

THE WAVE OF "WING" REPORTS: MORE ON THE "BOOMERANG": "AS LARGE AS TWO FOOTBALL FIELDS"

R. Perry Collins

FSR reader Bob Collins of Bridgeport, Connecticut, is, as he says, a man who "grew up in the Air Force and now works as an aerospace engineer". What he has to tell us will be seen to corroborate fully all that we learned from the two articles on the great "Boomerang" craft, by Messrs Imbrogno, Lesnick and Clark, which we published in FSR Volume 30, No. 3, last February. EDITOR

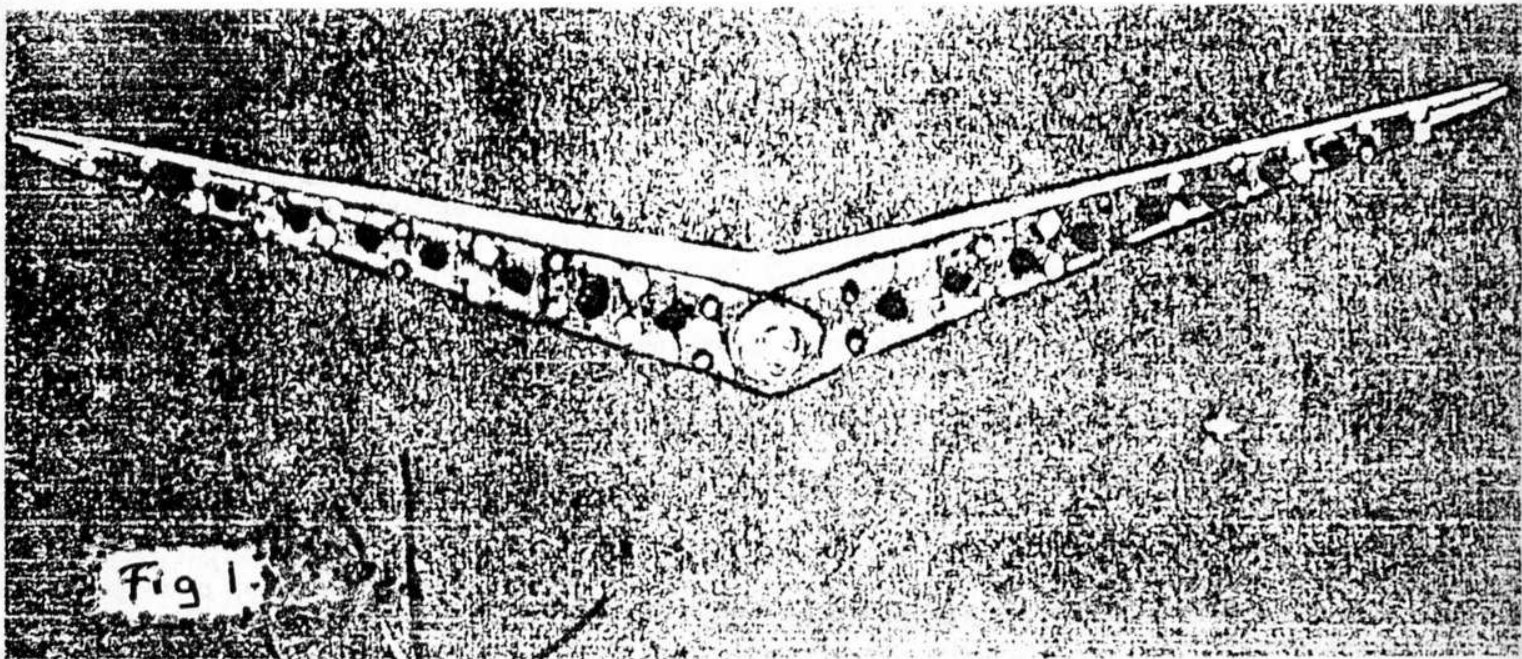
FROM March of 1983 to the present (Nov. '85) a UFO wave of unprecedented duration and consistency has enveloped significant areas of the eastern United States. It has been centered over New York and Connecticut and involves a UFO repeatedly reported as "larger than a football field", and by one witness as "about two football fields". This UFO has flown low over populated areas numerous times for more than two years. It has shown variable lighting but most often is reported as a huge "wing" or "boomerang"-shaped array of lights, switched on and off, seemingly to attract attention. There has also been related activity, such as flights of aircraft in various formations, displaying non-regulation lights and reports of federal agency interest. This activity has not been mentioned to any great degree by the national media. Local newspapers and independent radio and television broadcasts have presented a great deal of information, but in a scattered fashion. This article will present a summation of the wave and of investigations into its nature.

First reports

The wave had its beginnings in March of 1983. On March 17th, residents of Kent, N.Y. and motorists on the nearby I-84 highway reported a large UFO hovering and moving slowly over the area. From that date to the present, there have been reports of a huge, dark, metallic object, displaying glowing lights and flying very low over populated regions. The lights have most often been described as forming a large open "V" or "boomerang". In some cases the lights have changed position, rapidly forming such configurations as a "horseshoe", "cross", straight line, and a large circle. Often the configuration changes happened while the object hovered, finally coming back to the "V" shape before the object accelerated rapidly away.

