



FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

CASE HISTORIES

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Companion journal to the
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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Case Histories

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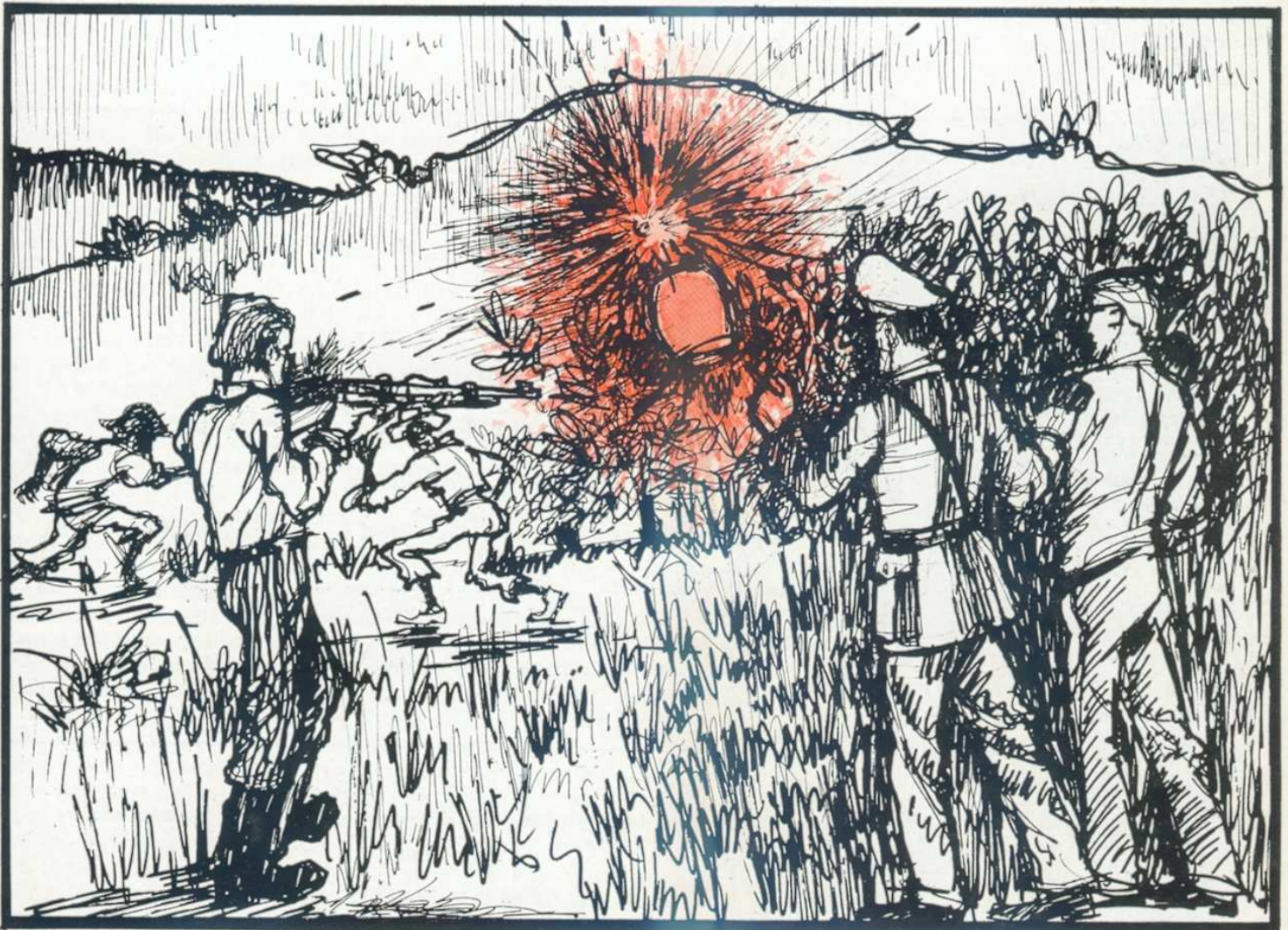


CASE HISTORIES

TWENTY-FOUR PENCE

SUPPLEMENT 11

AUGUST 1972



Our artist's impression of the

HOT RECEPTION AT FORT BEAUFORT

see page 1

A hot reception at Fort Beaufort

Salvo of shots marks the opening of a South African UFO flap

Charles Bowen

THROUGHOUT the last twenty-five years South Africa has been the scene of sporadic flurries of UFO reports. From time to time an interesting case has attracted universal attention. One recalls the time when the two policemen from Silverton, near Pretoria, saw (September 15, 1965) an unknown object ascend from a "sea of flame" in the centre of the main road between Silverton and Bronkhorstspuit.¹ Then there was the sensational and widely-publicised story of contactee Mrs. Elizabeth Klarer, who claims that on April 7, 1956, she came across a landed "scoutship" on a hilltop in the Mooi River area of Natal, close by the Drakensburg Range: she held that she met, and conversed with, the occupants who took her aboard for a trip.²

Never, however, a vigorous, sustained 'flap' until June and July 1972, and then, in the words of our own *Manchester Evening News* of July 26, 1972, which picked up the opening story a month after it happened: "Well what a welcome for a UFO."

Long before the story appeared in the *Manchester newspaper*, *Flying Saucer Review* had been flooded with a continuous—and very welcome—stream of newspaper accounts from representatives and readers in the Republic of South Africa. The very first of these to come to hand was inserted in the current issue of FSR (July/August 1972). It told how, on the morning of June 26, 1972, farmer Bennie Smith was alerted to the presence of a large glowing and colour-changing object low over his farmlands near the small town of Fort Beaufort in the Eastern Cape Province. He telephoned the local police, and the Warrant Officer-in-charge and a sergeant hastened to the spot: between them the three men loosed off a salvo of 15 shots at the UFO, which finally made off after a sojourn of more than four hours.

