

by the professor is not entirely on our side of the fence. This feeling was confirmed by the B.B.C. reporter's statement that she had checked that no rocket had been launched that day from Aberporth.

For the rest, the professor suggested that we base our reasoning on 'hazy evidence' and 'clouds', and so on. For our part we suggest that the learned gentleman ignored the realities of the situation, and failed to do his homework on our subject before committing himself. Unhappily there are still for too many 'experts' whose methods, where UFOs are concerned, are completely unscientific. Without even considering the evidence, they label something the like of which they have never before encountered, with the first rationalisation that springs to mind. Small wonder some witnesses prefer anonymity when they see or hear die-hard non-expert 'experts' labelling as fools those who are so impressed by the unusual thing they have seen that they are innocent enough to report it.

It is only fair to state that we have one small area of agreement with our critic. We presume that Professor Boyd was referring to—and denying—Mr. Creighton's assertions that astronauts have seen UFOs when aloft, when he complained that no names are ever revealed. It is indeed a pity that this is so, but hardly surprising when one considers the vast amount of security involved in the field of astronautics. 'Keep mum, for there's no

knowing where either military or commercial security begins or ends' seems to be the motto.

Nevertheless, we would hazard a guess that there is no hurry to release the news of the surveillance of men's spacecraft by the unknowns, because the aerospace scientists themselves would dearly like to join the select band of astronauts and cosmonauts in orbit so that they could study the UFOs. Furthermore, it would not surprise us in the least if this proved to be the one (otherwise classified) field where the main, and opposing, Earth nations exchange information.

As far as we are concerned, there *are* signs that if the UFO pressure continues to mount as it has done since April 1964, closed minds will be forced to open. So as the wave rolls on, we must be on our guard against the dangers of over-enthusiasm. Most people who are interested in the subject are well aware that easy conventionalisations and rationalisations cannot be applied to every strange light or object that appears in the skies, on the land, or in the seas. Equally they should face up to realities, accept the fact that every unusual object or light is not a flying saucer, and so deny ammunition to the Professor Boyds of this world. A sane and responsible approach to the subject on our part will encourage the small band of open-minded scientists, and others, to join us in the search for the solution to this very real problem.

#### DELAYS IN PUBLICATION

The Editor wishes to apologise to readers for the very late appearance of the issue for March-April, 1966. Disastrous delays in production stages—which were beyond his control—were particularly frustrating for the Editor, as 'copy' for the number was ready during the first week in February.

Steps have now been taken to improve upon this state of affairs, and it is expected there will soon be a return to normal schedules.

#### CONGRATULATIONS...

... to the BBC *World of Tomorrow* team for producing on TV what seems to be a perfectly satisfactory filmed explanation of the purported UFO, filmed in colour by Mrs. J. Oldfield from an airliner over Staffordshire early in April. While one reader has reminded us of the late Waveney Girvan's well-aided dictum that "Even more than the sightings it is the explanations, that need to be investigated", we feel that there should be a degree of trust in these matters. Nevertheless, it *would* be reassuring to inspect the two *original* films side by side.

# Car Headlight Beams reported 'Bent'

Australian Police discover possible UFO landing site

UNDER the headline FLYING SAUCER IN DEATH CRASH? the *Daily Express* of April 12 carried the following strange story from Melbourne, Australia:—

"Motorist Ronald Sullivan was cruising along in the moonlight when the beam of his headlights 'bent' inexplicably to the right.

"'Had I followed them I would have run off the road', he told police at Maryborough, near Melbourne. 'I managed to stop before I crashed. Just then I saw a display of gaseous lights in all the colours of the spectrum in a nearby field. An object rose about 10 ft. in the air—and disappeared'.

"Later, he returned to the scene and found 19-year-old motorist Gary Taylor had been killed the previous night in a crash at same spot. Police checked and found in a freshly ploughed field a circular depression from two to five inches in depth and about five feet in diameter.

"They regard 38-year-old Sullivan as an intelligent and highly respected business-man—who does not believe in flying saucers".

When Dr. Bernard Finch forwarded a copy of the relative *Associated Press* message (which he had obtained privately), we learned that Mr. Sullivan's frightening experience had taken place on April 4, that he had returned to the site on April 8, and that the fatal accident had occurred on April 7. The incident took place on the road between Bendigo and St. Arnaud, in Victoria.

A few days later we received a welcome selection of newspaper cuttings from our friends of the

*Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society*.\* Among them was one from the *Melbourne Herald* of April 11, which gave additional details of the incident.

After the object which rose from the field had disappeared, Mr. Sullivan drove on to Wyche-proof, where he had his headlights checked. They were found to be in perfect order.

The depression discovered by the police in the newly ploughed field, was some 50 feet from the fence.

The scene of the sighting, and, three days later, of the death crash, was on a stretch of straight bitumen road about nine miles east of Bealiba, itself 120 miles north-west of Melbourne. No trace of alcohol was found after a blood test on the dead driver.

When Mr. Sullivan's headlights were deflected, it was a moonlit night: on the night of the fatality it was cloudy.

Police at Maryborough, Castlemaine, Bealiba and Newstead said that they had all heard reports of flying saucers seen in the area. They were non-committal on how seriously they regarded the (Sullivan) report.

[Was the light-bending caused accidentally by the car's proximity to the force-field of the UFO, or more sinisterly, was the bending caused by a deliberate act?—EDITOR.]

NOTE—\* This very active group publishes the AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Their address is: P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia.

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