The press headlines

One week after the 17th, on March 24th, the UFO was seen again. Citizens and police officers of Yorktown,



The "Boomerang" craft.

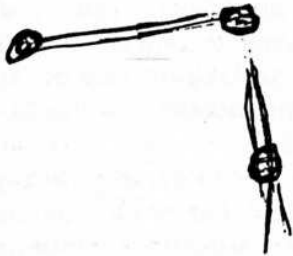
Mt. Kisco, and Carmel, New York State, reported a very large "V"-shaped object with multi-colored lights moving low over their towns. "Hundreds Claim To Have Seen UFO" read the headlines of the *Port Chester Daily Item* on the next day. The object was seen again the following night (the 25th) and the night after that. In early April the object began being seen over Danbury, Connecticut, less than thirty miles from the New York towns. More headlines appeared. *Between March of 1983 and November of 1985 more than eighty articles reporting this UFO appeared in local newspapers in the two States of New York and Connecticut.* The most recent, dated October 18th, 1985, appeared in the *Bridgeport Post* and the *Danbury News Times* in Connecticut. These two articles described a huge, low-flying object seen by an estimated 2,000 witnesses. The object displayed "V"-shaped lights which changed color from white to red to green and back to white. The "wing" shape changed from a "V" to a straight line (as the object hovered) and back to a "V" (as the object rapidly accelerated away).

Enter the "light aircraft"

Within a month after the first articles appeared, a group of aircraft began flying over these same areas in

"V" formations, displaying non-regulation lights. At first, officialdom tried to explain the UFO as "hang glider" and "ultralight aircraft". These explanations proved inadequate, primarily because ultralight aircraft could not carry the numerous large, bright lights displayed by the UFO. Now, with the appearance of aircraft formations, a more adequate explanation became available. *The important fact to note is that these formations of aircraft had not been seen or reported until a month after the first reports of the UFO. Many of the witnesses who had seen the UFO had also seen the aircraft. They agreed that there was no confusing the two.* The UFO was huge, moved very slowly, hovered, rotated on its own axis, made abrupt turns and occasionally accelerated and decelerated very rapidly.

Much of the public accepted the "aircraft" explanation, seemingly relieved that there was an explanation, even if it did seem manufactured. Those who had seen the UFO did not. The witnesses included business executives, engineers, and pilots — people whose testimony was difficult to ignore. There were also very large numbers of witnesses, at times numbering in the thousands in one night. The UFO characteristically flew very low over relatively affluent areas, usually overflying five to ten towns, always displaying brightly glowing lights of various colors.



← 90° TURN, LIGHTS " ROTATED INTO TURN " BEFORE TURN INITIATED, TURN ABRUPT BUT WITH APEX OF "TRIANGLE" ALWAYS FORWARD

Fig 2.

THOMAS B. SCHOOLTEACHER

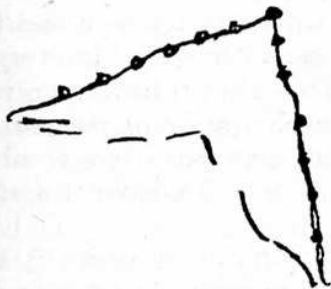


Fig 3.

CAROLE B. HOUSEWIFE

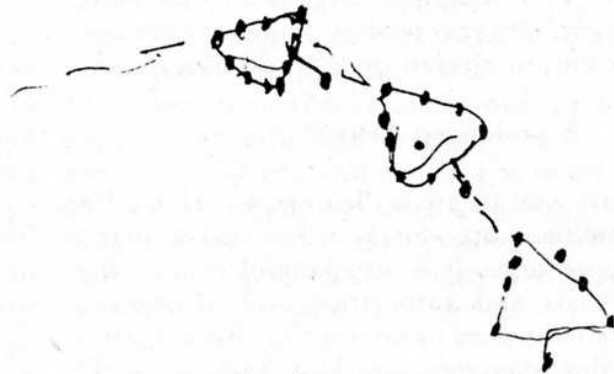


Fig 4 -
BRIAN B. THIRD GRADE STUDENT

Research by Imbrogno and Lesnick

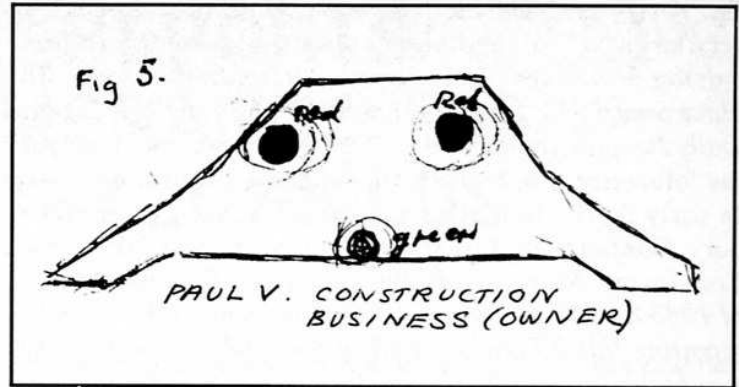
What is the real nature of the reported activity? What is actually going on? Two men most involved in the investigation of these reports were Phil Imbrogno and George Lesnick. Phil, a graduate astronomer and an investigator for CUFOS, conducted a tireless and thorough investigation. His partner, George Lesnick, worked as a Lieutenant in the Fairfield (Connecticut) police department and has had many years of experience as a professional investigator. Together the two men brought to light many incidents, which, upon careful study, cannot be explained conventionally. Their work in interviewing witnesses, correlating information and presenting it to the public has been very professional. The results of their investigations are clear and concise: there is an object, unidentified, displaying characteristics beyond our present technology, which has been appearing low over Connecticut State and New York State since 1983. It is not a group of light aircraft. It is not, at this point, explainable.

