THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

The A. P. R. O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (A.P.R.O.), 4145 E. Desert Place, Tucson, Arizona, and is issued every other month to members only. The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization is a non-profit group dedicated to the eventual solution of the mystery of the unidentified objects which have been present in the skies for hundreds of years. Inquiries regarding membership may be made to the above address.

TUCSON, ARIZONA — JANUARY, 1962

PILOT GROUND CREW, OBSERVE DISC

Young Couple Terrified By Pursuing Lights

A young housewife, Mrs. Rhonda Du Bois, of Westminster, California, notified reporters at Westminster on or about 23 October 1961, that she and her husband were terrified by one. then four, flying lights between Datil and Pietown, New Mexico, on Highway 60, when returning from a vacation in Maine.

At about 2 a. m. on the morning of 21 October (Saturday) Mrs. Du Bois spotted a brilliant ball of light which flashed across the front of the car. "I thought at first it was an aircraft making an emergency landing and told Richard (her husband) to look at it," she said. The thing flashed up into the sky and Mr. Du Bois explained it as only the moon's reflection. "When we passed through a dark canyon which was unlighted by the moon, we found that the object had returned quickly, apparently had raced ahead of the car, then waited until the car caught up with it." Mr. Du Bois kept insisting it was only the moon, until they reached the dark canyon. The thing was still traveling along in front of the car.

Suddenly the object broke up into four smaller lights that followed alongside the car until the couple reached a small roadside motel and service station. When Du Bois stopped the car the lights flashed up into the sky and floated out of sight. The Du Bois' stopped at the next town and inquired if UFO were seen in that area, but were laughed at. "They may have thought it was funny but we were plenty scared," Mrs. Du Bois said.

Some members will recall similar incidents which took place in November of 1957 in New Mexico (see November 1957 and January 1958 issues).

Perry Photo—Film Flaw

The "UFO Pictures" taken by Joe Perry of Grand Blanc, Michigan, have been examined by our photo-analyst Mr. John Hopf. Conclusion: a development flaw.

Discs Trail White Fibrous Stuff

Sheep-shearing contractor Edwin Payne, 37, reported sightings of "12 white metal discs" which gave off a fine fibrous substance, to police at Meekathara, Western Australia, on August 6, 1961.

The substance, which eventually came to earth, crumbled in the hands before it could be preserved. He (Payne) described it as a "snowy white mesh-like substance" and it was picked up by John Lee Steere, owner of Mt. Hale station.

The 12 objects, which traveled in pairs, were seen by 12 people between 3:30 and 9:30 a. m.—against a clear sky. It was clearly evident the substance came from the discs as it was seen at the trailing edge of the objects and watched as it fell to the ground.

An RAAF spokesman said there was no service aircraft in the area at the time of the reported sightings.

Falling Objects?

Some of the information about the late 1961 "flap" is becoming more clear in 1962—including falling objects (see Goff case of Angel Hair, this issue). Also—

At Seventh and Indiana Sts., Wichita Falls, Texas, on 13 November 1961, 8 p.m., passersby found a strange contraption. Ball-shaped, it appeared to be closely wound with copper wire in a cocoon-effect and police dispatchers reported a steady and mysterious beep-beep-beep over their radio for 5 minutes a half hour before the thing was found. On top of it was a projection 2 inches high with 9 projections radiating out from the main one.

Most observers felt the object was a hoax but no one could decide what kind and why. Air Force personnel packed it off to Sheppard AFB and it was seen no more. Any further information would be welcome. Source: Wichita Falls Record News, 14 November 1961.

Civilian pilot Waldo J. Harris, an insurance man of Salt Lake City, Utah, was one of eight individuals at the Utah Central Airport to observe a disc-shaped metallic UAO on 3 October 1961. After perusing slippings sent by members (the story, incidentally, was widely carried by the press), Mrs. Lorenzen called Mr. Harris and supplemented the information with specific queries. The narrative of the incident runs thusly with no dramatization:

Harris was taking off at 1 p. m. in his light plane from Utah Valley Airport. He saw the object while taking off but thought it was a plane. He spotted it again after he was airborne, and noticed that it had not moved from its original position when he first saw it. He flew toward it, radioed the Central Airport to see if anyone there could see it. He estimated its altitude as 6500 to 7000 feet. It was gray, and had a mottled surface like "sand-blasted aluminium." It was shaped like two saucers, one turned upside down over the other.

