

UFO LANDING AND REPAIR BY CREW

Part II Further details of the New Berlin landing report of 1964

Ted Bloecher

THE first part of this report of the investigation into the events stated to have been observed at New Berlin, New York, on November 25, 1964, dealt with the remarkable account given by the witness (known by the pseudonym "Mrs. M. Merryweather") of the landing of two UFOs, and of ground activities by the occupants which could well answer the description "repair work."

After my first hearing of the account I posed a number of questions in questionnaires that I sent to Mrs. Merryweather, which she kindly filled out.

General questions, with witness's answers

Question: 1: When was the house built where the sighting took place?

Answer: *About 1945.*

Q 2: Was the noise of the object different from that of a helicopter? Louder, softer?

A: *Yes, softer, no whap-whap! Just a low hum.*

Q 3: Did you observe the object through binocs while it was still airborne, before it landed on the hilltop?

A: *No.*

Q 4: On tape, you describe the men as having five fingers. Could you see five fingers?

A: *I'm not positive. They did not have a peculiar way of handling tools or gesturing - nearly sure they did have five fingers (hands didn't look odd to me).*

Q 5: Where and with whom did you have Thanksgiving dinner that year? Was Dick there?

A: *Both families. Yes - held after Thanksgiving was past!*

Q 6: Where and when did you go to college? What was your major?

A: *Ithaca College, Fall 1962 - Spring, 1964. Music.*

Q 7: How many pairs of binoculars were at the house at this time? Could you have used a pair stronger than five-power?

A: *One [pair only]. No.*

Q 8: How did you know the figures were larger than normal? Were there any reference points (bushes, fence posts, etc.) that could be used for reference?

A: *The bushes down the hill were about 5 feet tall and "men" were 1½ - 2' taller. The men "cutting cable" were close to these.*

Q 9: How wide were the holes in the ground? Did they taper?

A: *About 14" across, about 18" deep. Yes [they did taper].*

Q10: You said several were as deep as 13 inches. What were the shallowest?

A: *And deeper. About 4" [the shallowest].*

Q11: About how far apart were the two sets of landing marks?

A: *40 - 50 feet.*

Q12: About how far downhill from the lower object's landing marks was the cable you found?

A: *50 - 60 ft.*

Q13: When did Dick go up on the hill with you? Did anyone else go?

A: *The day after returning from hunting, the Monday after the sighting. No [no-one else].*

Q14: Did Dick see the holes? Did anyone else see them?

A: *Yes, but no-one else that I know of.*

Q15: To approximately how many people have you described this incident over the nine-year interval? Any peculiar reactions? Repercussions?

A: *About 10 people. Peculiar reactions? Yes, but that's another story! Repercussions? Yes, you and Dr. Schwarz! Ha Ha!*

Q16: Have I overlooked any important questions that may have occurred to you since our interview? If so, please itemize.

A: *Yes. These are as follows:*

a. The English Springer did go outside shortly after the sighting and seemed herself. She seemed to have no ill effects from her apparent fright.

b. Drawing for sketch has hilltop too close.

c. Several times (I) observed something being passed along to the men under the object working on the "power source" (?), or "motor."

d. Drawing of arrangement (approximate) of men.

e. Tool boxes about 3 or 4 feet long by 1 ft or so.

f. (There) was a circular path "worn" - hay stubble mashed down by walking around an object.