Personal conviction

Until the evening of August 21st, 1983, I had followed the reports of this UFO as a hobbyist. I was working as a quality control manager in the aerospace industry, and had grown up as the son of an Air Force officer. I had spoken with George and Phil and was impressed with the professional attitude they displayed. Until August 21st, however, I was not convinced that this activity was really a UFO — UFO reports seldom involved repeated overflights and large numbers of witnesses. On the evening of August 21st I saw the object along with numerous other witnesses. I am familiar with aircraft and what they can and cannot do. What I saw was not aircraft activity. I interviewed many of the witnesses from that night. All of them agreed that what they had seen was something unknown, overwhelmingly large, which hovered, moved very slowly, and reversed direction at very low altitude. It was not an aircraft or a group of aircraft.

A prolonged "wave"

Perhaps the best way to get a clearer picture of this UFO is to examine more closely a few of the many nights of its appearance. It is also helpful to note the reaction of officials and authorities, and to observe how our culture continues to attempt to cover up and explain away the phenomenon. This wave of UFO activity appears to be more prolonged and intense than usual. The UFO involved seems huge, displays manoeuvres beyond our technology, and *appears to purposely attract attention to itself by its lighting displays. It does not land; it does not display itself in daylight. Such overt actions on the part of the UFO agency could shock our culture; somehow the UFO of this wave*



presents itself at just that level we are able to accept without disturbances to our society as a whole.

Public perceives military aspects

The UFO phenomenon in general has presented this aspect of reality to our world for more than thirty-five years. *Within the last decade, however, the public has begun to be aware of UFO appearances at and interferences with military bases. A careful search of verified UFO appearances reveals cases where ICBM installations have been closely approached and temporarily nullified. Anti-aircraft missiles have occasionally been launched at UFOs — the missiles in each case have failed or been destroyed. Jet interceptors have been scrambled to pursue UFOs only to be easily evaded and rapidly outdistanced.* In much the same way as these overflights of New York and Connecticut can be seen as purposeful "demonstrations", so might we see these activities at military bases. We have much to learn. Alien invaders are *not* sweeping through our skies, ray guns ablaze. The UFO phenomenon is *not* overtly threatening. It seems almost to present us with a mirror in which we can see our own actions and reactions more clearly.

Typical sightings

Let us look at examples from some of the many nights of the appearance of this "wing" over New England. I have personally investigated several incidents of this nature, interviewing many witnesses on tape and by signed statements. George Lesnick and Phil Imbrogno have done much more. The object has appeared numerous times over the New York/Connecticut area since 1983. There are also scattered reports of a similar nature from 1980 to 1983 from North Carolina to Maine.

The first night we shall explore in depth is the night of August 21st, 1983. Hundreds of witnesses, including myself, reported the object over six closely connected Connecticut towns. Between 10.00 and 11.00 pm (EST), I was at my Bridgeport residence, studying, when I decided to take a break. Walking to my north-facing window, I lit a cigarette and was

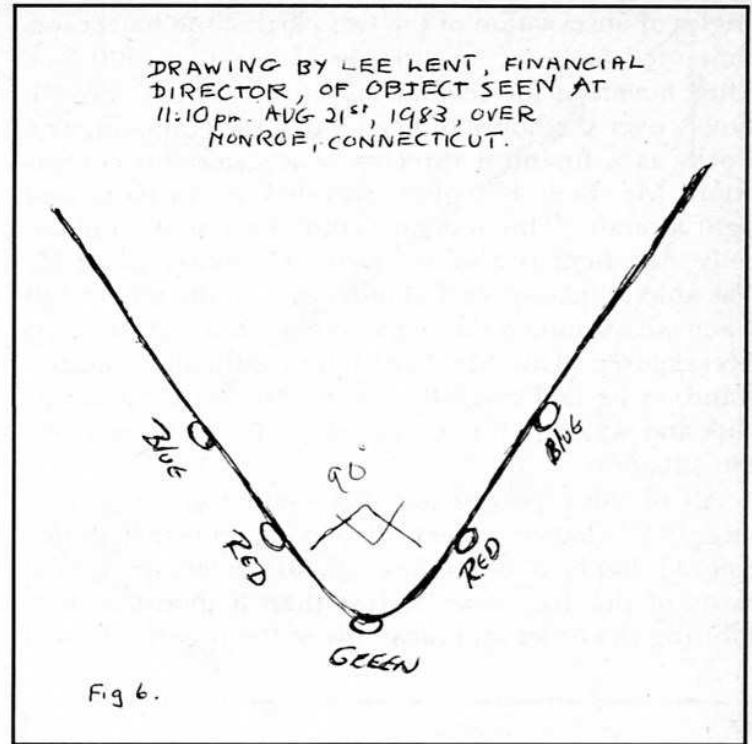
looking out (from the third floor) when I saw a set of unusual lights. At first I thought it was a light aircraft, but quickly dismissed this idea, as the lights were too widely separated and moving much too slowly. There were three of them, very low (about fifteen degrees off the rooftops), one red, one green and one blue. They appeared equally separated and three hand-widths across (with my hands stretched directly in front of me). As I watched, the lights blinked out. I had first noticed them to the north-west drifting slowly to the south seemingly less than a mile away.

