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UFO OVER LAKENHEATH

See page 9

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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CONTENTS

Commentary on the AAAS Symposium:
Dr. J. Allen Hynek .. 3

Twenty-one years of UFO Reports—2:
Dr. J. Allen Hynek .. 6

UFOs over Lakenheath in 1956:
Dr. James E. McDonald .. 9

UFO seen from East Ham:
Charles Bowen 18

The Itapeva Photograph:
Dr. W. Buhler 20

On disappearing UFO photographs:
Gordon Creighton 21

Speech of the Aliens—2:
Dr. P. M. H. Edwards .. 23

Another strange affair at Olavarria:
Gordon Creighton 26

The Ngatea Mystery Circle—1:
Harold H. Fulton 27

A new FSR catalogue—2 .. 29

Mail Bag 30

World Round-up 31

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OVER TO YOU

Whatever the view we take of the Condon Report, we should never forget that it was in its pages that the first publicly-revealed details were given of a remarkable series of UFO incidents at Lakenheath in August 1956. This hitherto secret case is acknowledged as 'unidentified' by the Condon team.

Since the publication of the Report, Dr. James E. McDonald has contrived to make further investigations of the Lakenheath case. He presented his account, with characteristic comment and far more detail than was included in the Report, as illustrative material supporting his paper, given at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Symposium on UFOs, at Boston on December 27, 1969. His account is published in this issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW side by side with contributions by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. One of those who come in for criticism by Dr. McDonald is Dr. Hynek, former scientific consultant to Project Blue Book.

We feel it is as well to remember that Dr. Hynek, by virtue of his contract, was a servant of the United States Government, and had to act accordingly. It was not he who interviewed and selected the officers and NCOs who were posted to Blue Book. In private talks with him we have learned that it was only after eight years as consultant that he became convinced that there was something more to the UFO problem than just fantasy or hoaxing. Eight years would have taken him from 1948 up to 1956, the year of the Lakenheath events. All in all we feel it is as well he took the line he did; a too-openly 'pro' course would probably have earned him an early 'goodbye'. It could well be of benefit to the subject that he stayed on at Blue Book as long as he did and learned all that he did.

To return to the Lakenheath-Bentwaters incidents, it would seem that this case, in which both the US Air Force and the R.A.F. were involved, gives the lie to the official fairy tale which implies that there are no radar-confirmed UFO cases. (Remember Mr. Philip Daly's big BBC-TV programme *Flying Saucers, and people who see them*, broadcast on May 9, 1968? In that documentary we saw and heard a Wing-Commander at Fylingdales say, in effect, that much R.A.F. time is spent investigating so-called UFO reports, all of which have proved absolutely fruitless, and conveying the impression that it is a nonsensical waste of time.) On another occasion the public were told, according to a Ministry of Defence spokesman, that UFOs are things seen at closing time by people emerging from public houses.[1]

We have known for years that UFOs are things reported by thousands of reliable witnesses; that they are like the things seen by Captain Howard, his crew, and the passengers of a BOAC airliner (1954)—as admirably portrayed in the Daly TV documentary, yet without mention of how ground control knew of the presence of the 'unknowns' before warning Capt. Howard, or that the 'scrambled' fighter aircraft recorded both the airliner and the unknowns on its radar scope.

We know now that UFOs are also things that were observed by US Air Force ground radar sets on R.A.F. stations in East Anglia in 1956, seen

simultaneously from the ground by control tower observers, seen by the pilot and 'locked-on' by the radar of an R.A.F. fighter specially sent to investigate.

Perhaps, unwittingly, Dr. Condon and his team provided an impetus for the survival of interest, particularly scientific interest, in this much maligned subject, by exposing Lakenheath to the public gaze.

The US Air Force wanted to be rid of their tiresome UFO responsibility; the Condon Report provided the *dénouement*, and Project Blue Book was killed off. To the surprise of certain interviewers of Press, Radio and Television, few tears have been shed in our circles over the demise of the Project. The general reaction has been that now, maybe, science can get on with the job. The AAAS symposium was a first cautious step towards that goal, although, to quote Dr. McDonald, not much of a dent was made on the establishment. At the time of writing we wait to hear what manner of second step is taken at the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA) meeting, but more of that later.

While the US Air Force 'drops out', while civilian UFO groups fade away, and while the Ministry of Defence admits nothing—although, we suspect, it takes a behind-the-scenes interest—the UFO phenomenon goes on. Not much about it is seen in the newspapers nowadays: editors and others read the first few pages of the Condon Report, and took note of the passing of Blue Book. If they care to read the rest of the Condon Report, and if, by chance, they take note of this issue of FSR as well, perhaps they will realise that the sporadic interest they showed in the subject was not misplaced. They may even realise that it is a phenomenon that has been well-known in official circles although repeatedly denied (probably better known than many think, for example, if the two R.A.F. *Lightning* aircraft briefly seen chasing a mushroom-shaped object near Winchester on October 27, 1967,[2] obtained the films they should have obtained). Maybe someone outside our circle will realise that the subject cries out for proper investigation.

Maybe, by its tacit acknowledgement that certain cases like Lakenheath and McMinnville are inexplicable, and despite the off-stage rumblings by Dr. Condon, and the damaging side-effects, the Condon Report could be construed as saying to science: "Over to you."

NICAP

The observation about UFO groups fading away was prompted by the sorry affair of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). For more than a year it was an open secret that Major Donald Keyhoe's organisation was wracked by grave financial difficulties. We now learn (at time of writing, in mid-January) that only one member of the once flourishing staff remains, that Major Keyhoe has retired from the fray, and that subscription renewals are being returned.

However, information has it that an attempt will be made to continue NICAP's operations on a considerably reduced scale, with a newsletter appearing in place of the *UFO Investigator*.

Whatever our attitudes to the rigid conservatism of NICAP's views on the UFO problem, it is, nonetheless, a very sad thing to learn of the passing of a lusty voice and fellow combatant. We wish the NICAP "rump" the best of luck, and trust that Dr. Condon will not be proved to have been the executioner who struck the *coup de grâce* to end the torment of this proud body.

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1 "The *UFOs caused by drink* department": FSR Vol. 14, No. 2. (March-April, 1968)

2 "Britain's busiest UFO days": FSR Vol. 13, No. 6. (Nov.-Dec., 1967)

PASSPORT TO MAGONIA

In reply to enquiries from readers, we are authorised to announce that Neville Spearman Ltd. are to publish a British edition of Dr. Jacques Vallée's latest book in the autumn of 1970.

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COMMENTARY ON THE AAAS SYMPOSIUM

J. Allen Hynek

For 21 years Dr. Hynek was Civilian Scientific Consultant on UFOs to the U.S. Air Force Project Blue Book. His contract came to an end in the summer of 1969, and the Project was closed down the following December. Dr. Hynek is Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, and Director of Dearborn Observatory. This article was specially prepared for FSR on January 2, 1970.

ALL in all, the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) symposium served its purpose: to inform the scientific public of the status of the UFO problem and give them a chance to note and to examine quite opposing viewpoints; indeed, to inform them that there are valid points of disagreement with the Condon Report which has been taken as the "last word" by most of the scientific community.

The closing of Bluebook just a few days before the symposium seemed like a calculated move to discredit further the symposium, as Dr. Condon himself had tried to do, going so far as sending a copy of his 7-page diatribe to Vice President Agnew!

Problems with weather

The New England weather also seemed bent on discouraging any meetings at all. The heaviest snowstorm on record for parts of New England closed airports, and on the opening day of the meeting there was serious consideration given to cancelling the AAAS symposium altogether! Not only were the opening papers of the UFO symposium given to a sparse audience, but no session anywhere in the meetings had a very good audience. The next day people struggled in by train and by bus. Dr. James McDonald finally made it the next day, having suffered through the closing of the O'Hare airport in Chicago. In the end he flew to Washington, and then came up to Boston by slow train, and completed the trip by bus!

He missed the press conference on the first day, of course. The press was friendly and the viewpoints of the several participants were fairly represented all over the country.

The Condon "Line"

At the conference, the most "pro" person, so to speak, was myself (McDonald having missed it) and the most pronounced "con" man was Dr. Hartmann, who acted like a pocket-sized Condon. He repudiated, in effect, his own work on the Trent photographs (McMinnville, Oregon) and took a strong Condon "party line" all along the way. This surprised many of us, but my personal opinion is that he is a young man "on the make"—as we say in this country—he cannot afford to be "pro-UFO" and expect to get anywhere in the astronomical profession. I feel part of his attitude is "protective colouration."

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, president of the AAAS, sat in on the conference and certainly lent dignity to the whole meeting. He stayed strictly on the fence, acting the perfect scientific diplomat that he is. It was only because he supported the idea that science was to be open minded that Condon was prevented from stopping the meeting in the first place.

The Proceedings of the Symposium, by the way, are to be published in abbreviated form.

A little light relief

The press took particular delight in the Harvard psychiatrist's Grinspoon's hypothesis that some oval- and cigar-shaped UFOs might be purely psychotic in nature. The cigar-shaped ones were dismissed as phallic symbols and the oval ones were attributed to the Isakower effect (1938, Otto Isakower). "The visual impression is that of something shadowy and indefinite, generally felt to be round, which comes nearer and nearer, swells to a gigantic size and threatens to crush the subject. It gradually becomes smaller and shrinks up to nothing . . ."

Isakower contended (and Grinspoon followed) that this oval UFO seen coming closer and closer is nothing more than a recall of infantile perception of the mother's breast coming closer and closer (we must get sex into UFOs somehow!) almost smothering the infant, and later receding into the distance.

This added a bit of levity to the presentation, and after Dr. Grinspoon concluded his paper I arose and said something to the effect that Dr. Condon had indicated in his report that if scientists had a serious research proposal to make concerning UFOs that the government might fund same, and I wondered whether Dr. Grinspoon had considered proposing the following research: "On the Incidence of UFO Reports from Witnesses who had been Bottle-Fed Babies"!

A resolution

The most important thing to come out of the symposium is a resolution addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force asking that no Bluebook files (both classified and unclassified) be destroyed—that they be preserved and deposited with some university and made available to any serious scientific investigator. About ten of us signed the resolution.

I would say, roughly, that the worth of the papers presented at the symposium was proportional to the speaker's acquaintance with the subject, a result to be expected. Thus Dr. Hardy, who admittedly knew little of the problem, expatiated on the vagaries of radar, and

American Association for the Advancement of Science

1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20005

(Sheraton-Boston Hotel) 29 December, 1969

The Hon. Robert Seamans, Jr.
Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The scientists listed below, convened at a General Symposium during the Annual Meeting of the Association, understand that USAF Project BLUE BOOK has been discontinued in accordance with Dr. E. U. Condon's recommendation in the Colorado Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. We know that Project BLUE BOOK accumulated, over the past two decades, irreplaceable data of great historical interest and potential value to physical and (particularly) behavioral scientists.

After two days' discussion of the data involved, the Colorado Study, and several proposed studies by sociologists and psychologists, we formally request that you, Mr. Secretary

(1) Ensure that *all* of the material, both classified and unclassified, be preserved without alteration or loss,

(2) Declassify promptly all documents filed by the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base which are classified by virtue of AFR 200-17 and AFR 80-17,

(3) Make all the unclassified documents available to qualified scientific investigators at a more suitable location than the USAF Archives (we recommend a major university in the mid-west), and

(4) Order an annual review of the remaining classified documents in the present file to determine when they can be declassified without alteration in accordance with current USAF security procedure.

My twelve colleagues, who receive copies of this letter, would appreciate your favouring us with a reply. I can distribute it to the others if you address it to Dr. Page, 18639 Point Lookout Drive, Houston, Texas 77058.

Sincerely,

Thornton Page (Wesleyan University)
Chairman, AAAS Special Committee, for

Walter Orr Roberts, Retiring President, AAAS
Franklin E. Roach, University of Hawaii
William Hartmann, University of Arizona
Lester Grinspoon, Harvard University
Robert Hall, University of Illinois
Philip Morrison, Mass. Inst. of Technology
Douglass Price-Williams, Rice University
J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern University
James McDonald, University of Arizona
Carl Sagan, Cornell University
Walter Sullivan, The New York Times
George Kocher, University of S. California

BOSTON MEETING .. DECEMBER 26-31, 1969

made out a good case for disregarding all radar cases except (I would say) those in which solid visual evidence was also present. This has been my attitude all along: radar returns can be caused by so many anomalies or physical effects that radar reports can be considered as supporting but never as primary evidence in the UFO problem.

Menzel's contribution

Dr. Menzel's paper was presented by Dr. Roberts because of Menzel's illness. Of all the papers, it was the only one to descend to personalities and in particular it lambasted McDonald. I received a lesser blast but still one which, interpreted, made me out as being some where in between a misguided scientist and a congenital idiot. When the time came for rebuttal from the floor, I declined, although McDonald did not and gave Menzel a dressing down (all in good scientific terms, of course). Menzel had stated that he had "solved" many cases for the Air Force that I failed to solve. One case he gave as an example was that of two witnesses in an EM (car stopping) case who, he said, had mistaken the moon for the UFO; the car stopping was, according to him, "entirely irrelevant!" He failed to point out that the moon was in the wrong part of the sky—the witnesses saw the "moon" low in the northern(!) sky, whereupon it suddenly came close and hovered over their car. Perhaps a new textbook in astronomy should be written!

An excellent paper

Dr. Hall gave an excellent presentation. He stressed that UFO witnesses "do not see what they wish to see" but rather try to explain their sighting first in ordinary everyday terms. (This is what I have long called "escalation of hypothesis"—the witness tries to think he saw an airplane, a landing light etc., until he is driven to escalate the explanation to the level of "unknown." He pointed out that many UFO reports stand up better than the best court testimony, and he spoke of the massive social pressure not to make UFO reports.

He disagreed with Hartmann's oversimplified explanation of the UFO problem as a sociological one involving the growth of rumour, fed by newspaper and magazine articles, and so on. Hartmann, it seems to me, fell into the trap many have fallen into: by showing *a way* by which something might conceivably have happened (in this case the whole phenomenon of UFO reports) it is concluded that it must be *the* way it actually did happen.

All in all, Hartmann showed, despite (or perhaps because of?) his association with the Condon Committee, a remarkable lack of acquaintance with the subject. At one point he stated: "Just because we can't identify something doesn't prove that there is something extraordinary going on . . . it just means we haven't been able to identify it." He fails to continue—that it doesn't prove that a simple explanation exists, even though we think it must.

It's the treatment that counts

Douglas Price-Williams had an excellent paper, from my viewpoint. He concluded with a statement we should all keep in mind: "For my part I prefer to think that respectability in Science depends not on the nature of the problem but the way it is treated."

This is the way he concluded an unpublished (publication was refused) paper to *Science* giving a most devastating critique of the methodology of the Condon report. He shows most clearly that the methods used in the Condon report were ones for which a graduate student in science would be severely reprimanded (if not flunked!). Obviously the establishment cannot afford to have a critique of that sort published.

Which brings to mind a paper that Mr. W. T. Powers submitted to *Science;* it was refused with the curt comment by the editor: "At the present time the overwhelming majority of our readers are not interested in a further discussion of UFOs." Nothing was said about the scientific worth of the paper! Such is the establishment!

Now that Bluebook has been terminated I will be free to discuss some of their "scientific" methods and indeed a part of the book I am now writing will be devoted to that.

Roach, in his presentation, limited himself largely, and unfortunately I think, to considerations of extra-terrestrial life, a point that has been amply made before. He could have given some insight into the Condon Committee, but he too is a scientific diplomat.

Concluding talk

One of the best papers was the concluding one, by Dr. Philip Morrison, of M.I.T. He set some fine guidlines for UFO investigators, pointing out that (in effect) even scientists will listen attentively to the UFO investigator when he can assemble data the way Biot did in the famous case of meteorites.

What is required is a "chain of evidence" in that a UFO sighting (particularly by one witness) does not stand "in a vacuum". Given a sighting by one or more people, coupled with a sighting of the *same thing* by *independent* witnesses (independent in locale as well as unrelated by circumstance—thus five people in the same car do not really constitute independent witnesses, but individual people in five separate cars, strangers to each other, would) then one is getting someplace. Emphasis should and must be given to events described independently by several people. It does no good to have Mrs. Jones sighting a strange light, or a hovering craft, no matter how spectacular, from her bedroom window, with no corroboration. But if she saw it looking to the west, and Mr. Smith saw it looking to the east at the same time, and both could have taken photographs, and if other independent witnesses could confirm a "saucer nest" or other markings on the ground (again by photograph), then again science would listen.

There is much to what Morrison said. Being thoroughly acquainted with UFO evidence as it is, I am the first to acknowledge that what is most needed is the upgrading of the original data. If the UFO phenomenon is real (and I think it is) then certainly it can be handled in the same way that other real things can be handled—documented, times confirmed, testimony of independent witnesses obtained by persons knowledgeable in the ways of scientific evidence, and so on.

Morrison's message is essentially —and I heartily agree—that even though the scientific establishment is hostile to the UFO question, it will listen to data presented on its own terms. Had any of us been able, at the Symposium, to have presented the UFO data in the way Biot presented the data on meteorites to the French Academy, then science would listen (and even *Science* would publish the results!). But none of us were able to do so. Partly this was the fault of the nature of the phenomenon (for instance, where does a UFO go when not being observed?). An aircraft starting out from New York to San Francisco is not seen only once, say over Indianapolis; it is seen all along the line, and by successive radars. No one would doubt the existence of a jet liner—even if it were the only one in the world—if it were seen consecutively by many people, photographs taken, radar-scope records taken, as it progressed from New York to the west coast. Unfortunately, UFOs seem to have nearly vertical trajectories! One comes down at one locale and then disappears. How nice if it were to appear a few minutes later in the next town, and so on, so that a time-motion chart of its trajectory could be made. What does a UFO do, indeed, when it disappears from Mr. Brown's vision . . . where is it hiding? As long as sightings are essentially isolated, the establishment just will not listen. I don't agree with them in this, but it is understandable. They are used to consecutive, well ordered data. We don't have it.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF UFO REPORTS - 2

J. Allen Hynek

Concluding the address which Dr. Hynek gave at the AAAS Symposium at Boston, Mass., on December 26, 1969.

WHAT about patterns of UFO reports? How can we classify UFO reports as an aid to their study? Clearly, if each UFO report represents a unique happening, the UFO is not amenable to scientific study. Such a classification, however, must be free of any preconceived ideas as to the nature and cause of UFOs. Thus the classification must be observational; it should be akin to the state of the classification of stellar spectra in the days before we had a theory of stellar spectra, or somewhat like the classification of galaxies is today.

I have adopted a very simple classification system based solely on the manner of observation. Such a system tells us nothing, of course, about the nature of the UFO, but it can suggest a means of gathering further data.

An Observational Classification

There seem to be four basic ways in which the UFO presents itself, so to speak, for human observation: (1) As "Nocturnal Lights," the objects to which the lights are presumably attached being generally barely, if at all, discernible; (2) As "Daytime Discs," when the UFO generally, though not necessarily, appears as a disc or long oval; (3) As "Close Encounters" during day or night; these are sightings made at ranges of less than 1000 feet, and often accompanied by physical effects on the land, on plants and animals, and occasionally on humans; and (4) radar UFOs, a special subset of which is the radar-visual observation, an example of which I gave earlier. (See Part 1).

There is no attempt in this observational classification to be mutually exclusive. Clearly a nocturnal light might be a daylight disc in the daytime, or both might become close encounter, or radar cases.