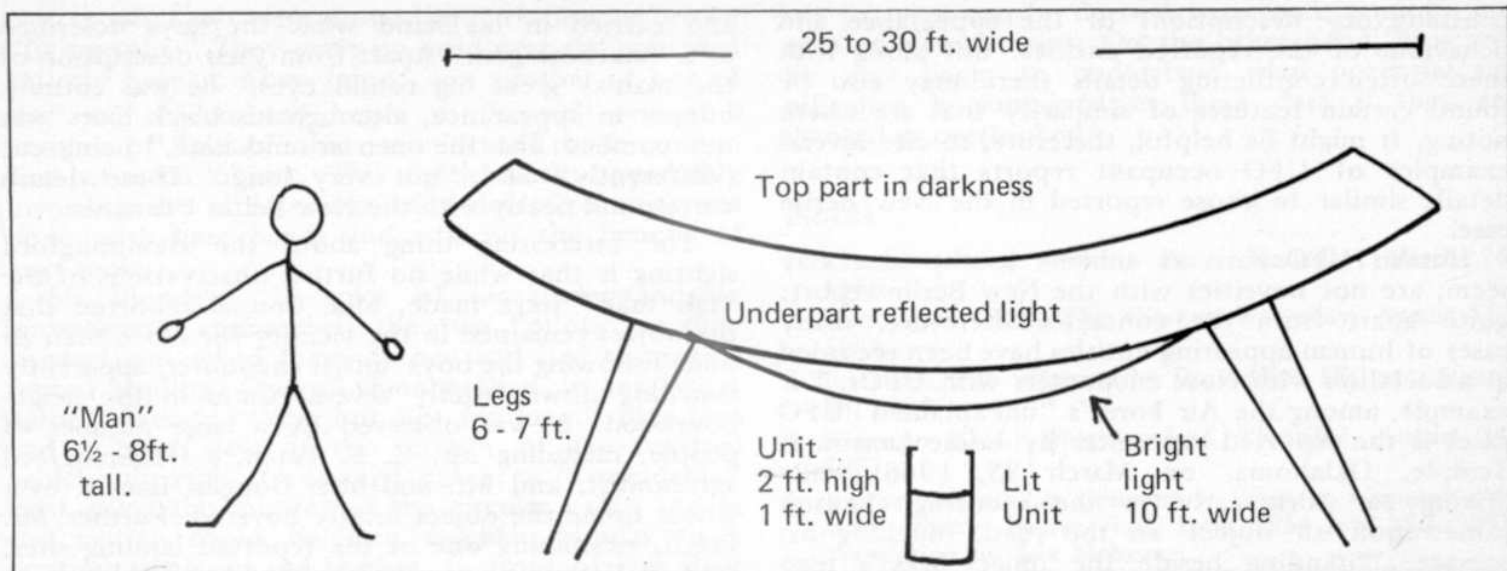
g. I did see "men" come and go around object, while working.

Signed: "M. Merryweather"

Date: August 17, 1973

Secondary list of questions regarding object and its size

1. At "A" please sketch in figure, comparing with height of object.



Above and below right: Copies of Mrs. Merryweather's sketches which accompanied her answers to the questionnaire

Stick figure! (This was done and included in drawing—TB.)

2. Can you estimate the width of the object?
25 to 30 ft.
3. Can you estimate the length of the "legs?"
6 to 7 feet.
4. Were the legs light or dark? Did they taper, as in sketch?
Light, and tapered.
5. Can you estimate the size of the light underneath?
About 10 ft. wide.

6. Was the light comparable in size to "3 full moons" (as on tape) or was the entire lighted underside that size?

The light directly under the object was that size — between the legs.

7. Can you sketch a line across the object indicating where light and shadow met? Did line arc upward or downward in centre?

(See drawing, separate page—TB.) Downward.

8. Can you estimate the size of the unit that was removed?

2' high and 1' wide.

9. Was this unit luminous, or lit by the reflected illumination of the light?

Luminous on top — not on bottom. (See drawing.) Very intense light from object.

10. Can you estimate the distance from the ground to the underpart of the object (or light)?

4 — 5 ft.

