

On the subject of Brinsley Le Poer Trench's *Twenty Years Back*, a Mayflower paperback, probably now out of print, called *Great World Mysteries*, by Eric Frank Russell, contains a lengthy chapter devoted to the predominantly-Scandinavian wave of 1946, which contains (as far as I remember—my copy was loaned out about four years ago and never returned) more cases of these "ghost rockets" than any other source I have come across.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity given me by the review of Mrs. Lorenzen's book to vocalise something that has bothered me since I read it. The un-named Brazilian who was transported to another planet, identifiable later with Mars, in 1965, claimed that he was there warned of a "peaceful invasion" of Earth scheduled for "next year". This, as Mrs. Lorenzen notes, would have meant sometime in 1966—**had the informant been using terrestrial units of time.** If, however, the Brazilian's captors were using Martian years, which are almost exactly **twice the length of ours**, "next year" could mean any time from early 1967 (if the incident took place at the end of the Martian year) to late 1968 (if it were at the beginning of the Martian year—such terms not of course assuming that the entities were Martians born and bred, but merely that they were using local time). In other words, although nothing happened in 1966, we still have 18 months as I write this, in which the Brazilian's words may be proved true. In an article (*UFOs—An End In Sight*) in FATE magazine for August '67 Peter Coleman says:

"Undoubtedly, things are coming to a head; sightings, and, more important, landings, are on the increase. . . . Within my limit of five years I think we will see the greatest event of all history—the meeting of Man with an alien race."

Granting the slight homocentricity, I think that about sums it up.
Donald K. Mills, 4 Helena Avenue, Margate, Kent.

[The case of John Reeves of Brooksville was discussed in the article *Who hoaxes who?* (Charles Bowen) in the July/August 1965 issue of FSR. A reproduction of the "writing" accompanied the article—EDITOR.]

Comrades in Arms

Sir,—Mr. Stewart Miller in his article *On Scientific Dogma* (FSR, Vol. 13, No. 2) shows a lot of wishful thinking and a much too idealistic concept of our today's science. He might profitably read the article by K. Mossman, immediately following his own one in the same issue of FSR, *The Velikovsky Affair—Orthodox Reaction at Work*, who comes much nearer to the truth.

What we urgently need today is a thorough sociological study by a team of competent scientists, unmasking most dangerous non-scientific tendencies in today's science. Such a study will most clearly show that neither the habits of today's established science nor the structure of our scientific community do any longer comply with the needs of our society. Instead of fighting actively along all frontiers of human knowledge against the unknown, too many professional scientists in their publications treat the great revolutionary concepts of today in an insincere and dishonest manner, misleading the public by unqualified statements. Ivan T. Sanderson in his recent book, *Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life* (Chilton Co., Philadelphia/New York, 1961) devotes a whole chapter to *An Analysis of Scepticism and Orthodoxy*.

UFO students should, therefore, be fully aware of this situation and recognise that open-minded researchers in the fields of "snowmen", Loch Ness Monsters, Ice Falls, "occult" phenomena, the divining rod, "antediluvian" civilisations, spiritual healing, the nature and origins of the Great Ice Age, the occurrence of enormous natural catastrophes during the recorded history of man and the like are their "comrades in arms". Not seldom we even find the same apostle of dogmatic science simultaneously attacking two or more "heretic" theories; Mossman brings an example of this kind. If possible, UFO researchers should, therefore, try to coordinate their efforts with those of researchers in other "heretic" fields under a common strategy against the reactionary forces of orthodox science.

H. Friedrich, (address in W. German., supplied).

That 1897 contraption—an idea

The following extract is from a letter addressed by "Electros Loveray" (J. E. Boumis, a reader of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) of Athens, Greece, to the Editor of *Flying Saucers, UFO Reports*, published by the Dell Publishing Co. of New York. A copy of his letter was forwarded to this REVIEW.

"... Concerning the queer shape of the famous airship as it appears on Flying Saucer Review's cover (for July/August 1966) and also on p.14, I humbly think that researchers have not noticed that this extremely complex or multiform craft is really a perfect 'cigar-type', because its lowest part uplifted fits to the main body perfectly; and so does the top part, lowered; and so does the [rear] part moved forwards; in which triple mechanical, self-folding the airship becomes the regular 'cigar' seen in the U.S.A. during this 1897 flap."