Nocturnal Lights

Let us examine each category. The nocturnal light report offers the least potential for scientific study, as it has the least information elements and thus a low strangeness index. The nocturnal light UFO can be defined as a light or combination of lights whose kinematic behaviour passes through the filter; i.e. it cannot be logically ascribed to balloons, aircraft, meteors, planets, satellites, satellite re-entries, or missiles. The experienced investigator generally has no difficulty with the screening process here. Years of checking enable him to filter these out almost at first glance. Of course, should a UFO choose to masquerade as a hot air balloon or a photographic night air exercise, there is no easy way of differentiation, at least as long as we are limited to observing from the ground. If we had immediate reaction capabilities, and could send a interceptor, then we could clear the matter up quickly or, perhaps, we would experience what has often been reported in the past twenty years: as the intercepting plane approaches the light in question, it either suddenly goes out or seems to take off and soon outdistances the investigator. In that event the originally reported NL earns its place among other members of the Nocturnal Light category.

As an example of this category we have a case I investigated personally, involving five witnesses, the senior witness being the long-time associate director of a prominent laboratory at MIT. The nocturnal light was first sighted by his son, who had been out airing the dogs. He came bounding into the house crying, "There's a flying saucer outside!" The senior observer picked up a pair of binoculars on his way out. He told me that he didn't expect to see anything unusual but was going out to see what the commotion was all about. For the following ten minutes he was engrossed by what he saw—the nature of the light, its motions, its hovering, and its take-off. He described the light as having a high colour-temperature although essentially a point source, subtending less than a minute of arc in the binoculars. The five observers were fortunately able to compare it to an airliner and a helicopter, both of which passed by during the observation interval and neither the motions nor lights of these craft bore any resemblance to those of the UFO, sub-class NL. The trajectory of the object was plotted against the framework of the branches of a denuded tree. This observer was a good one, and in his report included the condition of his eyes and that of members of his family. The adult observers were both far sighted and the senior observer wore glasses only for reading.

Incidentally, all my attempts as scientific consultant to the Air Force at that time, to mount a serious investigation of this case, came to naught. The Blue Book

evaluation is, however, Unidentified, but somehow the word *unidentified* is not a challenge to inquiry. It has been classified as *unidentified*, and therefore the case is solved—it has been identified as Unidentified!

So certain is the Air Force, at least publicly, that all UFO reports must represent normal things that they see no point to serious investigation. In most of the time I acted as consultant to the Air Force I repeatedly urged immediate reaction capability and proper scientific investigation, but to no avail.

Daylight Discs

The next classification category is the Daylight Disc. These are reported daylight sightings of objects seen at moderate distances. The prototype report runs something like this: I was driving along and there crossed over in front of me, a shiny metallic disc. It seemed about 500-1000 feet above the road. It came down fairly close to the ground, stopped and hovered with a wobbling motion and then took off with incredible speed, straight up, and was gone in a few seconds. There was no noise.

This daylight category quite understandably has more photographs to support it than all the others put together. An example is the McMinnville, Oregon case which the Condon Report lists as unsolved.

A photographic daylight disc case was reported by three prospectors in bush country near Calgary, Alberta. I personally investigated the terrain, the people, the negatives, and the camera. Mr. Fred Beckman of the University of Chicago and I have satisfied ourselves that the images on these colour negatives are real images. The terrain, the interrogations of the witnesses, plus the sworn affadavit of the principal witness all lead me to put this into the class of the McMinnville photos, but as with so many other cases, one is finally impaled by uncertainty.

These photographs do not stand alone, however. The published literature on UFOs is replete with such photographs. Some are patent hoaxes, but most have never been investigated sufficiently to rule out very sophisticated hoaxes. A hoax is all one has to rule out, however. For if the daytime photo shows any detail at all, aircraft and balloons etc., are immediately ruled out. The picture itself is sufficient to establish the strangeness index. It is the other coordinate, credibility, that is difficult. Proper interrogation, tracing of the processing history of the negative, microscopic and microphotometric examination of the negative plus proper psychological testing of the witnesses to the taking of the photograph, should serve to rule out all but the most highly sophisticated, expensive, and laboriously contrived hoaxes. Now in any one case it is clearly impossible ever to state unequivocally that a photo of a daylight disc is genuine, but I would submit that 25 such separate photographic cases, each subjected to exhaustive tests, would allow us to approach certainty asymptotically, so that we could say that the *probability* of a hoax in all 25 cases is vanishingly small.

Even so, this would not prove the existence of truly strange flying objects, but it should provide sufficient ustification for the proper attention to the phenomenon by the scientific world. And that is, of course, all that I advocate: that the subject of UFO reports is worthy of serious scientific attention. Inherent in the sheaves of UFO reports there may well be many doctoral dissertations for physicists, sociologists and psychologists alike. The problem is interdisciplinary, which because of the magic of that word, ought to get some of you grants!

Close Encounters

The third category of UFO reports, the Close Encounter, offers by far the greatest potential for scientific study. Since a close encounter obviously offers a greater chance for observation, we can expect, and we get, many more information elements, and hence a higher strangeness index.

It is in this category that the theory of simple misperception fails utterly in explaining *reports* of craft landing 100 feet away, of visible marks left on the ground, of animals and people visibly affected, and of automobiles temporarily stopped on the road. Here we must either say that the witnesses were mentally unbalanced or something most interesting actually happened. However, I am not taking sides; I am merely reporting to you what is reported, over the world, and by seemingly competent witnesses.

I divide the close encounter cases into three subdivisions: the close encounter, pure and simple; the close encounter with physical effects, and finally, the close encounter in which "Humanoids" or occupants enter the picture. It is the latter subgroup which of course has the highest strangeness index and frightens away all but the most hardy investigators. Since my role here is that of reporter, I would be neither a good reporter nor scientist were I to deliberately reject data. There are now on record some 1200 reports of close encounters, about half of which involve reported craft occupants. Reports of occupants have been with us for years but there are only a few in the Air Force files, for generally Bluebook summarily, and without investigation, consigned such reports to the "psychological" or crackpot category.

A prototype of the close encounter *per se* is that of witnesses driving along a lonely road when the driver spies a strange glare in his rear view mirror. He becomes frightened, increases his speed to over 100 mph, trying to outdistance the UFO, but cannot. He stops the car, and tries to take cover. Shortly the light goes away, rising and vanishing quickly in the distance. One can say that such witnesses were mentally unbalanced, but just try saying that to their faces, especially when you discover that they are respected members of their communities and hold responsible positions.

Now the close encounter with physical effects. This is the category which interests me the most, since the reported effects on animal, vegetable and mineral are potentially measurable. For instance, there are more than a hundred reports on record of UFOs that caused car ignition failures. The all too typical case runs something like this: Suddenly, as if from nowhere, a bright light appears and soon seems to seek out the witnesses' car. As it stops to hover over the car, the car lights dim or fail as the engine dies. Often the occupants of the car report feeling hot and prickly. After a few minutes the apparition leaves, and the car returns to

normal operation, but the witnesses often do not, their equanimity temporarily destroyed.

Witnesses of such encounters do not readily lend themselves to interrogation. Often they tell no one for days, or they tell only very close associates. Eventually a serious UFO investigator comes to hear about it, and then the story unfolds. When they do unwisely tell their story indiscriminately their lives are invariably made miserable by ridicule and the taunts of unsympathetic so-called friends.

Let us consider the probabilities in car failure cases. On a cross country trip we occasionally come across a car disabled by the roadside, its hood up, waiting for the repairman or the tow truck. We should regard it as odd, and of low probability, were the car to heal itself, so to speak, and after a few minutes proceed as if nothing had happened. Now, however, if we add the condition that the event must be accompanied by a very bright unexplained light which hovers over the car, then I submit that such probabilities are extremely small. And when we deal not with two or three such cases, but many dozens, we are driving to the conclusion that something most extraordinary happened. If we have in these cases what Goudge calls genuinely new empirical observations requiring new explanation schemes, then we can anticipate not merely a scientific breakthrough, but one enormous quantum jump which will make the transition from classical physics to modern physics seem like child's play, but it may not be around the corner.

We in the 20th century may be as far away from a solution of the UFO problem as 19th century physicists were from an interpretation of the aurora borealis. It is, under those circumstances, still incumbent upon us as scientists to document and study the phenomenon to the best of our ability. But at present, however, the absence of continued scientific study of the phenomenon still leaves it unclear as to whether genuinely new empirical observations exist. Yet even the Condon Report left unexplained some quarter of the copy examined.

Radar Cases

The fourth observational category contains those UFO *reports* involving radar. There are many reports in this category from responsible persons—pilots and control tower operators. I have paid little attention to the radar cases, since I am no radar expert and the radar expert at Bluebook invariably ascribed all radar cases to malfunctions or anomalous propagation, sometimes, I felt, on the grounds that since UFOs didn't exist, there could be no possible other solution. The Condon Report, however, contains the following remark about one such case: "This must remain as one of the most puzzling radar cases on record—and no conclusion is possible at this time. It seems inconceivable that an anomalous propagation echo would behave in the manner described, even if anomalous propagation had been likely at the time."

Radar-visual cases offer more scope for study. The Lakenheath (England) case, studied by the Condon Committee, remains an unknown, with the remark: "In summary, this is the most puzzling and unusual case in the radar-visual files. The apparently rational intelligent behaviour of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation of the sighting. However, in view of the inevitable fallibility of witnesses, more conventional explanations of this report cannot be entirely ruled out." In actuality, if one reads the body of the Condon Report carefully, one finds that it constitutes about as good a case for the scientific study of UFOs as I feel would have been possible by any group not initially conversant with the subject and having limited time and funds.

Some of you may be surprised that a considerable body of UFO evidence exists. We have here the crux of the problem: neither you, as informed, active scientists, nor the public, have access to this information. Unfortunately, you who may wish to be informed about UFOs must get your information in the intellectual alleys where it is written like forbidden words on the back fences of literature—the pulp magazines, the sensational adventure, mystery and sex magazines. There is in this country not one scientific journal in which I could publish a well documented UFO case, yet a recent bibliography of UFO literature of all and sundry sorts ran to 400 pages. It would appear that the UFO has become a problem for the librarian sooner than it has for the scientist.

Dilemma Facing Serious Witnesses

Consider, too, the plight of a serious UFO witness. I know they exist because I have interviewed several hundred. Where can they go to report? Only the most naive would today report to the Air Force. To report to the local police is scarcely better. Many witnesses have told me of the ridicule they met when they took that path. Besides, I have seen many police blotters. UFO reports are entered as "complaints."

The witness, if he wishes to report, must seek out the relatively few persons or organisations which will lend a sympathetic ear. My own mail brings me very good UFO reports, generally with a request for anonymity, but I have neither the time nor the funds to make proper investigations.

As I look back over the past 21 years' association with the UFO problem, I note that the intellectual climate today is enormously better for taking a good look at it than it was even a few years ago. This Symposium is itself an example. It would have been impossible to have held it even a year or two ago. In fact, it *was* impossible to hold it last year. And had I, years ago, when I realised the nature of some of the reports in the Air Force files, attempted to call for a major investigation, I would simply have been labelled a nut and thereby would have lost all possible future effectiveness.

Conclusions

In summary, then; the results of my 21 years of monitoring of UFO reports is:

1. Reports of UFO observations exist after the deletion of the pronouncements of crackpots, visionaries, religious fanatics, et al.

2. A large number of UFO reports are readily identifiable by trained investigators as misperception of known objects and events.

3.A small residue of UFO reports are *not* so identifiable. These:

(*continued on page 22*)

UFOs OVER LAKENHEATH IN 1956

James E. McDonald

This is the second of four illustrative reports referred to by Dr. McDonald in the talk* he gave to the Symposium on UFOs at the 134th Meeting, AAAS, Boston, Mass., on December 27, 1969. Nothing was known publicly of these events until they were discussed in the Condon Report. In a letter dated January 8, 1970, Dr. McDonald suggested that readers of FSR might like to know what happened over East Anglia on the night of August 13-14, 1956. We are sure they *would* like to know, and we are pleased to be able to present this remarkable account. Dr. McDonald, whose other cases will be published in subsequent issues of FSR, is Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

THIS case is a specific illustration of what I regard as serious shortcomings of case-investigations in the Condon Report and in the 1947-69 Air Force UFO programme. Scientific inadequacies in past years of UFO investigations by Air Force Project Bluebook have *not* been remedied through publication of the Condon Report, and there remain scientifically very important unsolved problems with respect to UFOs. The investigative and evaluative deficiencies illustrated in this, and other cases examined in detail, are paralleled by equally serious shortcomings in many other cases in the sample of about 90 UFO cases treated in the Condon Report. Endorsement of the conclusions of the Condon Report by the American National Academy of Sciencies appears to have been based on entirely superficial examination of the Report and the cases treated therein. Further study, conducted on a much more sound level, is needed.

Introduction of the case

One of many scientifically intriguing UFO reports that have lain in USAF/Bluebook files for years without knowledge thereof by the scientific community, the Lakenheath case was conceded to be unexplainable in the Condon Report.

My discussion will be based upon the 30-page Bluebook case-file, plus certain other information presented on it in the Condon Report. None of the names of military personnel involved are given in the Condon Report. (Witness names, dates, and locales are deleted from all of the main group of cases in that report, seriously impeding independent scientific check of case materials.) I secured copies of the case-file from Bluebook, but all names of military personnel involved in the incident were cut out of the Xerox copies prior to releasing the material to me. Hence I have been unable to interview personally the key witnesses. However, there is no indication that anyone on the Colorado Project did any personal interviews either, so it would appear I have had access to the same basic data used in the Condon Report's treatment of this extremely interesting case.

For no justified reason, the Condon Report not only deletes witness names, but also names of localities of the UFO incidents in its main sample of 59 cases. In this Lakenheath case, deletion of locality names creates much confusion for the reader, since three distinct RAF stations figure in the incident and since the discharged non-commissioned officer, from whom the Committee received first word of this UFO episode, confused the names of two of those stations in his own account that appears in the Condon Report. That, plus other reportorial deficiencies in the presentation of the Lakenheath case in the Condon Report, will almost certainly have concealed its real significance from most readers of the Report.

Unfortunately, the basic Bluebook file is itself about as confusing as most Bluebook files on UFO cases. I shall attempt to mitigate as many of those difficulties as I can in the following, by putting the account into better over-all order than one finds in the Condon Report treatment.

General Circumstances

The entire episode extended from about 2130Z, August 13, to 0330Z, August 14, 1956, so this is a night-time case. The events occurred in east-central England, chiefly in Suffolk.

The initial reports centred around **Bentwaters RAF Station,** located about six miles east of Ipswich, near the coast, while much of the subsequent action centres around **Lakenheath RAF Station,** located some 20 miles northeast of Cambridge. **Sculthorpe RAF Station** also figures in the account, but only to a minor extent; it is near Fakenham, in the vicinity of The Wash.

GCA (Ground Controlled Approach) radars at two of those three stations were involved in the ground

* The talk was entitled: "Science in Default: 22 Years of Inadequate UFO Investigations."

radar sightings, as was an RTCC (Radar Traffic Control Centre) radar unit at Lakenheath.

The USAF non-com who wrote to the Colorado Project about this incident was a Watch Supervisor on duty at Lakenheath RTCC unit that night. His detailed account is reproduced in the Condon Report (pp 248-251). The Report comments on "the remarkable accuracy of the account of the witness as given in (his reproduced letter), which was apparently written from memory 12 years after the incident." I would concur but would note that, had the Colorado Project only investigated more such striking cases of past years, it would have found many other witnesses in UFO cases whose vivid recollections often match surprising well checkable contemporary accounts. My experience thereon has been that, in multiple-witness cases where one can evaluate consistency of recollections, the more unusual and inexplicable the original UFO episode, the more it impressed upon the several witnesses' memories a meaningful and still-useful pattern of relevant recollections. Doubtless another important factor operates: the UFO incidents that are the most striking and most puzzling probably have been discussed by the key witnesses enough times that their recollections have been thereby reinforced in a useful way.

The only map given in the Condon Report is based on a sketch-map made by the non-com who alerted them to the case. It is misleading, for Sculthorpe is shown 50 miles east of Lakenheath, whereas it actually lies 30 miles north-northeast. The map does not show Bentwaters at all; it is actually some 40 miles east-southeast of Lakenheath. Even basic items as those locations do not appear to have been ascertained by those who prepared the discussion of this case in the Condon Report, which is most unfortunate, yet not atypical.

That this incident was subsequently discussed by many Lakenheath personnel was indicated to me by a chance event. In the course of my investigations of another radar UFO case from the Condon Report, that of 11/9/67 at Kincheloe AFB, I found that the radar operator involved therein had previously been stationed with the USAF detachment at Lakenheath and knew of the events at second-hand because they were still being discussed there by radar personnel when he arrived many months later.

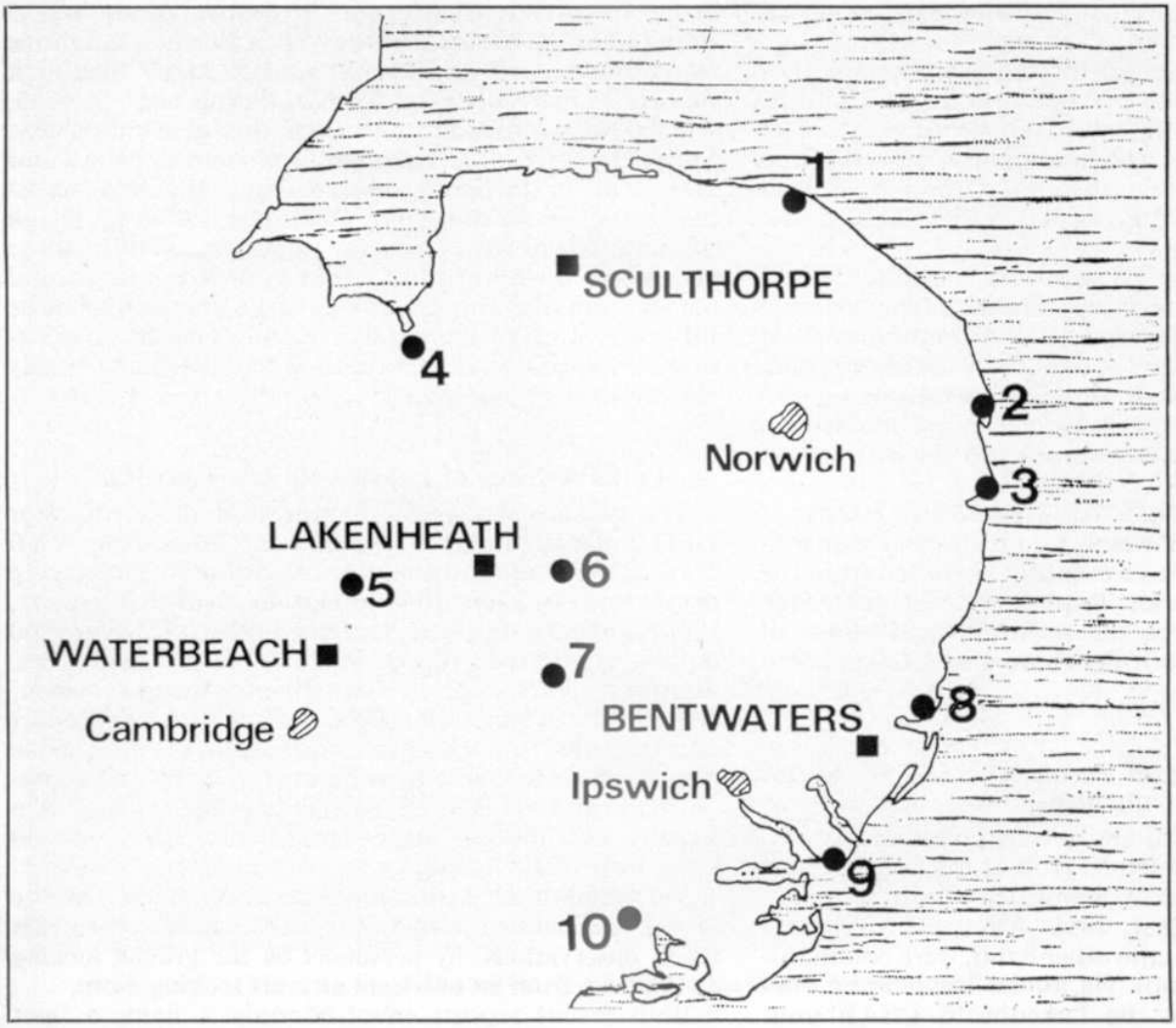
Initial Events at Bentwaters, 2130Z to 2200Z