Harris got to within 3 to 5 miles of the object and got a look at the top portion as it tipped toward him.

Mechanic Robert Butler, at the airport, watched the object through binoculars, said it appeared to be 25 to 30 miles from the airport, hovering over Utah Lake.

When Harris got close to the object, it moved south, and Harris followed. It stopped and hovered with a rocking motion, as before, over the Utah Lake Omni Station, and then it moved straight up, then west and out of sight in a few seconds.

During the entire flight, Harris maintained contact with the Utah Central Airport and the Provo Airport, also relayed informaiton to FAA Control Tower at Salt Lake City Municipal Airport.

Another witness, Virgil S. Redmond, said the object wasn't there (where he later observed it) when he landed his plane. Witnesses watched the object for about 15 minutes. Redmond said the disc hovered with a "rocking motion" and when it moved it was at a terrific

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Published by
THE AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
4145 E. Desert Place
Tucson, Arizona

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Editorial...

The contents of this issue and the March 1962 edition of the APRO Bulletin are late as a result of several misfortunes. Foregoing personal problems, we will deal with the two main bottlenecks which are the added work entailed by the publication and sale of "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax" and the huge number of sightings which have come in since the first of January.

In view of the long delay, in August the Tucson contingent of APRO deemed it best to issue two fairly up-to-date issues (May and July) and to fill in the January and March issues as time became available. If everything goes as scheduled, members should receive two envelopes containing two bulletins each —the January and March issues in one which will be mailed out in December (we hope) followed by the September and November issues.

We hope that the contents of these issues will somewhat make up for the long delay. We thank the members who have been so patient and ask further forebearance of those who have written their concern about the lack of communication from Tucson.

New Procedure

Because of the coming first class postal rate increase, ways and means of mailing the Bulletin via first class with little added cost have been studied. It seems there is no way to avoid the extra one cent per bulletin, so the following procedure will be initiated to cut our mailing expense to some extent:

Instead of printed postal card dues reminders, members will be notified of delinquent dues via a hectographed slip of paper inserted with his or her bulletin at the approximate time of dues lapse.

We must ask that members try to pay dues on time, or failing that, try to remit when the notice is received.

As a result of the time shortage in the last 12 months, dues notices for a 9-month period were not mailed out. Some members whose dues lapsed in September, October and November 1961 mailed in their remittances when they received notices in August 1962. We hope they will not be offended by a second notice when it is shortly received.

Occasionally an error is made in keeping records and a member is billed twice. Usually this elicits a reminder from the member to the office, and sometimes (very infrequently, fortunately) a caustic letter.

We do not consider ourselves superhuman or infallible. We do our best under very difficult conditions and without expecting or asking for remuneration of any kind. A little understanding is very much appreciated under the circumstances.

Flying Furnace— New Zealand

September 27, 1960—Invercargill, New Zealand. A Woodlands woman reported that she and a companion together with her husband watched a maneuvering UFO come out of the west and travel in a huge circle. As it returned to the west it seemed to go very high. Then it came back again. When far away it appeared to have three lights; when close, the lights seemed to merge "like a big flying furnace." "It was like a saucer and seemed to have a sort of bowl underneath," she reported.

If you are a new member, coming into APRO since March 31, please forward the amount of 50 cents each for the January and March Bulletins if you should receive them. Because of our backlog of publications, there may be some errors in mailing, and we would appreciate the cooperation of members in this respect.

UFO Follows Truck

The close-up sighting of a strange aerial object which followed a truck driven by Jose A. Fillipin near Catamarca, Argentina, received world-wide attention, appearing in newspapers throughout the world. The account from "El Mundo" dated 10 January 1962 was used almost word-for-word in a Greek newspaper, indicating little change in translation or interpretation.