11. What positions did the "men" assume under the object as they worked on the unit?

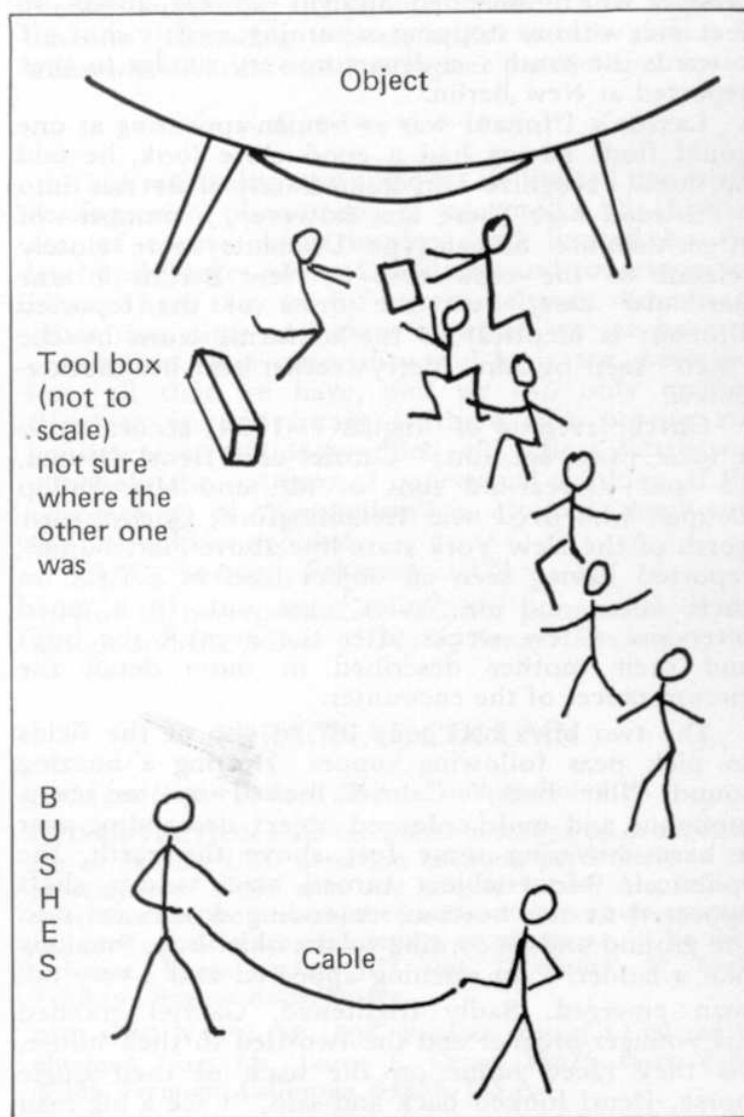
Sitting to replace and half lying down to remove, leaning on elbow and kneeling.

12. Was the ground around the area illuminated by the light? How far?

Some — perhaps 40 ft.

Signed: "M. Merryweather"

Date: August 17, 1973



Comparative Commentary

Among the ambiguities of the UFO-occupant related reports are the wildly varying and often

contradictory descriptions of the appearance and behaviour of the reported entities. But along with these often conflicting details there may also be found certain features of similarity that are worth noting. It might be helpful, therefore, to cite several examples of UFO occupant reports that contain details similar to those reported in the New Berlin case.

Human UFOonauts, as unlikely as the idea may seem, are not novelties with the New Berlin report: quite apart from the contactee literature, many cases of human-appearing entities have been recorded in association with close encounters with UFOs. For example, among the Air Force's "unexplained" UFO cases is the reported encounter by Eddie Laxson at Temple, Oklahoma, on March 23, 1966; while driving to work early in the morning, Laxson came upon an object on the road, blocking his passage. "Standing beside the object was a man dressed in a suit similar to clothes worn by members of the Air Force, Laxson said. The man wore a cap with the bill turned up."¹ As Laxson got out of his car to check, the "pilot" climbed aboard the vehicle which ascended straight up for about 50 feet and, without stopping or turning, swiftly shot off towards the south — a departure very similar to that reported at New Berlin.

Laxson's Ufonaut was as human-appearing as one could find: having had a good close look, he said he could recognize him immediately if he ran into a crowded bar. There are, however, a number of larger-than-life human-type Ufonauts more closely related to the crew seen in New Berlin; in one particular case, even the dress of the reported Ufonaut is identical to the uniforms worn by the "men" seen by Mrs. Merryweather and her mother-in-law.

