).
402. See (304)
403. Dennis Sciama, "Inertia," *Scientific American*, February 1957.
404. Charles W. Misner, Kip S. Thorne, John Archibald Wheeler, *Gravitation*, W.H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco, 1973. See especially para. 21.12 on the origin of inertia.
405. Observation at Le Bourget, in (6), p. 164.
406. Sighting near Corning, California, cited by James A. Harder, in (19), pp. 113-116 and p. 122.
407. See (301)
408. See (3).
409. Pont-la-Dame observation, in (15), pp. 225-228.
410. Observation at Valensole, in (8), pp. 245-247.
411. See (12)
412. "Col d'Aspin — Une partie de chasse mouvementée," in (5), pp. 25-27.
413. F. Lagarde, "Deux cas offerts à la réflexion de nos lecteurs," LDLN, No. 146.
414. See (11), "Bomber paced by UFO", P. 23, several cases on p. 19 and see also pp. 24, 26. Also (6), pp. 22-24.
415. See (205).
416. "Anderlues (Belgique), Ete 1937," in (5), pp. 160-161.
417. See (207) [and FSR Vol. 24, No. 4.]
418. See (209)
419. See (210)
420. See (213)
421. See (215)
422. See (308)
423. See (325)
424. See (327)
425. See (328)
426. See (329)
427. W.C. Chalker, "Tractor driver under 'cold scrutiny' by UFO," FSR, Vol. 19, No. 5.
428. Observation at Ephrata, Washington, in (12), p. 48
429. Observation at Revin, Ardennes, LDLN, No. 125, p. 13.
430. "Enquête effectuée à Montréal (Aude)," LDLN, No. 138.

# THE LIGHT FROM NOWHERE

AN ENCOUNTER IN EIRE IN 1924 — ANOTHER UFOIN REPORT

*Bob Webb*

MR. A. J. MURPHY was born in Ireland in 1907. In September 1924, when he was aged about 17, he lived in County Wexford on the south eastern coast of Eire. This particular evening he had been with a friend to the nearby village of Wellingtonbridge. The time was about 8.30 p.m. and it was still not quite dark.

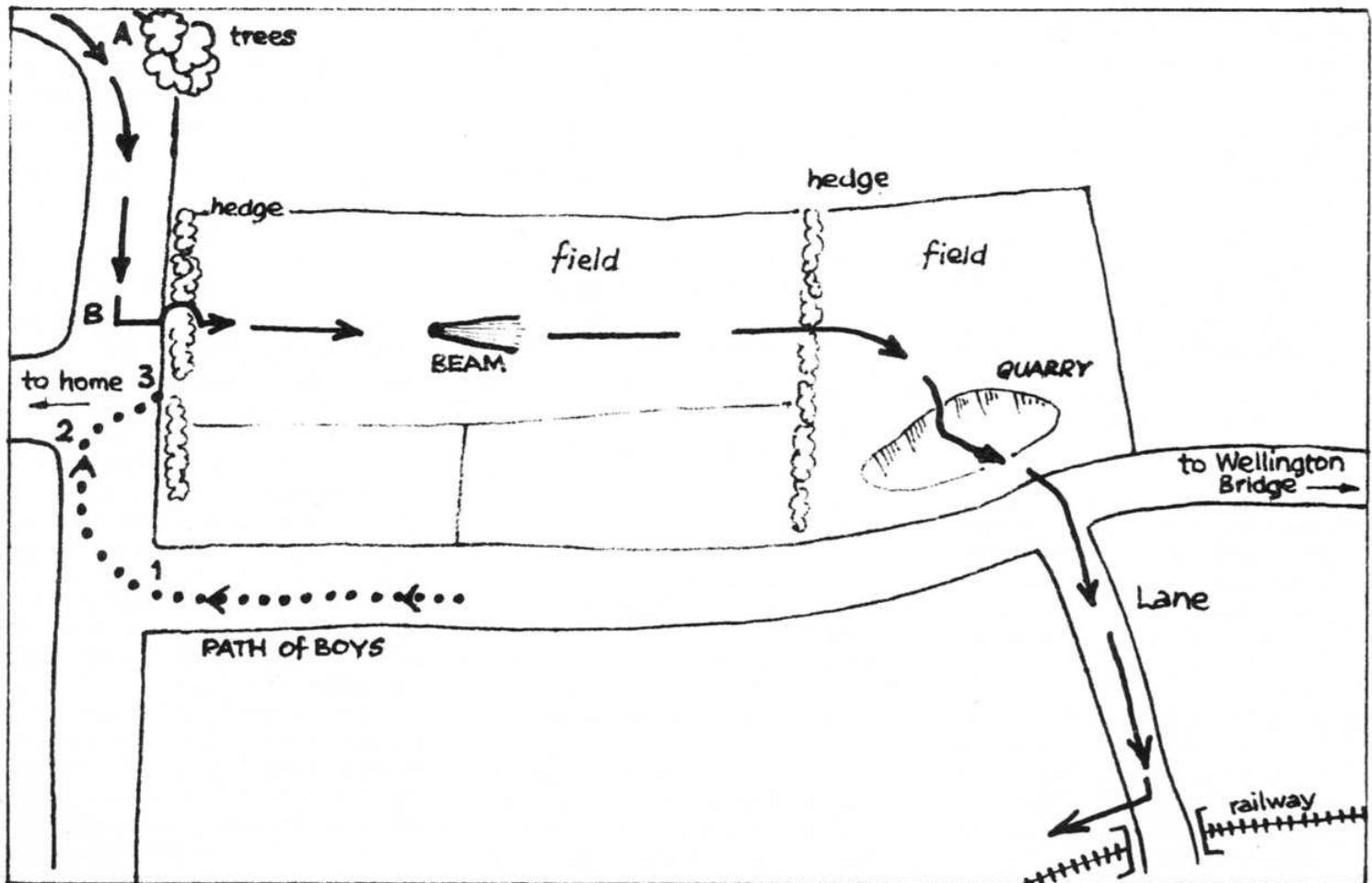
As the two boys sauntered along the lonely country roads Mr. Murphy noticed that the trees ahead of them across the fields were being lit up by peculiar odd flashes of light. At first they took these to be car headlights in the distance, although the beams looked more like searchlights. Certainly they took little notice.