Fillipin and two companions were driving from Tucuman to Catamarca "last night" (possible the 9th) when they noticed two bright lights overhead which appeared to be following their vehicle. When the three men stopped to investigate, both lights disappeared with surprising speed. Further along the highway at Amadores, they noticed a strange machine standing stationary near a hillside about a hundred yards from the road next to the shore of the Palin River. The light on top of the object outlined a dome-shaped superstructure.

The object moved away rapidly when Fillipin and his companions tried to shine the truck headlights on it. When they got closer, they saw that there were two identical machines instead of one and they were moving slowly back and forth in a zig-zag motion.

Fillipin drove to Catamarca and informed the police. A group of officers accompanied him back to the spot and shortly after they reached the area, an object which appeared to be the same as observed before, descended slowly and landed or nearly so, at a considerable distance from them. Apparently the object then took off, but this information was not included in the report.

Collector's Items Available

All back issues with the exception of Vol. 1, No. 1, which are out of print, are now available at the price of 15c per page. APRO has recently acquired a photo-copier and it will be possible to copy issues without letting them out of the office or going through the arduous task of re-typing or re-printing.

Some of these issues date back to 1952, are mimeographed and therefore could run as large as 20 to 30 pages. If interested, write this office, stating issued wanted, noting "back issues" on the envelopes and the page-count and price will be sent along shortly. Those ordering back issues should expect to wait up to six weeks for their photo-copied bulletins.

Pilot . . .

(Continued from page 1)

rate of speed. Harris estimated the object was about 10 by 50 feet in diameter.

Air Force officers who began investigating said it was undoubtedly the best report "we have had of a UFO in the area—one not identifiable as Echo, a satellite, a meteor or an unidentified aircraft."

In his conversation with Mrs. Lorenzen, Harris said two commanders (names on file at APRO headquarters) and 18 lesser officers of the 12th Naval Intelligence District, San Francisco, interviewed him, showed no levity and said they would keep in touch. They were seriously interested in his sighting and believed his account.

The U.S. Weather Bureau said winds were from the SE at 2 miles per hour, precluding a balloon explanation. However, the object was officially explained as a balloon or Venus several days later by Air Force Pentagon spokesmen.

The weather was clear and warm—no clouds or haze. The object was seen against hills by Harris while he was airborne, thus ruling out the possibility that he had seen and misinterpreted the planet Venus.

Angel's Hair Fall In Nebraska, USA

On November 8, 1961, a pale, fibrous substance fell on the farm of Theodore Goff at Chadron, Nebraska. The stuff fell all over the farm, draping over machinery, etc. The Air Force was notified but the investigative team which was supposed to visit Goff never showed up. Two weeks after the incident, some of the fiber was still on various pieces of machinery and Goff was trying to preserve them, hoping to get some light shed on the mystery by the Air Force.

In an article in the Chadron Record for 30 November, mention was made of the fibrous metallic-appearing stuff having been found on the Sandhills Golf course around November 8—also, Goff talked to duck hunters who said they had seen similar material near Sandhills. An unconfirmed report from the state of Georgia said fibers appeared there about 28 November.

We will reiterate at this point our request for samples of this strange material. Possibly the best way to preserve it would be to use a stick (preferably cool as warmth seems to disintegrate the fiber) to gather the stuff, then put it in a sterile jar and package it to keep the light from it. Headquarters will appreciate any samples which will be analyzed with all due haste, the results being published in this periodical.

The fiber found on Goff's farm came from a "rough-appearing" "ball-shaped metallic flying object which was tumbling through the sky. Goff said "it was going faster than any aircraft I ever saw and it just disappeared from sight when it got out of the sunlight. It made absolutely no noise. Big chunks of it broke off." Goff said it looked "as big around as a tractor tire, 4 feet in diameter," and came out of the southwest, going northeast.