We are grateful to our many South African readers who have kept us fully and instantly informed with a great variety of news cuttings on developments in the Fort Beaufort affair and the subsequent 'flap'. We have been promised reports on the recent South African events, but amateur investigators in that vast country are faced with insuperable problems. So for the time being the best that can be offered is the following summary of events digested from the hundreds of news reports that have come in.³

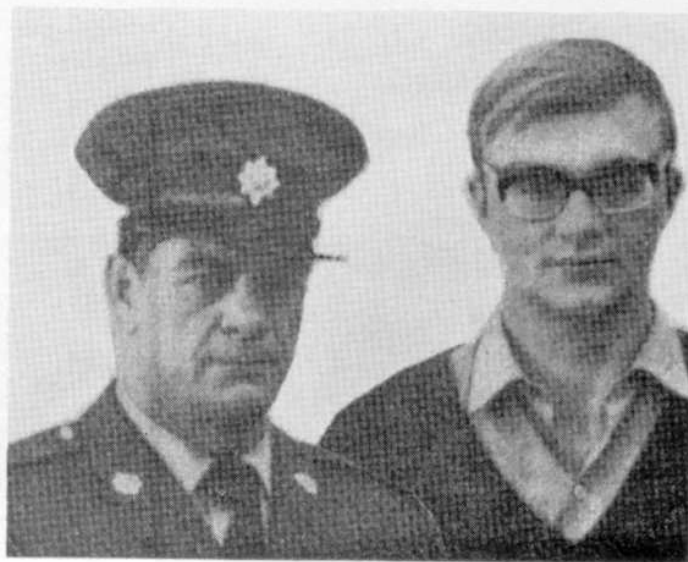
Down on the farm

Mr. Bernardus ("Bennie") Smit—as reported in the Cape Town evening newspaper *The Argus* of July 1, 1972, the name of the gentleman referred to in earlier reports as Bennie Smith—is the 40-year-old owner of a plumbing business in East London, Cape Province, who last December purchased the Braeside Farm some 9 miles (14 km.) from Fort Beaufort.

Mr. Smit, who has the reputation of being a good shot, was spending a short holiday at his farm during the last days of June—the South African mid-winter, but no doubt a much warmer season than ours. The morning of June 26 dawned bright and sunny, and a Coloured labourer named Boer de Klerk (his first name is the Afrikaans word for "Farmer") was sent to inspect a dam. At about 8.00 a.m. Boer had the fright of his life when he saw "some ugly thing" in the bush. The labourer



Above: Bennie Smit and his son Rodney
Below: W/O P. van Rensburg (left) and Sgt. P. Kitching



returned to the homestead where he reported the incident to his employer.

The labourer told how he had been about to make a fire when he saw "smoke coming from a clump of trees." Thinking it was a trespasser, he called out, and a "shiny object" emerged from the trees and hovered overhead. In some reports this object was described as a "ball of fire."

Mr. Smit was taken by Boer de Klerk to the scene of this incident and saw the UFO still in the locality. It was in the bush,⁴ glowing red, and as they watched it turned to bright green and then whitish yellow. It was oval-shaped, with what looked like a whitish star glowing above the right-hand top edge. The farmer didn't stand on ceremony, for he left his labourer to keep watch, and went back home to fetch his 0-303 rifle, and to telephone the police at Fort Beaufort. Returning to the site, Mr. Smit fired at the object which continued to move slowly, and to change colour.

Station commander W/O van Rensburg and Sgt. P. C. Kitching of the S.A. Police hurried to the scene. Early reports, which must have been from the same source, indicated that they arrived at Braeside at 9.00 a.m., but elsewhere Mr. Smit stated that that was the time when he first saw the UFO, after which he telephoned the police. The discrepancy was cleared up when, a few days later, we read that the two police officers arrived at the farm at about 10.00 a.m.

With Mr. Bennie Smit, the policemen kept the object under observation while Boer de Klerk, and three other labourers who had been summoned, were sent forward to attempt to drive it from the dense bush. When the men were out of the line of fire, more shots were fired at the UFO by Mr. Smit and Sgt. Kitching, who first engaged it at a range of 250 metres.⁵ Mr. Smit (under cover of the police officers?) advanced to within 10

metres of the UFO, firing twice at it from that point blank range. In all 15 shots were fired, but none of them seemed to have had any disastrous effect on the object.

Here are some of the remarks attributed to members of this Braeside reception committee:

W/O van Rensburg: "After both Mr. Smit and Sgt. Kitching had fired a couple of shots, we saw a round black shiny object emerge from behind the trees . . . it could have been metal, although it changed from black to red and then to yellow."

Bennie Smit: "The eighth shot seemed to hit it, as a thud was heard."

W/O van Rensburg: "The UFO was not a kind of 'fireball'. It was clearly a dark, shiny object, in the centre of a surrounding glow."

Bennie Smit: "Boer, who saw it first, said it was about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. in length, but others judged it to be anything from $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to 2 metres. . . ."