One of the *many* unsatisfactory aspects of the Condon Report is its frequent failure to put before the reader a complete account of the UFO cases it purports to analyse scientifically. In the present instance, the Report omits all details of *three* quite significant radar-sightings made by Bentwaters GCA personnel prior to their alerting the Lakenheath GCA and RTCC groups at 2255 LST. This omission is certainly not because of correspondingly slight mention in the original Bluebook case-file; rather, the Bentwaters sightings actually receive *more* Bluebook attention than the subsequent Lakenheath events. Hence, I do not see how such omissions in the Condon Report can be justified.

a. First radar sighting, 2130Z Bentwaters GCA operator, A/2c — (I shall use a blank to indicate the names razor-bladed out of my copies of the case-file prior to release of the file items to me), reported picking up a target 25-30 miles ESE, which moved at very high speed on constant 295° heading across his scope until he lost it 15-20 miles to the NW of Bentwaters. In the Bluebook file, A/2c — is reported as describing it as a strong radar echo, comparable to that of a typical aircraft, until it weakened near the end of its path across his scope. He is quoted as estimating a speed of the order of 4000 mph, but two other cited quantities suggest even higher speeds. A transit time of 30 seconds is given, and if one combines that with the reported range of distance traversed, 40-50 miles, a speed of about 5000-6000 mph results. Finally, A/2c — stated that it covered about 5-6 miles per sweep of the AN/MPN-11A GCA radar he was using. The sweep-period for that set is given as 2 seconds (30 rpm), so this yields an even higher speed-estimate of about 9000 mph. (Internal discrepancies of this sort are quite typical of Bluebook case-files, I regret to say. My study of many such files during the past three years leaves me no conclusion but that Bluebook work has never represented high-calibre scientific work, but rather has operated as a perfunctory bookkeeping and filing operation during most of its life. Of the three speed figures just mentioned, the latter derives from the type of observation most likely to be reasonably accurate, in my opinion. The displacement of a series of successive radar-blips on a surveillance radar such as the MPN-11A, can be estimated to perhaps a mile or so with little difficulty, when the operator has as large a number of successive blips to work with as is here involved. Nevertheless, it is necessary to regard the speed as quite uncertain here, though presumably in the range of several thousand miles per hour and hence not associable with any conventional aircraft, nor with still higher-speed meteors either.)

b. Second radar sighting, 2130-2155Z A few minutes after the preceding event, T/Sgt — picked up on the same MPN-11A a group of 12-15 objects about 8 miles SW of Bentwaters. In the report to Bluebook, he pointed out that "these objects appeared as normal targets on the GCA scope and that normal checks made to determine possible malfunctions of the GCA radar failed to indicate anything was technically wrong." The dozen or so objects were moving together towards the NE at varying speeds, ranging between 80 and 125 mph, and "the 12 to 15 unidentified objects were preceded by 3 objects which were in a triangular formation with an estimated 1000 feet separating each object in this formation." The dozen objects to the rear "were scattered behind the lead formation of 3 at irregular intervals with the whole group simultaneously covering a 6 to 7 mile area," the official report notes.

Consistent radar returns came from this group during their 25-minute movement from the point at which they were first picked up, 8 miles SW, to a point about 40 miles NE of Bentwaters, their echoes decreasing in intensity as they moved off to the NE. When the group reached a point some 40 miles NE, they all appeared to converge to form a single radar echo whose intensity is described as several times larger than a B-36 return under comparable conditions. Then motion ceased, while this single strong echo remained *stationary* for 10-15 minutes. It then resumed motion



KEY:

1. Cromer
2. Great Yarmouth
3. Lowestoft
4. Kings Lynn
5. Ely
6. Thetford
7. Bury St. Edmunds
8. Aldeburgh
9. Felixstowe
10. Colchester

to the NE for 5-6 miles, stopped again for 3-5 minutes, and finally moved northward and off the scope.

c. Third radar sighting, 2200Z Five minutes after the foregoing formation moved off-scope, T/Sgt — detected an unidentified target about 30 miles E of the Bentwaters GCA station, and tracked it in a rapid westward motion to a point about 25 miles W of the station, where the object "suddenly disappeared off the radar screen by rapidly moving out of the GCA radation pattern," according to his interpretation of the event. Here again, we get discordant speed information, for T/Sgt — gave the speed only as being "in excess of 4000 mph," whereas the time-duration of the tracking, given as 16 seconds, implies a speed of 12,000 mph, for the roughly 55 miles track-length reported. Nothing in the Bluebook files indicates that this discrepancy was investigated further or even noticed, so one can say only that the apparent speed lay far above that of conventional aircraft.

d. Other observations at Bentwaters A control tower sergeant, aware of the concurrent radar-tracking, noted a light "the size of a pin-head at arm's length," at about 10° elevation to the SSE. It remained there for about one hour, intermittently appearing and disappearing. Since Mars was in that part of the sky at that time, a reasonable interpretation is that the observer was looking at that planet.

A T-33 of the 512th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, returning to Bentwaters from a routine flight at about 2130Z, was vectored to the NE to search for the group of objects being tracked in that sector. Their search, unaided by airborne radar, led to no airborne sighting of any aircraft or other objects in that area, and after about 45 minutes they terminated search, having seen only a bright star in the east and a coastal beacon as anything worth noting. The Bluebook case-file contains 1956 USAF discussions of the case that make a big point of the inconclusiveness of the tower operator's sighting and the negative results of the T-33 search, but say nothing about the much more puzzling radar-tracking incidents than to stress that they were of "divergent" directions, intimating that this somehow put them in the category of anomalous propagation, which scarcely follows.

Indeed, none of the three cited radar sightings exhibits any feature typical of AP echoes. The winds over the Bentwaters area are given in the file. They jump from the surface level (winds from 230° at 5-10 kts) to the 6000 ft. level (260°, 30 kts), and then hold at a steady 260° up to 50,000 ft, with speeds rising to a maximum of 90 kts near 30,000 ft. Even if one sought to invoke the highly dubious Borden-Vickers hypothesis (moving waves on an inversion surface), not even the slowest of the tracked echoes (80-125 mph) could be accounted

for, nor is it even clear that the direction would be explainable.

Furthermore, the strength of the individual echoes (stated as comparable to normal aircraft returns), the merging of the 15 or so into a single echo, the two intervals of stationarity, and final motion off-scope at a direction about 45° from the initial motion, are all wholly unexplained in terms of AP in these 2130-2155Z incidents.

The extremely high-speed westward motion of single targets is even further from any known radar-anomaly associated with disturbed propagation conditions. Blips that move across scopes from one sector to the opposite, in steady heading at steady apparent speed, correspond neither to AP nor to internal electronic disturbances. Nor could interference phenomena fit such observed echo behaviour.

Thus, this 30-minute period, 2130-2200Z, embraced three distinct events for which no satisfactory explanation exists. That these three events are omitted from the discussions in the Condon Report is unfortunate, for they serve to underscore the scientific significance of subsequent events at both Bentwaters and Lakenheath stations.

Comments on Reporting of Events After 2255Z August 13, 1956

The events summarised above were communicated to Bluebook by Capt. Edward L. Holt of the 81st Fighter-Bomber Wing stationed at Bentwaters, as Report No. IR-1-56, dated 31 August, 1956. All events occurring subsequent to 2200Z, on the other hand, were communicated to Project Bluebook via an earlier, lengthy teletype transmission from the Lakenheath USAF unit, sent out in the standard format of the report-form specified by regulation AFR200-2. Two teletype transmissions, dated August 17, 1956 and August 21, 1956, identical in basic content, were sent from Lakenheath to Bluebook. The Condon Report presents the content of that teletype report on pp. 252-254, in full, except for deletion of all names and localities and omission of one important item to be noted later here. However, most readers will be entirely lost because what is presented actually constitutes a set of answers to questions that are not stated! The Condon Report does not offer the reader the hint that the version of AFR200-2 appearing in the Report's Appendix, pp. 819-826 (there identified by its current designation, AFR80-17) would provide the reader with the standardised questions needed to translate much of the otherwise extremely confusing array of answers on pp. 252-254. For that reason, plus others, many readers will almost certainly be greatly (and entirely unnecessarily) confused on reading this important part of the Lakenheath report in the Condon Report.

That confusion, unfortunately, does not wholly disappear upon laboriously matching questions with answers, for it has long been one of the salient deficiencies of the USAF programme of UFO report-collection that the format of AFR200-2 (or its sequel AFR80-17) is usually only barely adequate and (especially for complex episodes such as that involved here) often entirely incapable of affording the reporting office enough scope to set out clearly and in proper chronological order all of the events that may be of potential scientific significance. Anyone who has studied many Bluebook reports in the AFR200-2 format, dating back to 1953, will be uncomfortably aware of this gross difficulty. Failure to carry out even modest followup investigations and incorporate findings thereof into Bluebook case-files leaves most intriguing Bluebook UFO cases full of unsatisfactorily answered questions. But those deficiences do not, in my opinion, prevent the careful reader from discerning that very large numbers of those UFO cases carry highly significant scientific implications, implications of an intriguing problem going largely unexamined in past years.

Initial Alerting of Lakenheath GCA and RTCC

The official files give no indication of any further UFO radar sightings by Bentwaters GCA from 2200 until 2255Z. But, at the latter time, another fast-moving target was picked up 30 miles East of Bentwaters, heading almost due west at a speed given as "2000-4000 mph". It passed almost directly over Bentwaters, disappearing from their GCA scope for the usual beam-angle reason when within 2-3 miles (the Condon Report intimates that this close-in disappearance is diagnostic of AP, which seems to be some sort of tacit over-acceptance of the 1952 Borden-Vickers hypothesis), and then moving on until it disappeared from the scope 30 miles west of Bentwaters.

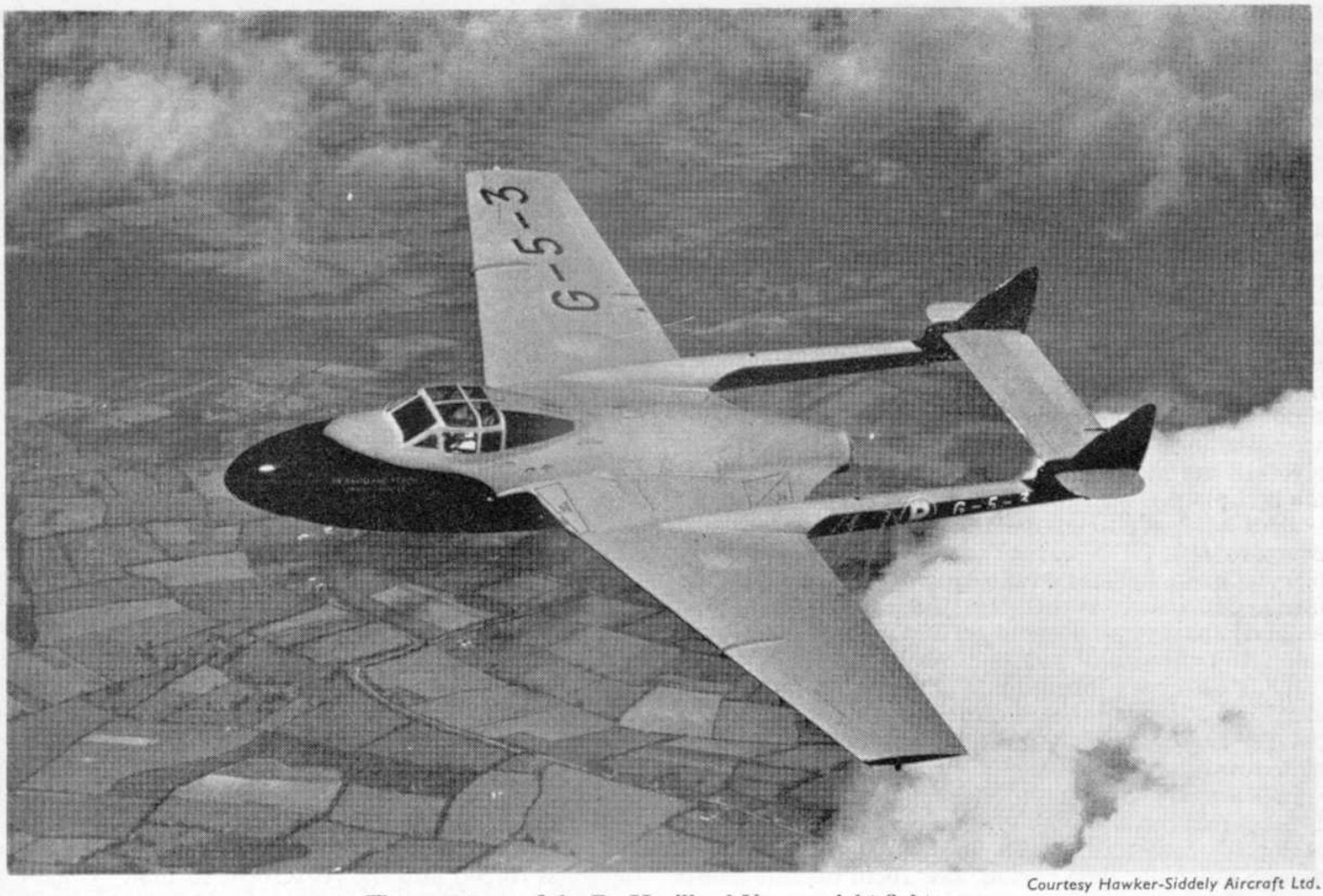
Very significantly, this radar-tracking of the passage of the unidentified target was matched by concurrent visual observations, by personnel on the ground looking up and also from an overhead aircraft looking down.

Both visual reports involved only a light, a light described as blurred out by its high speed; but since the aircraft (identified as a C-47 by the Lakenheath non-com whose letter called this case to the attention of the Colorado Project) was flying only at 4000 ft, the altitude of the unknown object is bracketed within rather narrow bounds.

No mention of any sonic boom appears; but the total number of seemingly quite credible reports of UFOs moving at speeds far above sonic values and yet not emitting booms is so large that one must count this as just one more instance of many currently inexplicable phenomena associated with the UFO problem.

The reported speed is not fast enough for a meteor, nor does the low-altitude flat trajectory and absence of a conclusive shock wave match any meteoric hypothesis. That there was visual confirmation from observation points both above and below this fast-moving radar-tracked object must be viewed as adding still further credence to, and scientific interest in, the prior three Bentwaters radar sightings of the previous hour.

Apparently immediately after the 2255Z events, Bentwaters GCA alerted GCA Lakenheath, which lay off to its WNW. The answers to Questions 2(A) and 2(B) of the AFR200-2 format (on p. 253 of the Condon Report) *seem* to imply that Lakenheath ground observers were alerted in time to see a luminous object come in, at an estimated altitude of 2000-2500 ft, and on a heading towards SW. The lower estimated altitude and the altered heading do not match the Bentwaters



Courtesy Hawker-Siddely Aircraft Ltd.

The prototype of the De Havilland Venom night fighter

sighting, and the ambiguity so inherent in the AFR200-2 format simply cannot be eliminated here, so the precise timing is not certain. All that seems certain here is that, at or subsequent to the Bentwaters alert-message, Lakenheath ground observers saw a luminous object come in out of the NE at low altitude, then *stop*, and take up an easterly heading and resume motion eastward out of sight.

The precise time-sequence of the subsequent observations is not clearly deducible from the Lakenheath TWX sent in compliance with AFR200-2. But that many very interesting events, scientifically very baffling events, soon took place is clear from the report. No followup, from Bluebook or other USAF sources, was undertaken, and so this potentially very important case, like hundreds of others, simply went into the Bluebook files unclarified.

I am forced to stress that nothing reveals so clearly the past years of scientifically inadequate UFO investigation as a few days' visit to Wright-Patterson AFB and a diligent reading of Bluebook case reports. No one with any genuine scientific interest in solving the UFO problem would have let accumulate so many years of reports like this one without seeing to it that the UFO reporting and followup investigations were brought into entirely different status from that in which they have lain for over 20 years.

Deficiencies having been noted, I next catalogue, without benefit of the exact time-ordering that is so crucial to full assessment of any UFO event, the intriguing observations and events at or near Lakenheath subsequent to the 2255Z alert from Bentwaters.

Non-chronological Summary of Lakenheath Sightings

a. Visual observations from ground

As noted two paragraphs above, following the 2255Z alert from GCA Bentwaters, USAF ground observers at the Lakenheath RAF Station observed a luminous object come in on a southwesterly heading, stop, and then move off out of sight to the east. Subsequently, at an unspecified time, two moving white lights were seen, and "grounded observers stated one white light joined up with another and both disappeared in formation together" (recall earlier radar observations of merging of targets seen by Bentwaters GCA). No discernible features of these luminous sources were noted by ground observers, but both the observers and radar operators concurred in their report-description that "the objects (were) travelling at terrific speeds and then stopping and changing course immediately."

In a passage of the original Bluebook report which was for some reason not included in the version presented in the Condon Report, this concordance of radar and visual observations is underscored: "Thus two radar sets (*i.e.*, Lakenheath GCA and RATCC

radars) and three ground observers report substantially the same." Later in the original Lakenheath report, this same concordance is reiterated: ". . . the fact that radar and ground visual observations were made on its rapid acceleration and abrupt stops certainly lend credulance (*sic*) to the report."

Since the date of this incident coincides with the date of peak frequency of the Perseid meteors, one might ask whether any part of the visual observations could have been due to Perseids. The basic Lakenheath report to Bluebook notes that the ground observers reported "unusual amount of shooting stars in sky", indicating that the erratically moving light(s) were readily distinguishable from meteors. The report further remarks thereon that "the objects seen were definitely not shooting stars as there were no trails as are usual with such sightings." Furthermore, the stopping and course reversals are incompatible with any such hypothesis in the first place.

AFR200-2 stipulates that the observer be asked to compare the UFO to the size of various familiar objects when held at arm's length (Item 1-B in the format). In answer to that item, the report states: "One observer from ground stated on first observation object was about the size of golf ball. As object continued in flight it became a 'pin point'." Even allowing for the usual inaccuracies in such estimates, this further rules out Perseids, since that shower yields only meteors of quite low luminosity.

In summary of the ground-visual observations, it appears that three ground observers at Lakenheath saw at least two luminous objects, saw these over an extended though indefinite time period, saw them execute sharp course-changes, saw them remain motionless at least once, saw two objects merge into a single luminous object at one juncture, and reported motions in general accord with concurrent radar observations. These ground-visual observations, in themselves, constitute scientifically interesting UFO report-material. Neither astronomical nor aeronautical explanations, nor any meteorological-optical explanations, match well those reported phenomena.

One could certainly wish for a far more complete and time-fixed report on these visual observations, but even the above information suffices to suggest some unusual events. The unusualness will be seen to be even greater on next examining the ground-radar observations from Lakenheath. And even stronger interest emerges as we then turn, last of all, to the airborne-visual and airborne-radar observations made near Lakenheath.

b. Ground-radar observations at Lakenheath

The GCA surveillance radar at Lakenheath is identified as a CPN-4, while the RATCC search radar was a CPS-5 (as the non-com correctly recalled in his letter). Because the report makes clear that these two sets were concurrently following the unknown targets, it is relevant to note that they have different wavelengths, pulse repetition frequencies, and scan-rates, which (for reasons that need not be elaborated here) tends to rule out several radar-anomaly hypotheses (*e.g.*, interference echoes from a distant radar, second-time-around effects, AP). However, the reported manoeuvres are so unlike any of those spurious effects that it seems almost unnecessary to confront those possibilities here.