The object first struck Goff as being an aircraft, then as a balloon, but there was no wind and the object was traveling at a high rate of speed. The fibers were most strange:

Much smaller in diameter than a spider's web fiber, they were, however, very strong. They could not be broken, but a lighted cigarette severed them. They did not burn, just seemed to shrivel and sever.

We would like readers to note the number of "rough-appearing" objects, as well as those "trailing material" in this and up-coming issues.

Boy Reports Disc

Ofttimes the objective report of a child yields more information than that of an adult. On Thursday, November 2, 1961, the mother of 8-year-old Mark Simpson of Santa Cruz, California, reported the following to a reporter on the Santa Cruz Sentinel by telephone: At about 2:30 p. m., he was on a bus and spotted a thing which looked like two saucers clamped together. Another boy, Mike Cotton, also saw it. Mark said it was "being chased by a plane which couldn't catch up. It was kinda gray and there was a lid that you could kinda see through, but I didn't see anyone." He thought he saw "wheels" on the bottom of the object. It left by flying out of sight at high speed.

Snail-Shaped Object In California

Melville Phillips of Lakeport, California is curious about an object he saw at 10 a. m. on the 9th of October. Watching a two-motor airplane going in the direction of Upper Lake, he was startled to see a snail-shaped object with a long tail whipping back and forth, descending from the sky. It dropped to just above the trees, on the ridge, whereupon it accelerated and disappeared "in a flash."

Floating Globes

As a result of the publicity in connection with his paper on Martian Biology, Dr. Frank Salisbury has received considerable correspondence — some of it dealing with UFO incidents. There follows one such letter for the most part self-explanatory though hardly enlightening.

We print it here without further comment not knowing what to make of it but feeling it should not go unrecorded:

"One summer evening in late July 1960, sometime after midnight, I was awakened by some noise and leaving the house, carrying my ordinary two-cell flashlight, I went out on my front porch and shone my light off into the trees near my home; detected (about twenty-five feet away and approximately eight feet from the ground) where three symmetrical objects somewhere between the size of a basketball and a medicine ball, hovered. They were visible only in the light of my flashlight and were composed of three concentric circles which were, from the outer portion in, light, darker, and at the very center, dark. They were as close together as they could be without touching and were arranged in an irregular row with the center one slightly higher than the other two.

"Below the one to the far right appeared to be attached a hook and at the end of it was an attachment which resembled a thumb-like object with two small concentric objects hanging below.

"The night was dark, there was no moon and the stars were obscured by clouds. It was clear and since I live in a relatively isolated area of the country, quiet. I made no attempt to molest the objects and did no more investigation than I have related. The following night they were again visible but without the appendage. They also appeared in the same spot for a total of three nights after which time they disappeared for from about seven to ten days.

"On the second day a blob or large particle of what appeared to be fine human flesh corresponding to the thumb-like part of the objects appeared on my porcelain type front door knob; at the time I attached no significance to this and absentmindedly wiped it off the doorknob). At this time, I now believe that it was part of the objects. It left a corresponding corroded spot on the knob itself. Since then there has been no similar reoccurrence; however, in September following, there appeared on the windshield of my car, parked in front of the house about forty feet from

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Floating Globes . . .

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the prior appearances: three almost symmetrical spots of blood-colored material about the size of half dollars and except for the bottom section which looked as if they had begun to run (as paint would) slightly. I feel that there was some connection between these occurrences.

"After they (the objects) had disappeared for a few days they reappeared in a new area. This time they were off to the far right of the original spot and were rearranged with the center one about one diameter lower than the other two, without any other change in their appearance. They were about one hundred feet from the house and up about twenty-five feet to thirty feet near a utility pole. Once more unmolested, they disappeared after a few days and did not reappear again.

"I am firmly convinced that these were some manifestations of observation by some other form of life from another planet. I had hesitated to secure witnesses to this phenomena, largely because I felt that they would leave the scene and partly because I was afraid that my neighbors would not appreciate being disturbed at such an hour.

"I have not relayed this information to official government authority largely because I feel that they are primarily interested in Unidentified Flying Objects and also because I fear that they are not receptive nor equipped for analysis of this type of observation.