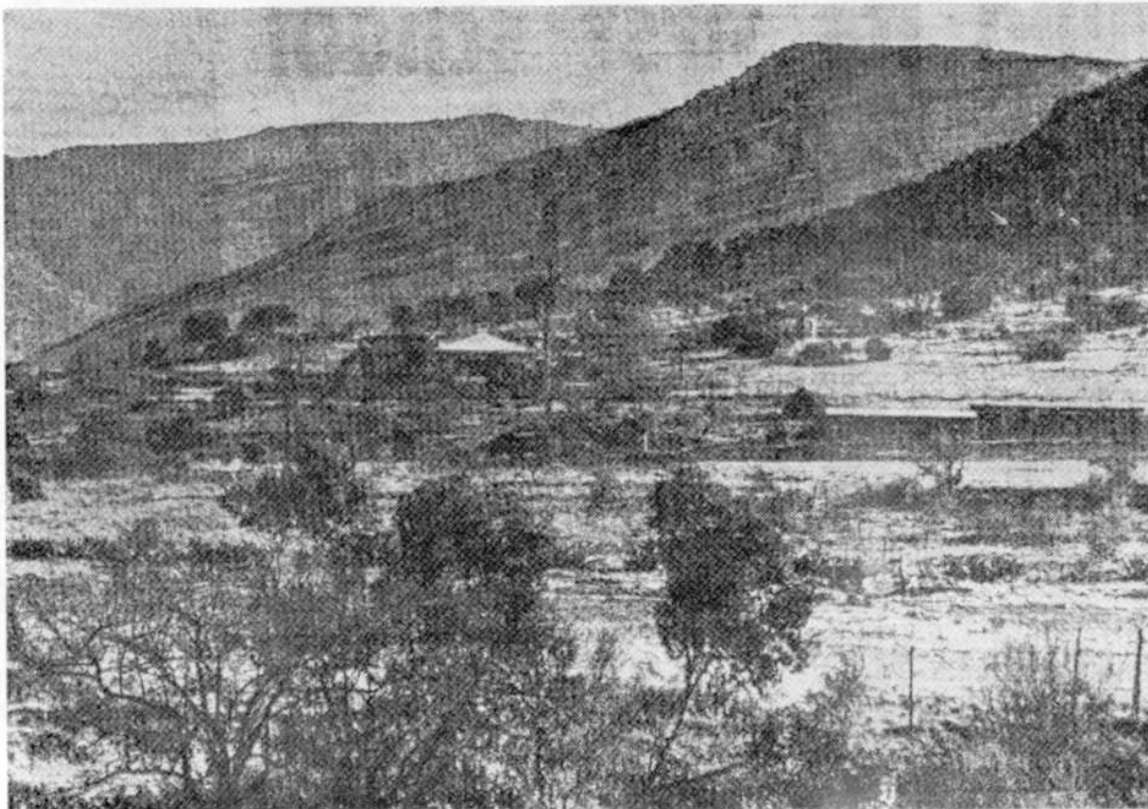
W/O van Rensburg: "Mr. Smit is a sensible and mature person."

Bennie Smit: ". . . as the object disappeared downwards I fired at the 'star'. I'm considered a pretty good shot, and the object no longer changed colours once the star had been hit. It remained a mere darkish gunmetal body."

According to one report, the star changed position relative to the rest of the object after the shot at it.

Humming noise, and marks on the ground

When Mr. Smit moved into the bush to fire his close range shots, the object made a humming, machine-like noise. W/O van Rensburg said that after that the UFO made off to the left and disappeared in the dense, well-nigh impenetrable, undeveloped area known as the Fordyce Bush. It was at about this time that Mr. Smit



Part of Mr. Bennie Smit's farm, from a picture published in *The Argus*. The farmhouse can be seen in the centre. The UFO was fired on by the farmer and policemen in the thick thorn bush and aloë-covered hills above and to the right of the farmhouse.

saw a circle of "fist-like imprints" in the soil near where the UFO had been seen to hover.

It was well past midday when the object finally disappeared, so it had stayed around, part of the time raked by a hail of lead, for the best part of four and a half hours, during which time it had been watched from very close range by seven people.

Aftermath

The news of these events was given to the South African public in a series of articles in major newspapers on June 27. Readers were greeted with headlines like: POLICE, FARMER, FIRE AT "FLYING SAUCER" (*The Cape Times*); POLICEMAN TELLS OF "FLYING SAUCER" (*The Argus*); BENNIE BLASTS BASHFUL FIRE-BALL (*Natal Mercury*); FLYING OBJECT SHOT AT (*Johannesburg Star*). The story caught the public imagination, and while further articles appeared giving news of official investigations in a crescendo of excitement, follow-up features on the UFO phenomenon in general were included—some being given a full page—while the cartoonists went to town . . . and the columnists too. For example, "The Idler's" column in the *Natal Mercury* (Durban) of June 28 carried the following item under the heading UFO = YOU FLY OFF!—

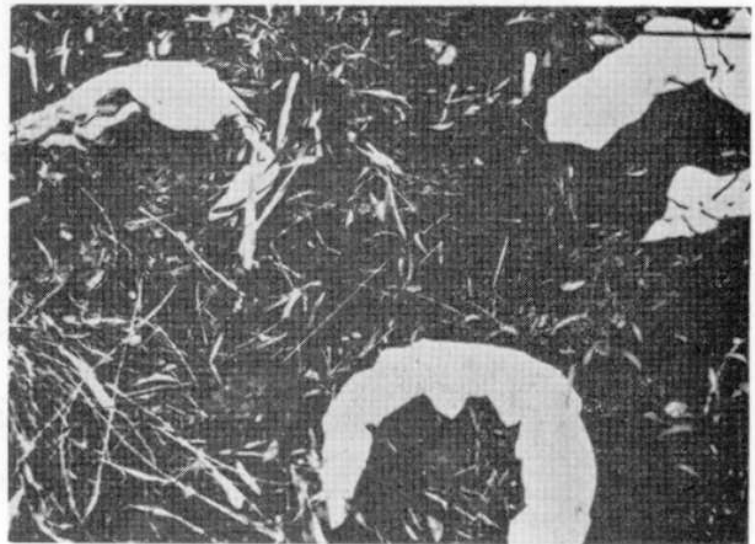
"Incredible, isn't it, that policemen and a farmer could have tried to shoot out of the sky in broad daylight what might have been a spacecraft from a friendly planet?"