On the evening of August 7, 1954, according to a local press account,² Gabriel and Henri Coupal, 13- and 11-year-old sons of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Coupal, who lived near Hemmingford, Quebec (just north of the New York state line above Plattsburgh), reported having seen an object land in a field on their farm, and its "pilot" get out. In a taped interview a few weeks after the event,³ the boys and their mother described in more detail the circumstances of the encounter.

The two boys had gone off to one of the fields to pick peas following supper. Hearing a buzzing sound "like bees," Gabriel looked up to see a luminous and multi-coloured object descending near a barn; hovering some feet above the earth, the spherical, 9-foot object turned black and a shaft appeared at the bottom, extending downward into the ground and, according to the older boy, "making like a ladder." An opening appeared and a very tall man emerged. Badly frightened, Gabriel grabbed his younger brother and the two fled to their house. As they raced home on the back of their single horse, Henri looked back and said, "I see a big man coming after us."

According to notes made from the taped interview, the boys described the "man" as being seven or eight feet tall and dressed in a skin-tight, black rubber suit, except for the head. He was well-built

and carried in his hand what the boys described as a "machine gun." Apart from their description of the man's "great big round eyes," he was entirely human in appearance, although his black hair "was not combed like the men around here," being cut "differently" and "not very long." These details correspond neatly with the New Berlin Ufonauts.

The interesting thing about the Hemmingford sighting is that while no further observations of the "tall man" were made, Mrs. Coupal reported that the object remained in the vicinity for more than an hour following the boys' initial encounter, apparently touching down briefly several times in the neighbourhood. It was observed by a large number of people, including Mr. C. E. Petch, a Hemmingford agronomist, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Laurie, over whose home the object briefly hovered. Further, Mr. Petch, examining one of the reported landing sites, told of finding traces in the ground and skid marks in the grass.

Regarding the specific activity of the New Berlin Ufonauts — that is, the lengthy repair of a particular unit believed by the witness to be some kind of "power source" — an examination of the UFO occupant literature so far fails to disclose a reference in which similar activities have been reported in such detail. (Perhaps a reader of this report can provide an appropriate example.) There are numerous reports of observations, however, in which the reported Ufonauts appeared to be engaged in some general or unspecified kind of "work" on or near an unidentified object.

Near Joyceville, Ontario, for example, a Toronto resident named Stanley Moxon was reported to have observed two small, white-clad "men" near a landed object while he was driving in the area on the night of August 23, 1967. The Ufonauts "seemed to be at work around their machine," press accounts relate.⁴ While Moxon was manoeuvring his car so that he could throw his headlights on the scene, the little men ceased their "work" and quickly entered the object, which then ascended at high velocity. If their "work" was mechanical repair of the type reported at New Berlin, the press accounts fail to specify it.

One early UFO case, which must be termed a "contact" type of encounter (since two-way communication, while brief, did occur), is described by the French ufologist Jimmy Guieu in his book, *Les Soucoupes Volantes viennent d'un autre Monde* ("Flying Saucers come from another World").⁵

On the night of July 23 (or July 24), 1950, M. Claude Blondeau, of Guyancourt, France (about 20 kilometers from Paris), encountered two UFO pilots who emerged from their two respective UFOs. M. Blondeau, the proprietor of a small cafe near the Guyancourt Airport, was taking some air before retiring at about 11.00 p.m. Hearing a slight noise "like the wind," he turned and saw two greyish discs hovering just above the ground at a distance of about one hundred meters. Each object had a row of rectangular "portholes" encircling the circumference and, as he watched, a thick, oval door or hatch opened in the bottom of each machine.

From each hatch emerged a "man" about 1.7

metres tall; both were dressed in dark blue or brown "flying suits." They wore no head gear and appeared entirely human. They joined one another at one of the two objects and began to "repair" one of a number of "plates" that were located on the underpart of each object. This repair work, apparently involving the replacement of a defective unit, was done with bare hands and without the benefit of any tools.