"I thank you for your letter and enclosure. I do not think you should or should not believe me but merely do your best to analyze this event and compare it to your past experiences and information from others. Very truly yours Hans Ludwig, New Jersey."

We have not included Mr. Ludwig's address as we do not know his feeling concerning a hoard of inquiring mail, also we feel that the facts have been well recorded and there would be no need to disturb the man with added inquiry.

Pulsating Fireball

On Sunday, October 5, 1958, Milford Vickman of Green Bay, Wisconsin reported seeing a tear-drop shaped glowing object move across the sky from west to east about 45 degrees above the northern horizon. He heard no sound but noted a pulsating glow at 2 CPS (cycles per second).

The New Guinea Sightings, Part IV

By Rev. N. C. C. Cruttwell

Illustrations referred to in the text were published in the November 1961 APRO Bulletin.

Two of the witnesses state that they saw about four portholes or windows in the side, which they have indicated in their drawings. These are not indicated in Fr. Gill's drawing. Commenting on this he said, "I saw what appeared to be panels in the side of the object, which glowed somewhat brighter than the rest, but I did not interpret them as portholes. I did not indicate them in my rough drawing." They were, however, indicated in a reconstructed drawing by the artist of the Australasian Post under direct verbal instructions from Fr. Gill, proving that he had seen and remarked them.

There was a certain discrepancy in the witnesses' estimate of the number of legs, though all agreed that they were in two groups. Fr. Gill is emphatic that there were four legs, tapering, two at each end, somewhat divergent. He admits that his drawing is not very skillful, and refers again to the drawing in Australasian Post.

I have reproduced Fr. Gill's drawing and the drawings of three of the witnesses for comparison, together with my own composite drawing which appears to embody the true appearance of the object from the description of the witnesses.

Here are Fr. Gill's comments on the 'men':

"As we watched it (the object) men came out from this object, and appeared on the top of it, on what seemed to be a deck on top of the huge disc. There were four men in all, occasionally two, then one, then three, then four; we noted the various times the men appeared. And then later on all those witnesses who were quite sure that our records were right, and that they agreed with them, and saw the men at the same time as I did—were able to sign their names as witnesses of what we assume to be human activity or beings of some sort on the object itself."

"Another peculiar thing was this shaft of blue light, which emanated from what appeared to be the center of the deck. The men appeared to be illuminated not only by this light reflected on them, but also by a sort of glow which completely surrounded them as well as the craft. The glow did not touch them, but there appeared to be a little space between their outline and the light. I have tried to indicate this in the drawing. They seemed to be illuminated in two ways: (a) by reflected light, as men seen working high up on a building at night caught by the glare of an oxy-acetylene torch, and (b) by this curious halo which outlined them, following every contour of their figures and yet did not touch them. In fact they seemed to be illuminated themselves in the same way as the machine was.

This is indicated in Fr. Gill's diagram.

When asked whether he thought they were wearing space suits he replied: "I couldn't say. It may be so, that would seem to be a possible explanation of the double outline, but I could not see any such suits."

I asked him whether he could see any details, such as the colour of their skins. He replied that they were too far away to see such details, but that he would say they were probably pale. As for the details of their bodies, all he could be sure of was that they had the outline of normal human beings from the waist up. Their legs were hidden by the sides of the craft. If wearing clothes they were very tight fitting.

Describing the movements of the objects, especially the smaller discs, he said that they were most erratic. They moved sometimes fast, sometimes slowly, approaching and receding, changing direction, even swinging to and fro like a pendulum. One of the objects, apparently No. 1 of the data (and B. on the map) appeared much larger than the others, and appeared to have five illuminated panels, or windows, on the visible side. When the first object (A. on the map) moved away, it appeared to descend in the direction of Wadobuna village, and everyone thought it was going to land. The Papuans ran down on the beach, intending to catch it up, but it swooped up and away over the mountains, turning red as it disappeared (W. B.G. and Ananias). It apparently returned, but hovered more to the west of the station. When it finally departed at 9:30, Fr. Gill says it made a slight wavering movement, and then suddenly shot off at immense speed, changing color to red and blue green, and disappeared across the Bay in the direction of Giwa in a fraction of a second. It just diminished to a pin point and vanished. In spite of the fantastic speed of thousands of miles an hour, there was no sound. Fr. Gill is emphatic about the absence of sound throughout the whole activity.