They approached a right hand turn at a 'T' junction (point 1 on the map) and proceeded towards a left hand turn to take them home. As they turned

right the trees and hedges a few hundred yards ahead of them (A) suddenly lit up quite brightly just as if a car were rounding the bend in the distance. The road was particularly narrow at this point so Mr. Murphy called to his friend, "Keep in — there's a car coming." They continued walking on the very edge of the road.

The source of the brilliance now came into view. It was a single, very bright white light — much brighter than even today's car headlights. It seemed to be about one foot in diameter and was projecting a virtually parallel beam ahead of it which was inclined towards the ground. This was several feet long. The light source itself was about 3 feet off the ground.

Since the light had followed the road round the bend, and was now travelling above it, the boys assumed it was some kind of car. Its speed was only about 10 m.p.h. As they approached the second road



junction (point 2) they stopped to allow the "car" to pass them. However, as it came closer and closer they became aware of the total lack of sound and realised whatever it was, a car it was not.

As if to confirm this opinion, when the beam reached about 15 feet from the boys (B) it suddenly turned to the left and climbed up and over a 7 feet high hedgerow. It then dropped down into the field beyond and proceeded to move sedately along. The boys were flabbergasted. They had seen quite clearly as the light turned. There was absolutely nothing behind it. The beam of light was being projected from out of thin air!

Rushing to a slight gap in the hedgerow where people often took short cuts (point 3 on the map) the boys now observed the rest of the experience. Being in a slightly elevated position they could clearly see the beam pick its way across the field, seemingly accelerating a little as it did so. When it reached the other side of the field it passed through a second hedgerow and into another field. The light then turned slightly to the right and temporarily disappeared inside a quarry in the field (about five feet deep). It was then seen reappearing on the other side, and then crossing the road that they had travelled some minutes before. Now it followed a lane for a

distance of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and made an abrupt right turn on to the Waterford to Wexford railway line. This is quite straight and the light followed it for a further 4 or 5 miles, again seemingly accelerating a little. It was finally lost to view over a hill after having been observed for a total of about 30 minutes. The fact that they were able to follow it for such a distance while there was still some daylight about testifies to the brilliance of the light source.

No logical explanation can be offered for this phenomenon. It seems most unlikely that it could have been ball lightning owing to the excessively long duration and the numerous, apparently logical, changes in direction. Whatever it was it seemed to be following a definite path of some sort.

In the words of Mr. Murphy: "I have often thought about it, and it scares me a bit. I was dumbfounded. The deviations it had made were astounding. Shortly after the event it seems that everyone in Ireland was saying, 'Oh yes, and how many had you had?' or 'Oh, what a lot of old blarney' or even 'Weren't there any leprachauns with it?' However I haven't seen anything like it before or since. There was nothing behind the light, nothing at all. We could see the beam of light coming from a headlight that wasn't there. It was a light coming from nowhere."

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# LINCOLNSHIRE UFO AND "CAR CHASE"

Nigel Watson

A report prepared for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review* by one of the founder members of the network.

**S**EVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Anne Kirk is a shop assistant. During late June and early July of 1978 she paid a holiday visit to Skegness, a popular local seaside resort. However, the weather was rather typical of an English Summer and by Monday, July 3rd, she decided enough was enough and rang home to Scunthorpe to say that she intended to return.

At her home when she called were her 20 year-old brother, Mark, a steelworker, and his wife Tina, also aged 20, a supermarket cashier. They decided to bring Anne home and set off in their 1972 *Austin 1100* car.

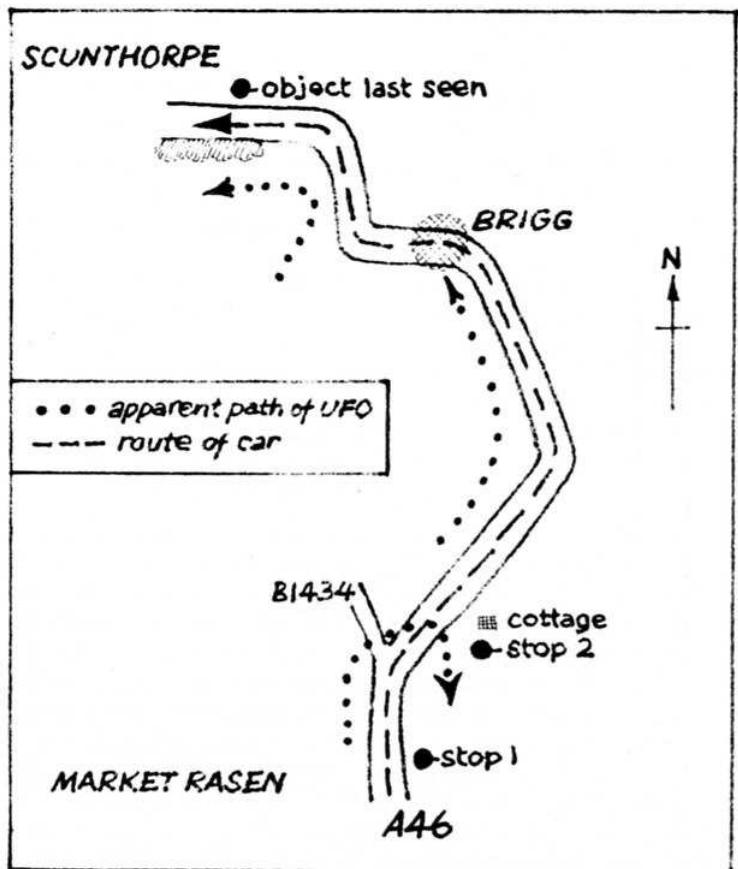
At about 10.00 p.m. that night they had collected Annie and were ready to set off on their 60 mile return journey through the Lincolnshire countryside. All went well until they reached Market Rasen between 11.00 and 11.15 p.m.. The sky was largely overcast with only a few stars visible, and conditions otherwise quite mild.

