

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

More Hainault UFOs

According to the Ilford, Essex newspaper, *The Recorder* of August 4, 1977,— “Flying saucer experts are examining the puzzling UFO—the Hainault Flying Object.

“So far more than a dozen people say they have spotted the ‘light in the sky’ hovering and glowing menacingly above the forest area.

“Last week the light turned an early-morning drive home from a party into a terrifying ordeal for a married couple as it ‘chased’ them along Forest Road in Hainault.

“The drive ended dramatically outside Dagenham police station when the UFO was witnessed by several officers on early morning duty.

“The UFO appeared at 2 a.m. on Friday in a ‘flash of light’ above the sports ground in Forest Road.

“Two lights materialised from the flash and began following Mrs. Maureen McCreanor and her husband Terry as they drove home.

“‘I was terrified,’ said Mrs. McCreanor. ‘The lights just kept on following us.’

“The couple, of Legion Avenue, Rush Green, even tried diversions through back streets to shake off the UFO — without success.

“By the time they arrived at Whalebone Lane in Dagenham her husband decided to alert the police.

“The lights eventually disappeared one and a half hours after they were first seen.”

Credit: Philip Creighton

England

Bridlington again

From the Scarborough *Evening News* of June 10, 1977, we learn how,—

“A Bridlington man found himself staring into the sky in disbelief when he spotted a cigar-shaped craft which he described as an ‘aeroplane without wings’.

“Mr. Martin Blow was driving in Station Road and turned the corner into Midway Avenue, where he lives, when he saw a craft hovering at about 500 feet.

“He said the unidentified flying object seemed to be as big as an airliner with a fin on the back, but no wings.

“His father-in-law Mr. Raymond Newell and his wife Susan were also in the car at the time. Mr. Newell thought the strange craft was an airship at first.

“Mr. Blow added: ‘There were no clouds. It’s a complete mystery. I don’t believe in spaceships, but I’ve

got to admit it was a bit funny.’

Credit: F. Satterthwaite of Copmanthorpe, York.

Wales

Glowing “sausage” over Brecon

The following is a UFOIN report of an incident investigated by Derek James of NUFON:—

“On June 12, 1977, Mrs. Glenys Price was driving her friends Mrs. Mabel Jones and Mr. Steven Williams home on a cool, cloudy night, with some drizzle falling. The time was 3.15 a.m. and they were driving along the main A40 road near Brecon, Powys in Wales.

“Suddenly Mrs. Price spotted an object about the size of a small car in the sky. She slowed her car down and brought it to the attention of the other passengers. The colour was golden and it was roughly sausage shaped with a hazy glow around it. All witnesses feel that it had a lump or protruberance sticking up from the top, although Mrs. Price feels this was in the middle, whereas the others feel it was at the right end of the object. This protruberance was darker in colour than the rest of the object.

“Behind the object was a cloud, or vapour-like substance. This moved with the object, was darker in colour and irregular in shape although roughly oval.

The whole phenomenon was in view some two minutes as they drove slowly past. It suddenly disappeared, instantly, as if in the manner of a light being switched off.

United States of America

Missiles and UFOs

Unfortunately the sender of the following news item from the *Province* newspaper at Vancouver, B.C., did not mark on the date of the issue (believed to be late 1976 or early 1977). The report originates from Huntsville, Alabama:—

“Experts at a missile base here say they are puzzled about strange ‘ghost ships’ picked up by powerful radar scanners in the Pacific during a tracking exercise.

“There has been little official comment on what the scientists found. But Major Dallas van Hoose, the army’s base spokesman, confirmed that ‘some unexplained aerial phenomena’ were observed.

“Scientists, many of whom are reluctant to be named in interviews

because of general public scepticism concerning unidentified flying objects, say privately they have been unable to find an explanation for the ‘ghost ships.’

“‘We have never seen anything precisely like this before,’ said one ballistic missile defence expert who works for an army agency here and is familiar with the advanced radar used to test missiles and warheads.

“Huntsville houses the army’s ballistic missile defence systems command, which analyses results of missile tests in the Kwajalein Atoll region of the Marshall Island Trust Territory held by the U.S.

“Last August, the U.S. air force launched a Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from Vandenburg Air Force Base aimed for the Kwajalein missile range, used by the army, air force and navy.

“When the ICBM was screaming towards the Pacific test site, it began its descent on a normal, ballistic trajectory, scientists said.

“The nose cone had separated from the third stage of the missile and was entering the atmosphere at 22,000 feet a second.

“Radar scanners at Kwajalein and Meck Islands were tracking the nose cone routinely.

“At about 400,000 feet, the radar experts in the Pacific found they also were tracking an unidentified flying object next to the ICBM’s nose cone.

“Radar picked up an inverted saucer-shaped object to the right and above the descending nose cone and watched it cross the warhead’s trajectory.”

Credit: Miss O. Beaton of Vancouver.