4. The Night They Waved

Boianai had not seen the last of its strange visitors. The next evening they returned even earlier. At six o'clock, the sun would have only just gone behind the mountains, and the sky would have

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New Guinea . . .

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still been bright until half past six. It would not have been really dark until at least 6:45 p.m. This rules out any possibility of the object having been a planet, such as Venus, which would not have been at all bright at such an early hour. Here is Fr. Gill's report of the happenings of Saturday, 27th June:

"A large UFO was first sighted by Annie Laurie Borewa, a Papuan medical assistant, in apparently the same position as last night. The time was about six o'clock."

She called Fr. Gill, who came out at about 6:02 p.m., and saw the object for himself. It had the same appearance as light night's object, but seemed a little smaller, probably due to increased distance.

"I called Ananias and several others, and we stood in the open to watch. Although the sun had set, it was quite light for the following fifteen minutes. We watched figures appear on top—four of them—there is no doubt that they were human. This is possible the same object that I took to be the "Mother Ship" last night. Two smaller UFOs were seen at the same time, stationary, one above the hills, west, and another overhead.

"On the large one, two of the figures seemed to be doing something near the center of the deck—they were occasionally bending over and raising their arm as though adjusting or 'setting up' something (not visible). One figure seemed to be standing, looking down at us (a group of about a dozen)."

Fr. Gill, describing this to me afterwards said that the 'man' was standing with his hands on the 'rail' looking over, just as one will look over the rails of a ship. His report continues:

"I stretched my arm above my head and waved. To our surprise the figure did the same. Ananias waved both arms over his head, then the two outside figures did the same. Ananias and self began waving our arms and all four seemed to wave back. There seemed to be no doubt that our movements were answered. All the Mission boys made audible gasps (of either joy or surprise, perhaps both).

"As dark was beginning to close in, I sent Eric Kodawa for a torch, and directed a series of long dashes towards the UFO. After a minute or two of this, the UFO apparently acknowledged by making several wavering motions back and forth (in a sideways direction, like a pendulum).

"Waving by us was repeated, and this was followed by more flashes of the torch, then the UFO began slowly to become bigger, apparently coming in our direction. It ceased after perhaps half a minute and came on no further.

"After a further two or three minutes the figures apparently lost interest in us, for they disappeared below deck.

"At 6:25 p.m. two figures reappeared to carry on with whatever they were doing before the interruption (?). The blue spotlight came on for a few seconds, twice in succession."

Subsequently I asked Fr. Gill whether he had tried to communicate with the men by voice. He said he had indeed shouted, as had they all, and made beckoning motions to the men to descend: but there was absolutely no response, apart from the waving and motion already described. Neither the men nor their machine made any sound whatsoever. The report continues:

"The two other UFOs remained stationary and high up—higher than last night (?), or smaller than last night (?).

At 6:30 p.m. I went to dinner.

7:00 p.m. Number one UFO still present, but appeared somewhat smaller. Observers go to church for Evensong.

7:45 p.m. Evensong over, and sky covered with cloud. Visibility very poor. No UFOs in sight.

10:40 p.m. A terrific explosion just outside the Mission House. Nothing seen. It could have been an atmospheric explosion, as the whole sky was overcast.

11:05 p.m. A few drops of rain."

He says that the explosion made him jump out of bed, and gave him a tremendous shock. Remembering the UFOs he wondered whether one had landed, and rushed out to see what had happened. He saw nothing unusual, but found that the explosion had woken up everyone on the station. Papuans are not usually woken by the loudest thunder. They are very heavy sleepers. He described it as "a penetrating earsplitting explosion, not an ordinary thunderclap. It appeared to be just outside the window."