Driving north on the A46 out of the town Tina, occupying the front passenger seat, was the first to notice something unusual: "What's that?" she asked. Her husband took a quick glance outside and said, "Don't be daft. It's only the lights on the farmer's plough in the field by," and he added: "Can't you see the stands?" Tina said she could not. Anne, however, could see vague shapes underneath the main lights.

Thinking that there was a possibility that it might be a hovering *Harrier* jet from one of the air bases in the area, Mark stopped the car to listen for the noise. There was none, so he got out and walked past the front of the car and looked out over the fields. The object was about 150 feet away looking west, and at an estimated 50 feet off the ground. He knew immediately it was not an aircraft or helicopter and dashed back to the car yelling to his two passengers, "I don't know what the bloody hell it is, but I don't like it."

The Kirks drove off down the road with the object now in a position slightly ahead of them. When they levelled with it it seemed to move alongside the car and travel at the same speed (about 40 mph).

All three witnesses were consistent in their descriptions of the object. It seemed to be travelling "sideways on", and possessed two very large white lights which did not illuminate the ground but were bright nevertheless. The shape behind them was roughly oval but with a "dip" between the lights. In many respects the object resembled the one reported at Mytchett in Surrey (*FSR Vol. 24, No. 1*).



The witnesses at this point were becoming agitated, and as they approached the junction of the B1434 and A46 roads they decided against taking the normal short cut down the B road and turned right on to the main road instead. As they did so they said the object veered towards them.

As it did this a series of coloured lights came on, two on either side of the main lights (although Mark thinks there were more). These were coloured red, orange and green, and reflected a kind of tinny or metallic light. They did not seem to be self-luminous. They curved around the back of the object, seemingly surrounding the curvature of the surface. The object swept overhead and with the girls desperately trying to see if it passed straight over, Mark decided to stop the car beside a farmhouse ahead of them. He was very worried because the object was now out of view. He said: "I'm going to stop here and I'm going to be in there if it does anything."

As soon as the car was parked Mark got out and saw the object streak into the distance southwards



Tina Kirk



Anne Kirk.



Mark Kirk.



P.C.'s sketch.

Sketches of the object by the three witnesses, also sketch from the policeman's notebook — with a certain benign quality!

from a position overhead. It moved very fast and the lights were seen to recede until barely visible. The coloured lights disappeared. Then the main lights themselves just twinkled away. Deciding that it wasn't a good idea to call at the farmhouse at that time of night and to tell complete strangers that he'd just seen a flying saucer, Mark drove off. He hoped the UFO had gone for good, but it hadn't.

About half a mile down the road it reappeared, exactly as before, again to the west. Realising now that it was something very odd Mark accelerated to about 70 mph and nearly put the car into a ditch at one point (he had only passed his driving test two months previously and was unaccustomed to driving fast, especially under stress). Whenever they passed through a population centre — mostly villages, except for the town of Brigg — the object would fade away temporarily. At one point, after passing through Caistor, they passed through rain for a few minutes, but the UFO remained in view. Tina also noticed that when they were passed by a car, although traffic was light on the roads at that time, the lights on the object dimmed to an orangey line.

After passing through Brigg they caught sight of the object again directly ahead of them (still in the west) but hovering over the A15. As they drove towards it they saw it start to move and accelerate across the fields, getting bigger all the time. The road

curved off to the north and the object again paced them. As the road swept to the west to head into Scunthorpe the car passed through woodland. The object remained to the right of the car but was now in the south. It could be seen shining between gaps in the trees. As they approached a roundabout where construction of the new M180 motorway is under way, they lost sight of the UFO for the last time.

They arrived at Anne's home in Scunthorpe at 11.50 p.m., the journey having taken 1 hr. 50 mins., despite Mark's protest that he drove at near 70 mph for the latter half of it. I have personally driven the Skegness-Scunthorpe journey in 1 hr 30 minutes averaging about 60 mph. I can't think this has any significance.

Anne's parents were impressed by the three witnesses' consistent stories, and at just after midnight on July 4th called the police. The policeman who interviewed them had a sketch in his notebook of a UFO which looked quite similar to the one they had seen. He gave no details of this, except that it was reported in Grimsby. The local air base was contacted, but they reported no aerial activity.

Anne was interviewed by myself and David Johnson of the local Scunthorpe UFO Research Society on July 5th. Tina and Mark were interviewed separately the next evening. It should be noted that there were no effects on the car or occupants, other than intense fear at times. Tina and Mark had their dog with them throughout the journey. He slept most of the way and showed no reaction whatsoever.

\* \* \* \*

#### Comment by Jenny Randles

I think it is worth noting that during early and mid-June NUFON had several reports from West Lancashire of two bright hovering lights seen in the west. They turned out to be two stellar objects in a close conjunction and quite bright. One must consider that the bright freshness of the Lincolnshire country air, the unusually flat terrain prevalent in the area, and the intermix of some human psychology might have led to a misidentification of these astronomical bodies. I do not know if they would still be visible at that time, although it seems unlikely, and the coloured lights, the shapes, the reported movement, when the object was apparently in the south seem to militate against this. However, the coincidence seems to me to be worthy of note.