M. Blondeau, in spite of his understandable nervousness, approached the two "pilots" as they worked and asked them if they had had to make a forced landing. One of them replied, in somewhat halting French, "Yes, but not for long." Blondeau had a brief view of the interior of the repaired vehicle through its opened hatch: a "formidable" light filled the interior of the circular cabin and in the center could be seen a chair, similar to a dentist's chair, in red leather. In front of this chair was something like a radio transmitter upon which were a number of buttons; on a post was what seemed to be a large, oval "steering wheel" with projecting handles at opposite sides. Other apparatus could be seen on "blocks" or "panels" around the "control chair."

Blondeau asked several more questions regarding the purpose of all the buttons he could see on the control panels. The response was curt: "Energy!" With no further explanations, the two "pilots" re-entered their respective machines, took their places and closed the hatches from the inside. The "port-holes" became luminous and within seconds the two discs tilted up on end, from their horizontal inclinations, and shot straight up at very high accelerations. As they ascended, Blondeau again heard the wind-like noise, but felt no breeze. The entire episode lasted no more than two minutes.

* * * * *

It might be fairly asked if the details mentioned in the above cases that correspond to those in the New Berlin report could have been "borrowed" in order to enhance the credibility of the latter case, or for some other reason. This is not at all likely, as this reporter is concerned. Neither the Guyancourt nor the Hemmingford case has been reported in detail in any of the available UFO literature in this country. It is improbable that Mrs. Merryweather would have had access to these particular details, even if she was familiar with the UFO literature. (She is not.) Furthermore, it makes little sense to select only isolated details from certain cases as supportive data for an allegedly fabricated report: each case is quite distinctly different in its overall circumstances and the variations are actually more notable than the comparisons. Most important, however, based upon my own familiarity with the primary witness in the New Berlin case, it is simply not within her character or disposition to have "borrowed" isolated details from other reports to use as a basis for creating a false story of her own.

The significance (if any) of comparing certain details from the above references to similar features in the New Berlin case remains uncertain. No clear-

cut patterns can be derived from such tenuous and isolated comparisons. On the other hand, how will we ever begin to understand what potential significance is contained in these data if they are ignored or overlooked?

Notes

- 1 Lawton (Okla.) *Morning Press*, Thursday, March 24, 1966.
- 2 Huntington (P.Q.) *The Gleaner*, Wednesday, August 18, 1954.
- 3 Interview with witnesses by Dr. Adolph Dittmar, August 28, 1954.
- 4 Kingston (Ont.) *Whig-Standard*, Thursday, August 24, 1967.
- 5 Jimmy Guieu: *Les Soucoupes Volantes viennent d'un autre Monde*. Fleuve Noir, Paris, 1954 (pp. 230-233). Translation by Lex Mebane.

"PARALLELISM"

(Continued from page 27)

parallelism). It is difficult to conceive of a hybrid theory suggesting a parallel source for a phenomenon possessing a non-parallel nature as this is transmogrification and inner space parallelism.

* * * * *

That rationality and logic are of limited use when dealing with phenomena is accepted. All theories are, of course, both inspired and limited by the level and fringes of our knowledge and contemporary ideas. There may be, of course, relevant dimensions other than time and space of which we can have no conception. But rationality and logic are, nevertheless, all that we have, and we can only employ them to any advantage if there is a precise and consistent terminology which will reflect clearly and concisely the patterns of conceptual thinking. If the terminology of "parallelism" is adopted, much confusion could be avoided.