"But I suppose the good men of Fort Beaufort were only behaving in the traditional South African way of life—what we don't understand, we shoot dead."

"If it was a vehicle from outer space, manned by intelligent beings, do you suppose they now regard the inhabitants of Earth as hostile? Belligerent? Aggressive? Or just plain stupid?"

Investigations

Brigadier A. Vosloo, Divisional Commander of Police for the Eastern Cape, was the leader of the fact-finding mission which descended on the Braeside farm early on June 28. The object of the exercise was to examine and photograph the marks allegedly left in the ground by the UFO, and to obtain plaster casts of them; to collect soil samples for examination and analysis, including tests for fuel or oil residues; to scour



Police picture of the imprints in the soil at Braeside farm; white cloth circling the marks is for identification.

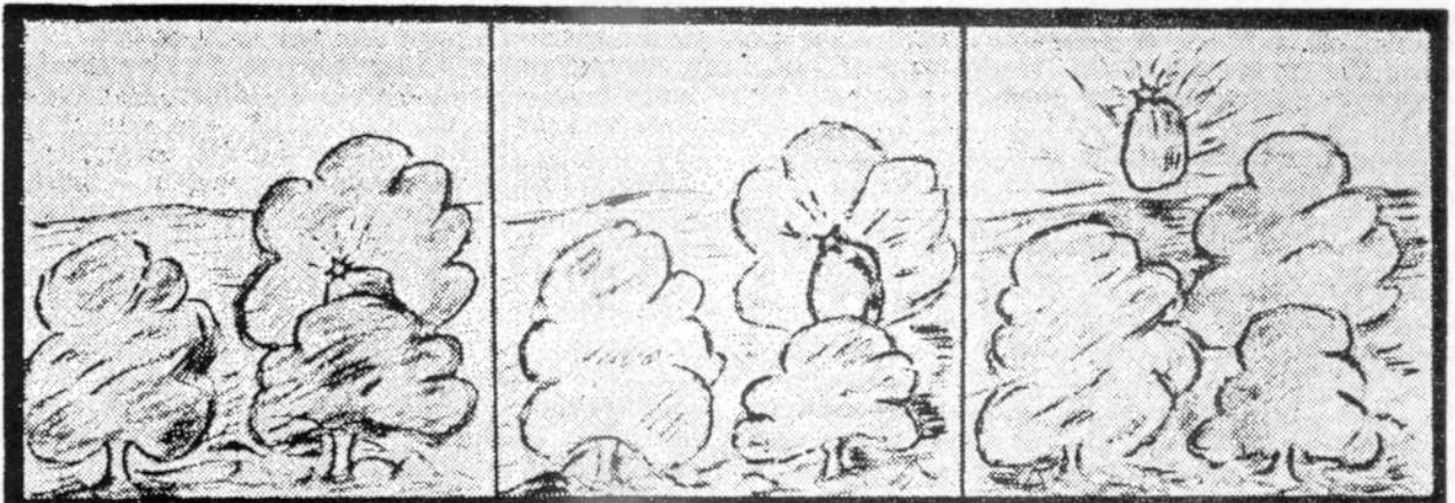
the surrounding area of bush for any further tell-tale signs of the UFO's visitations.

Next day the Brigadier was reported to have said that the marks were not spaced equally. "This," he said, "makes me have doubts about the whole matter."

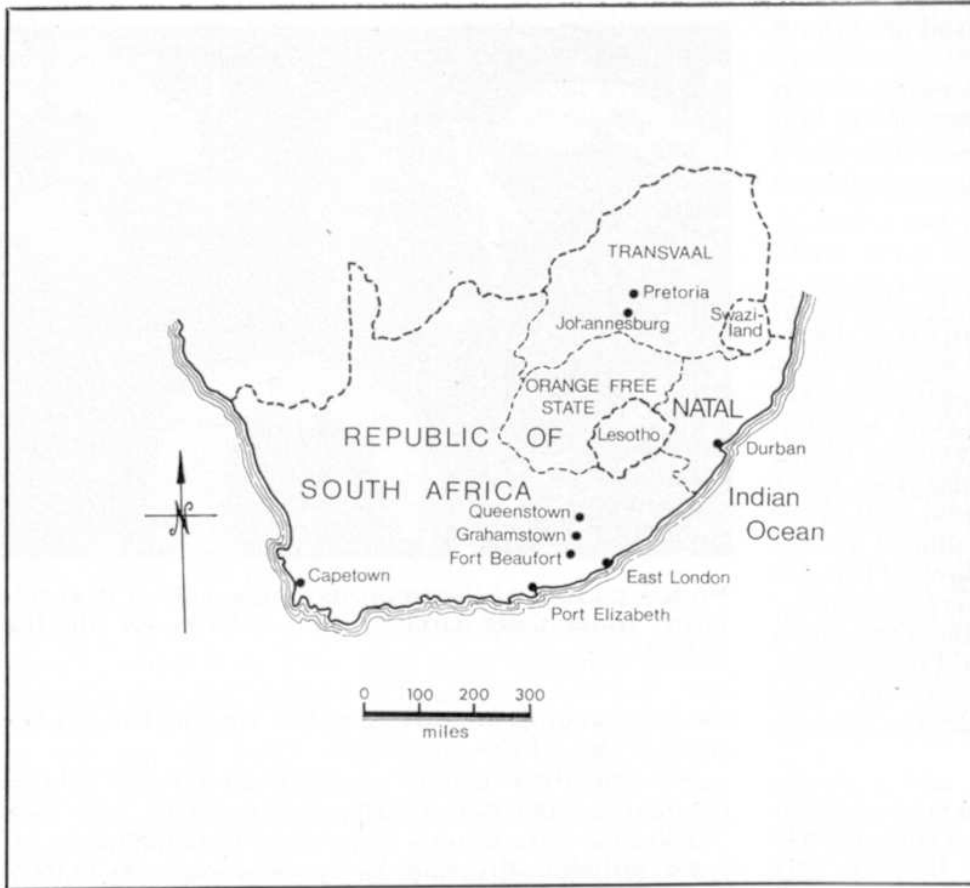
Nevertheless, Brigadier Vosloo went on to say that the four people, including two policemen, who had seen the object (obviously he overlooked the three additional labourers who had had to act as 'beaters' in the UFO-flushing operation) were adamant about it, and that their descriptions tallied except with regard to size. The Brigadier's information, so he told reporters, was that the object was about 3 metres in diameter, looked as if it were made of metal, and changed colour while moving like a spinning top.