Italy

Perugia UFOs

An article in *La Nazione* of April 19, 1977, described the sighting, near Florence, of a circular object with a brilliant tail, apparently accompanied by “booming” noises, and stated that it was suggested that it was a meteor — which seems reasonable. The article continues:—

“A long, mysterious, glittering object was also seen by some people as it flew across Perugia, and yesterday some of the inhabitants of Assisi, Bastia and S. Sisto (Perugia) reported the appearance of a strange object which, according to one witness, moved accompanied by a ‘whistling noise’.

"According to further information received today, a strange, flat disc with a blinding light at the front of it, was seen near Ellera-Corciano, in a green zone called Girasole. This evening some 'eager helpers' searched the district in order to discover the spot where the craft was presumed to have landed. The witnesses claim to have never before seen such an object which moved in jerks, emitting in front a powerful beam similar to a headlight."

Credit: Mrs. Mary Boyd to whom thanks are also due for the translation.

U.S.S.R.

"Ball of Light" mystery

The British national newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* of September 23, 1977 carried the following report under the signature of their Moscow correspondent, Richard Beeston. It is presumed the time of the incident was the night of September 19/20,—

"A strange moving ball of light spreading 'like a jelly-fish' and sending down rays of light like a downpour of rain, has been sighted near the Russo-Finnish border, it was reported last night.

"Although there was speculation that the object might have been a Russian rocket burning out, the Russians said there were no technical experiments under way at the time and the phenomenon was not a mirage because many people witnessed it. It was spotted early on Tuesday."

Brazil

Various reports

The newspaper *Correio do Povo* of July 30, 1977 carried a report from Caixas do Sul, which is to the north of Porto Alegre in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. The report spoke of sightings of an object resembling the Moon but with a black band around it.

Another report in the same issue of this paper deals with a case in the Maranhao region of north-eastern Brazil, where more than a hundred people at the port of Itauna saw a UFO hovering low. It remained in sight for 25 minutes and then made off at high speed. There was much fear and talk among the population, who know that there have been cases in which people have been badly burnt by UFOs. The matter was discussed in the State Assembly of Maranhao, in Sao Luis, where State Deputy Celso Coutinho, Government leader in the Assembly, said there had been panic among fishing folk in the municipalities of Perimirim, Sao Bento, Santa Helena, Pinheiro, Guimaraes, and Bequimao. So far, however, he said, no reports had yet come in of anyone being burnt or injured by this particular UFO.

At one place, however, Sao Vicente de Ferrer, the Chief of Police, Jose de Ribamar Mendes Costa, caught sight of the UFO and dashed out to take a shot

at it, but it made off at once at high speed.

Credit: Jader Pereira of Porto Alegre.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON BURREINGHAM

Here is a report by Jenny Randles of a UFOIN investigation of the incident reported on page 24 of this magazine:—

The sighting of an unidentified object by Roy Thomson on May 26, 1977, from his caravan, has been corroborated by several other witnesses. These reports were received by RAF Binbrook in Lincolnshire, but no details have been released. However, it is known that four other people reported a strange object around the time in question.

John Ellis, the Member of Parliament for the area, raised the matter with the Ministry of Defence, and a copy of the reply from Mr. James Wellbeloved on behalf of the Minister Mr. Fred Mulley, was given to investigator Nigel Watson for UFOIN. Some relevant portions are quoted:

"I should explain that the department has not resources to conduct an independent scientific study into the nature of unidentified flying objects. We invariably pass reports of sightings to specialist staffs responsible for the air defence of the country, but it is not possible to pursue enquiries from the public to the point of positive identification. You will appreciate that some reports are necessarily vague, and we feel it would not be justifiable to ask the staffs to make elaborate enquiries if in their opinion these would not be necessary in the interests of defence. The department have reached that

point with the sightings you referred to in your letter..."

The writer then explains that what was seen does not seem to be a meteorological phenomenon, aircraft or balloon — though it leaves options open. The letter is perhaps more important for what the writer does not say than for his failure to identify the sightings in question. It is very carefully worded and no attempt is made to indicate that UFOs have been found to be unimportant. Indeed one might wonder very much why reports are "invariably" passed to "specialist staffs responsible for air defence." This seems to imply an occasional need to do so, otherwise why waste valuable time if all reports are found to have no basis. One might also feel that the phrase "study into the nature of unidentified flying objects" implies a belief that a phenomenon exists to be understood. We do not read, for example: "a study of the existence or otherwise of UFOs." From the tone of the letter this seems to be accepted as unquestionable. The impression persists that this letter aims to be a cover in the event of the existence of UFOs ever being publicly acknowledged. It could always be argued that the text implies this, whereas care is taken to avoid saying it.

New from the Commonwealth . . .

OUR UFO VISITORS

by John Magor

A CANADIAN REPORT

From the Editor of that excellent journal *Canadian UFO Report*. Eye-to-eye visit with those who have had extraordinary experiences, close quarter encounters, sometimes with occupants. Where are they from and what are they doing? The book contains suggested answers.

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