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# UFO PLUS BEAM OF LIGHT

Paul Murray MA

**Paul Murray is a UFOIN member and investigator for Central Scotland. He works on a freelance basis and this is his first report for FSR.**

THIS report came to our attention because it seemed to bear a resemblance to other accounts of UFOs with multiple beams of light (e.g. FSR Vol.18, No.3 of 1972). It was even more similar to events during a recent Winter wave of low-level UFOs which have seen a number of closely related incidents at locations as far apart as Greater Manchester, Derbyshire and Surrey (see *Low Level UFO at Mytchett* by Omar Fowler, FSR Vol. 24, No.1, 1978).

The witnesses were members of the one family, Mr. John Fisher and his wife, their thirteen year old son Roger and their young daughter Audrey. They were travelling from Edinburgh towards their home in Blackwood, Lanarkshire, on the night of January 29, 1978. It was 11.00 p.m.

The route they took was along the M8 motorway, which bisects Scotland. It was a clear night with no moon visible, and no stars that they can recollect. Just before the turn off to Livingstone, some 8 miles west of Edinburgh, Roger spotted what at first he thought was an aircraft. A flight path into the City airport does pass over the motorway and so it was natural that he should think this. However, as the car came closer to the object all four members of the group saw it for what it was, and they describe it in very similar fashion.

Roger is an intelligent and articulate boy. He has some interest in UFOs and it was his enthusiasm that led to the sighting being reported (at first to the *Daily Express* UFO Bureau):—

"The most noticeable thing was the intensely bright white 'searchlight' at the 'front' shooting a beam downwards and scanning the ground. Plainly visible underneath were four red lamps whose brightness was rather less than the white light. There was no sound, and we had the window wound down. There was no change in colour or fluctuation in brightness throughout the whole sighting..."

Mrs. Fisher is a lady who would seem to have an eye for recording details:—

"Its size was at least as big as or bigger than a family saloon car. I could discern no specific shape behind the lights except that it seemed to be circular..." (The witnesses were subsequently shown the drawing of the Mytchett UFO and thought it was similar.)

Mr. Fisher is a lecturer in economics at Motherwell Technical College. Because of his job he has trained himself to be factual in the extreme. He does not believe in UFOs and tried to convince the rest of his family (unsuccessfully) that this was a natural phenomenon. He has doubts about this himself and is now

'tolerant' to those who tell UFO stories:—

"I was concentrating on driving so did not really get a chance to see it as clearly as the others. Its size was difficult to estimate but it was about 120 feet off the ground. At first I was convinced it was some kind of helicopter but when I saw it closer I thought it was, maybe, some construction work by the roadside, but where? There are only desolate open fields in the direction that we saw this thing..."

"Even little Audrey was adamant about what she had seen. In fact she was rather perturbed that I could not do something about it!"

The only slight disagreement over details concerns whether or not the object was stationary. Mr. Fisher thinks it was hence his conjecture that it was lights on some construction tower. The others maintain that it moved very slowly on a path from the north to the south, although occasionally appearing to hover for a while. The car eventually went past it, although it was in view for a total of about four minutes. Even Mr. Fisher agrees that it was a most puzzling sight and does not now believe that it could have been a ground-based light. He is very sorry that he did not stop the car so they could have a closer look.

The Fisher family certainly saw something unexplainable. By their accounts we can dismiss aircraft of a conventional nature and astronomical objects. Like a lot of aspects of the UFO phenomenon relating to light, and especially to beams of light, we seem to be at a loss to explain such things. Our own ideas of light are, of course, fairly restricted. Perhaps this UFO, like the one at Mytchett, was purposeful in its flight. I can only conclude that the Fishers saw a low-level UFO, and that it must remain 'unidentified.'

## UFO INVESTIGATORS' NETWORK

UFOIN was launched in March 1977. It now has 45 members operating throughout the British Isles, and enjoys active liaison with several respected groups at home and abroad. Hundreds of reports have been investigated, several — including CE3 cases — have been published in FSR, and there are other CE3's in the pipeline.

If you have a report to make get in touch with UFOIN's Secretary: Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam Salford M30 6JN, or telephone 061- 775 4749

# HUMANOIDS ENCOUNTERED IN 1901 ?

Jenny Randles & Philip Barnet

THE *Daily Express* UFO series in February 1978 brought to our attention a number of intriguing cases from the past, but perhaps none more interesting than this one. Occurring in 1901, it is a strong contender for Britain's oldest reported humanoid encounter and, as will be seen, it bears considerable resemblance to modern-day close encounters of the third kind. Indeed, with the great wave of airship sightings between 1895 and 1909 in mind, this case seems to offer a kind of transition between these reports (which invariably deal with mechanised Victoriana of advanced design) and those of our "super-modern 'electromagnetically powered' spaceships."

The witness to this incident is now, of course, a very elderly man, and does not wish his name to be disclosed. We shall just call him Frank. He was very helpful, but despite his still active faculties, the length of time that has elapsed since the incident must obviously make some of the details suspect. However, he believes that the basic facts as we have them tally with what occurred.

On a summer evening in 1901, when he was ten years old, Frank returned home after playing out in warm, sunny weather. His home at that time was in a terraced house in Bournbrook, near Bournville in what is now the West Midlands. His house was next to the end of the terrace and had a small back garden. He was taking a short cut along a path behind the garden when he came upon a peculiar structure just sitting there on the grass.

The object looked like a hut, being basically box-shaped, but it had a small turret on top that was centrally placed. There were no windows of any kind, and just a small door in the centre facing towards the witness. In overall colour the object was greeny/blue and it seemed to have a metallic sheen to it.

Accurate estimates of the size of this object have been difficult to pin point, but we have finally settled for something about 4 ft. high, between 5 and 6 ft. long and about 3½ ft. wide. The door was only half the height (i.e. about 2 ft.). These estimates are interesting, as they conflict with Frank's first opinion that the entities that came out of it were 4 ft. 6 ins. tall. In retrospect, however, it seems that they were "about the size of the object itself," if not a little smaller, which makes them less than 4 ft. tall. Certainly they were very small.