W/O van Rensburg led 12 policemen in a 5 sq. km. search but found nothing.

Meanwhile photographs were taken of the marks, and, after delays, were released by the police for publication. According to the Warrant Officer, there were no other marks in the damp clay soil around the



Sketches showing how the UFO "bobbed" from the trees of the bush, attributed to Bennie Smit by the *Rand Daily Mail*, and to the investigator Mrs. E. Verschoor by the *Natal Mercury*.



Bennie Smit with his dog Wolfie:
See note 8 (foot of page 8)

indentations, and the soil appeared to be quite untouched, while no tracks of any kind led to the small clearing where the imprints were found. A suggestion was made that the object had three legs arranged in a triangle, and that it had landed and taken off *several times*.

Mrs. E. Verschoor of Fort Beaufort studied the imprints and said: "Thin but clear streaks running from one imprint to another look like pads and seem to indicate a slight sideways sliding movement. At the top, two almost round marks resembling the 'toes' in an elephant's imprint suggest pressure was greatest at that point. Opposite the 'toe' marks there is a raised area."

Police dug out a sod carrying the clearest of the nine imprints, and this was to be sent to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for analysis.

On June 29 the *Johannesburg Star* reported that Brigadier Vosloo thought that the flying object was an electronically-controlled device and not a supernatural phenomenon, but his reasons for thinking so were not given.

Tongue-in-cheek warning

Whatever the object was, Professor Arthur Bleksley, former director of the Johannesburg Planetarium, stated publicly that it is dangerous to shoot at UFOs. They might retaliate with something more dangerous than a gun. Then, just as he was becoming interesting, he switched to scepticism: why, he asked, should they travel millions of miles just to land at obscure places like Fort Beaufort, and to be shot at by policemen?⁶

The Chief Deputy Commissioner of the South African Police, Lieutenant-General Danie Bester,

performed a tricky side-stepping-cum-double-shuffle manoeuvre on June 30 when he announced that there was probably a "very simple" explanation of the Fort Beaufort UFO. He did not suggest what the simple explanation might be, and declined to discuss the contents of Brigadier Vosloo's report. Then, when questioned about the marks in the ground, replied darkly: "The least said about the matter, the better." One wonders why he bothered to say anything, for he only contrived to make the mystery more mysterious.

More reports

On July 4 South Africans read in their newspapers that a UFO (the return of *the* UFO, some suggested) had been seen over Fort Beaufort, that the police had been alerted, that W/O van Rensburg had got out of bed, looked out and thereafter announced that *in view of the official doubts cast on the first incident it wasn't worth the bother of investigating*. That object was seen by a crowd of people on Sunday, June 2, a saucer-shaped 'unstar-like' object which passed from the direction of Braeside towards Grahamstown in a flash of red, blue, green and yellow. It also gave forth a constant ray of light and "appeared to be landing."

While that *could* have been how an aircraft, with navigation and landing lights, might have appeared to distant onlookers, the same could not be said about another, and corroborating, Fort Beaufort report. This was made by the municipal commonage ranger, the reserved and cautious-minded Mr. R. L. Brown. He stated on the morning of Monday, July 3, that on the previous evening, at 7.15 p.m., he had seen the UFO, once again in the area of the Fordyce Bush on the farm

Braeside. At that time he was visiting the farm Argyle. With him were Mrs. Eileen Meiring of Cape Town, her 14-year-old son and his own stepson, Billy Tidbury. From a distance of 700 yards they watched the colour-changing object for some 20 minutes. When it changed from yellow and blue to white, the light became "blinding": it then turned red. It appeared to be a flat triangular shape, and seemed to have a tail. Mr. Brown thought it might have been about 7 feet long. It bobbed up and down, and hovered over the bush, lighting up the area. Suddenly it moved off towards Grahamstown, "going like mad."

Mrs. Alicia Smit, wife of Bennie, also reported seeing the coloured object at the same time.

When, on Monday, July 3, yet another object was reported in the direction of Braeside (no time was given in the reports I have seen—C.B.) and looking like a satellite, but with the familiar changing colours, the Fort Beaufort Town Council adjourned its meeting, and the Mayor, two councillors, photographers and curious sightseers drove out in a convoy to the farm to see for themselves: they saw nothing, it seems.

More quotes

The *Natal Mercury* of July 10, 1972, published a report by Lynne Cooper, who had been sent to stay in Fort Beaufort, to interview the characters involved, and to size up the situation. Miss Cooper writes that too many people had seen the UFO for the townfolk to remain indifferent. Some took the view that it was unnatural, and controlled by some power; others that it was a craft, with visitors, from outer space; a few

alarmists talked wildly of spies. She added "And when you hear practical, sane men and women indulging in talk of flying objects, you realise this is no joke, and begin to think twice about your own theories of a clever, electronically-minded practical joker." Other quotes:

Boer de Klerk (when asked by Miss Cooper what he called out on first seeing the UFO): "I shouted 'who is making fire on boss Bennie's farm?' " . . . (no answer, so he moved nearer: the thing was bobbing up and down) . . . "I saw the thing with my own two eyes. I swear I never saw anything like it."