[The letter was dated July 14, 1967. I found it particularly interesting, and was really intrigued when Mr. W. H. Watson sent in his article in September.—EDITOR.]

Comments on FSR, Vol. 13, No. 4

A. Fantasy or Truth?

1. To the question: "Is a story false or true?" There are three answers: "Yes", "No" and "Partly true". The latter may be told perfectly honourably. For example, the thing probably hypnotised the Austrian to paralyse him. It could equally well have caused him to dream that he visited the Moon and Mars. He could have been told to wake when the pencil was pointed at him again and also that he would vividly remember his dream.

2. When Mars and Earth, being both on the same side of the sun, are at their maximum distance from each other the velocity of the space ship could be of the order of half the speed of light. At their nearest, it might be about a sixth.

3. But the acceleration required to achieve such speeds is very many times

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS (continued from page 7)

One remarkable feature was that Mr. Colley, who had complained of toothache some time before this incident, now stated that it had completely disappeared. In fact, when I spoke to him today, a fortnight after the incident, he confirmed that it had still not returned. A dentist colleague of mine commented that this would tie up with a suspected disruption of the nerve impulse, but that an abscess could develop now that Nature's warning has been interfered with.

All in all, it appears that Mr. Colley was affected by the periphery of a force field which we assume was contracted down to its minimum. The saucer was hovering, there was practically no glow nor sound, and we may assume the "engine" was obviously at low "thrust."

Had the engine been on full throttle it would have been a different kettle of fish. The saucer would have been surrounded by a brilliant violet glow, the force field would have extended outwards several hundred

yards, and Mr. Colley would have been knocked unconscious, his skin being rendered erythematous. And when he recovered, would he have been the same man? Would his cerebral neurones have acted as before? I doubt it. I suspect his memory and concentration would have been impaired, and the auditory and visual cortex recovering from its "stunning process" would begin to show various activities. For, as the peripheral nerves in recovering give rise to "tingling," so the auditory and visual cortex in recovering give rise to "sounds" and "visions" respectively. And, as we have seen with previous witnesses, there would be auditory and visual hallucinations.

Therefore, in all contact ground level sightings, one must bear in mind the considerable side effects of the "force-field" on the physiology of the human body.

London,

November 9, 1967.

that achieved by Cape Kennedy type rockets. Yet men are specially trussed up and positioned for flights in the latter. No particular care seems to have been taken with our Austrian.

3. Finally, although armed with maps, compasses, directional radio beams and so on, aircraft found it extremely difficult to 'home' on a target at night during the last war. How then did The Thing bring his charge back at terrific speed to the exact spot from which they had taken off?

4. There is a dream-like quality in the way they pull up "without a jerk" and in the way they seem to float in and out of the ship. Against this the Austrian "felt the heat of the sun". One doesn't usually feel things in dreams.

5. In spite of these objections, I do not necessarily disbelieve this story.

B. *More on 1897*

1. If one makes certain reservations, it would appear that what was seen in 1897 was an airship. Consider its speed, its method of propulsion. The fact that the 'old gentleman' had "plenty of money", "experimented" and spoke perfect American—there is no comment on his accent!

2. The reservations would be:

(a) That, ordinarily speaking, a balloon suspends the law of gravitation. In fact it only counteracts it. But this is how we often speak.

(b) "I will attempt to visit the planet Mars. . . ." This could be a gentle leg pull. After all the man on the ground can't do much about it. And the 'old gentleman' would be tempted to exaggerate his good fortune!

3. If the latter really could lift a 4-ton Hotchkiss and ten tons of ammunition by placing a small wire around each object or group of objects, then why build an airship at all? The whole lot could be loaded on a platform, with wire under it: a sort of magic carpet.

4. It seems to me that the very reasonable sketch of the ship passing over Nashville is a view of its underside. Under the nose we see, probably, ailerons, the two oblongs are doubtless nacelles and part of the propeller shaft must be hidden behind an outer envelope. The machinery may well be in the rear nacelle.

5. There were military dirigibles before the First World War and I feel that 1897 is so close to this that it is more probable than not that this is a rather early and advanced type.

S. A. Paris, Brooklands, Upholland, Wigan, Lancs.

[Perhaps Mr. Paris will refer to the July/August issue of the REVIEW. Following Mr. Jerome Clark's article, The Strange Case of the 1897 Airship, he will find a note by Mr. Charles Gibbs-Smith, the eminent

aviation historian. Mr. Gibbs-Smith states quite definitely that "No form of dirigible (i.e. gasbag propelled by an airscrew) or heavier-than-air flying machine was flying—or indeed could fly—at this time in America". —EDITOR.]