As with the ground-visual observations, so also with these radar-report items, the AFR200-2 format limitations plus the other typical deficiencies of reporting of UFO events preclude reconstruction in detail, and in time-order, of all the relevant events. I get the impression that the first object seen visually by ground observers was not radar-tracked, although this is unclear from the report to Bluebook.

One target whose motions were jointly followed both on the CPS-5 at the Radar Air Traffic Control Centre and on the shorter range, faster-scanning CPN-4 at the Lakenheath GCA unit was tracked "from 6 miles west to about 20 miles SW where target stopped and assumed a stationary position for five minutes. Target then assumed a heading northwesterly (I presume this was intended to read 'northeasterly', and the non-com so indicates in his recollective account of what appears to be the same manoeuvres) into the Station and stopped two miles NW of Station. Lakenheath GCA reports three to four additional targets were doing the same manoeuvres in the vicinity of the Station. Thus two radar sets and three ground observers report substantially the same."

Note that the quoted item includes the full passage omitted from the Condon Report version, and note that it *seems* to imply that this devious path with two periods of stationary hovering was also reported by the visual observers. However, the latter is not entirely certain because of ambiguities in the structure of the basic report as forced into the AFR200-2 format.

At some time, which context seems to imply as rather later in the night (the radar sightings went on until about 0330Z), "Lakenheath Radar Air Traffic Control Centre observed an object 17 miles east of the Station making sharp rectangular course of flight. This manoeuvre was not conducted by circular path but on right angles at speeds of 600-800 mph. Object would stop and start with amazing rapidity."

The report remarks that ". . . the controllers are experienced and technical skills were used in attempts to determine just what the objects were. When the target would stop on the scope, the MTI was used. However, the target would still appear on the scope."

MTI, Moving Target Indication, is a standard feature on search or surveillance radars that eliminates ground returns and returns from large buildings and other motionless objects. This very curious feature of display of stationary modes while the MTI was on, adds further strong argument to the negation of any hypothesis of anamolous propagation of ground-returns. It was as if the unidentified target, while seeming to hover motionless, was actually undergoing small-amplitude but high-speed jittering motion to yield a scope-displayed return despite the MTI. Since just such jittery motion has been reported in *visual* UFO sightings on many occasions, and since the coarse resolution of a PPI displayed would not permit radar-detection of such motion if its amplitude were below, say, one or two hundred metres, this could conceivably account for the persistence of the displayed return

during the episodes of "stationary" hovering, despite use of MTI.

The portion of the radar sightings just described seems to have been vividly recollected by the retired non-com who first called this case to the attention of the Colorado group. Some time after the initial Bentwaters alert, he had his men at the RATCC scanning all available scopes, various scopes set at various ranges. He wrote that ". . . one controller noticed a stationary target on the scopes about 20 to 25 miles southwest. This was unusual, as a stationary target should have been eliminated unless it was moving at a speed of at least 40 to 45 knots. And yet we could detect no movement at all. We watched this target on all the different scopes for several minutes and I called the GCA Unit at (Lakenheath) to see if they had this target on their scope in the same geographical location. As we watched, the stationary target started moving at a speed of 400 to 600 mph in a north-northeast direction until it reached a point about 20 miles north-northwest of (Lakenheath). There was no slow start or build-up to this speed—it was constant from the second it started to move until it stopped."

This description, written 11 years after the event, matches the 1956 intelligence report from the Lakenheath USAF unit so well, even seeming to avoid the typographical direction-error that the Lakenheath TWX contained, that one can only assume that the writer was deeply impressed by this whole incident. That, of course, is further indicated by the very fact that he wrote to the Colorado group about it in the first place. His letter (Condon Report, p. 249) adds that "the target made several changes in location, always in a straight line, always at about 600 mph and always from a standing or stationary point to his next stop at constant speed — no build-up in speed at all — these changes in location varied from 8 miles to 20 miles in length — no set pattern at any time. Time spent stationary between movements also varied from 3 or 4 minutes to 5 or 6 minutes . . ."

Because his account fits so well with the basic Bluebook file report in the several particulars in which it can be checked, the foregoing quotation from the letter as reproduced in the Condon Report stands as meaningful indication of the highly unconventional behaviour of the unknown aerial target. Even allowing for some recollective uncertainties, the non-com's description of the behaviour of the unidentified radar target lies so far beyond any meteorological, astronomical, or electronic explanation as to stand as one challenge to any suggestions that UFO reports are of negligible scientific interest.

The non-com's account indicates that they plotted the discontinuous stop-and-go movements of the target for some tens of minutes before it was decided to scramble RAF interceptors to investigate. That third major aspect of the Lakenheath events must now be considered. (The delay in scrambling interceptors is noteworthy in *many* Air Force-related UFO incidents of the past 20 years. I believe this reluctance stems from unwillingness to take action lest the decision-maker be accused of taking seriously a phenomenon which the Air Force officially treats as non-existent.)

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c. Airborne radar and visual sightings by Venom interceptor

An RAF jet interceptor, a *Venom* single-seat subsonic aircraft equipped with an air-intercept (A1) nose radar, was scrambled, according to the basic Bluebook report, from Waterbeach RAF Station, which is located about 6 miles north of Cambridge, and some 20 miles SW of Lakenheath. Precise time of the scramble does not appear in the report to Bluebook, but if we were to try to infer the time from the non-com's recollective account, it would seem to have been somewhere near midnight.

Both the non-com's letter and the contemporary intelligence report make clear that Lakenheath radar had one of their unidentified targets on-scope as the *Venom* came in over the Station from Waterbeach. The TWX to Bluebook states: "The aircraft flew over RAF Station Lakenheath and was vectored towards a target on radar 6 miles east of the field. Pilot advised he had a bright white light in sight and would investigate. At thirteen miles west (east?) he reported loss of target and white light."

It deserves emphasis that the foregoing quote clearly indicates that the UFO that the *Venom* first tried to intercept was being monitored via three distinct physical "sensing channels." It was being recorded by **ground radar,** by **airborne radar,** and **visually.** Many scientists are entirely unaware that Air Force files contain such UFO cases, for this very interesting

category has never been stressed in USAF discussions of its UFO records. Note, in fact, the similarity to the 1957 RB-47 case (to be published) in the evidently simultaneous loss of visual and airborne-radar signal here. One wonders if ground radar also lost it simultaneously with the *Venom* pilot's losing it, but, as is so typical of AFR200-2 reports, incomplete reporting precludes clarification.

Nothing in the Bluebook case-file on this incident suggests that anyone at Bluebook took any trouble to run down that point or the many other residual questions that are so painfully evident here. The file does, however, include a lengthy dispatch from the then-current Bluebook officer, Capt. G. T. Gregory, a dispatch that proposes a series of what I must term wholly irrelevant hypotheses about Perseid meteors with "ironized gases in their wake which may be traced on radarscopes", and inversions that "may cause interference between two radar stations some distance apart." Such basically irrelevant remarks are all too typical of Bluebook critique over the years.

The file also includes a case-discussion by Dr. J. A. Hynek, Bluebook consultant, who also toys with the idea of possible radar returns from meteor wake-ionization. Not only are the radar frequencies here about two orders of magnitude too high to afford even marginal likelihood of meteor-wake returns, but there is absolutely no kinematic similarity between the reported UFO movements and the essentially straight-line hypersonic movement of a meteor, to cite just a few of the strong objections to any serious consideration of meteor hypotheses for the present UFO case.

Hynek's memorandum on the case makes some suggestions about the need for upgrading Bluebook operations, and then closes with the remarks: "The Lakenheath report could constitute a source of embarrassment to the Air Force; and should the facts, as so far reported, get into the public domain, it is not necessary to point out what excellent use the several dozen UFO societies and other 'publicity artists' would make of such an incident. It is, therefore, of great importance that further information on the technical aspect of the original observations be obtained, without loss of time from the original observers."

That memo of October 17, 1956, is followed in the case-file by Capt. Gregory's November 26, 1956 reply, in which he concludes that "our original analyses of anomalous propagation and astronomical is (*sic*) more or less correct"; and there the case investigation seemed to end, at the same casually closed level at which hundreds of past UFO cases have been closed out at Bluebook with essentially no real scientific critique. I would say that it is exceedingly unfortunate that "the facts, as so far reported" did not get into the public domain, along with the facts on innumerable other Bluebook case-files that should have long ago startled the scientific community just as much as they startled me when I took the trouble to go to Bluebook and spend a number of days studying those astonishing files.

Returning to the scientifically fascinating account of the *Venom* pilot's attempt to make an air-intercept on the Lakenheath unidentified object, the original report goes on to note that, after the pilot lost both visual and radar signals, "*RATCC vectored him to a target 10 miles east of Lakenheath and pilot advised target was on radar and he was locking 'on'.*" Although here we are given no further information on the important point of whether he also saw a luminous object as he got a radar lock-on, we definitely have another instance of at least two-channel detection. The concurrent detection of a single radar target by a ground radar and an airborne radar under conditions such as these, where the target proves to be a highly manoeuvrable object, categorically rules out any conventional explanations involving, say, large ground structures and propagation anomalies. That MTI was being used on the ground radar also excludes that, of course.

The next thing that happened was that the *Venom* suddenly lost the radar lock-on as it neared the unknown target. RATCC reported that "*as the Venom passed the target on radar, the target began a tail chase of the friendly fighter.*" RATCC asked the *Venom* pilot to acknowledge this turn of events and he did, saying "*he would try to circle and get behind the target.*" His attempts were unsuccessful, which the report to Bluebook describes only in the terse comment, "Pilot advised he was unable to 'shake' the target off his tail and requested assistance."

The non-com's letter is more detailed and much more emphatic. He first remarks that the UFO's sudden evasive movement into tail position was so swift that he missed it on his own scope, "but it was seen by the other controllers." His letter then goes on to note that the *Venom* pilot "*tried everything—he climbed, dived, circled, etc., but the UFO acted like it was glued right behind him, always the same distance, very close, but we always had two distinct targets.*" Here again, note how the basic report is annoyingly incomplete. One is not told whether the pilot knew the UFO was pursuing his *Venom* by virtue of some tail-radar warning device of type often used on fighters (none is alluded to), or because he could *see* a luminous object in pursuit. In order for him to "acknowledge" the chase seems to require one or the other detection-mode, yet the report fails to clarify this important point. However, the available information does make quite clear that the pursuit was being observed on ground radar, and the non-com's recollection puts the duration of the pursuit at perhaps 10 minutes before the pilot elected to return to his base.

Very significantly, the intelligence report from Lakenheath to Bluebook quotes this first pilot as saying "*clearest target I have ever seen on radar*", which again eliminates a number of hypotheses, and argues most cogently the scientific significance of the whole episode.

The non-com recalled that, as the first *Venom* returned to Waterbeach aerodrome when fuel ran low, the UFO followed him a short distance and then stopped; that important detail is, however, not in the Bluebook report. A second *Venom* was then scrambled, but, in the short time before a malfunction forced it to return to Waterbeach, no interceptions were accomplished by that second pilot.

Discussion

The Bluebook report material indicates that other radar unknowns were being observed at Lakenheath

until about 0330Z. Since the first radar unknowns appeared near Bentwaters at about 2130Z on 13/8/56, while the Lakenheath events terminated near 0330Z on 14/8/56, the total duration of this UFO episode was about six hours. The case includes an impressive number of scientifically provocative features:

1. At least three separate instances occurred in which one ground-radar unit, GCA Bentwaters, tracked some unidentified target for a number of tens of miles across its scope at speeds in excess of Mach 3. Since even today, 12 years later, no nation has disclosed military aircraft capable of flight at such speeds (we may exclude the X-15), and since that speed is much too low to fit any meteoric hypothesis, this first feature (entirely omitted from discussion in the Condon Report) is quite puzzling. However, Air Force UFO files and other sources contain many such instances of nearly hypersonic speeds of radar-tracked UFOs.
2. In one instance, about a dozen low-speed (order of 100 mph) targets moved in loose formation led by three closely-spaced targets, the assemblage yielding consistent returns over a path of about 50 miles, after which they merged into a single large target, remained motionless for some 10-15 minutes, and then moved off-scope. Under the reported wind conditions, not even a highly contrived meteorological explanation invoking anomalous propagation and inversion-layer waves would account for this sequence observed at Bentwaters. The Condon Report omits all discussion of items 1 and 2, for reasons that I find difficult to understand.
3. One of the fast-track radar sightings at Bentwaters, at 2255Z, coincided with visual observations of some very-high-speed luminous source seen by both a tower operator on the ground and by a pilot aloft who saw the light moving in a blur below his aircraft at 4000 ft. altitude. The radar-derived speed was given as 2000-4000 mph. Again, meteors won't fit such speeds and altitudes, and we may exclude aircraft for several evident reasons, including absence of any thundering sonic boom that would surely have been reported if any near hypothetical secret 1956-vintage hypersonic device were flying over Bentwaters at less than 4000 ft. that night.
4. Several ground observers at Lakenheath saw luminous objects exhibiting non-ballistic motions, including dead stops and sharp course reversals.
5. In one instance, two luminous white objects merged, as seen from the ground at Lakenheath. This wholly unmeteoric and unaeronautical phenomenon is actually a not-uncommon feature of UFO reports during the last two decades. For example, radar-tracked merging of two targets that veered together sharply before joining up was reported over Kincheloe AFB, Michigan, in a UFO report that also appears in the Condon Report (p. 164), quite unreasonably attributed therein to "anomalous propagation."
6. Two separate ground radars at Lakenheath, having rather different radar parameters, were concurrently observing movements of one or more unknown targets over an extended period of time. Seemingly stationary hovering modes were repeatedly observed, and this despite use of MTI. Seemingly "instantaneous" accelerations from rest to speeds of order of Mach 1 were repeatedly observed. Such motions cannot readily be explained in terms of any known aircraft flying then or now, and also fail to fit known electronic or propagation anomalies. The Bluebook report gives the impression (somewhat ambiguously, however) that some of these two-radar observations were coincident with ground-visual observations.
7. In *at least* one instance, the Bluebook report makes clear that an unidentified luminous target was seen visually from the air by the pilot of an interceptor while getting simultaneous radar returns from the unknown with his nose radar concurrent with ground-radar detection of the same unknown. This is scientifically highly significant, for it entails *three* separate detection-channels all recording the unknown object.
8. In *at least* one instance, there was simultaneous radar disappearance and visual disappearance of the UFO. This is akin to similar events in other known UFO cases, yet is not easily explained in terms of conventional phenomena.
9. Attempts of the interceptor to close on one target seen both on ground radar and on the interceptor's nose radar, led to a puzzling rapid interchange of roles as the unknown object moved into tail-position behind the interceptor. While under continuing radar observation from the ground, with both aircraft and unidentified object clearly displayed on the Lakenheath ground radars, the pilot of the interceptor tried unsuccessfully to break the tail chase over a time of some minutes. No ghost-return or multiple-scatter hypothesis can explain such an event.

I believe that the cited sequence of extremely baffling events, involving so many observers and so many distinct observing channels, and exhibiting such unconventional features, should have led to the most intensive Air Force inquiries. But I would have to say precisely the same about *dozens* of other inexplicable Air Force-related UFO incidents reported to Bluebook since 1947.

What the above illustrative case shows all too well is that highly unusual events have been occurring under circumstances where any organisation with even passing scientific curiosity should have responded vigorously, yet the Air Force UFO programme has repeatedly exhibited just as little response as I have noted in the above 1956 Lakenheath incident. The Air Force UFO programme, contrary to the impression held by most scientists here and abroad, has been an *exceedingly superficial and generally quite incompetent programme.*

The Condon Report, although disposed to suspicion that perhaps some sort of anomalous radar propagation might be involved (I record here my objection that the Condon Report exhibits repeated instances of misunderstanding of the limits of anomalous propagation effects), does concede that Lakenheath is an *unexplained* case. Indeed, the Report ends its discussion with the quite curious admission that, in the Lakenheath episode, " . . . the probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high."

One could easily become enmeshed in a semantic dispute over the meaning of the phrase, "one genuine UFO", so I shall simply assert that my own position is that the Lakenheath case exemplifies a disturbingly large group of UFO reports in which the apparent

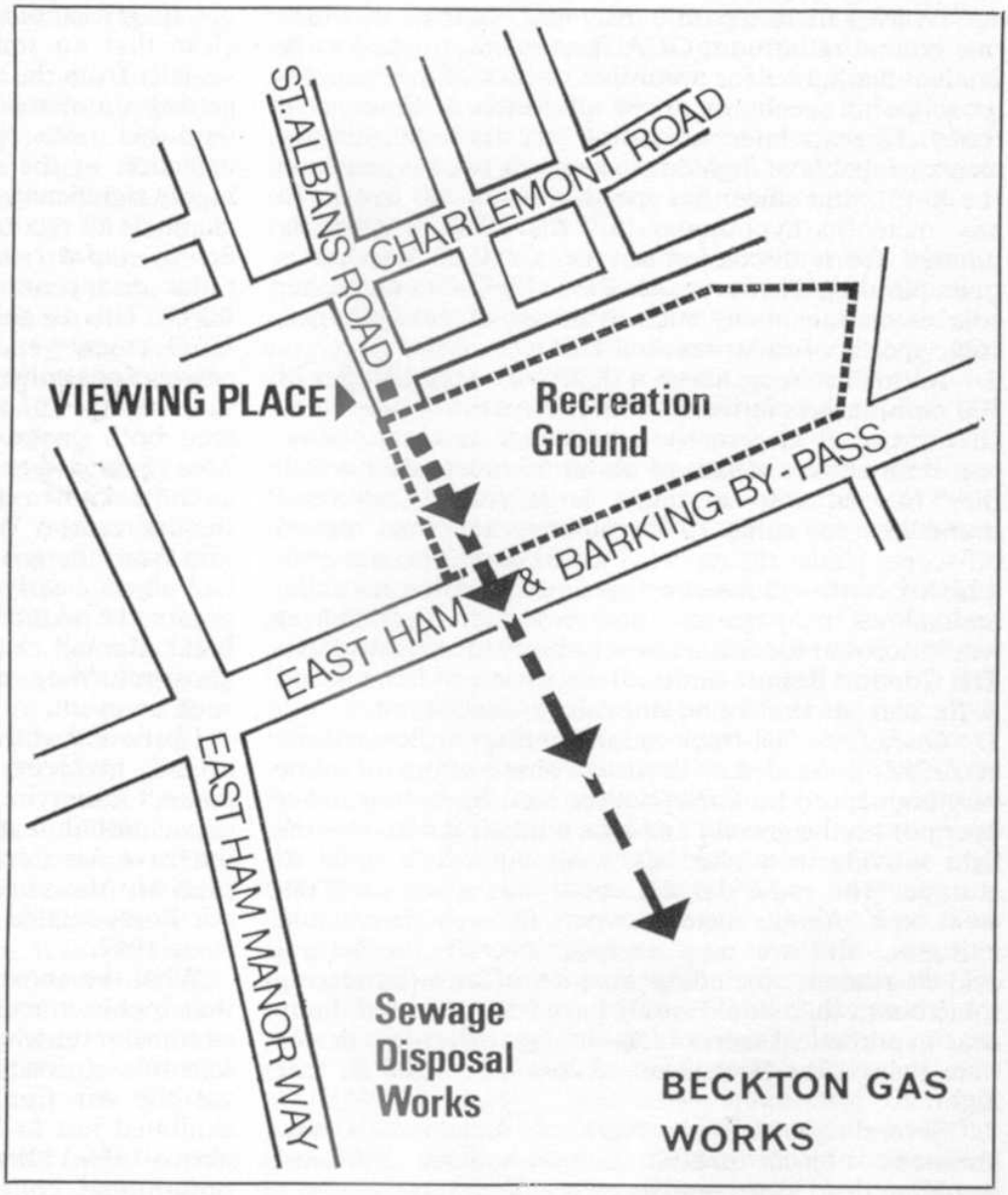
(*continued on page 29*)

UFO SEEN FROM EAST HAM

Charles Bowen

EVERYTHING militates against the witness in this case right from the start; everything seems wrong with it. I am sure a 'purist' wouldn't touch it with the proverbial 'barge pole'. And yet . . . I am convinced the witn ss has given a reasonable account of something that happened on November 26, 1969, that was very, very real to him, and very exciting, and that this case is typical of many we may well have to be prepared to examine.