W/O van Rensburg (discussing criticism in the Press of his action in ordering Sgt. Kitching to shoot at the UFO): "We did not take firearms to the farm Braeside. I did order Sgt. Kitching to shoot it though, with a 0-303 rifle belonging to Mr. Smit." (Later, when asked how he could shoot at something if he didn't know what it was): "The matter is closed."

Mr. P. Labuschagne (Mayor of Fort Beaufort, and an ex-policeman who supported the police action): "They didn't use the right rifle, though. They should have used an FN rifle. I'm telling you, if those boys had brought that thing down, they'd be heroes. I saw the thing during the day, and I can tell you it is no joke."

From the descriptions of all the witnesses, which tally, it seems the object must have been barrel-shaped.

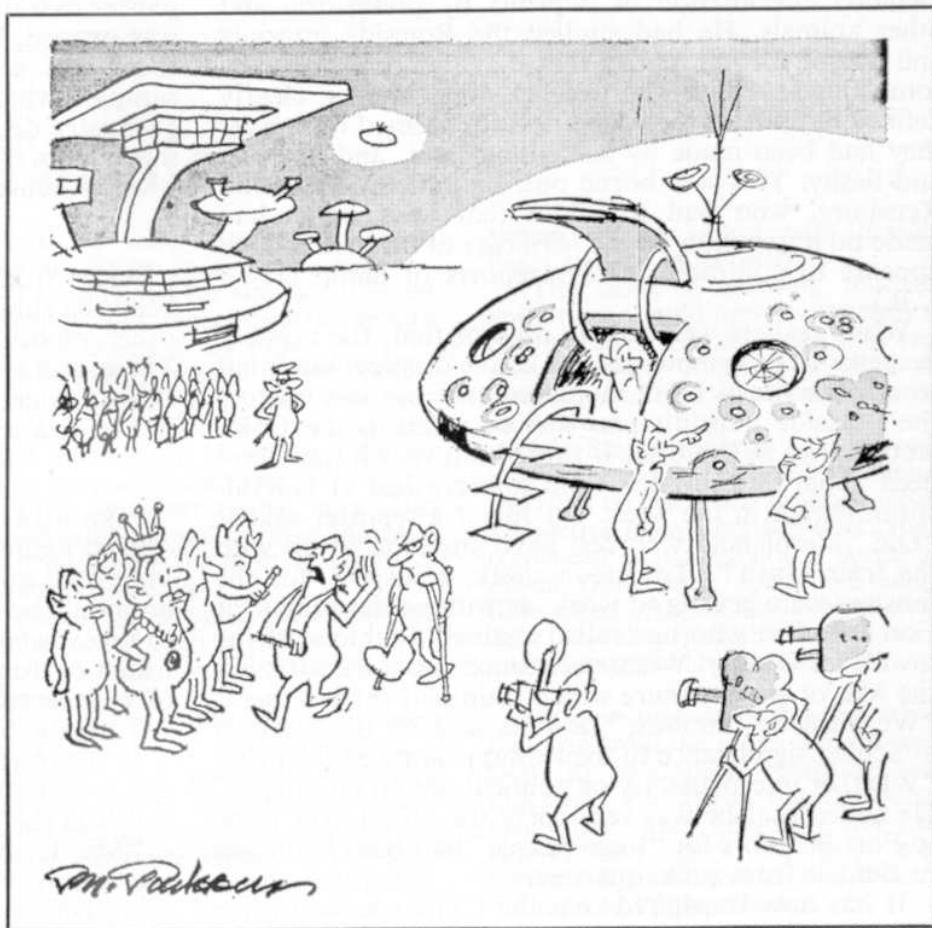
Whatever the shape, Bennie Smit's mother-in-law, Mrs. A. Engelbrecht, is convinced it was sent there from Russia, and as will be seen, her concluding thrust was unanswerable . . .

From *The Argus* of June 29. The caption reads:

'It's inhabited by a pastoral but war-like tribe, and you can forget about dialogue'.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To avoid inflicting unnecessary pressure on our temporary distribution arrangements during the absence overseas for four months of our distribution secretary, Mrs. Enid Guinness, it has been decided to delay the publication of **FSR Case Histories Supplement 12** until after *Flying Saucer Review* for November-December 1972. Hoping thus to side-step the problems brought about by Christmas mail, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our readers.





From the *Natal Mercury* of June 28, 1972. The caption reads:

"When it turned black, instead of shooting at it, why didn't you ask it for its pass book?"

Mrs. A. Engelbrecht: "They have probably got a picture of me, too."

The mystery becomes a "classic"

Early in July the papers carried a report by Mr. C. S. Kingsley, a lecturer in geology at Fort Hare University who had been Government geologist in the 1967 Antarctic Expedition. His field studies, he said, had included examination of imprints by prehistoric and other animals. He had studied the Braeside imprints and was of the impression that they had been made by something metallic. The parallel streak marks, clearly defined in parts of the deep imprints, seemed to suggest they had been made by something hard, and not soft and fleshy. This was borne out, he said, by W/O van Rensburg, who had told him that their boots had made no impression on the *hard clay* of the area (which appears to contradict earlier reports of damp clay—C.B.).

While readers were taking note of that, the mystery deepened. The symptoms were of the classical kind that so often be-devil UFO investigations: the sod bearing the Braeside imprints was lost en route to the CSIR laboratories at Pretoria. It turned out that it may have been aboard an ill-fated train that crashed at Norval-spruit earlier in the week. On July 7 a reporter asked: "Did 'interplanetary forces' have anything to do with the train crash?" Tongue-in-cheek, I suspect, for the funsters were getting to work, as witness the Mayor of Fort Beaufort who had railed against 'doubters' of the town's UFO story. When questioned about the samples, the Mayor was not sure which train had carried them: "We must be cautious," he said, and on the score of attaching significance to their disappearance he replied, "Whether interplanetary or political, we do not know." He added that he was very sorry the object ever came to Fort Beaufort for "these people" had been laid open to ridicule from some quarters.