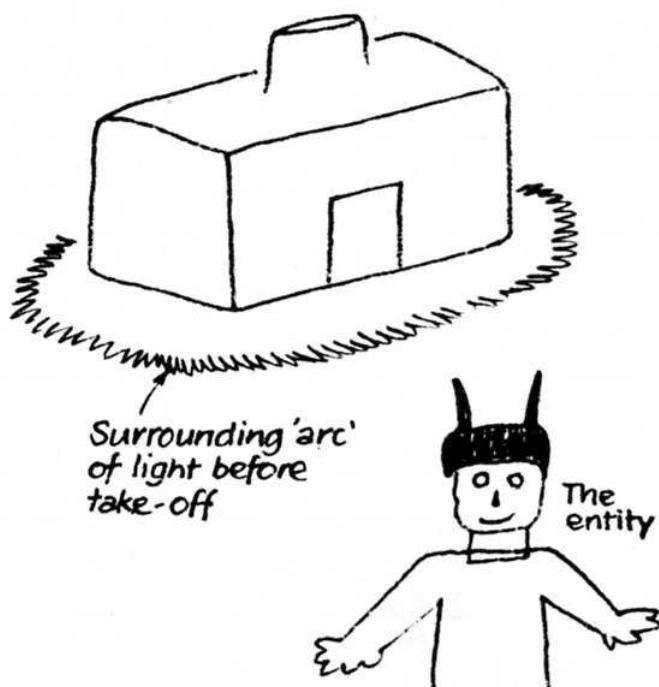
The two entities stepped out of the door, which opened outwards exactly like a car door. One stayed by the door and the other walked cautiously towards Frank with his arms outstretched, waving at him in

a distinct signal not to approach but to keep back. No words were spoken, the contact being entirely gesticulatory in character.

The entities looked human. Their skins were of a similar colouring to ours, and there were no unusual features on the face. They were clean shaven, and appeared to be between 30 and 40 years of age.

Both figures were dressed alike, in close fitting uniforms that had a military look about them, although they were nondescript and carried no insignia of any kind. Their colour was a kind of grey/green. The most curious feature of the entities wearing apparel, however, was the helmet they wore on their heads (apparently covering their ears). This was dark, and like a cap, except for two 'wires' sticking out from either side. These were about 9" long and ¼" in diameter. There was no visible chin strap or other means of attachment to the head.

The witness understood the warning quite readily, and took a few steps backwards. The entity that had come towards him returned quickly to the "ship" and joined the other who went back inside ahead of him. Within a matter of seconds there was a bright flash and something like an electric arc lit up around the object. It formed what seemed to be a complete circle around it, and glowed very brightly. Then with a



The 1901 "UFO" to the best of an old gentleman's recollection, and his sketch of one of the "pilots"

loud "whooshing" noise the object streaked into the air and disappeared over the rooftops in a curving flight. A pulsating red light was visible at the rear of the contraption.

That was the end of the sighting, although several people in the neighbourhood claimed to have heard the noise, and one or two said that they saw the object while it was in the air. The witness felt no ill effects, and does not recall seeing any unusual marks on the grass, although, as he says, he never thought to look for any.

The witness has never seen a UFO, and does not even look upon this object in his memory as a UFO. It is just a "funny vehicle." He says that sometime after his sighting he saw an article in the press about the shapes of transport to come. This showed the conception of an airship, complete with propellor, but he says that it bore no relationship to what he saw in his encounter and indeed his encounter bears no resemblance to modern day UFOs, although there are some who might disagree with this!

Frank's encounter obviously does have several correlations with current events, especially the reported small stature of the occupants. We seem here to have a classic example of the UFO phenomenon manifesting itself in an individualised way in a fashion

related to the era in question. Frank says, "perhaps flying saucers are an improvement on the vehicle I saw." While this is possible, it is also feasible that the whole CE3 and CE4 experience is a human-based one, in a manner with which we are not yet familiar. This would also explain how witnesses seem to interpret UFOs in ways that would be personally acceptable to themselves.

Frank says that at the time he never considered the possibility that this might have been a craft from another world. It was only many years later that such possibilities were even talked about. He has, over the years, tried to make himself believe that what happened was no more than a boyish dream, but he has never succeeded in this. The experience remains very real and he is certain that it happened. In any event, he says: "How could I dream about something that I had no interest in, or had read nothing about but which is coming true many, many years later?" Well, there are ways we can invoke this argument, of course, if we take into account such things as the collective store of memories proposed by Carl Jung and the possibilities of precognition or telepathy. Even so the report remains a most intriguing one.

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIA IN 1977

*Keith Basterfield*

A summary compiled for UFO Research (S.A.) inc. of Prospect, South Australia during April 1978

DURING the year 1977, there were reported occurrences of close encounters of types one, two and three in Australia. The year started off with an interesting event reported from near Lithgow, New South Wales, on January 4, at about 9.30 p.m. Noting an orange glow in the distance, two people travelling in a car put it down to a bushfire at first, until it approached their vehicle. When it was overhead they saw it was in fact a huge circular, diffuse glow confined within its own perimeter. At this point their car became enveloped in a fog bank which persisted until the glow had passed.<sup>1</sup>

Following this, on the 20th of the same month, at 1.45 a.m., at Port Kenny, South Australia, a farmer stepped outside to relieve himself and immediately was aware that there was a bright flashing in the sky, like lightning, which lit up the ground. Looking up he saw a bright ball of light travelling along at close range. This ball then took off as speed.<sup>2</sup>

What was to be the first of two

close encounter type three reports for the year happened on February 3, at Seven Mile Beach, Tasmania at 9.30 p.m. Some children at a youth camp heard a noise and saw a spinning "dome" with flashing lights and windows. In the centre window they said they saw a figure. The figure appeared to be thin with a large rounded head above what looked like a high collar. It had an arm visible to the right. It moved its head and changed positions in the window. After being observed for one or two minutes the object moved away.<sup>3</sup>