However he admits that it may not have had anything to do with the UFOs. It must, however, be recorded as one of the unusual phenomena of that amazing night.

The facts of this sighting and the waving by the men and the response to the torch signals are fully corroborated by Ananias Rarata, Eric Kodawa, Mrs. (Nessie) Moi, Ilma Violet and Dulcie Freda (Teachers), and many of the other witnesses in personal interviews with myself. They have also told the story independently to other Papuans, who have passed it on to me. They are all most emphatic about having seen and exchanged signals with the men. Stephen Moi was not present on this occasion, as he had gone to Dogura during the day.

It would be very interesting to know the actual size of the 'men' and their machine. Unfortunately, as they did not land, this is very hard to estimate. Fr. Gill estimates that, assuming the men to have been of normal size (about 6 ft.) the machine would have had a diameter of roughly 35 feet at the base and 20 feet on the upper 'deck'. However, if this is correct, the machine must have been further away than he thought as a width of 5 inches at arms length would give a diameter of nearly 60 feet (incidentally the estimated size of Mr. Evennett's object). If the men were smaller, the machine must have been considerably less than 35 feet. However, all these estimates are mere guesswork, and of little scientific value, except as approximations.

Fr. Gill and his 38 witnesses at Boianai, not to mention others who may have seen the objects independently, were not the only people to see strangs things in the sky that night. There were sightings at Giwa, Baniara and Sideia, which amply confirm that mysterious intelligently controlled flying machines were visiting Papua on June 26-28th 1959.

5. The Third Night

But before passing on to these, we shall complete the Boianai reports. For the mysterious craft returned on the Sunday night, 28th June, the third in succession. This time they did not come so low, nor did the men appear. But the objects were more numerous than ever. Here is Fr. Gill's laconic report:

BOIANAI SIGHTINGS (contd.)

Sunday, 28/6/59.

6:00 p.m. No sign of UFO.

6:45 p.m. Only one UFO practically overhead. Slightly north. Very high, but clearly distinguishable, due to hovering. (Fr. Gill uses the word 'hover' in the sense of wavering movement in a small area).

7:30 p.m. Same UFO—moved to southern position, but still more or less overhead.

9:00 p.m. 3 UFOs in almost straight line—all high, sky clear.

11:00 p.m. Eight UFOs. This is the greatest number seen at one time. One fairly low, but except for occasional 'hover', no activity seen on board.

VI. Corroboration From GIW AAnd Baniara

1. Can the Report be explained away?

The sightings at Boiainai are at first

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New Guinea . . .

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sight, so fantastic that it is not surprising that many people have refused to accept them as true, and consider that Fr. Gill, although obviously a sincere man, must either have imagined it all, or have seen some ordinary object such as Venus, and misinterpreted it. Others admit that he may have seen some unidentified object in the sky, but that his report is enormously exaggerated.

However the authorities were sufficiently interested to request that copy be sent to the Assistant Administrator of the Territory, and all reports of UFOs are being recorded in the government files.

The President of the Victorian Flying Saucer Society, Mr. Peter Norris, LL.B. wrote to the Director of Air Force Intelligence on 12 September 1959, asking whether the Air Force had investigated the Boianai Reports, and what conclusions they had come to.

The Air Force replied that they had had no official information of the sightings but were now making enquiries into the matter.

Later, Squadron Leader D. F. Gibson visited Fr. Gill, and cross-examined him about the Boianai sightings.

Later this official reply was received by the Flying Saucer Society:

From: Squadron Leader F. A. Lang.
Royal Australian Air Force
Directorate of Air Force Intelligence
Department of Air
Administrative Building
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

22 February 1960

Mr. P. E. Norris,
Honorary President,
Victorian Flying Saucer Society,
100 Collins Street,
Melbourne.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of the 25th January 1960. An Officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of UFO activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to appropriate authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201 (AAA) dated 14th February 1957, such reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the objects observed by the Rev. W. Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers, and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movement.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd) F. E. Lang.