It has now transpired that the CSIR received *some*

samples. In the *Rand Daily Mail* of July 13 we read that two 'canned fruit bottles', one containing soil from the Braeside site, the other 'unpolluted' soil from elsewhere on the farm, were opened by physicist K. Kröger in the presence of a CSIR Public Relations Officer and Dr. Jan Burger, the Deputy Director of the National Physical Research Laboratory, and also a group of pressmen. The PRO explained that they had expected a plaster cast of some kind of imprint, but when the box was opened, lo and behold, two jars! Mr. Kröger said there was a distinct difference in smell in the two samples which were to be analysed in the spectro-chemistry division of the CSIR. "We are not expecting much from it" he said, and to date we have not learned of the results.

The wave progresses

Apart from the Fort Beaufort sightings which have been the subject of this article, there have been several other reports from different places in South Africa. These, and any other developments in regard to the Fort Beaufort incidents, will be dealt with in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review* (September/October 1972).

Long distance phone call

Like many other UFO witnesses who have become central figures in a big 'flap', the trigger-happy Bennie Smit tired quickly of the limelight. He felt insulted that he should be disbelieved, and gave one "final interview" to the *Sunday Times* (of South Africa) which was published on July 2nd. Earlier, and probably in a moment of exasperation, he had said that thereafter he would *sell* information to reliable people only.

In his interview Mr. Smit said that he knew what he had seen with his own eyes, and that he was glad he'd called in the police as witnesses.

"My telephone" he continued "has been ringing incessantly with calls from all over the country. The night before last I received a call from America. I was

asked four questions, and those questions convinced me there is something in this.⁷ No, I won't reveal the nature of the questions. What is more, I am convinced that this thing is still about.⁸ The other night I heard the same whirring sound, and it was terrific. But I didn't even go out and look. What's the use, nobody believes me."

* * * * *

Notes and comments

- ¹ See Philipp Human's report in FSR Vol. 11, No. 6 (November/December 1965). Also the report on an investigation, by Edgar Sievers and E. R. Pitlo in FSR Special Issue No. 1, *The Humanoids* (this item does not appear in the Spearman and Regnery hard cover editions).
- ² Elizabeth Klarer and her claims were re-introduced in some South African newspapers towards the tail-end of the publicity for the Fort Beaufort incidents and investigations. Reader K. C. Bayman deplored this because, as usual, it "clouded the issue." Indeed, there had been an undercurrent of banter in some of the later press articles, and, presented in the way it was, the Klarer intervention (e.g. "I've been in that flying saucer says Elizabeth" and "Pilot is scientist from planet in the Alpha Centauri [sic] system" were headlines that greeted readers of the Durban *Sunday Tribune* of July 9) gave everyone the chance of a good belly laugh.
- ³ Newspapers consulted for the period June 27, 1972, to July 17, 1972; individual items too numerous to list as articles appeared almost every day:
The Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg
The Star, Johannesburg
The Cape Times
The Argus, Cape Town
The Natal Mercury, Durban
The Pretoria News
The Daily Dispatch, East London

The Daily News
The Sunday Times (S. Afr.)
The Sunday Tribune
The Natal Witness

Our thanks are extended to the following readers for the wonderful way they kept us informed with up-to-date press clippings, all carefully marked and with explanations and notes wherever they thought necessary:

Philipp Human, Frank Morton, E. R. Pitlo, Mrs. Myra Fortes, Kenneth C. Bayman, Miss J. S. Dumville-Lees, Michael Imber, Ivan Clark, E. R. Turnbull, N. J. Ramsey, Lionel Friedberg, G. D. B. Williams.

Thanks too to South African friends in London for their help.

- ⁴ Miss Dumville-Lees writes to remind us that the "Bush" is thick and continuous, and "anything from 4ft. to 20ft. high, with a good sprinkling of 'prickly pear' and other thorny growth."
- ⁵ South Africa recently went 'metric', but it will be seen that some people are not yet out of the habit of yards, feet and inches.
- ⁶ It is strange that almost everyone should jump to the conclusion, without a shred of real evidence, that these things are interplanetary. The Bleksleys of this world *assume* that this is what we think, but *know* we're wrong. If we were to ask them to consider the possibility that an incomprehensible influence, which could be extraterrestrial, was acting on, and inducing certain people, either singly or when grouped together, to see strange objects and stranger creatures, they would *know*, without further consideration, that we are mad. If we dared ask them whether or not the visitations could be from an ultraterrestrial source, they would probably mutter "black magic" and wish, secretly, that they could have us boiled in oil. And why? Because "something tells them" we are wrong?
- ⁷ As the newspaper came out on Sunday, July 2, the inter-

(Concluded at foot of page 8)

Fort Beaufort Tailpiece

WHEN studying the following item from the *Natal Mercury* of July 10, 1972, our readers will grasp the significance of Brigadier Vosloo's "doubts about the whole matter," of General Bester's admonition to the effect that "the least said [about something with a 'simple explanation'] the better," and of W/O van Rensburg's refusal to investigate further reports at Fort Beaufort:

"The UFO which has been sighted dozens of times in the past two weeks has possibly had its revenge on Bennie Smit—the farmer who shot at it and vowed to capture it.

"Two explosions echoed through the valley near here early on Saturday morning, minutes after Mr. Smit sighted the UFO again. Later he found a water reservoir on his farm had been shattered.

"The reservoir, with a diameter of about eight metres and stoutly made of bricks and cement, held thousands of

gallons of water. Large chunks of masonry lay up to 20 metres away.