April 18 saw a driver standing by the side of his truck at Port Macquarie, New South Wales. It was at about 4.30 a.m. when he saw a bright light of an estimated 16 metres in diameter ascending over sand hills some 150 metres away from him. He stood there amazed until the light came towards him and, when it got to within 30 metres, he jumped into the truck cabin. Watching from there he saw the light back off and descend over the dunes, then speed away out to sea only

a few metres above the waterline. After a while it left the sea surface and climbed into the sky.<sup>4</sup>

South Australia was featured four days later when at about midnight a young lady driving home had car trouble of an unusual kind. She saw an oval-shaped light heading towards her car and, as it passed overhead, the headlights died, the engine stopped and the car radio cut off by itself. Four seconds later all returned to normal. Thoroughly frightened she continued on her way home.<sup>5</sup>

On May 2, 1977, a man out camping on the river Murray at Cal Lal was confronted by a very unusual sight. He and his son were sitting by a camp fire when he happened to look around and was surprised to see a blue "trapezoid" (*sic*), some 2 metres high by 75 cm wide at the top and tapering to 45 cm across the bottom. This object was stationary in front of a tree some 10 metres away. He looked away and upon looking back it had gone. No sound was heard.<sup>6</sup>

Eighteen days later, and only a

few kilometres away, a young nurse was on her way by car to work when she came across a red glowing ball sitting in a paddock a few metres away from a road. Seemingly 5-10 metres in diameter, it rose into the air and was lost to sight.<sup>7</sup>

Some six days after this, on May 26 a physical trace case came to light in Orange, New South Wales, which was quickly investigated by UFOR (NSW). Around midnight a boy observed an orange sphere with "windows" in it, at low altitude, possibly resting on the ground, near a farm. His mother was called and also saw it before it moved over a hill and was lost to sight. Physical traces were found in the paddock where it had been observed. These consisted of four small cleared patches arranged in a trapezoid. The grasses and thistles within the area were not affected in any obvious way. Upon analysis it was found that if any ionizing radiation was involved the ground would have received less than 100 rad and then any heating involved in forming the cleared patches would have been below 250°C.<sup>8</sup>

May seemed to be a popular month because on the 30th at 10.30 p.m. a person out shooting near Opossum Bay, Tasmania, reported seeing a "silver ball, edged with a red tail," 10 metres off the ground about 400 metres away. It passed silently over the river Derwent and rose into the sky.<sup>9</sup>

Tasmania featured two reports during June, the first on the 23rd. A rectangular shape with a pink flashing light 3 metres long by 1 metre high seemed to float close to a woman who watched for a while before deciding to drive to a better position for observation. While she was doing this, however, the object departed soundlessly into the NorthWestern sky.<sup>10</sup>

At Casino two days later, two friends were returning home at 3 a.m. when they noticed flashing lights above

their car. The lights seemed to "pace" them, then disappeared into the distance. There was no visible "object", merely a group of 6 to 8 lights flashing yellow and pink/red.<sup>11</sup>

Just over a week later, on July 2, another Tasmanian car event occurred. A bright red light 3 metres off the road, and 200 metres behind a car was watched by the occupants. The car lost power for 15 to 20 seconds and then had to be clutch started. The light by then had disappeared. Some time later exactly the same thing happened to the car but this time there were no lights observed.<sup>12</sup>

A very large (200 metres long) pink coloured object looking not unlike a "jumbo jet," was reported to have touched down beneath some high power electricity lines near Birdwood, South Australia, on July 30, 1977, at 3.45 p.m. It was then said to have taken off vertically, though it made no noise whilst moving at what was stated to have been supersonic speed.<sup>13</sup>

At least twelve people were witness to our next encounter which occurred during daylight hours, near Meekatharra, West Australia. A disc-shaped object rose from behind a rocky outcrop which is only 50 metres

from the house. As it rose a sort of vapour rolled down the rocks. The disc with domes above and below, gave "birth" to a smaller red object which came out of its side, then shot out of sight at speed. The larger object then rose and disappeared from view.<sup>14</sup>

To round off the year's close encounter events — it seems to have gone "quiet" since then until the beginning of 1978 — we have a fairly interesting but in some ways nebulous type three event.

On October 17, at Mt. Magnet, which is near Meekatharra, two people were paced in their car by a light which stayed some 50 metres from them. They called in at a hotel and were informed that some employees of the hotel had also been pursued by something. Eight people then drove to the spot where the light had last been seen. They reported seeing three round pulsating red and green objects landed in paddocks some 3 km from the hotel. The objects took off and moved around, touching down several times before they left. There appeared to be "shapes" moving around these three objects. They were of human size, and weren't animals.<sup>15</sup>

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14. Newspaper only
15. Newspaper only

##### Source:

- ACOS Bulletin no. 11  
ACOS Bulletin no. 11  
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Personal investigation

Investigation notes and report form.  
Copy of detailed investigation notes.  
Annual report 1978.  
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## ROUND-UP ITEM: N.Z. PILOT REJECTS OFFICIAL EXPLANATION

From a Reuters item in *The Scotsman* of January 26, 1979, we learn that: "The pilot of a plane from which unidentified flying objects were filmed last month today rejected the official verdict that his "close encounters" were just atmospheric phenomena."

"There is something going on and I think they are covering up." Captain Bill Startup said after reading the report on a New Zealand Air Force investigation of a series of UFO sightings. The air force said they did "not share the view of those who believe we are visited from outer space or

covertly by the aircraft or machines of potentially unfriendly nations."

"After interviewing observers of the UFOs, air force investigators had concluded they were lights from surface or planetary sources affected by refraction and distortion — 'natural but unusual atmospheric phenomena.'

"Captain Startup said: 'They have no more come up to an answer as to what it was than anybody else.' Many of the phenomena mentioned in the report were things pilots were already well aware of, he went on. 'A lot of specialists have tried to make the

circumstances of that night fit in with previously known facts.'