Telepathic link?

From the north-facing window, I moved to the west-facing window and looked out again, hoping to catch a glimpse of whatever it was. I was sure it was not an aircraft and was extremely curious as to what it could be. As I stared out of the window the lights suddenly switched back on, now much closer. I was facing a display of three large, glowing lights, the left one red, the middle one green, the right one blue. Now they were seven to eight hand-widths across and hovering, motionless. Taken aback, I could only think of a UFO. Aloud, I said: "If you are what I think you are, tell me somehow that I'm not hallucinating". The green light blinked off, then back on, then all the lights blinked off. I immediately received a very strong impression to move back to the north-facing window and was up and moving when I realized that the impression was not my own thought. I hesitated but continued on, overcome by excitement and curiosity.

As I looked out of the open window I was presented with a huge wing-shaped array of lights moving slowly and silently to the east. I immediately realized that the object was very low, of tremendous proportions, and could not be an airfoil, as it was moving too slowly to hold itself up. I also felt a subjective awareness of being observed by a logical, intense presence, but could not concentrate on this, instead feeling overwhelmed by the sight. Recovering, I made some quick estimates of its angular displacement and watched it intently for about three minutes. It drifted to the east for about one half mile and then the lights dimmed and shut off. The lights had been large, glowing and seemingly attached to a huge structure in the shape of an open "V" (with an included angle of approximately 100 degrees). The leading light (the "V" was moving apex forward) was green, then each half of the "wing" showed a red, a blue and another red, making a total of seven. From angles of observation, hand-width estimates and areas of the object's movement, I figured out its dimensions to be approximately 300 to 500 feet wide ("wing" tip to "wing" tip), and 200 to 300 feet long — length being the direction of travel. These dimensions agreed with descriptions by other witnesses that night.

As the lights faded, I strained to make out a body or



shape, but could not. I turned and went to the telephone, noting that it was 10.45 pm, and called Lt. Lesnick. After a brief conversation, I went outside towards the area where I had last seen the UFO, but found nothing. I returned to the house and began calling nearby airports and police departments to see if there were any reports of the object. I found that numerous others had seen it, and I spent the next week contacting and interviewing them.

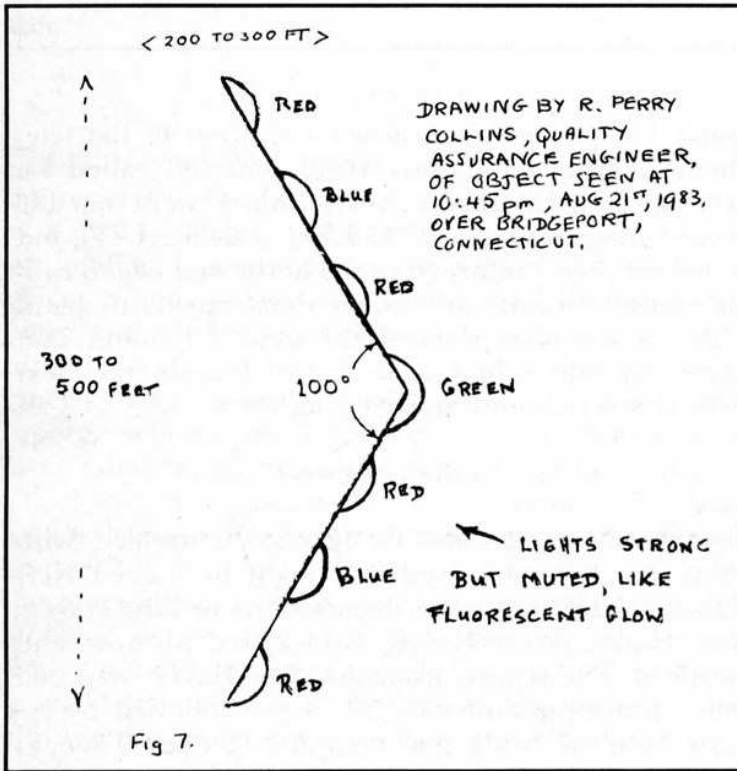
Other reports

Reports of a large, low-flying object, studded with lights, had been received that night by Tweed New Haven airport, by police departments in East Haven, New Haven, West Haven, Bridgeport, Monroe and Stratford. The reports from the New Haven area had come in at approximately 10.30 pm, followed by reports from the Bridgeport area at 10.50 pm. Then, at 11.10 pm, reports had come into the Monroe police department, followed by more reports from Bridgeport at 11.50 pm and then from nearby Stratford at 11.55 pm. The reports show a consistent flight-path in time and location over the closely clustered towns. I spoke with more than twenty-five people who had seen the object and interviewed eleven of them in depth.