First intimation that there was a new case to investigate came in a short letter from Robert Chapman: "Here is another one which I think will interest you. I have written to Mr. O am to say that I am passing it on." With warm memories of the case of Mrs. Bomford's experience at Reading which had also been 'passed on' by Mr. Chapman, I arranged to meet Mr. Michael Oram, a baker's roundsman from Ingrebourne Road, Rainham, Essex. The meeting took place over supper in the house of Dr. Bernard Finch on December 17, 1969, and the doctor and I had a long and interesting session with Mr. Oram.



A Letter

After the UFO sighting incident, which I will describe in detail later the young man (aged 18) said he was in a 'state of shock.' When he had recovered sufficiently he made a telephone call on impulse to the *Daily Mirror*. His comment about the conversation he had was: "I don't think they believed me," and he said he almost burst into tears. Later, after returning home, he remembered Robert Chapman's book *Unidentified Flying Objects*, parts of which had been serialised in the *Sunday Express*, and he wrote a letter to him. This was the letter that Mr. Chapman sent on to me, and I had it with me when I interviewed Michael Oram in the presence of Dr. Finch three weeks after the alleged incident. The story which unfolded was more detailed, but was identical in all other respects, with the account given in the letter.

Familiarity with the subject

Michael, educated at a Comprehensive School, is keen on astronomy; so keen that he owns a 4in. refracting telescope. He told us that for some five years he had also had an interest in reports of UFOs and had read both Robert Chapman's book and *The Flying Saucer Story* (Brinsley le Poer Trench)

A baker's roundsman, he is called upon to start work at 6.30 a.m. He stated that for about a week before the sighting he had "had a premonition" that he would see a UFO, and each morning, before leaving home, he told his mother that he still had the "feeling." In fact he had a strong urge to take his camera with him, but thought that "that was taking it a bit far." So the camera stayed at home, particularly on the morning of Wednesday, November 26, and that was a pity!

The incident

That Wednesday dawned cold and clear around Rainham and East Ham, a fact to which I can testify, for I had given a lecture at Southend-on-Sea the previous night when there had been some snow and frost; I returned by train and

passed quite near to the district of the alleged incident probably about half-an-hour before it took place.

In the course of his delivery round Michael halted his van in a dead-end spur of St. Alban's Road, East Ham (see sketch map), looking across a recreation ground, past the Beckton Gas Works, and out over the widening River Thames. He was sitting in the van having a drink from his flask, when he saw a 'cigar-shaped' object, a brightish yellow in colour, apparently over the gas works, or "maybe about a mile away." He estimates that he watched the object for some 15 minutes; at first it moved from left (NNE) to right, then stopped. After watching it as if transfixed for about 2-3 minutes he told us: "I came to my senses and jumped out of the van still holding my cup in my hand. I just stared (at this thing) in the sky, watching it move." A while later the local Co-operative milk roundsman came by, and Michael remembers thinking: "This is it, I'll tell him and I'll then have a (corroborating) witness."

Unhappily it was not to be. It seems the milkman started to speak, 'passing the time of day' as it were, but Michael was struck dumb. Words just would not come, although he knew what he wanted to say. In fact, he says he was quite unable to do anything other than gape at the thing in the sky until it had gone off to the 'left', out of view, by about 8.45 a.m.

Once the object had gone, Michael drove around again, hoping to catch another glimpse of it, but there was nothing to be seen. It was then, when passing a phone box, that he telephoned the *Daily Mirror*.

Back on the round it seems Michael was in such an emotional state (he describes his condition as 'shock') that he barely knew what he was doing. He gave out the wrong bread, and had to retrace his steps to make corrections: one customer saw him and said he looked 'all in', just as if he'd seen a ghost. This lady took him indoors, and telephoned his employers, who thereupon sent out a relief roundsman; Michael was taken home.

In his letter to Bob Chapman Michael says he is not a 'silly person' and is adamant that he was not joking, that all he wanted was to be able to speak about the incident to someone who would understand and would not laugh at him.



Photograph from the viewing point, taken in colour late in December 1969 by M. Oram. The line gives the apparent size of the object when stationary near the gas works

Questioning elicited that the object was seen at an angle of about 30° elevation, and appeared (quite enormous—CB) to be about 2-2½ inches across Michael's fist held out straight. At first Michael did not quite understand what Dr. Finch and I were getting at, and said the object appeared to be some 40 inches across. When we pointed out that that would cover a vast arc of the sky, and that the diameter of a full Moon is only about half that of a sixpenny piece held at arm's length, he revisited the scene, took the photograph you see here, revised his estimate, and wrote to me accordingly.

A "Communication"?

While he was standing staring at the object, he says he imagined "to himself" the beings inside, and the rows of "windows" and "men" looking down. He *felt* (thus he described this part of his experience) as though he was being told: "You wanted to see us, but now you see us we do not want you to tell anyone else, and we're going."

Premonitions

We asked Michael about his premonitions. It transpired that this was nothing new—with events other than UFOs. Furthermore, he says his grandmother is a sensitive and "very psychic". He often has premonitions, in a minor way, about the visits to the house of a friend or relative, or, for example, of the breaking down of a car. Once, however, when he was working as a tea taster at Bethnal Green, something much bigger occurred: he was suddenly aware in his mind that a colleague was about to jump from a window and was quite prepared when the man suddenly jumped up and climbed on to the sill. Michael was there to grab him and hold him until he could be hauled back. The after-effect of this incident on Michael was devastating, and he was off work for about three months.

Unhappy at being "indoors", the young man, who says he cannot stand heat, took the baker's roundsman job so that he could be in the open. He was always on the lookout—so he says—for 'them', which I presume means UFOs.

Conclusion

Was this merely a case of wish fulfilment, or, bizarre thought, was the earnest wish of a *clairvoyant* deliberately stimulated, and deliberately fulfilled? Perhaps some-

(*continued on page 22*)

THE ITAPEVA PHOTOGRAPH

W. Buhler

We are indebted to Dr. Buhler for permission to report this case[1] and to Mr. Nigel Rimes for supplying us with a print of one of the photographs.

BETWEEN midnight and 1.00 a.m. on July 4, 1968, a most interesting photograph[2] of a UFO was taken near Itapeva, in the Brazilian State of São Paulo, by a man named Ibrahim Rodrigues da Fonseca, aged 33, who for the past fifteen years has been working as a professional photographer. Sr. Willy Wirz brought the case to our notice, and on September 22, 1968, I was able to visit Itapeva and interview the witness in his home.

Sr. da Fonesca took me out to see the actual site, which is some 1,500 metres or so from his residence, and lies near the suburb known as Mata Fome.

He explained to us that he is in the habit of working late at night on a course of study which he is taking. On the night in question it was extremely hot, so he had the window of his room open. Looking out through the window, he chanced to observe a star which "was bigger than the rest". (See sketch No. 1 by witness.) He had a camera at hand (a Flexarette 6 x 6) and, seizing it, rushed out towards the "star", which was rapidly growing larger.

Quest of a 'star'

As he ran towards it he was joined by another individual of whom we know only that his first name is Joaquim, the surname being unrecorded. Sr. Joaquim, who was drunk, insisted on accompanying him in his quest of the mysterious "star".

Together they arrived at the plateau considerably higher than the surrounding terrain, and suddenly an object "lit up" above them, seemingly just above the plateau. Sr. da Fonseca thinks that the object was about 7-8 metres wide and about 10 metres from them, but we are not sure that these figures can be taken as reliable for, when examining the site with him we concluded that the spot where he and his tipsy companion were standing was at least from 14 to 20 metres from the plateau and about 3 metres below it.

The drunken Sr. Joaquim took to his heels on catching sight of the phenomenon. Questioned next day and asked to corroborate the sighting, he maintained that what he had seen was simply "a helicopter".

Photographs taken

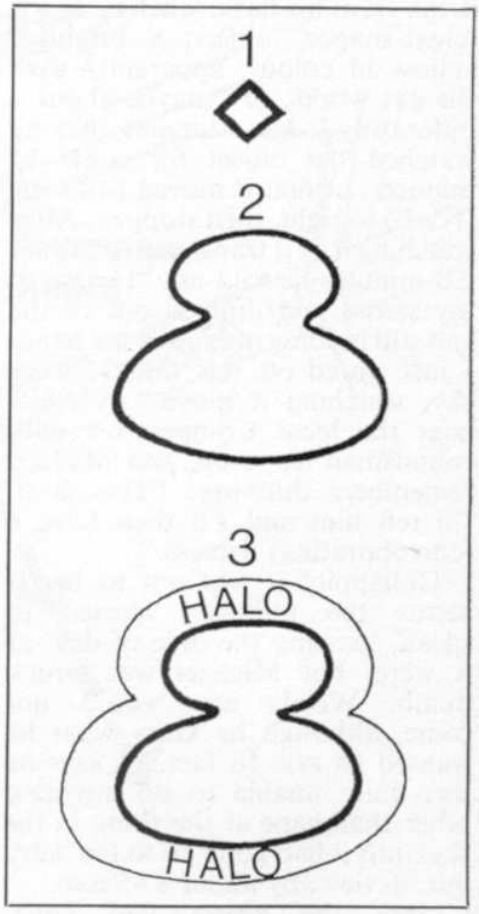
According to the statement of Sr. da Fonseca, however, the upper portion of the object was discoid (see sketch No. 2), and was rotating, though he did not recall in which direction it was rotating. As for the lower portion, he said that this too was discoid, but divided into two sections by a dark horizontal band. He detected no heat or odour from the object, but did hear a low humming sound. His intention had been to photograph the object from a distance, but when it now "lit up" in front of him so suddenly he was petrified with fear and just stood there for an estimated 15 minutes. Then he took two photographs in quick succession (set at infinity and with exposures of 1/25th or 1/8th second) and retreated.

When, soon afterwards, he saw the object rise up into the air, he noticed that a great "halo" formed, particularly around the upper portion, and there was a sort of "visual explosion" (see sketch No. 3).

As the object rose into the air, its speed, he thought, was little greater than that of a bird in flight. As it gained altitude, the humming noise was no longer to be heard.

Corroboration?

He returned to the place next day, but found nothing abnormal there. In the evening, however, an acquaintance, a young lady named



Lúcia Lírio, told him that, as early as 11 p.m. on the night in question, she had seen "a star, much bigger than the rest", right over the town.

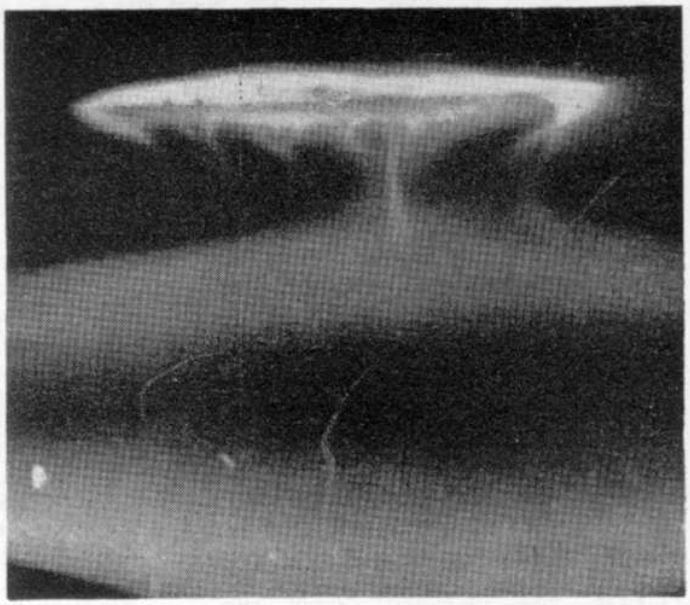
The first of his two photographs only caught half of the saucer. In the second photograph the saucer was well centred in the picture but he did not manage to get all of it in. (SBEDV secured copies of the photographs from a member of the São Paulo UFO Investigation Society.)

Photo filching

But now we come to the *disgraceful part* of this episode: a certain person[3] from São Paulo visited Sr. da Fonseca, and, eight days later, the latter found that his two negatives had "disappeared",

one of them from the transparent cover and the other from the yellow paper in which he had kept them wrapped. *In view of this I again urge all those who possess the negatives of UFO photographs to take very good care of them. And we advise them to be extremely careful on the question of whom they permit to handle them, even on loan. For it is a known fact that, in a number of countries,*[4] *various witnesses have "lost" precious negatives.*

For example, in Denmark recently, a roll of cinematographic film "went astray" in this same manner. It was the property of Major H. Petersen, and was a piece of film taken by the late George Adamski and allegedly showing UFOs. I happened to be in Denmark at the time, and I paid a call upon Major Petersen. He had just returned home from his holidays, and, on entering the house, was confronted by a scene of total disorder, "just like in a detective movie". Strangely enough, money, clothing, and other valuables had not been touched. Only the roll of film showing flying saucers "had vanished as by magic". We are reliably informed that, in other places, other copies of this same film, or lengths of similar film, have likewise "absconded" from the hands of their respective owners.



NOTES by Gordon Creighton

1 Translated from SBEDV Bulletin No. 66/68 (January-June 1969).

2 Unquestionably the most striking feature of this photograph is its marked resemblance to the sketch of the UFO seen, also hovering a few feet from the ground, in the French island of Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, just 27 days later, i.e. on July 31, 1968. (For account and sketch, see *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 66 *bis* of November 1968, and our translation, *Contact Casualty on Réunion*, in FSR Vol. 15, No. 1, (January-February 1969).

3 We understand that the identity of the person suspected of having taken the negatives is known, and must make it clear that, if Mr. Rimes is right, they were purloined not by any Brazilian government official, but by a member of another civilian UFO investigation society (who, however, for all we know, may well have been acting on behalf of some other person or some other body).

4 See following article.

ON DISAPPEARING UFO PHOTOGRAPHS

GORDON CREIGHTON

Much as many folk would like to think that Dr. Buhler is imagining things when he makes this statement, he is only too right! Investigators everywhere have experienced similar "losses", either in the mails or as a result of a "visit". I need only mention here Dr. Jacques Vallée's letter on *Witness Intimidation*, published on page 20 of FSR Vol. XV, No. 4 (July-August 1969), and my original article referred to therein, *The Italian Scene, Part IV*, in FSR for July-August 1963, describing the *Bender-like* and extremely unpleasant happenings alleged to have befallen Signor Paolo Bracci who—so it is claimed—saw a saucer land and a very charming man and charming woman emerge from it, who chatted with him most amicably and permitted him to film them and their craft with his ciné camera. A few days later however a series of very different experiences allegedly began for Signor Bracci, culminating in a midnight visit to his apartment by some tall men with dark hair and bronzed complexions who stunned him by some form of hypnotic treatment and removed the film from his safe. In all such cases as this, *we may be very sure that the beings who are so anxious to remove the evidence are* **NOT** *the beings whose existence is proved by the evidence, and that we are here getting very near to the nub of the whole UFO mystery.*

Presumably what Senhor da Fonseca saw in Brazil was a machine operated by either these less pleasant gentlemen, or by a species of smaller creature working in association with them. Incidentally, while Sr. da Fonseca saw no operators in the machine, Monsieur Luce Fontaine, the percipient on the Island of Réunion, did see two small "Michelin-man" type of creatures, about 90 cms high, inside the craft observed by him. He is said to have suffered from radioactivity as a result of this close encounter, though it is of course not possible for us to say at this stage whether this alleged ill effect was due to chance or was intentional.

Of many other alleged cases of intimidation, I recall in particular the 1955 case of "Monsieur Blanc" given by Jimmy Guieu on page 16 of his book *Black-out Sur Les Soucoupes Volantes* (*Black-out on Flying Saucers*) and mentioned by Miss Tova Bratt in her letter on page 20 of FSR Vol. XV, No. 4 (July-August 1969). Also the case at Vico, Italy, on the night of July 24-25, 1952, when, as the witness (known to us only as "Carlo") was fishing, a disc flew low along the river and "a man" looked out at him through an "open porthole" and blinded him with a vivid green ray. Six days later, while "Carlo" was again fishing, at the same spot, a mysterious tall slim man, speaking Italian with a strange foreign accent, came up, and asked him whether he had "seen any aeroplanes or other flying things near the river" and then, when Carlo replied—perhaps a little too quickly—that he had not, the stranger gave him a "long cigarette with a

gold tip", two puffs from which made "Carlo" desperately ill. Feeling that he was about to die, his head swimming, "Carlo" quickly took the cigarette out of his mouth, extinguished it, and was about to slip it into his pocket when the other individual seized it brutally, broke it and threw the pieces into the river, leaving "Carlo" stretched out on the river-bank almost dead. (This case which is also mentioned by Dr. Jaques Vallée in his letter in FSR for July-August 1969, comes from Jimmy Guieu's second book *Les Soucoupes Volantes Viennent D'Un Autre Monde*, 1955—English translation *Flying Saucers From Another World;* Hutchinson, London, 1956).

Finally, as regards the remarkable facility with which photographs of UFOs "are liberated" from the possession of their owners, I need only mention the famous Queensland case (*North Queensland UFO Saga*, by Stan Seers and William Lasich, FSR Vol. XV, No. 3, May-June 1969), and my own experience, related in a footnote on page 197 of *The Humanoids* (new Neville Spearman edition), with the editor of a British periodical of world renown. I had lent this gentleman, *at his request*, several UFO photographs, including my only print of the Brazilian Trindade Island saucer. I had to write to him four times and telephone him at least seven times in my attempts to recover it. *Ten months later*, he blandly informed me that the photo had been posted back to me and that if I had any complaint it should be directed to the British postal authorities. But he and his staff were extremely careful not to give me any date for the alleged posting, so that in the end it was quite impossible for me to approach the Post Office about the matter.

The photograph was a fine big enlargement, and I do not think there are in Britain many people who have good copies of the Trindade Island series. Whoever now has my photograph, it is evident that they were very determined to separate me from it, just as, in similar circumstances, the editor of an Italian paper was evidently mighty anxious (either for his own benefit or for somebody else's benefit) to separate Professor R. L. Johannis from the first sketch which he made of the two little creatures that he claimed to have seen near Villa Santina in August 1947. (See *The Humanoids*—new edition—pp. 187-199.)

East Ham UFO

(*continued from page 19*)

thing may have happened in the fashion which Maxwell Cade[1] and I[2] have suggested. The fact that this young man is clairvoyant is what makes this case interesting, and, I suggest, important.

At this point all that can be said is that Michael Oram is a pleasant and sincere person, deeply and somewhat emotionally involved with his experience. I found no trace of possible mercenary aspirations: I am convinced he telephoned the *Daily Mirror* merely because he *had* to speak to somebody whom, he hoped, might know about these things.

Both Dr. Finch and I hope that if he has another UFO premonition, he will let us know about it in advance!

NOTES

[1] Cade, C. Maxwell: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence* Pts. IV & V F.S.R. Vol. 13 No. 6 and Vol. 14 No. 2. See also *Crypto-Sensory Response* F.S.R. Vol. 15 No. 5.