"The report said radar sightings from Wellington Airport which had appeared to back up some UFO reports were 'spurious returns,' radar parlance for false signals. Radar sets are known to be subject to spurious returns and it was significant that on the occasions the large light was being filmed by a television team neither Christchurch nor Wellington radars reported any related visual sightings on their screens."

[It's a wonder we rely on radar at all!  
— ED]

# MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

## The behaviour of the New Zealand aircraft instruments during filming of the UFO – and other matters

Dear Sir,— Having just seen an amazing new film on TV of UFOs shot by an Australian camera crew, I was wondering if you could tell me more about this sighting and exactly what happened? It was certainly the best film I've ever seen. Even showing the aircraft controls going haywire!†

This subject has fascinated me for quite a few years now. Are you aware of the experiments done by the occultist Aleister Crowley back in 1919? He had a special "formula" for making contact with beings from other worlds, and had a great interest in Sirius (the Sun behind our Sun!) This type of contact has always interested me, i.e. the clairvoyant approach. Yet this new film shows that they can be very solid as well as perhaps of an almost transparent nature...

Yours truly,  
Steve Waters  
32 Goodrich Road,  
Dulwich, London SE22  
January 1, 1979.

† [This letter — or rather extract from a letter — is of particular interest because it was among a batch forwarded to me from West Malling after January 7, 1979, the day on which Tony Whetstone surprised everyone by talking, in a phone-in to Capital Radio, about the aircraft's "gyrating compass." However, the date of the postal franking stamp, 2 January, confirms Mr. Waters' dating of his letter. So at least one other person spotted the "wild" compass of his own volition. — EDITOR]

## Entities and ley lines

Dear Sir, I have read the Flying Saucer Review with some considerable interest together with numerous books on extra-terrestrial phenomena. Over the years I have collected newspaper cuttings which I have faithfully stuck in a book. The subject did not interest me for a while until one night on the

way to a barbecue on Dartmoor I witnessed two most peculiar creatures crossing the road. Goblins would really be the correct word for them. Having read so much about the subject I really did have a close encounter of the third kind without realizing the significance. Apart from this, at the place where I witnessed this sighting a ley line crosses the exact spot where they crossed the road. For your information a ley line is an alignment across miles of country of a great number of objects or sites of objects of prehistoric antiquity. See Alfred Watkins' *The Old Straight Track*. There seems to be a direct link between sightings and the ley line. Whatever the outcome of the great debate about UFOs will turn out to be, we are without doubt dealing with an intelligence or intelligences that are so far advanced as to consider us completely primitive in our way of life.

Yours faithfully,  
J.B. Aylen  
Small Corner Cottage, Starcross, Nr.  
Exeter, Devonshire  
December 4, 1978

[What a pity our reader did not describe the entities in greater detail. The proximity of ley lines and ancient monuments, burial tombs and other relics of antiquity has been discussed from time to time over the years in FSR. — EDITOR]

## Aveley oddities

Dear Sir, I hope you can make head and tail of these comments on the Aveley Abduction case.

Briefly, the abductee, John, said there were no colours in the space craft, and was told by an entity that their nerve optics are different to ours. Humans can't see colour there, but they can. Later in the account there are several references by John. Pen glowed purple; coloured squares on panel; sky layered in colours of red yellow blue and green.

Not a very convincing story. Elsewhere the "entity" and the examiner referred to each other as Ceres and Lyra. These being the largest asteroid, and a stellar constellation respectively. Why would beings from another world use our names of constellations etc?

They surely would have their own names for the heavenly bodies.

F. Spittles  
15 Duppas Hill Rd., Croydon, Surrey,  
CR0 4BG  
November 29, 1978

## Aveley case used by News of the World

Dear Mr. Bowen, With regard to the enclosed *News of the World* article dated December 24, 1978, I cannot help notice the striking similarity between this and the *Flying Saucer Review* Article "The Aveley Abduction" printed in Volume 23, No. 6, and Volume 24, No. 1.

If it were not that the names of the contactees were different, I would swear this is the same story.

I am sending this to you in the hope that you can obtain more information for the purpose of reporting it in FSR.

Yours truly,  
D.S. Ladds  
38 Aberfoyle Street, Glasgow G31 3RS  
Scotland.  
December 24, 1978.

[for comment please see Editor's note which follows the next letter.]

## The News of the World Item

Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a clipping from the *News of the World*, dated December 24, 1978. All I ask is why is it that the *News of the World* seems to have taken the story of the Aveley Abduction (Vols. 23-6 and 24-1) and changed the names of the contactees? Could they have used the story to fill a gap in the newspaper, or is this a different but identical CE4K, which took place in the same area?

Yours faithfully,  
A. Bulcraig  
3, Oxford Ave., Hornchurch, Essex,  
RM11 3ES  
December 27, 1978

[Messrs Ladds and Bulcraig — and other readers — are thanked for sending us the *News of the World* cuttings, and for their concern.]

The first I knew of the publication of John Clare's article was when Andrew Collins advised me about it by telephone after Christmas. So

readers will be right in assuming I was not consulted in any way.

This is essentially the same story which appeared in Flying Saucer Review under the title "The Aveley Abduction" although there are omissions and a few additions. The contactee, John Day, had requested anonymity for himself and his wife Sue when FSR's article was being prepared, and it was Mr. Collins' suggestion that they should be hidden under the pseudonyms John and Elaine Avis. Strange, to say the least, that they should wish to remain anonymous

in the pages of FSR, which only publishes bona fide and objective reports of cases, yet later they allow their real names to be splashed around in the mass circulation, sensationalist Sunday newspaper. Still, that's their affair.

I gathered from Mr. Collins that the Aveley case was discussed by Barry King and himself with an intermediary who was associated with a member of the newspaper's editorial staff. I understand too that these people were shown the relative copies of FSR.