The reports all described a very large, seemingly "V"-shaped object, gliding silently at from 200 to 1,000 feet and displaying multi-colored lights along the leading edges of both "wings". The object was seen to hover motionlessly by an electrical engineer in Monroe, while a family of four was also watching it less than 300 yards away. Using the positions and

angles of observation of the two parties, the object was computed to be at an altitude of less than 500 feet. After hovering for several minutes, it began moving slowly over the house of Lee Lent, forty years old, who works as a financial director of a successful corporation. Mr. Lent has often traveled in airliners and light aircraft. "This was no plane", he stated emphatically. Mr. Lent is also an amateur photographer. He was able to take several photographs of the object, but when we examined the negatives we found them to be overexposed. This Mr. Lent found difficult to understand, as he had carefully set the camera for a night-shot and was sure his setting and film were correct for the situation.

All of the reports from that night were of a very large, "V"-shaped object, displaying glowing, multi-colored lights and moving silently over residential areas of the six towns at less than a thousand feet. Plotting the times and locations of the reports showed



the object to have varied its speed from approximately 5 mph to more than 200 mph. It was seen hovering motionless, rotating on its axis, and quickly reversing its direction of travel. "Light aircraft in formation" is not an adequate explanation of this activity, no matter what the status of the "explainer".

"Psychic interaction"?

The night of August 21st, 1983, was typical of many. Phil Imbrogno found that approximately ten per cent of the reports included strong evidence of what we call "psy-

chic" interaction between the object and the witnesses. Often the object would move away when witnesses became fearful, and approach closely when witnesses desired a better look. Rather than to mention all the nights when the object was seen, I shall present a cross-section of witness statements, giving a fair idea of the nature of the activity. In each case presented, there were numerous other witnesses on the same night and in the same area:—

1. April 1st, 1983, between 8.00 and 8.30 pm, EST, over Danbury, Ct.

Witness — Carole B., housewife:

"It was a Friday evening, somewhere about 8.30, when my husband arrived home in an excited state, saying! "Come out here: You've got to see this!" We went out on our porch and looked in the sky to see a very large triangularly shaped object which appeared to be almost floating in the sky — not very high over the treetops. It moved very evenly (not jerkily) and came nearer to us, then almost automatically pivoted to its left — a ninety degree angle — and continued in that direction. I then returned to the house. The most amazing thing to me was the lack of noise. There was a small hum similar to a quiet refrigerator. Also the turn was very different. There were red, white and green lights, but I can't remember their sequence. There was a pattern. After sighting this object, we didn't say much to too many others."

2. September 23rd, 1983, between 11.00 and 11.30 pm, EST, over highway I-84, between exits 8 and 9, near Sandy Hook, Ct.

Witness — Paul V., self-employed:

"Heading east on I-84 about 11.05, I noticed lights off to the left above the tree tops. So bright were they, they really caught my eye. Two large red lights and a smaller green one in the middle. I thought it might be a power-line tower if anything. After travelling downhill, I lost sight of it for about one or two minutes, because the object was so low. When I reached the top of the next hill, I noticed the object was clear of the trees and not a tower. It sat there motionless for about five minutes. Now, only two bright, pinkish-red lights were in front, and the smaller green lights were in the rear. After five minutes or so, all the lights went out. The object sat in the air, motionless, for another few minutes. It was a dark grey, metallic color, but the exact shape was hard to make out. Then one green light came on in back and the object moved silently and very swiftly to the west. On a soft arc, it lifted up to the stars, and became the size of a pin-head in a matter of five to ten seconds. I watched it for about five to ten minutes after it stopped moving in the sky. It looked red and green again, as if the lights had come back on. It was huge. *If it had landed, it would have taken up about two football fields.*"

3. September 17th, 1984, at approximately 9.00 pm, EST, near Goshen, Ct.

Witness — Judy F., teacher:

"I was driving along a deserted road at about 9.00 pm when I noticed unusual lights through the trees. The lights were in a row — maybe four to six moon-colored lights. They seemed to be pacing my car, but I thought when I came out into an open area there would be a logical explanation — there wasn't. The lights really were in the sky and moved to hover over my car. They appeared to be directly in front of the car, just a few feet above the treetops. The lights turned into a horse-shoe shape and became brighter. They also changed in color, incorporating blue and red along with the white light. I thought 'it' might be landing, and I didn't stop — just kept driving and watching. Then a pick-up truck passed the other way, not stopping. After it passed, the lights reassembled into a "V" shape and quickly disappeared over the horizon."