[2] Bowen, Charles: *Thinking Aloud* F.S.R. Vol. 15 No. 6.

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BUFORA NEWS

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 16th May, 1970,
Shirehampton Public Hall, near Bristol.
Hosts: The British Flying Saucer Bureau.
Theme: "UFOs in Antiquity and pre-History."
Tickets: 15s. each, including tea.
Send remittance with a S.A.E. to the
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NATIONAL SKY WATCH NIGHTS

The Bristol conference will be followed by a sky-watch on the night of 16th-17th May. The main sky-watch will be held on 27th-28th June. Groups and individuals wishing to take part should write direct to Edgar Hatvany, BUFORA Field Officer, 19 Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middlesex.

Full details of the **BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION,** its journal and activities, are obtainable from (send a 9in. x 4in. S.A.E.) Miss Christine Henning (R5), 99 Mayday Gardens, London SE3.

Twenty-one years of UFO Reports

(*continued from page 8*)

a. Are widely scattered over the earth, and come from such widely separated places as northern Canada, Australia, South America and Antarctica.

b. Are made by competent, responsible, psychologically normal people; i.e., credible witnesses.

c. Contain descriptive terms which *collectively* do *not* specify any *known physical* event, object or process, and which do *not* specify any *known psychological* event or process.

d. Resist translation into terms that *do* apply to known physical and/or psychological events, objects, processes, etc. That is, as Goudge points out, translation would alter the meaning of the original report and hence effectively violate the methodological criteria governing the advance of science:

i. It must be *possible* for new observational data to occur; i.e., the existing conceptual framework of science, or the attitudes of scientists, must not rule out such new data *a priori.*

ii. The existive, conceptual framework must allow new concepts, principles, laws, etc., to be formulated to *interpret* and *explain* the new observational data.

Finally, may I say that although I know of no hypothesis that adequately covers the mountainous evidence, this should not, nor must not, deter us from following the advice of Schroedinger—to be curious, capable of being astonished, and eager to find out.

SPEECH OF THE ALIENS - 2

P. M. H. Edwards

Dr. Edwards is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

IN the first three parts, which comprised the first section of this article, we looked at (I) cases where the Beings allegedly spoke the language of the witnesses; (II) cases where certain E.T. words were reported; (III) cases where the witnesses merely reported that the aliens' language was unintelligible. Now for the final part, followed by general conclusions.

Part IV—Cases where witnesses later attempted to imitate or describe the alien sounds.

26. August 20, 1954, Mosjöen, Norway. Miss Edith Jacobsen said the alien began to talk unintelligibly in a language that didn't resemble any language she had heard—and she had some knowledge of the sounds of English, German, Spanish, French, and Russian. She added that the stranger's language sounded *soft and melodious*, apparently possessing *but few consonants*, and *no gutturals at all*.[27]

27. November 6, 1957, Dante, Tenn. Mr. E. Clark claims he saw three ET beings who talked *like German soldiers*. Presumably, this is intended to convey the impression of sharp, staccato, harsh speech.[28]

28. December 15, 1957, near São Francisco de Sales, Brazil, and less than one week before Mrs. Mendonca's incident on the road to Ponte Porã (see C. E. Lorenzen's book "*The Great Flying Hoax*", Wm-Frederick Press, New York 1962; p.137). The farmer Antônio Villas-Boas (formerly referred to in the literature as 'Adhemar') says the aliens spoke among themselves in a *strident sort of language*, which he could affirm was *certainly not Syrian or Japanese* (two languages spoken in his part of Brazil by recent immigrants). He said his own speech surprised the aliens, for they stopped and peered attentively at his face every time he spoke.

Their speech, he says, *bore no resemblance to human speech*, for they talked *in growls, almost but not quite like dogs*. The *grunts*, he says, were emitted *slowly*, being *neither high-pitched nor too low*; *some were longer, others shorter*, sometimes containing several different sounds *at the same time*, at other times *ending in a tremor*. They were like animal growls, and there was *absolutely nothing that could be taken for a syllable or a word*, in a foreign language. It all sounded the same to him, and it baffled him how those people could understand each other. He added the memory of those sounds still make him shiver, he could not even try to reproduce them, as his vocal organs are not made for them.

He says that, after the grunts had ceased, they seemed to come to a decision, and proceeded to undress him. Those who were growling took him to a door, above which he saw some strange scribble-like inscriptions in bright red-lettering, in relief.[29]

29. November, 1958, near Tarland, 60 miles from Aberdeen, Scotland. During army manoeuvres, two youths were left to hold a hilltop during the night. In the very early hours, at the first hint of dawn, they heard "*gurgling*" noises from behind some trees, only a few hundred yards from their position. They went to investigate, and saw two beings about 7 or 8ft. tall, stumbling clumsily towards them, using a *guttural language*.[30]

30. In 1961, Betty and Barney Hill (cf. John G. Fuller's book "*The Interrupted Journey*") said the beings spoke to each other in sounds like "M-m-m-m-m-m."[31]

31. April 24, 1964, Tioga City, N.Y. Mr. G. Wilcox described the speech of two 4ft. beings as *smooth and effortless English*, the sounds coming from the body, rather than the head.[32] (See case 3)

32. May, 1964, Colonia Castelli, near Resistencia, Argentina. Señor Alberto Kalbermatter, driving a truck, almost ran down a huge, dark, human-like being, 3 metres tall, which had abundant black hair. It emitted a *guttural cry of tremendous volume*.[33]

33. July 16, 1964, Conklin, N.Y. Five boys saw a being the size of a little boy, and could not understand what he said. He made peculiar noises as though they came out of a pipe; these they described as similar to the noise made by a 'kazoo'. (The hapless ufonaut might have been burping.)[34]

34. A few years ago, a West Calgary (Alta.) youngster had a traumatic experience with alien beings, which cannot be publicly described as yet. However, when he was asked, under hypnosis, to describe the aliens' speech, he loudly made a "B-z-z-z-z-, B-z-z-z-z" type of sound, which bears resemblance to the sound described in the previous case, above: (July 16, 1964).

35. July 1, 1965, Valensole, France. M. M. Masse said the two small beings made *gurgling sounds* from their throats;[35] (see Case 14). In another account, the sound is described as being like *grumbling noises from their middles*![36]

36. July 26, 1965, Carazinho (RGS), Brazil. Senhor A. B. Azevedo described the speech of five 1.50m. beings as nothing like he'd ever heard in his life. They spoke within earshot for five minutes, and it sounded like a *very sibilant language*.[37]

37. September 20, 1965, Pichaca, Perú. A girl saw six 90cms. beings talking incomprehensibly, and sounding *like the cackling of geese*.[38]

38. August 23, 1965, Lugrin, France. A man saw two small beings in a silvery dress, *grunting like pigs*.[39]

39. November 8, 1965, Monza, Italy. A man saw figures in light colours and transparent helmets, who were communicating with *guttural sounds*.[40]

40. July 18, 1967, near Doubs, France. M. Joelle Ravier and three others saw four beings at Les Gravières, who were 1 metre tall, black, with potato-

shaped heads, inflated bellies, and who flew away at an incredible speed after speaking to each other *in a musical language*.[41]

41. February 7, 1969, Pirassununga, Brazil. Senhor Tiago Machado, who met two aliens, could not understand the noises which they made: a tube projecting down from the area of the chins seemed to be where their *hoarse, guttural sounds* were coming from. When he lit a cigarette, they began to *laugh*, and he saw their teeth were dark.[42]

42. July 28, 1968, St. Stanislas de Kostka, Canada. Five teenagers saw an ugly creature with skin covered with knobs: it made a sound like the mooing of a cow.[43]

Conclusions

a. Taking the evidence for *Part I*-type incidents as a whole (including the many cases not dealt with here, of course), I accept, with reservations, accounts where aliens speak terrestrial languages. Such accounts fall into at least two categories:
(a) The so-called Evangelical Contactee Fringe; and (b) Cases where witnesses *think* (cf. Betty Hill, and Richard Kehoe) that they were addressed in their native vernacular. Until much more cogent evidence becomes available, I believe we should place accounts of this type on ice, neither believing nor disbelieving them.

Those who believe that the aliens can learn languages merely by tapping our TV programmes, are probably crediting them with exaggerated powers. It is far more likely that they may be learning terrestrial languages from the numerous people whom they have seemingly been abducting, over the years.

Other people imagine that Earth has been infiltrated by aliens who are thus learning our languages. Aside from the immense body of evidence indicating the strange, unworldly appearance of the ufonauts, it is hardly likely that another race would have developed along similar lines to our own, in separation, to the extent that they could mingle freely with us, without being detected.

Of course, the possibility exists—theoretically, at any rate—that they may have succeeded in producing 'people' similar to ourselves, by some form of cross-breeding with their own kind: but no evidence for this is forthcoming at the moment, to my knowledge.

b. (*Part II*) As can be seen, we seem to possess an extremely small "vocabulary" of allegedly alien words:

i /misima/(or, if interpreted by a Briton:/misimar/)
ii /misisi/. These words are said to be probably some form of greeting, according to the contactee.
iii /ñanapodo/ }
iv /jabohusita/ } (meaning unknown!)
v /alamo/said to mean our 'Sun'.
vi /orke/said to indicate the 7th planet's orbit (?).
vii /sil/said to mean 'machine', or UFO.
viii /rempaua/or perhaps/rempaua/
ix /abaura/or perhaps/abaura/̂. These words may possibly indicate thanks. (Cf. *Case 8*, above).

This is hardly sufficient for formulating any theories, even assuming that the reports containing the words are accurate, and true. Moreover, the witnesses have given us no information on Stress, so that we do not know which syllables bear the emphasis, or Stress, in the above items.

c. (*Part IV*) Regarding the highly subjective and disparate descriptions which we have, very few apparent facts emerge:

i	Many diphthongs and very few consonants, Nasal; Sung rather than spoken.	(Case 5.
ii	Soft and melodious with very few consonants, and no gutturals at all.	(Case 26.
iii	Musical language, quite pleasant	(Cases 6 and 40.
iv	Guttural language.	(Cases 29, 32, 41.
v	Sibilant language.	(Case 36.
vi	Strident language.	(Case 28.
vii	Grunts and growls.	(Cases 28, 38.
viii	Gurgling sounds and grumblings.	(Cases 14, 29, 35.
ix	Harsh, staccato speech.	(Case 27.
x	Like the cackling of geese.	(Case 37.
xi	Like a 'kazoo', or "B-z-z-z-z".	(Cases 33, perhaps 34.
xii	Like "M-m-m-m-m-m-m".	(Case 30.
xiii	Differently-pitched voices.	(Cases 4, 23.
xiv	A foreign accent.	(Cases 1, 2, 7.
xv	*Sounded like* English.	(Cases 2, 12.
xvi	Sounds came from the face.	(Case 24.
xvii	Sounds came from the body.	(Cases 3, 30, 35.
xviii	Smiles, laughter.	(Cases 13, 35, 41.
xix	Like the mooing of a cow.	(Case 42.

We all know how the average monolingual person, of rather low education, tends to describe how a foreign language sounds to his ears. One of the most frequent words used by such people, I have found, is "guttural"; this is how many people describe strings of unfamiliar sounds, while probably ignoring what 'gutturals' really are. English abounds in guttural, velar, or laryngeal sounds (e.g. *k*, *g*, *h*,) yet we would hardly describe our language as 'guttural'; this is because we are familiar with it. Our unfamiliarity with sounds like the German fricative guttural *ch* (as in the name Ba*ch*), and the Arabic *q* sound (as in the name A*q*aba), cause us to describe those sounds and languages as 'guttural'. It is merely a case of the Pot calling the Kettle 'black'.

Therefore one accepts the descriptions of non-linguistically trained witnesses with a generous serving of salt. There are on Earth some 4,000 languages and many dialects; some of these can be described as having "many diphthongs and very few consonants, others have literally dozens of consonants and only a vowel or two (cf. Caucasian languages). Some sound 'melodious' (cf. Estonian and Swedish, etc.), others sound sibilant (cf. Polish, etc.); to my knowledge, there are, however, no terrestrial languages that sound like

growls, grunts, grumblings, or gurglings, or like 'kazoos', or like the cackling of geese. It is descriptions of this kind that one finds intriguing, and even probably reliable, together—perhaps—with those that report the aliens as speaking a terrestrial language *with difficulty*, or *with a foreign accent*.

d. We have been led to believe, on the basis of the accumulated large corpus of evidence, that we are perhaps being visited by different races: we can therefore presumably expect a diversity of alien languages, especially if they come from a number of worlds. The birds of Earth range from tiny sparrows to ostriches and the (extinct?) New Zealand giant moas: we are therefore not yet in a position to assert that our visitors, because of their different sizes, appearance and behaviour, *necessarily* originate from several worlds. A Martian, were he visited by a white man, a negro, an eskimo, a pygmy, an oriental and a South Amerindian, —all, of course, speaking different languages—might find it hard to believe that they all come from this one world of ours.

e. Several millions of our own people are actively trying to encourage us to acquire some knowledge of an *auxiliary* world-language called Esperanto, to facilitate communication; and an excellent language it is, because anyone can learn to read it in a few weeks, and it is capable of expressing all our thoughts accurately and efficiently; it is even agreeable to the ear. Perhaps our visitors have already achieved this kind of linguistic unity: we do not know, yet.

f. Next time a talking contact is made, if ever—be ready for it, with some simple questions, like the names of parts of the body and of clothing, and simple objects. Pointing at objects is a gesture that can be misunderstood by some cultures; missionaries found that they were getting the same word for everything they pointed to. Finally, they realized that the word they were repeatedly given, was the native word for 'index-finger'. In that part of the world, one stuck out one's tongue to point at any object one wished to discuss . . .

I suggest that one pick up a stone, a leaf, a flower, a stick, etc., and say the words slowly and clearly, listening for the alien terms if these are forthcoming—and the position of the stress should be noted on the syllable which bears the apparent emphasis. The drawing of sun and planets can hardly achieve much, especially if the visitors come—as Professor H. Oberth is said to believe—from *another solar system;* if this is true, such diagrams will only be misleading.

g. Finally, from the evidence we possess, we tend to disbelieve those who would have us think that the aliens use *telepathy*, or are *morally superior* to ourselves, or only use *sweet-sounding languages;* such descriptions remind us of the wishful-thinking of the Evangelical Fringe. This, however, does not mean to imply that we refute evidence of hypnosis and mind-control, of which there is a quantity in the general literature.

NOTES

[27] FSR I-4, p. 6.
[28] Lorenzen, C. E.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 56.
[29] Creighton, G.: in FSR XI-1, p. 16; FSR XII-5, p. 22; and *The Humanoids* (1969 enlarged Neville Spearman edition, p.200)
Lorenzen, C. and J.: *Flying Saucer Occupants* (Signet Book T 3205, 1967), p. 48.
[30] Dutta, Reginald: in FSR IX-2, p. 32; also FSR V-3, p. 5; and Bowen, C. A: *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 4.
[31] Lorenzen, C. and J.: *Flying Saucer Occupants* p. 79 (see NOTE 29, above).
[32] Lorenzen, C. E.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 59; and Schwarz, B. E.: in *UFO Percipients* p. 20.
[33] Creighton, G.: *The Humanoids* (1966) p. 39.
[34] Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 59.
[35] Creighton, G. (translator): in FSR XII-3, p. 23 (reply by "Mr. G. C.", the French Magistrate, to Luis Schönherr's questionnaire).
[36] Michel, Aimé: and Bowen, C. A.: in FSR XIV-1, p. 7; and G. E. P. A. (Paris): in FSR XI-6, p. 5.
[37] Creighton, G.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 41.
[38] Creighton, G.: *Ibid.*, p. 44.
[39] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 10.
[40] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 19.
[41] Bowen, C. A.: in FSR XIV-3, p. 18.
[42] A.P.R.O. Bulletin (March-April 1969), p. 5; and Rimes, Nigel A.: *UFO Percipients*, p. 39.
[43] Creighton, G.: in FSR XV-3, p. 20.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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WANTED . . . references or general information on the landings at Snyders Lake (N.Y.) and Jonesville (Virginia), very briefly mentioned in FSR for March/April 1963, p.12. Also, any information on the observations of Mr. Galbraith (of Canada) in 1948. Please address reply to Jacques Vallée, c/o this Review.

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ANOTHER STRANGE AFFAIR AT OLAVARRIA

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to a report in the Buenos Aires paper *La Razón* of November 25, 1969, kindly sent to us by Señor Ignacio Darnaude Rojas-Marcos of Sevilla, Spain, the district of Olavarría, in the province of Buenos Aires, has again been the scene of some very strange happenings. As readers will recall it was there that, in July 1968, the boy Oscar Heriberto Iriart[1] saw a landed disc and encountered alien beings while riding on his father's ranch.

The present report, no less fantastic, speaks of 17 strange luminous flying beings that visited a farm and emitted beams of light which smashed objects, put dogs to sleep, and produced a general commotion.

I have translated the full report from *La Razón*, which is as follows:

"Veritable commotion prevails in this district as the result of the appearance of strange beings, presumably extraterrestrial, in view of their shape and their manner of gathering together in out-of-the-way spots.

"These queer forms appear at night, and fly about, projecting beams of light like searchlight beams, and of a vividness that has to be experienced. When anyone is struck by these beams of light he faints, and dogs are put to sleep and objects are smashed.

"The most moving account yet regarding these incredible happenings was given by the manager of a farm and the members of his family. The farm, known as 'Mi Recuerdo' is in the Crotto district.

"Reporters from the local paper, *El Popular*, went out there and talked to the witness, Señor Aquilo Ramón Acosta, aged 44, and his wife Amelia and their two children, German (a boy aged 6) and Mónica, aged 10, and today's issue of the paper carries the story in detail.

"Acosta's wife explained that, last Sunday (November 23) she and her two children had gone to the neighbouring farm (known as 'El Carmen') to ask the manager, Señor Higinio Mendoza, to drive her into Olavarría. But on the way back from Olavarría they got a puncture in one of the tyres of the car, so she and the children decided to stay overnight at Sr. Mendoza's farm. 'I had left my poor husband alone at home', she said, 'and just see what happened to him!'

"We now come to Señor Acosta's own account. He said: 'I had gone to bed at 11 o'clock, or thereabouts. I hadn't been drinking liquor or anything like that. I was a bit worried because my wife and the children had not returned. Finally I dropped off to sleep, with the idea in mind that I would awaken at cock-crow. At about 9.00 a.m.[2] the cock crowed three times, and I got up. I went to the kitchen and lit the lamp and started preparing some maté tea. Everything was quiet. Not a sound. When I went out into the yard to get water from a pitcher, *I saw them* . . .! Some strange beings, lighting up the field with very powerful lights, just like searchlights. They were beside the wire fence (separating the house from a paddock) —about 15 metres from the kitchen.

"At first I told myself they must be will-o'-the-wisps but I'm not afraid of *them*. About ten of the beings were moving to and fro along the wire, illuminating the ground, and seven were in the paddock. The one nearest to the house came to a distance of about 8 metres from where I was. It had come over the wire and was entering the yard. I could only see them from the waist downwards. Scared though I was, I seemed to perceive that their clothing was transparent, for they shone. The chap, or Martian or whatever he was, was carrying a rod or something of the sort in his hand. He raised the rod and then suddenly flew into the air and went and joined the others near the wire. When I fixed my attention on these, which were bunched together in the corner of the yard, they shone these big lights of theirs on me. Suddenly the whole house was lit up, and I felt a heavy blow on the face as if someone had hit me! So I went back to the house, and into the kitchen. It had left me almost senseless . . . just as though I had been stunned. So much so, that although I had a gun in the room, I didn't even think of going to get it.