Yet, despite the months of research and investigation on behalf of FSR (e.g. the hypnosis sessions, which we arranged through Dr. B.E. Finch) and UFOIN, and the mountain of editorial work involved, the News of the World tends to treat the case, without any reference to the date or place of the incident, as something which its writer unearthed for himself.

All in all it looks as if this is another case of over-enthusiastic publicity seeking gone sadly awry.  
— EDITOR.]

## UFO FRIGHTENS A DOG

Ian Cresswell

Ian is a freelance UFO investigator who works with several organisations, including the Center for UFO Studies in the USA. In recent years he has been helping co-ordinate production, with NUFON and CONTACT (UK), of a major historical catalogue of northern England UFO sightings. He investigates cases for UFOIN in the North Lancashire and Cumbria region.

A Close Encounter is not a very common event. Indeed it may well be that only certain types of individual can experience one. The case I am about to recite involves just one witness, who claims to have had two close encounters with associated effects.

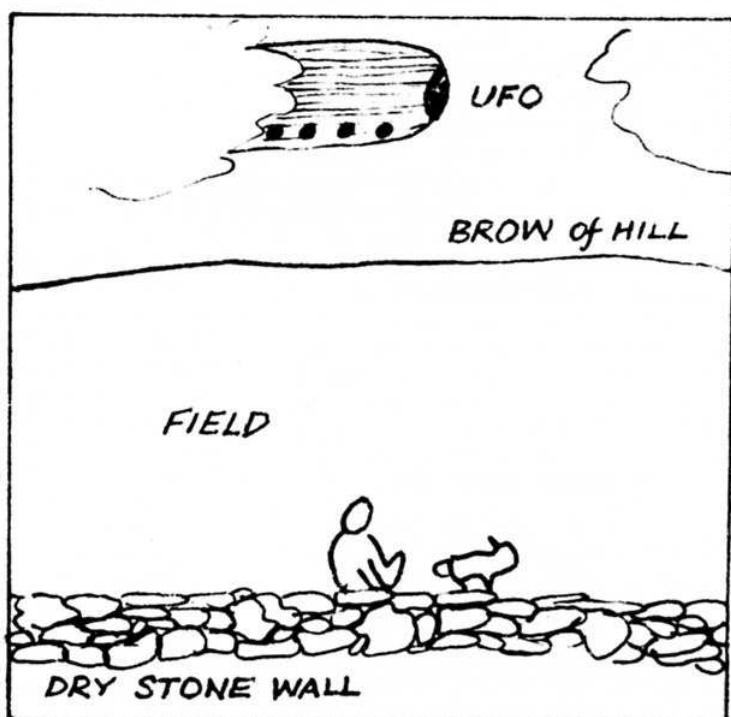
Richard Wade is a gardener-cum-handyman who now resides in Penrith, Cumbria, but for most of his life has lived in Southern Scotland. Both incidents took place in that country.

In August 1955 Richard was only 17, but was an NCO in the local air training cadets. This meant he had qualifications in the recognition of various forms of air transport such as aircraft, and also balloons. This particular day was hot and sunny and he was combine harvesting in a field near the town of Jedburgh in Roxburghshire. The surroundings were quiet and he was well away from roads or habitation. Richard, who had stopped for his lunch, was sitting on the wall of a dyke. He was looking up the grassy slopes of a rise thinking of nothing in particular. With him that day was his dog, who at the time in question (almost exactly mid-day) was sitting at his feet munching a sandwich that he had just given to her.

Suddenly the dog started to shake and whimper

and took off, tail between her legs, obviously very disturbed by something. Richard called to her but she took no heed and disappeared in the direction of home. A little concerned, but sure that she would be all right, Richard turned to see if he could find what was the cause of the dog's panic.

Atop the rise, at a height of about 2,000 feet above the ground was a large fluffy white cloud and coming out of this was a silvery cigar-like object. Richard stood transfixed for about ten minutes as it drifted out of the cloud very slowly (he estimates a



speed of 10 mph). He was able to watch it very closely and take in every detail.

The cigar was about 40 feet long and 25 feet wide, more oval than cigar shaped really. It seemed to have lines running parallel along the sides. In front was a large window that was coloured dark blue, and at the base a row of four 'portholes' that were coloured alternately blue and orange/red.

Richard remained calm as the object drifted past making no sound. It moved on a steady, straight course from the south west and finally disappeared into another very large cloud. It was not seen to reappear.

On returning home Richard found the dog still shaking, and indeed she never recovered from this. She started to degenerate into fits and in a matter of weeks was dead. It is not known if the illness was precipitated by the experience but a connection does seem apparent. This is interesting, because despite Richard's apparent familiarity with air transport the object described bears all the attributes of a large balloon or airship.

The second incident took place more than 20 years later in November 1976. when Richard had some interest in UFOs, he admits. It was late evening on a cold, clear night with thousands of stars visible. Richard was walking along the dark lane by the side of Annan railway station in Dumfrieshire. As was his habit he was gazing upwards at the sky. Suddenly he noticed a very bright light moving towards him from the south.

It came over the houses and then stopped almost directly overhead at a height of about 3,000 feet. The deceleration was very sharp. It now appeared to be a very bright oval shape with an even brighter centre. The colour was a bluish/grey and it was almost blinding. It was about 25 feet in diameter and was pulsating.

Richard stood watching the object above him. It remained stationary for about ten minutes and he felt his hair and scalp tingling as if they were fully charged with static electricity. He also describes a

tingling sensation running down his spinal column.

The disappearance of the object was sudden. There was a whooshing noise and it streaked away towards the north and was gone in a matter of seconds. Richard looked around but there was nobody else in the vicinity to testify to what he had seen.

It is conceivable that the object described was ball lightning, although this would belie his estimates of size and duration which would probably have to be enormously exaggerated if this were the case.

## FLYING SAUCER TIE

John M. Lade, Secretary of FSR Publications Ltd., writes:-

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