4. October 17th, 1985, between 8.30 and 9.00 pm, EST, over Bridgeport, Ct.

Witness — Mark N., teacher:

"About 9.00 I left a friend's house. After I got in the car, I looked up and saw a bright object in the sky, but the trees were blocking my vision. I quickly moved down the street to get a better view, but I could no longer see the object. (I was upset because I knew it was something different and I wanted to see it.) I started towards my apartment and got off the highway (maybe three blocks away from the first sighting). I looked up to the sky and there it was. I've never seen anything like it in my life. The object had lights in a V-shape and it was no group of planes or one plane. The object was moving slowly north over Main Street when I first saw it, then, when I saw it again, it was over towards Fairfield. That's when I saw the V straighten out into a line."

5. October 17th, 1985, between 9.00 and 9.30 pm, EST, over Bethel, Ct.

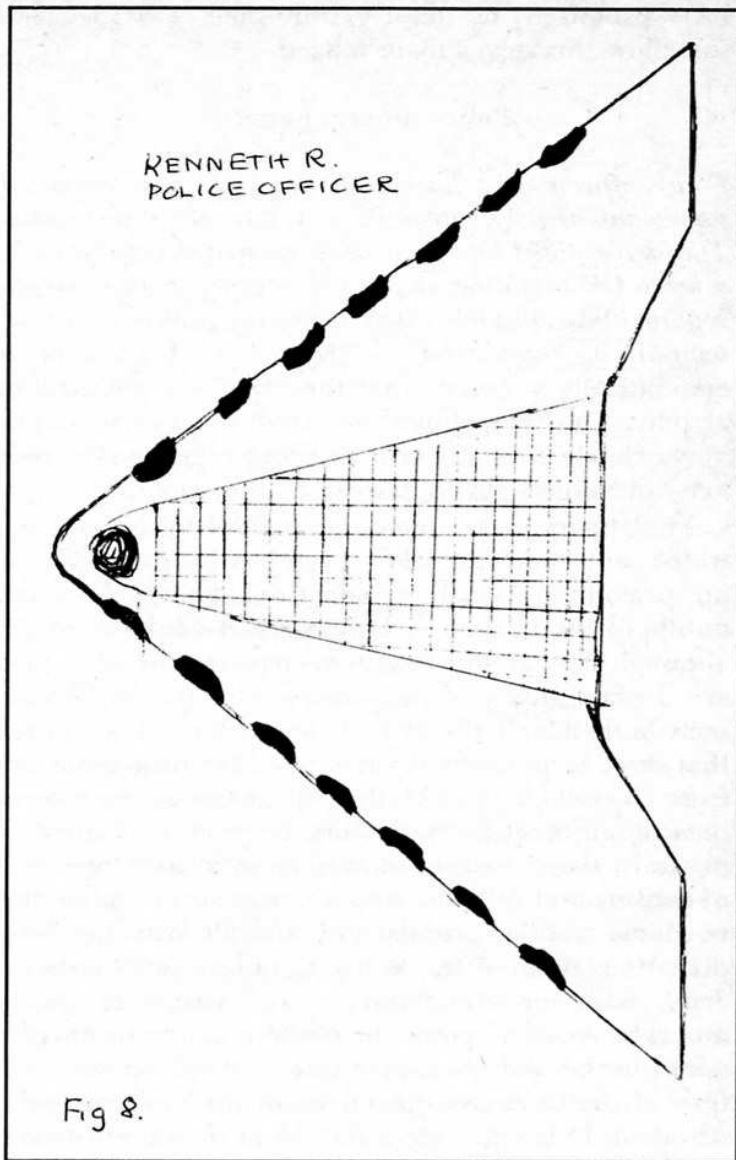
Witness — Lisa S., newspaper reporter:

"How many nights have I sat in the newsroom and answered phone calls from self-professed 'sane' people who claimed to have seen lights in the sky? Well, I saw a UFO too. It was about 9.00 pm and I was out on a field at the Bethel Educational Complex, covering a bocce ball tournament. Play stopped for about ten minutes when thirty men bolted to the far side of the courts to watch the lights.

'Hey, Lisa,' called bocce player and police chief John P. Basile. 'You wanna real story? Come here and look at the UFO.'

"Skeptical from the start, I walked to where the crowd was. It was close. At first I thought it was one of those advertising blimps with moving red neon words. Just too far away to make out. Then the spinning of the lights changed direction. Then they changed to white. For about ten minutes, we watched it move quietly and slowly from left to right. Then it hovered for a long time in one spot.

"Soon, after a very brief speed spurt towards us, the



object started taking on a "V" shape and the lights turned back to red. Then, the quickest and straightest it ever moved, it headed in one direction out of sight and never came back."

Over 30,000 eyewitnesses

As stated, there are many similar reports from thousands of witnesses in the New York/Connecticut area. Since 1983, investigators have interviewed more than 2,000 people who have reported something unusual in the night sky. Reports were so numerous that often only the more spectacular or strange ones were investigated. *It is estimated that over 30,000 individuals have seen a very large, low flying, almost silent object displaying variable lighting, hovering, moving slowly, suddenly accelerating and generally behaving almost as if to attract attention to itself.* Within a month after its initial appearance, light aircraft displaying non-regulation lights began flying over the same areas in various formations. These aircraft and their pilots were elusive and occasionally diverted to alternate airports when investigators would wait for them at airstrips. The

FAA promised an inquiry into their activities, but somehow this never materialized.