"Despite my state of shock, however, I plucked up enough courage to peep out through the little window in the door. And so I was able to see 'them'—I don't know how to call them—run along the wire fence from one end to the other, three times. And always they were shining their lights down on the ground!

"From time to time too they would focus them on the trees. *But what seemed to interest them most of all—for it was there that they paused most—was the dung-heap*, about 20 metres from the house.

"All this continued for about an hour."

The journalists went out to the spot indicated, where they saw some footprints like the prints of horses' hooves. And Acosta said: "No. We haven't got any horses here . . ." There were also a lot of sort of little holes in the ground, and the grass was flattened as though by a very smooth roller.

Señora Acosta added: "There were also some other strange things in the house, like for example a pane of glass (30 cms. x 20 cms.) in the door. This pane of glass had been broken by the strange light. The pieces of the broken glass were none of them more than 4 cms. long.

Furthermore, according to Señor Acosta, the dogs in the house did not even bark: "They didn't even put on a show of defence. One of them did go out of the house with me, but came rushing back into the kitchen. And the other dog, Nero, was prostrate, as though asleep."

Señora Acosta, continuing, emphasised that she had returned to find her husband in a highly excited state. She told the reporters: "You should just have *seen* him for yourselves! He was in the kitchen. And he was repeating to me, over and over again: 'I always said they didn't exist. But now I believe in them!' The poor man, his eyes were running, and looked as though filled with blood, and his head was aching, and he was trembling, and when night fell he was again overcome with fear.'"

The Acosta family are held in high regard in the region, and have been living for 30 years on the farm, which is the property of Señor Ricardo Portarrieu. It is indeed a staggering story.

* * *

Students of our subject will find in this report many features that recall

(*continued on page 28*)

THE NGATEA MYSTERY CIRCLE-1

Harold H. Fulton

IT began quietly enough early in September 1969, but before two months were up, New Zealand's biggest 'space scare' had boomed to the greatest public UFO awareness on record in the experience of this far southern land. For a period commencing mid-September and lasting four to five weeks, there was hardly a day when the press, radio or T.V. (in that order) failed to mention new 'circle' discoveries, and particularly conflicting findings and opinions of investigators as to the cause of the Ngatea 'Mystery Circle'.

The enigmatic trail-blazer came when the press and radio in Hamilton learned details of farmer B. G. O'Neil's discovery. On September 4 Mr. Bert O'Neil had discovered a strangely affected patch of manuka (known locally as Ti-Tree or Scrubweed) on a run-off section of his farm. This seldom-visited place was covered with the plant. He had first noticed, from afar, a very bleached patch among the taller ti-tree growths that bound the area. This was three weeks earlier, but on September 4, he made an on-the-spot investigation in company with a local "scrub" contractor, and made a major discovery. Before his startled eyes, Mr. O'Neil saw a circular patch of dead and silvery-white manuka in the midst of otherwise green and lush growth.

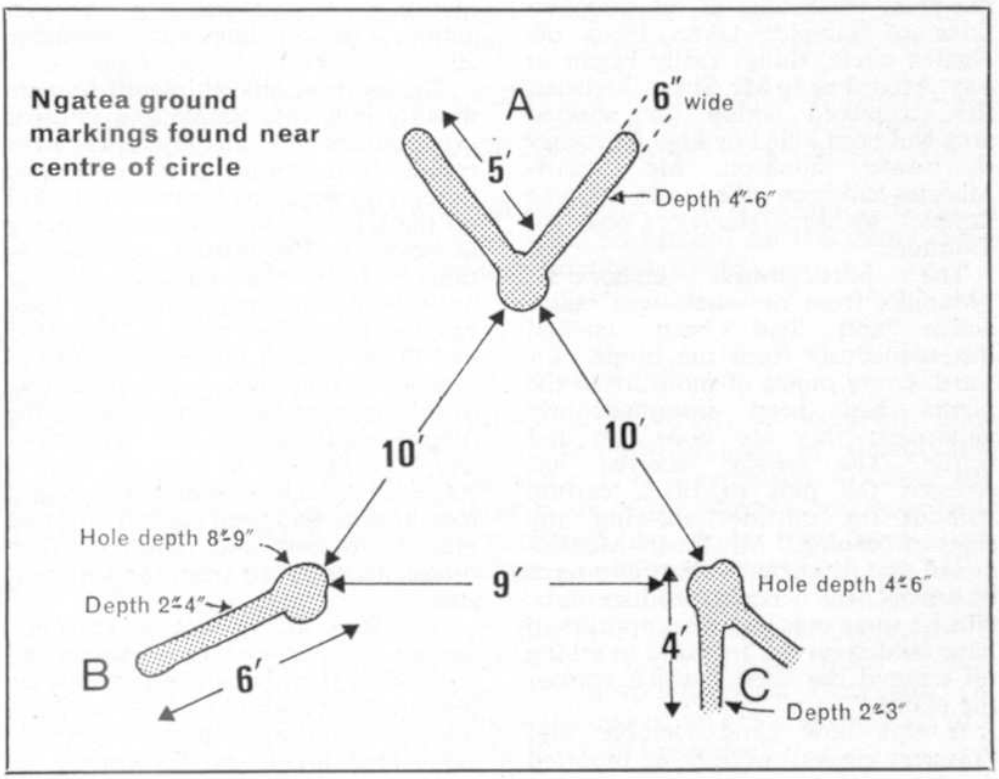
Within the circle an even more interesting find was made. Inspection revealed, near the centre of the circle, three very unusual ground indentations, positioned so as to form the points of a triangle. Off to one side of this (scorched?) circle was the taller stand of ti-tree, also bleached and dead. This was the spot that Mr. O'Neil had sighted earlier and which had aroused his curiosity. He noted too that the dead scrubweed within the circle was all still standing and undisturbed. As to what had killed the flora, that was quite a poser. Mr. O'Neil knew there had been no spraying of weedkiller from air or ground on either his or nearby farms. In fact he had not even visited this part of his property for some six months. He was certain too, in his own mind, that the general appearance of the dead scrub was totally unlike the expected effects of weedkiller, which causes a twisting of the stems. As to the strange ground indentations, they were very different from those made by rooting pigs and anyway, there were no wild pigs on the farm.

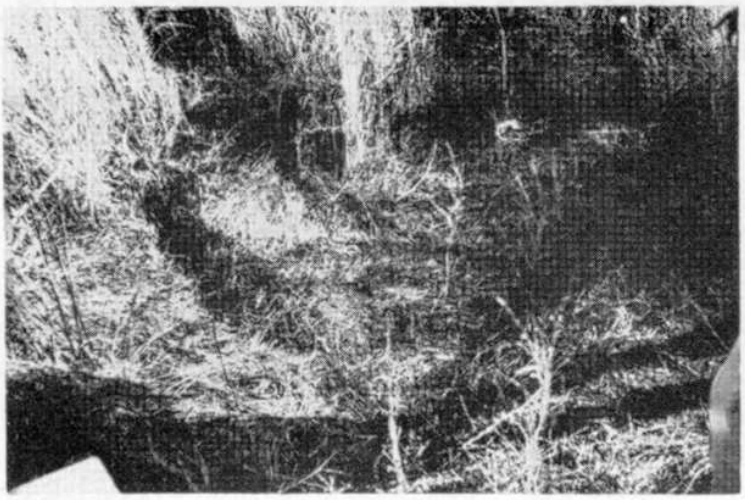
As he stood surveying the whole strange scene, it looked to Mr. O'Neil as if some large object had come down from the sky and had landed on three long stilts. Its footpads could have made the evenly spaced earth indentations. Somehow the scrubweed within the circle and the nearby taller stand of 15 feet could have been killed by the object. He had read a little about UFO sightings and recalled how a mysterious circle of dead flora had been discovered in Australia in 1968. Although Mr. O'Neil at first only discussed his strange find within the family, the news quickly leaked to the local radio and press. Then the rush to see and to collect souvenirs began in earnest.

Luckily a handful of regular UFO investigators were on the scene by Sunday, September 7, but already the area was much trampled; a lot of scrubweed within the circle had been removed and the ground markings disturbed. The condition of the site was very different from its original appearance when, nearly five weeks later, scientists from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Victoria University of Wellington arrived at Ngatea.

Among the researchers from private organisations were four members from the Auckland University UFO Research Group (formed by Tony Brunt and fellow students in December 1968), Tauranga Representatives of the Auckland-based New Zealand Scientific Space Research (begun by Henk and Brenda Hinfelaar in 1959), and the Timaru-based Scientific Approach to Cosmic Understanding.

The University team described (in part) the area. Quoting from their September Newsletter: "The ti-tree in the 56ft. circle was dead and still standing. It was dry and white in colour. The burn was uniform down the stem and was obviously not a heat burn. It did not appear to be the work of a weedkiller or any normal defoliant. The burns were reminiscent of radiation burns. Not quite in the middle of the burnt circle were three depressions which looked equidistant. Measurement showed that the three sides of the imaginary triangle were in fact 10ft., 10ft., and 9ft. The vague depressions were about two feet across and about eight inches deep. From two of the depressions, two furrows forming a V-shape radiated out a few feet. None of the surrounding ti-tree had been crushed. A crude radiography test for radioactivity was carried out in one depression and in the middle of the triangle, but this





One of the three ground markings. (shadows spoil)



Photo of the bleached circle looking across to the taller bleached stand of manuka.

proved negative. Soil and scrub samples were taken. A piece of ti-tree was subjected to a gamma spectrum test; this proved negative."

Press Feature Story on Ngatea Circle Widens Interest

With the publication of a five-column-width feature story syndicated on the Ngatea incident by several newspapers throughout New Zealand, public interest caught on and caused the first stirs within official confines.

The story was headlined: IS MARS NOW TAKING A LOOK AT US? The Wellington *Evening Post* of September 10 carried the feature; Wellington Victoria University staff had noted it; but when a leading horticulturist, Mr. Stuart-Menzies of Te Puna (near Tauranga) released to the press the results of his examinations of samples taken from the Ngatea circle, things really began to pop. According to Mr. Stuart-Menzies, the scrubweed within the affected area had been killed by high frequency short-wave radiation. Mr. Stuart-Menzies had been called in to examine samples by Mr. Harvey Cooke of Tauranga.

The horticulturist elaborated: "Manuka from the circle was radio-active and had been cooked instantaneously from the inside outward. Every ounce of moisture in the plants had been instantaneously vaporised; they are bone dry and brittle. The energy received has reduced the pith to black carbon without the outsides showing any signs of burning." Mr. Stuart-Menzies added that he knew "no earthly source of energy which could produce these effects; some outside object appears to have landed on the spot and in taking off emitted the energy which cooked the plants."

It was now early October and "mystery circles" were being reported from other areas in the North Island, but more notable was the fact that real interest had penetrated official enclaves. First off the mark was an authorised team of four from Wellington's Victoria University, led by Dr. N. F. Barber, Professor of Theoretical Physics. These gentlemen were closely followed by members of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, sent into the arena by the Minister of Science, Mr. Brian E. Talboys. Wellington's provincial morning paper, *The Dominion*, has given a day by day, blow for blow discourse on the Ngatea incident on its front page commencing early October. The Minister of Science, apparently, was unable to avoid the issue. Wellington is the seat of government and a major election platform was just swinging into real action. Election date was November 29.

The moment official interest became directly involved, simple and rational explanations for all mysteries were rapidly forthcoming. It was almost as though an order had gone out to kill off the UFO landing theory as quickly as possible. The official explanations ranged from the possible to the unlikely and the utterly ridiculous. They came in a fast flow from T.V., Radio and Press, now in the reverse order of priority to that given at the beginning of this account. Some examples of the official explanations: the scrubweed had been sprayed by aircraft, from a tractor, by duck shooters; the ground indentations had been made by rooting pigs, by rabbits and removed fallen ti-tree stems pulled from the soft peat soil.

Mr. Bert G. O'Neil, a seasone farmer and owner of the property, had eliminated the above explanations on his first examination and he had been quoted accordingly in the nationally syndicated article of September 10. All non-official investigators and visiting farm friends were inclined to agree with Mr. O'Neil.

(Mr. Fulton's report will be concluded in our next issue—Editor.)

Olavarria

(*continued from page 26*)

previous cases. I need quote only those at Monte Maíz,[3] Argentina, on October 12, 1963 (tall beings, light beams); Trancas,[4] Argentina, on October 21, nine days later (farmhouse "besieged" by UFOs which shone beams of paralysing light that penetrated walls, raised temperature to unbearable level, threw dogs and fowls into a state of torpor, and terrified the farm occupants); Sauce Viejo,[5] Argentina, December 1963 (dazzling luminous entity entered stationary railway coach; and Torrent,[6] Argentina, in February 1965, when two-metre high "Martians" wearing helmets that emitted flashing beams of light terrorised farmhouses, their light beams penetrating the solid walls—and tried to abduct one of the farmers.

NOTES

1. See Case No. 19 in my report *A New South American Wave*, in FSR Vol. XIV, No. 5 (Sept./Oct. 1968).
2. The hour of 9.00 a.m. may be a newspaper misprint, for I find it difficult to believe that at a Latitude of only 37°.00 in the Southern Hemisphere winter, cocks would be so dilatory as to awaken and greet the dawn so late as this!
3. For full details see FSR Jan./Feb. 1964 and Nov./Dec. 1965. Also Case No. 33 of my *The Humanoids in Latin America*, in *The Humanoids* (FSR Special Issue of October 1966, now published as a revised hard-cover edition by Neville Spearman, London, 1969).
4. For details see FSR Jan./Feb. 1964, p. 29; FSR March/April 1965, p. 7, and my article *Argentina 1963-64, Part II*, in FSR Jan./Feb. 1966. Also Case No. 34 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.
5. For details see my *Argentina 1963-64, Part II*, in FSR Jan./Feb. 1966. Also Case 35 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.
6. For details see Case No. 41 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*, op.cit.

A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

The effects of UFOs on Animals, Birds, and smaller creatures

Part 2

THIS catalogue has been prepared by Gordon Creighton, who writes: "Since the publication of my Introduction in the January/February issue, in which I talked of 150 or so episodes, I can now say that the finished catalogue will almost certainly amount to more than 170 cases."

THE CATALOGUE—(ii) 1947 to 1953

21. Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. (July 1947)

A week after Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting, Patrolman K. McDowell was tossing corn to pigeons on a parking-lot when he saw the birds get very excited. Looking up and around, he beheld five large disc-shaped objects in the sky. Also seen by other police.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers on The Moon*, p. 53.

22. Austria (Night of May 15/16, 1951)

The remarkable "Salzburg-Mars Express" case: an Austrian allegedly kidnapped by an entity, taken aboard a 'flying saucer' and then brought back. On *terra firma* once more, the entity "pointed a pencil" at the man's head. Then a dog barked and this seemed to startle the entity: the anticipated blotting out of the man's memory did not follow.

Charles Bowen: *Fantasy or Truth*? FSR July/August 1967.

23. Sonderborg, Denmark (Midday, June 19, 1951)

Joseph Matiszewsky heard a whistling sound, and saw an object land in a meadow. Approaching within 50 metres of it, he found himself "paralyzed" and observed that birds had stopped singing, while cows seemed similarly to be unable to move. Handsome brown-skinned "men" in black shiny clothing emerged from the craft. Eight objects also came out of it and hovered above it. Only when these objects had risen out of sight into the air did the "paralysis" subside.

Jacques Vallée: *A Century of landings* No. 82 (see *Lumières dans la Nuit* and *Passport to Magonia*) taken from *UFO-Nachrichten* of May 1959.

24. Flatwoods, W. Virginia, U.S.A. (September 12, 1952)

The party of people who saw the terrifying "Sutton monster" from the landed craft on top of the hill had a dog with them. Like them, the dog fled home in abject terror, yelping pitifully. It was found there later, under the porch, still whining and trembling.

Gray Barker: *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, p. 26.

25. Gaillac, France (October 27, 1952)

Mme. Daures heard a tremendous hubbub among her chickens. Rushing out and looking up for a hawk, she saw a huge smoke-capped cylinder and saucers.

Aimé Michel: *The Truth about Flying Saucers*, p. 137.

26. Osborne, Kansas, U.S.A. (No date given)

Loud honking by geese caused a man to look up into sky and see a saucer travelling fast at a height estimated by him at 2 miles.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers on the Moon*, (1954) p. 124.

27. Conway, S. Carolina, U.S.A. (January 29, 1953)

Hearing noises in his barn, a farmer went to investigate, and found a light grey object, some 7 metres long and 4 metres high, at tree-top height. It was egg-shaped and lit from within. The farmer fired a shot at it. Subsequently, many head of cattle died "mysteriously" in the district.

Jaques Vallée: *A Century of Landings* No. 108 (see *Lumières dans la Nuit*, August 1969, and *Passport to Magonia*) from Personal Communication

28. New Zealand (July 21, and August 18, 1953)

Harold Fulton reports fear shown by his Siamese cat of some unknown things outside the window. Strange growling noise from inside her. Weird odours in house. Poltergeist phenomena. Cat goes out through door, but recoils rapidly, hissing and spitting, leaps into air, and takes refuge under bed. Dog also terrified.

Gray Barker: *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, pp. 160-161.

29. Pleasant Hill, California, U.S.A. (October 13, 1953)

Mrs. E. Cortsen, feeding her turkeys, noticed they were greatly excited. Looking up, she beheld four round objects, at great height, glistening in the sunshine, and emitting something whitish.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, p. 201.

30. Sherbrook, Canada (December 1953)

Mrs. Orfei heard furious knocks on her door in the middle of the night. Her Alsatian dog rushed towards the door, then suddenly retreated, trembling as if terrified, and retired to a corner. From an upper window Mrs. Orfei watched two "indescribable" shadows move away from the house, and later, a large round object took off into the air "with a blue-green lightning" from a spot about 100 metres from the house.

Jacques Vallée: *A Century of Landings* No. 121 (see *Lumières dans la Nuit* and *Passport to Magonia*) taken from *Oltre il Cielo*, Italy, Vol. 1.

(We apologise that this instalment is so small. This has been dictated by a need to present all the many cases for 1954 in one instalment—EDITOR)

Lakenheath

(*continued from p.17*)

degree of scientific inexplicability is so great that, instead of being ignored and laughed at, those cases should all along since 1947 have been drawing the attention of a large body of the world's best scientists. Had the latter occurred, we might now have some answers, some clues to the real nature of the UFO phenomena. But 22 years of inadequate UFO investigations have kept this stunning scientific problem out of sight and under a very broad rug called Project Bluebook, whose final termination on December 18, 1969, ought to mark the end of an era and the start of a new one relative to the UFO problem.

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 ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

'Shadow' and 'Portholes'

Sir,—May I refer to *Flying Saucer over Cluj, Romania*, in FSR for November-December 1969.

Florin Gheorghita's conclusion that as "portholes" are not visible, they do not exist, does not necessarily follow.

I assume that two active groups of participants were involved in this incident; (1) the Romanians and (2) the saucer operators. No others appear to be involved. It is logical then to expect that each was interested in the other and hence, if a line were projected between the two participant groups, it would be the line of vision for both groups. The "Illogical shadow" is always on this line.

I have long been an adherent to the "plasma-surrounded craft" theory, and this case is further evidence for this inasmuch as the object was self-luminous. Self-luminous, that is, except for the area of "shadow", which, if it cannot be ascribed a logical explanation as a shadow, must then be something else. But what? The direct line of the "shadow" and the ground observers I think provides the answer, which is that the "shadow" is the craft's "porthole" (i.e. a hole in the plasma); the brightness of the plasmic envelope causing the high degree of contrast recorded.

A. Calvert, 26, Well Road, Barnet, Herts.

Croydon Library's big list

Sir,—With reference to Anne Dooley's letter in Mail Bag in the Nov./Dec., issue of FSR, I thought you would be interested to know that there are 38 books on UFOs obtainable from the Croydon Public Library. It is also interesting to note that whenever I have visited the library there have been no more than two or three books available at the same time, and recently there have been none on the shelves and often a waiting list for some of them. I think this shows that more and more people are becoming interested in the subject, and certainly the demand for books has increased over the last few months.