Induced Amnesia?

Sir,—Your piece, *Fantasy or Truth* in the July/August issue of the REVIEW, got me to thinking about a story I was told in West Virginia and maybe it means a great deal. I have given you the witness's name and address but would be obliged if you just kept it on your file. Here is his story:

While interviewing UFO witnesses in West Virginia recently, a prominent community leader in a small town in the Ohio valley asked me if the symbols of "triangles and squares" ever played a part in UFO reports. I asked him what he meant and he told me this story:

During the Korean War he had served in the APs (Air Police with the U.S. Air Force) and was assigned to a post in Germany. Sometime in 1951 or 1952 (he no longer remembers the exact year or date), a Russian MiG fighter pilot decided to defect and flew his plane across the East German border, continuing until he ran out of fuel and was forced to set down in West Germany. The Americans were, of course, delighted with this prize—a late model MiG intact—and the witness and a buddy were assigned to guard the plane until the necessary vehicle could be mustered to collect it and haul it to the nearest Air Force base.

The plane was guarded 24 hours a day until it could be moved and the two men were given night duty. They were driven to the field, an isolated spot near Weisbaden, where they relieved the guards then on duty. So they found themselves alone in the darkness, facing a long night. After a few minutes they observed a bright light in the distance, moving slowly towards them. They assumed that it was a jeep and they watched it as it appeared to move across the rough field to the plane, growing brighter and brighter as it came.

Suddenly the witness was astonished to find himself standing at a guard post back at the Air base. It was broad daylight and he was on duty. Twelve hours had passed, somehow, and he had absolutely no recollection of how he had gotten back to the base or what had happened. His buddy was also back on the base and was equally baffled. They tried to make a few inquiries but since no one seemed to think that anything was out of order they decided to say nothing further.

From that day on the witness was plagued with recurrent nightmares in which symbols

of triangles and squares appeared. He felt that the triangles were some kind of doorways and they frightened him. As the years passed, these dreams troubled him more and more. He claims that he finally sought psychiatric help for a time and the treatment seemed to pinpoint that single unexplained evening.

I suggested that he seek hypno-therapy from a qualified psychiatrist and he is seriously considering it.

What happened to him and his friend in that distant field? Could he have spent those missing hours in the same Twilight Zone that engulfed Betty and Barney Hill? Perhaps hypnotic regression will produce some unexpected answers.

Anyway, it is just an anecdote and may have nothing to do with our subject. Nevertheless, we should note it and watch for more stories like it from Europe during that period.

John A. Keel, New York City, U.S.A.

On triangles and "silencers"

Sir,—I would like to comment on two items which recently appeared in the REVIEW.

Concerning the triangular-shaped UFO reported over Majorca (FSR, XIII, 1, January/February 1967, pp.19-20), the description indicates that the object was probably a high altitude research balloon similar to the "Moby Dick" balloons. At high altitude these plastic balloons appear to have a triangular outline. (See The Nashville triangle case of May 27, 1961, *UFO Evidence*, p.95.)

The February 13, 1960, case of the photograph taken by restaurant owner, Joseph Perry of Grand Blanc, Michigan, and allegedly seized by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents has no sinister overtones. (FSR, XIII, 2, March/April 1967, p.10.) This case was dealt with in the May 1960 *NICAP Bulletin*.

After displaying the pictures in his restaurant, Perry learned of the Air Force UFO investigation. He contacted the Air Force and was referred to the FBI. The FBI, upon Perry's request, took the pictures and turned them over to the Air Force. Agents later visited Perry and gave him the exact address of the office at the local Air Force base where the photograph was being analysed.

In answer to an inquiry from NICAP, J. Edgar Hoover, FBI Director, stated that the FBI did not investigate UFOs for the Air Force, but the Bureau will accept volunteered information.

The Air Force later stated that the image on the photograph was due to a development flaw. Analyses by APRO and NICAP corroborated this finding.

J. L. Aldrich, 455 Lincoln Avenue, Beaver Pennsylvania, 15009, U.S.A.

Happy Christmas

The Editor and Publishers of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* wish their readers a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year. They would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the readers for their continued support.