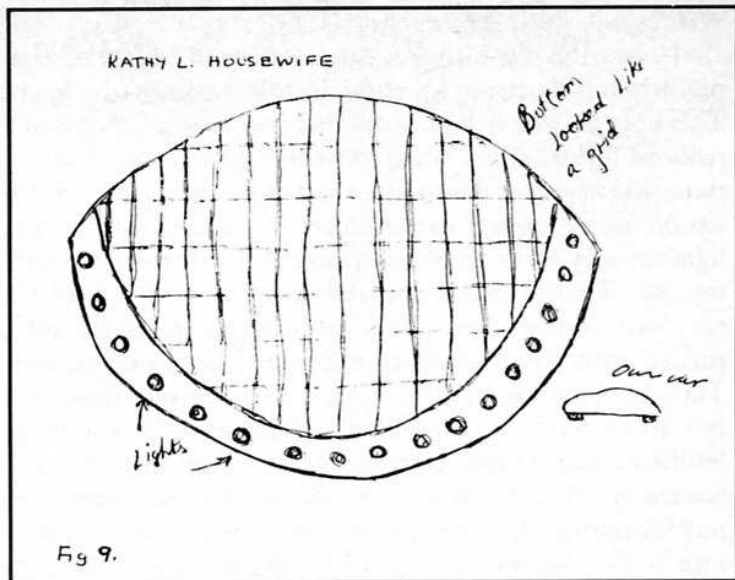
Police officers gagged

Police officers who have seen the UFO have reported, somewhat angrily, attempts to censor their statements. They have stated that their chiefs have instructed them to refer to UFO sightings as aircraft activity. They have also reported visits of their chiefs' offices by federal agents attempting to "keep a lid" on the activity. These officers emphatically say that what they saw was not aircraft activity. One patrolman reported seeing the object move slowly over his cruiser, stop, rotate on its own axis, and cruise slowly back over him again.

The apparent reaction of authorities to this concentrated and enduring UFO wave has been to cover it up, provide "rational" explanations, and to keep the public in the dark. The light aircraft continue to fly, although they are now easily recognized for what they are. In fact, many of the witnesses of the UFO have seen both it and the aircraft formations. They agree that there is no confusing the two. These witnesses are from all walks of life. Many of them are senior executives, engineers, pilots, doctors, lawyers, educators — in short, the witnesses of this phenomenon are very numerous and reliable. A large part of the public has of course readily accepted the "aircraft formation" explanation. A minority, but a significantly large minority, has not. The numbers of witnesses grows monthly. At some point the Government will have to admit to the reality of these unexplained occurrences. One of the foremost Presidents of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, made a statement that applies most succinctly: *"You may fool all the people some of the time, you can even fool some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time."*

Nuclear plants patrolled

There are two examples that most clearly show the almost frantic efforts on the part of authorities to cover up and explain away the reports of this wave of UFO activity. The first came to the attention of the public in early 1985, again through the unceasing efforts of Phil Imbrogno and George Lesnick. On January 12th, two newspapers ran startling and controversial headlines. "NUKE PLANT GUARDS REPORT HOVERING UFOs" appeared in the *Journal-News* of Nyack, New York. "UFOs — DID ALIENS BUZZ INDIAN POINT PLANT?" read the *Reporter-Dispatch* of White Plains, N.Y. In these articles, Imbrogno stated that on July 24th, 1984, a huge "V"-shaped UFO slowly descended to within several hundred yards of the Indian Point nuclear facility. *He reported that guards became alarmed, shotguns were issued and nearby Fort Smith was alerted. Plant authorities denied the incident and came close to slander in their statements.* John Branci-



forte, security co-ordinator at Indian Point, stated: "He (Imbrogno) could possibly be making it up or he took what they (witnesses) gave him and stretched it out. I think people are going to publish stories on hysteria and misinformation. As far as I'm concerned, it's pure speculation."

The actual story, related by Lt. Lesnick, sounds like science fiction. Lt. Lesnick was with Imbrogno throughout the investigation of the incident. George Lesnick has worked as a police officer for the town of Fairfield, Connecticut, for twenty-nine years. He is a healthy, robust, straightforward man who has received numerous commendations for saving lives, solving burglaries and kidnap cases, and generally serving his community as a dedicated and professional police officer. His comments and investigations of a case are those of a professional, accustomed to cross-examination in the courtroom. He does not "stretch facts". If George is not absolutely sure of his material, he does not speculate. I spoke with him several times to get the facts of the incident straight.

Twenty-month "wave"

In October of 1984, Lesnick, Imbrogno and Dr. J. Allen Hynek were being interviewed by Lee Spiegel of NBC radio. They were discussing the now twenty-month-long wave of UFO activity over the eastern United States. After the show, the investigators received a number of calls. One came from a security officer at the nuclear plant. He wanted to discuss an incident involving a huge UFO, and he wanted to discuss it in person. A time and a place were arranged for an interview. George and Phil arrived for the meeting to find the officer and five other guards willing to relate their experience. The investigators separated them into two groups of three each, to see if their stories compared favourably.