David J. Salsbury, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey, December 30, 1969.

P.S. When I discovered that the library had not obtained a copy of "The Humanoids" I went out and bought one.—D.J.S.

(*The Croydon Library list—copy to hand—will take some beating. It contains books by most of the well-known authors, with the notable exceptions of A. Michel and I. T. Sanderson*—EDITOR.)

An important letter from Dr. Pierre Guérin

Dear Sir,

It is excellent that FSR should be open to a wide sweep of opinions. After John Keel and his "soft" saucers, as Salvador Dali would say, here comes now Peter F. Sharp who, in the issue for January-February 1970, has our extraterrestrial friends arriving, aboard Phobos and Deimos, into an orbit around Mars after a long, long interstellar voyage across the four-dimensional Space-Time of our physics, and has these gigantic hollow spheres becoming satellites of the red planet shortly before 1877.

I promptly felt as though suddenly taken back to twenty years before, when Keyhoe published his first book. At that time, the most serious ufologists felt it incumbent upon them to select only what seemed to be the less "irrational" from the eyewitness accounts, and consequently to eliminate all the rest which smacks of "magic". They calculated the amount of energy necessary for the accomplishment of such long journeys, and waited for physics to make discoveries in the realm of anti-gravity. Sometimes they calculated the chances of life on Mars, in the hope of getting round the immense difficulties involved in interstellar voyages. The science which they attributed to the Extraterrestrials was, at best, the science of our own 21st centrury.

But alas, and alas, and again, alas! The facts are obstinate. The astronomers who keep watch on the artificial satellites put into orbit around the Earth by man never see the UFOs arriving, so to speak, on our planet from Space. Having left traces on the soil in landing—traces that argue in favour of the solid, material nature of the machine—this or that UFO vanishes instantaneously on the spot immediately after having taken off. Another UFO emerges from a cloud which, a few minutes before, did not exist in the blue sky. And, finally, it seems that—with the exception of the classical "saucer" type—the UFOs can assume various forms, as though they were seeking to mould themselves upon the machines that our own terrestrial technology is capable of imagining at a given moment in our history.

We no longer have the right in 1970 to ignore such facts. These facts show that the occupants of the UFOs possess a science that, to our understanding, is what our science is to the understanding of an ape. The UFOs have nothing whatever to do with the idea of some sort of manufactured Space sondes, similar to ours and launched from some base in our Solar System. Whether their pilots come from our astronomical Universe or from Magonia I know not: but what I can affirm positively is that they manipulate Space and Time in a manner that to us is incomprehensible and which probably makes it unnecessary for them to traverse the geodesic points of our customary Space-Time and enables them to "materialise" here and "dematerialise" there. It seems impossible to account otherwise for the observed facts. The hypothesis about launching bases on Phobos and Deimos has become null and void.

I would add that the latest photographic observations of Phobos have proved that, contrary to what had for a certain time been thought, the movement of this satellite displays no acceleration. In other words, Phobos is not slowed down by the exosphere of Mars, and this suggests that it is not hollow and artificial but solid like all natural satellites. Phobos and Deimos are moreover extremely difficult to see, even with a big telescope, and there is nothing suprising in the fact of their not having been seen prior to their discovery by Hall in 1877.

Pierre Guérin, Astronome à l'Institut d'Astrophsyique de Paris

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Seaside UFO

In the Hampshire newspaper *Christchurch Times* of October 31, 1969, we read how, on October 23,—

"Two boys fishing at Highcliffe last Thursday saw a UFO—'an object with a red fore light and a green rear light, body invisible but about twice the size of the Concorde, and gliding along slowly at an altitude of 100ft,' one of them told the CT.

"Paul Temple, of Montagu Road, Highcliffe, said that he and his friend, Barry Pearce, were fishing from Highcliffe beach when they saw the object.

"The UFO, he said, continued parallel to the beach and hovered over Barton Cliffs. It remained hovering, stationary, for two minutes before turning—then displaying orange and white lights—and going back to hover over the two boys 'as though it were observing us.'

"It moved up the cliff, and they chased after it, running for half a mile. Then the UFO disappeared. 'In actual fact, it must have accelerated at a fantastic speed,' said Paul."

Giant object over Southend

The *Southend Evening Echo* of December 16, 1969, tells how—

"Mr. Jack Zetter, 22, of Seaforth Road, Westcliff, claims he and his wife saw a UFO from Sutton Road, Southend, and followed in their car until losing sight of it five minutes later.

"'At first I thought it was the top of a building with lights on it. But then it moved,' said Mr. Zetter. 'It kept moving and stopping. It was as big as the civic centre. It was like a giant kite. The whole thing was a kind of silvery light.'

"He said it was difficult to estimate how far away it was. 'I'm certain it wasn't a plane or a balloon or anything else recognisable.' "

UFO seen through telescope

From the *Harlow and West Essex Gazette* of December 12, 1969, we learn how, on December 5, 1969,—

"Terry Littlechild was leaving his home in Cecil House, Chingford Road, Walthamstow, just after eight to go to school when he noticed a bright light in the sky.

"His mother, June, also saw it, and told the Guardian at her home on Saturday, 'It was like a big, white light standing in the sky, still for just over three minutes.'

"Terry dashed upstairs to his room, where he keeps a telescope permanently trained up to the sky.

" 'I was astonished when I looked at it close up,' he said. 'There were two small lights, but very bright, and very close together, almost touching each other.'

"While Terry came down the stairs again his mother saw the UFO move away.

" 'It was over Alexandra Palace, about four or five miles away,' continued Mrs. Littlechild, 'and then it moved fast away to the left. We followed it for about five miles until it faded away to nothing.' "

NORTHERN IRELAND

Astronomers and their 'beliefs'

The following item is taken from the *Belfast News Letter* of December 18, 1969—

"Do flying saucers exist? The chairman of the Irish Astronomical Society, Mr. Andrew Trimble, thinks they do, and last night put forward a strong argument in support of unidentified flying objects.

"In an illustrated talk Mr. Trimble said that many astronomers privately believed in UFOs but did not say so publicly because they feared ridicule."

NEW ZEALAND

Did orbs of light cause 'circles'?

We are greatly indebted to those many readers living in New Zealand who sent us news cuttings about incidents in the recent flap. Here is an account from the *New Zealand Herald* of October 9, 1969, about an event reported on October 4—

"Two bright orbs of light, seen following each other low in the western sky from Katikati early on Saturday, could have some connection with two mysterious burnt patches of grass found on the farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua, the man who saw the lights, Mr. I. A. McGregor, believes.

"Mr. McGregor, who owns a farm halfway between Katikati and Tauranga, said yesterday he had seen the lights at 2.50 a.m. on Saturday and had followed their sweep of the sky for 10 minutes.

"Samples of the perplexing patches of grass are to be sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for analysis."

Horse scared of mystery 'circles'

The mystery 'circles' mentioned in the previous item were reported in the *New Zealand Herald* of October 8, 1969—

"Two mysterious circular burnt patches of grass have been found on the hillside of an open expanse of farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua.

"The owner of the farm, Mr. C. T. Johnson, of Te Waerenga Road, said yesterday he had been riding his horse when he spotted the brown coloured circles.

"When he attempted to get closer his horse became 'spooky and silly' and Mr. Johnson said she would not go near the circles.

"The horse reared up and Mr. Johnson was forced to dismount to investigate. He said he had been riding for about an hour.

"A geologist from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Rotorua, Mr. D. Rishworth, accompanied a Herald reporter to the farm yesterday.

CIRCLES]

"The circles were on the side of a steep hill with the upper slope more burnt than the lower area. One circle was very distinct and measured about 53 feet in diameter, but a smaller circle, measuring about 30 feet in diameter, had almost faded away.

"The grass had grown a darker green on the smaller circle. Higher up the hill a number of small burnt-out patches were found.

"Mr. Rishworth said he could offer no explanation. He dug a sod of earth and burnt grass and will send it to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Wellington to be analysed.

"Mr. Johnson said he had been farming at Kaharoa for 18 years and had never seen anything like it.

" 'At first I thought grassgrubs had been at work but when I got closer I saw a large circle of burnt patches. I haven't the faintest idea what caused the circles and can only say it is mighty mysterious.'

UFO THEORY

"However, many are convinced the theory of an unidentified flying object is connected with the circles."

Another 'circle' and torpedo-shaped UFO

From the *New Zealand Herald* of October 10, 1969—

"A third mystery circle has been found on a farm at Kaharoa, near Rotorua, says a *Herald* Staff Reporter.

"The third circle burnt in the grass was found by the owner of the farm, Mr. C. T. Johnson. It lies across a fence-line. The fence is undamaged.

"Mr. Johnson earlier this week found two circular burnt patches of grass while riding his horse and he said the horse became 'spooky and silly' and would not go any closer to them.

"A sample of soil and burnt grass has been sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Wellington for analysis . . .

"The *Herald* correspondent at Dargaville reported that an unidentified flying object was sighted by a Redhill family on Wednesday (October 8) about 7.30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. J. Searle and their daughter Gillyan, aged 13, who live above Glinkes Gully, were halfway down a hill walking toward their home when Gillyan spotted what she thought to be an aeroplane on fire.

"It was moving in a line from Glinkes Gulley in the direction of Te Kopuru, and was seen for several minutes.

"Mr. Searle said the object appeared to be torpedo-shaped and flames were shooting out of the back like a giant skyrocket. He said that it seemed about the size of an aircraft normally seen in the area and was flying fairly low at a high speed."

Cattle scared by another 'circle'

Yet another mystery 'circle', and its effects, was reported in the *New Zealand Herald* of October 16, 1969—

"The third mysterious burnt-out circle discovered on central North Island farmland areas in a month has been found on a property at Puketutu, about nine miles south of Te Kuiti.

"The circle, on a small island in the middle of a pond, was found by Mr. C. Blackmore on his farm. Mrs. Blackmore said her husband was herding his cattle down to the pond to drink. They went so far, then turned 'and belted back up the hill.'

"Mr. Blackmore thought the ducks had scared the cattle, but when he went down there were no ducks, just a circle on the island where the rushes had been flattened and turned brown. The remainder of the island was untouched and the rushes were quite green.

"Mrs. Blackmore said the dog would not drink from the pond and further attempts to get the cattle to drink there also failed. She added that there was a funny smell in the area."

Credit: **N. Wardell, The Apollo Verein,** Otahuhu.

This account refers to the "third" circle: by our reckoning this one should have been described as the "fifth" as the four preceding it are all recorded in this issue of FSR—EDITOR)

Erratic-moving, colour-changing UFO

The *Auckland Star* of November 25, 1969, tells how—

"The second appearance in two weeks of an unidentified flying object near Kauri Mountain, eight miles north of Whangarei, was reported yesterday.

"Mr. Neville Coop, of Ruatangata, had just returned home from a dance at 12.30 a.m. on Sunday when he saw a bright orange light in the north-eastern sky.

"He called to his brother, Desmond, and they both watched it through a telescope for 15 minutes.

"Mr. Coop said the oval object changed colour slightly, taking on a bluish tinge. It would remain still for about a minute, then move, either sideways or vertically.

"Finally, said Mr. Coop, the object rose rapidly and disappeared at speed.

"A similar sighting was reported by Mr. and Mrs. W. Risi, of Ruatangata."

SPAIN

Landing report

The Madrid daily newspaper *ABC* of December 24, 1969, carried the following account from Pamplona, Provincia de Navarra, datelined December 23, 1969—

"An engineer employed at the 'Potasas de Navarra' mines here in Pamplona, says that he saw a flying saucer land and remain stationary for a few moments, near the locality of 'Las Arrublas,' between the small towns of Esparza and Beriáin; shortly afterwards it took off again.

"He claims that you can even see the marks it left on the ground, and also a large area of calcinated ground where it had been standing. He added that he had convinced some of his workmates, all of whom had gone to the scene to examine it and to take photographs, and also to analyse the ground."—Cifra (agency).

Credit: **Sr. R-B. Guerard y Holmes** of Madrid.

Holiday observation

We were pleased to receive a report of a UFO observed by **Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Astridge** of Reigate, Surrey, while on holiday at Calella on the coast of Spain. The duration of the observation was two hours. Mr. Astridge writes—

"It was on September 26, 1969, and although at the time we were quite satisfied that the object *was* a "flying saucer, I wondered whether the sighting had been reported by other people, in view of the many thousands of English people on holiday at this resort. I contacted two newspapers, the British Ministry of Defence and the Spanish Embassy, but all denied having any reports.

"We were in a crowded thoroughfare running parallel to the coast when our attention was drawn to the object: dozens of people were pointing to the sky, and on looking up we saw a shining metallic object in the *cloudless* sky. It was completely stationary, and in shape and size was almost identical to that in the photograph on Plate III of the book *Challenge to Science*. The object we saw shone like burnished silver in the reflected sunlight, and appeared very high up. The edges were a little blurred.

"We continued walking towards the beach, while keeping the object under observation, but it did not move. On reaching the beach Promenade, we tried to observe it through one of the coin-operated telescopes, as it was over the sea, but the instrument wouldn't elevate sufficiently; several other people had the same idea, and some were watching it through binoculars. We then sat on a seat, and "lined it up" between the cross-spars of a telegraph pole, and for the next 1½ hours it did not shift its position.

"As dusk descended, the *whole* object began to glow with a brilliant white light, until it looked like a gigantic star in the sky, then is slowly changed colour into a vivid ruby red; shortly after this it moved, completely soundless, streaking across the sky in an easterly direction at a speed far in excess of that of an aircraft, dwindling into a tiny speck within seconds, and rising away from the earth.

"Altogether, many thousands of people must have seen this object, certainly many at our Hotel had seen it at various points along the coast, and yet, apparently, no one reported it; I should have thought that in view of the time it was there, and the number of observers, that it would have made headlines."

SWEDEN

USOs reported

Unidentified submarine objects have been reported on a number of occasions in FSR, notably from Scottish and New Zealand waters. Here is a report sent recently to FSR by **John A. Keel** which adds to the score—

Mr. Åke Franzen of Stockholm, Sweden, has forwarded the following reports from the newspapers *Dagens Nyheter*, *Svenska Dagbladet*, *Aftonbladet*, *Expressen*.

USO OUTSIDE NORRTALJE

"An unidentified submarine has been reported Saturday night (September 13, 1969) inside the prohibited military sector at Björkö-Arholma, north of Stockholm.

"Navy Helicopters and a Coast Guard cruiser were sent immediately

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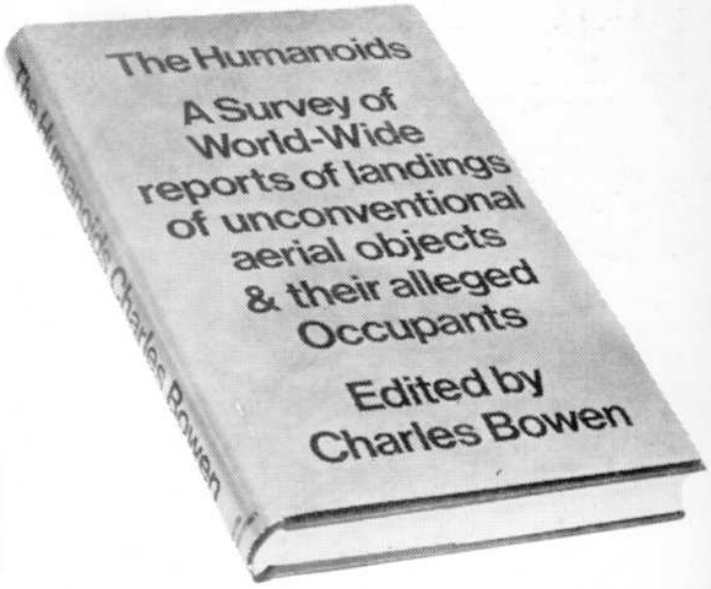
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Artwork by Pauline Bowen

to the area to search for the intruder. It was first sighted by a Finnish ferry outside Norrtälje. A man stationed on the island of Hämtan said he saw the submarine from his motorboat near Havssvalget. He picked the object up with his searchlight and watched it from a distance of only a few yards. He was unable to identify it. After he radioed his report to the coast guard an extensive search was held Saturday evening by aircraft, ships and military troops. No trace of the object was ever found."

TANKER SUNK

"Four crewmen are missing after an explosion aboard the Swedish tanker *Seven Skies* 210 kilometres north-east of Singapore in the South China Seas early on Monday morning (October 6, 1969). Thirty-two survivors were rescued by a Japanese fishing boat.

"Director Sven Hampus Salén told the *Expressen:* 'We don't know what caused the explosion but several theories are being considered.'

"*Seven Skies* was a 97,000 ton vessel and was built in Kockums in 1966. It was on its way from Japan to Indonesia without cargo."

UNKNOWN SUBMARINE THEORY

"In a report dated October 10, 1969, it was suggested that a submarine may have sunk the Swedish tanker *Seven Skies*. During the preliminary investigation in Singapore, Commander Otto Ferdinand Henning said that the ship behaved strangely just before the explosion. The tanker rose upwards and then rolled over as if it had struck a reef or collided with some huge underwater object.

"The explanation was given that the *Seven Skies* collided with an unknown submarine running at periscope depth. Commander Henning had no memory of any explosion, he said, but other crew members stated that the ship was shaken by a series of violent explosions before it sank. The accident took four lives; 3 Swedes and 1 Indonesian."

USO IN BOTTENHAVET

"Is there a strange submarine in the waters outside of Halsingland? A collision occurred yesterday, Thursday, November 20, 1969, 16 nautical miles from Galström, south-east Sundsvall. The helmsman of the trawler *Silverö* told the press that a light appeared just before the collision and then disappeared. It was visible for about ten minutes.

"After the collision, the trawler heaved to and remained stationary. There was no sign of the object which caused the collision. The revenue cutter TV 245 searched the area but found nothing.

"The press reported that no Swedish units were in the vicinity at the time. The collision was severe and must have damaged the object. The trawler is now undergoing repairs at Ljusne. The damage was apparently caused by a very sharp object. No traces of stones or rubble were found in the ruptures but two reddish-brown spots have been discovered on the damaged hull. A planking about one metre below the waterline was badly damaged, as were three planks above the waterline.

"At 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon there was another mysterious collision. The German ship *Insulanur*, en route from Domsjö to Bureå, collided with an unknown object at Sydosbrotten. The weather was clear and quiet and the collision was quite violent but the crew failed to see the cause. The *Insulanur* is now being examined in the harbour at Skelleftea."

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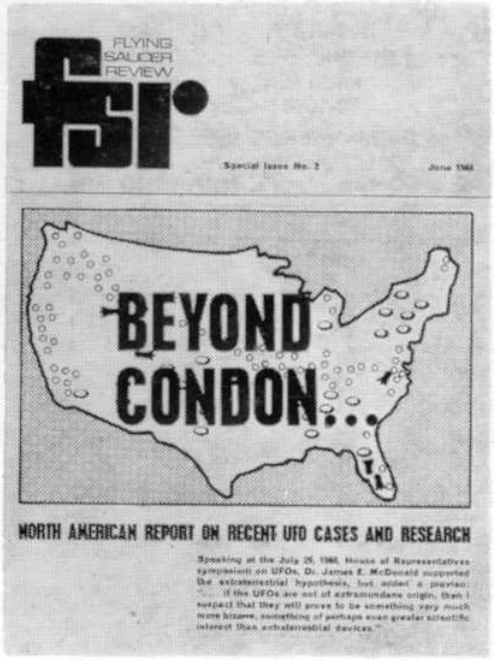
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