The Flying Saucer Society is now asking the Melbourne Official Astronomer to check whether the planets concerned were in the right positions at that time to account for any of the UFOs. The ambiguity of the letter is evident, and it only claims to be a possible explanation of some of the smaller objects. The main object carrying the men is not mentioned, and is presumably regarded as inexplicable.

Fr. Gill says that he is quite prepared to accept the possibility that some of the smaller objects could have been planets, though from their apparent size and behavior it is very hard to believe. The most noticeable characteristic of Fr. Gill is the moderation of his claims, and his absolute refusal to subscribe to any theory about the origin of the objects. He always reiterates that he does not know what they were or whence they came. All he knows is that he and 37 others saw them.

Luckily the evidence does not depend on Fr. Gill only. There is other corroboration of things in the sky over Goodenough Bay at the same time as he was watching them at Boianai.

2. The Evidence of Mr. Ernest Evenett

It so happened that on the night of Friday, 26th June, a trader from Samarai, Mr. 'Ernie' Evenett, was anchoring his little launch Sirius off Giwa, opposite Boianai, on the north coast of Goodenough Bay. He had been listening to the 7 o'clock news. Here is his own report of what he saw (as told personally to me). At between 7:15 and 7:30 p.m. on 26th June:

"I saw an object aproach from a north to northeast direction. It was greenish and very bright, with a trail of white fire behind it. It looked like a shooting star. It descended quite close to me, appearing larger and larger, and slowing down until it hovered about 500 feet above me at an angle of about 45 degrees.

"The light on it faded out except for the portholes, which were brightly illuminated. The object had the silhouette of a rugger football, and had a kind of ring or band round it with 4 or 5 semi-domed portholes below the band on the side which I could see. A glow was coming from the portholes.

"From my knowledge of boats I should estimate it as between 60 and 80 feet in length. After hovering for about 4 minutes, it started to move again. As it moved it made three distinct noises like "WOOMP! WOOMP! WOOMP!" It glowed a brilliant greenish white and shot off like a shooting star, at high speed, disappearing toward the mountains to the west of Boianai.

"I was very frightened, but I couldn't take my eyes off it, I was so fascinated."

Unfortunately there seem to have been no other witnesses, except perhaps the boat crew. The Trader did not see it, and when Mr. Evenett told him about it afterwards he did not believe him.

Next day Mr. Evenett crossed over to Boianai where he picked up some native people to take into Samarai. They said to him "Taubada (Sir), did you see the American Air Force last night? We did at Boianai."

When he arrived at Samarai he first told our Mission Secretary, Fr. Kendall, about his experience, and later gave an official report to the District Commissioner.

His sighting is a remarkable confirmation of Fr. Gill's observations. Although the craft which he saw differs in some respects from Fr. Gill's (in any case it couldn't have been the same craft as the times are too close) it was obviously equally 'out of this world.' It is inconceivable that Fr. Gill and Mr. Evennett, perhaps 15 miles apart and unknown to each other, could have invented such similar stories on the very same night.

Although the elongated shape of Evennett's craft, the portholes and the lack of upper deck suggest a different type of craft from the Boianai disc, it must be remembered that if seen in perspective from below (45 degrees) a disc would appear oval in silhouette. The portholes may have been the 'panels' of Gill's object, and the legs may have been retracted, or invisible, and the deck may have been hidden by the steep angle of sight. The discrepancy in estimated size is not significant.

In any case there is little doubt that what Mr. Evenett saw was part of the same fleet of aerial vehicles which visited Goodenough Bay that night.

3. Confirmation from Baniara.

These are the words of the report made at the time by Mr. Ronald Orwin, Assistant District Officer, in charge of Baniara subdistrict, Milne Bay District of Papua.

Sighting of Flying Object, Baniara

"On Saturday, 27th June 1959, at 1940 hours Mr. R. L. Smith noticed a bright white spherical light NNW from Baniara and high in the sky. It appeared to be between 8 and 9 thousands feet from the ground. Both Mr. and Mrs. Orwin also saw this object after Mr. Smith drew their attention to it.

(Continued next issue)