"Police visited the site, but it is not known if they connect the damage with the eerie events in the valley.

"Yesterday, headed by an officer from Grahamstown, they instructed Mr. and Mrs. Smit not to give any more information about the UFO or allow anyone on the farm.

"Fort Beaufort police have also consistently refused to give information concerning the farm or UFOs to the Press or public.

"As a result of police investigations, Mr. and Mrs. Smit have delayed their return to their home in East London for a week.

"The couple and their children were on the farm for the school holidays.

"Some local people are getting jittery about the 'flying saucer' which started off as a joke but has become increasingly more difficult to explain.

"Africans in the valley are afraid to leave their huts at night as stories

spread of the object with flashing lights and fire in its 'belly.'

"The belief is growing that the authorities should now act urgently to discover what the object is. It has been seen so many times now that the credibility of all the witnesses cannot be doubted.

"Mr. Smit is the man who has been nearest to it as it hovered just above the trees on his farm, Braeside, seven kilometres from Fort Beaufort. He is convinced that it is not a laughable object from outer space containing little green men, or any aberration of light. His theory is that it is a man-made remote-controlled vehicle."

When writing about the distance of the farm from the town, the newsmen seem to have been confusing their miles and kilometres, but the police, meanwhile, were obviously not confusing their priorities, and were taking a great interest in the affair.

Credit to Philipp Human,

Car levitation on the Blackfoot Reserve

W. K. Allan

THE following is a transcript of a taped interview with Wilton Raw Eater, and his wife, regarding an unusual levitation which is said to have taken place on the Blackfoot Indian Reserve near Gleichen, Alberta, Canada, on May 14, 1971. Mr. Raw is driver of the local school bus.

These people were very reluctant to speak until we played them the tape of the interview with Barbara Smyth about her Craigmyle experience. In passing I should add that it is apparently Mr. Raw's custom to visit the bar at the end of the working week.

Mr. Raw: "Well that's pretty hard to start with. Well . . . I went to the bar, had a few beers, and when I start coming home it was night like . . . then I saw these four houses just up the hill here, and as soon as we passed the houses, all of a sudden we seen this bright light like, just hit us like lightning."

Allan: "Was it ahead of you, or to one side?"

Mr. Raw: "It was sort of on the right side of the car, you know. It just happened for a few seconds, and the car . . . we didn't notice it till after, oh, about a few yards, and the wife told me: 'the car's off the ground.' I kept steering the car while we stayed on the side of the road and went for about a quarter of a mile . . . it didn't bother me none. Had my lights on. All of a sudden my car hit the ground . . . I could feel the wheels when they hit the ground, and we just drove home right away and went to my brother's place (where we) talked to his wife about it. I waited for my brother and I told him about it."

Allan: "You say you kept steering the car. How if you turned the wheel? Just kept to the centre of the road, did it?"

Mr. Raw: "Oh, yes."

Allan: "You didn't steer it to either side?"

Mr. Raw: "No, I had my steering steady like, you know. Like I said before, I didn't steer it actually; I was just holding my steering (wheel) when I stay in the centre of the road (from), just before going down the

hill until we hit the gravel road again on this hill coming down there. Well it didn't actually scare me then, but the wife must have been scared."

Allan: "Could you tell by the headlights on the road ahead that the car wasn't in the normal position?"

Mr. Raw: "Well actually the car was running . . . was going about 40-45 (mph). I was looking at the speedometer sometimes, but it didn't bother me, like you know."

Allan: "But you still feel sure the car was up?"

Mr. Raw: "Oh yes, you could tell it."

Allan: "Because you looked out the window?"

Mr. Raw: "I was looking down the side you know."

Allan: "Did it feel any different? You didn't feel the little bumps?"

Mr. Raw: "I didn't feel nothing, just floated like."

That completed the interview with Wilton Raw Eater, and his wife now kindly allowed me to ask her a few questions.

Allan: "Now Rosalin, Mrs. Raw Eater, could you tell me what you saw, you noticed it first didn't you?"

Mrs. Raw: "Yes, I noticed it because we have rough roads here. At first I didn't really care, I thought first he was just speeding because he always speeds. But this time it was just like driving a new car, and our car isn't that new; could feel the bumps with it, but then I looked down and the car was off the ground."

Allan: "How high do you think it was off the ground?"

Mrs. Raw: "Oh, about two feet, or something like that."

Allan: "How long do you think it stayed that way; can you tell?"

Mrs. Raw: "Well I was real scared, I couldn't very well remember."

Allan: "Did you notice the bump when it was back on the road? There was no mistake about that?"

Mrs. Raw: "Yes, we can tell when we're on our gravel roads, especially the roads we've got, they're real bad."

Allan: "Now this light, did it continue with you all the time you were off the ground?"

Mrs. Raw: Yes, it did until it . . . it just went off.

Allan: "The light went off and then your car went down."

Mrs. Raw: "Then I told him to drive a little faster so we could get home. I wanted to come home to my kids because I thought that was the last time I was going to see them."

Allan: "You must have been very frightened."

Mrs. Raw: "Yes, it really scared me, so we took the kids in the car and I told him: 'Let's go over to your brother's' and that's when he went over to his brother's place."

FORT BEAUFORT. (continued from page 7)

view probably took place, at the latest, on June 30, in which case "the night before last" would have been June 28. As E. R. Pitlo observes, that was pretty quick, even in this day and age, for someone in America to learn of the incident, to seek out Bennie Smit's telephone number, and to call him!

⁸ So apparently was Mr. Smit's dog Wolfie, for we read in *The Argus* of July 8 that the dog disappeared for a week after the first sighting on June 26. Wolfie is a devoted animal which never leaves its master's side, and which has been on many hunting trips with him. But, as *The Argus* says, the 'Thing' has obviously upset him.