J.M.C., London, February, 1974

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MAIL BAG

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

From Aimé Michel

Dear Sir,—The present wave (flap) has now lasted for a year. With a few chronological and geographical deviations it is occurring in the majority of the countries of the world. However, in *no case* have we been able to secure the absolute definitive proof that will be capable of convincing everyone. This is very instructive, regarding what one might call the programming of the phenomenon. In effect:

- 1) All we know about the phenomenon shows that if it "wished" to take place completely unperceived, it could;
- 2) if therefore it shows itself, this is because it is programmed to be seen;
- 3) however, bearing in mind the large number of cameras and apparatus of all kinds in the world, it is incompatible with the laws of chance that no irrefutable evidence has ever been obtained. This invisibility simply has to be programmed.

I think therefore that from now on we can take as certain and proven, a programming of the phenomenon of such a nature that it shall spread more and more as rumour, but that at the same time it shall elude the human methods of establishing proof, that is to say it eludes science. I think that we can take it as proven that the phenomenon has its own camouflage, of such a kind that it goes on increasing indefinitely without ever entering into the field of perception of the dormant culture, in these eyes of which it will continue not to exist.

Yours sincerely,
Aime Michel
Alpes de Haute Provence, France

Pas de 'PANIC'

Dear Sir,—J.C. Dufour is to be commended on his painstaking research (FSR Vol.20, No.1) into "The birth-places of prominent people in relation to Bavic," but if, as he says he will, he continues working on 'What's my Line?' he must expect to be challenged.

Surely, to reach any meaningful conclusion, a comparative celebrity count must compensate for differences in totals of the general populations of these samples

Thus I commend to him the PANIC Line — Paris to Nice — and I'll bet him a New Franc to any old one he might still possess, that it will yield more well known Hims, ancient and modern, than BAVIC. And since he is interested in a possible continuation of Bavic to the S.W., see what happens when PANIC is plotted to the South. It passes through Ajaccio, Corsica, and we all know who was born *there*.

Yours sincerely,
M. Sweetman, Eng. Lt. R.N. (Rtd.)
Elmside,
Fernleigh Road,
Plymouth PL3 5AN
August 3, 1974.

[We certainly know all about the impact of the "Him, ancient" who was born at Ajaccio. What few readers will know — and, I am sure, that includes Lieut. Sweetman — is that our correspondent's choice of his PANIC line (a clever play on the words of the title of the series of 39 French Radio programmes) was indeed a remarkable one. For PANIC runs slap through the birthplace, in a little

village perched high up in the Department of the Basses Alpes of a certain "Him, modern," namely the discoverer of BAVIC, Aimé Michel! I know the place well, and its position on the map, so I can vouch for it.

Oh — and, by the way, I have an uneasy feeling that Monsieur J-C Dufour himself is more than closely associated with Ajaccio: sheer coincidence, all this, I am sure, unless some "one" is playing a little game.

Our thanks to Lieut. Sweetman for an engaging letter. As for his well-meant quibble, I've done my best to sort that out in a little piece elsewhere in this issue.—EDITOR/.

The Yorba Linda photograph
(FSR Special Issue No. 5)

Dear Sir,—The author states that the object does not conform to any UFO category. May I suggest that it bears a resemblance to the object in the coloured painting by Alberto Francisco do Carmo (FSR Vol.19, No.6, "Abduction at Bebedouro") sketched below (Fig.1). If the "ramrods" were extended as in Fig.2, they could resemble the "antennae" or tripod legs of the Yorba Linda photograph. The colour of the two objects was similar also.

Yours faithfully,
Gay Mosley
12 Colinette Road,
Putney,
London, SW15 6QQ
June 20, 1974.



Fig. 1
Original from
Bebedouro

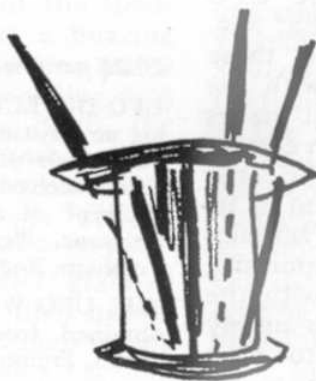


Fig. 2
"Ramrods"
extended
upwards



Fig. 3
Object turned
upside down - the
Yorba Linda UFO?