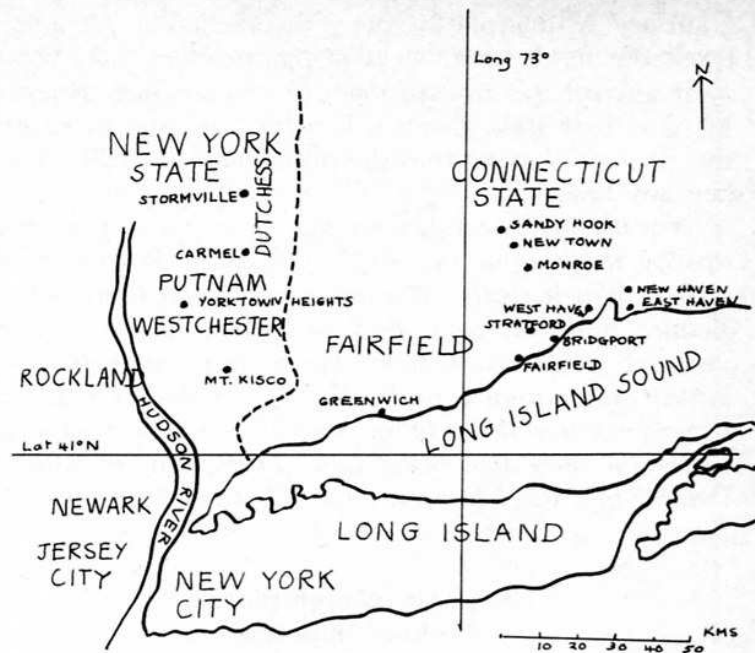
All six guards related the same story. On the evening of July 24, 1984, a huge V-shaped object, displaying the two rows of bright, glowing lights, descended slowly to an altitude of less than 500 feet and approached the nuclear facility to within 100 yards. The second-shift security officers were startled and unsure of how to react. The object slowly came closer to the plant until it was hovering almost directly over them, emitting a low humming noise. Fifteen guards were involved, and someone gave the order to issue shotguns. Shortly afterwards another order was issued to contact the Army at nearby Fort Smith. After approximately fifteen minutes, the admittedly nervous guards watched as the object slowly drifted away and then abruptly accelerated upwards and to the north-west.

Investigators blocked

The investigators made appointments to meet with the guards again and talked with residents living near the facility. They found twenty more witnesses to the unusual activity that evening. In the face of this eyewitness testimony, plant authorities flatly denied the whole thing. When asked about the records of the security cameras, Lt. Lesnick was told that the cameras "weren't loaded" that night. As a professional police officer, Lesnick found this difficult to believe. *The investigators were unable to meet again with the plant security officers or to even reach them by phone. One guard called and said simply that he could not talk or meet with them again as his job was on the line. In considering this information, one wonders why the plant authorities made such extreme efforts to conceal and deny the facts. The UFO caused no damage. Certainly denying the facts and silencing the witnesses is a poor tactic if the plant management wished to downplay the incident simply due to cultural pressures. Executives in all walks of life are well aware that a much more reasonable ploy would be to admit that the guards did see something, but misinterpreted it. It almost seems as if the atmosphere around this incident was one of near-panic. This implies a fear of the UFO phenomenon not warranted by the actual nature of the incident. Could this fear have been transmitted by federal authorities anxious to keep the public calm in the face of other, more serious incidents? Could those at higher levels of national security be themselves fearful of public reaction to, say, the reports of UFO interferences with strategic missile installations?*

The formations of planes

The second example of the extreme efforts being attempted to cover up this wave of activity began in February of 1985. I had contacted Jim Montavalli, managing editor of the *Fairfield Advocate*, and asked if he was interested in running an article on the UFO



reports from the local area. Jim proved to be an interested and open-minded man, and he ran an enthusiastic article in the February 20th issue of his paper. As he interviewed me, I impressed upon him the fact that the two most informed and active investigators were George Lesnick and Phil Imbrogno. Montavalli contacted them and arranged for an hour-long television interview about their investigations on his weekly programme "What Do You Think?" The show was well advertised for a week in advance and was presented live on WUBC, Channel Twelve from 8.00 to 9.00 pm on the evening of March 20th, 1985. *Just as the show ended and everyone was leaving, an apparently immense ring of slowly moving lights came on directly over the Bridgeport (Ct.) studio. From Bridgeport the formation of unusual lights moved over New Haven and into central Connecticut, putting on a display seen by thousands of people. I saw them while driving on route 34 near New Haven, and, like many other motorists, pulled over and got out to observe them in detail.*

The display lasted nearly ten minutes from my position and nearly caused several accidents as more and more drivers stopped to watch. *It was not a UFO. As I watched, the lights turned inland over New Haven and I realized that they must be aircraft. There were eight of them and their precision was almost perfect. Then four of the planes broke formation slightly, reforming after the turn. They seemed to be between five and seven thousand feet up and were displaying steady, bright red lights, a clear breach of FAA flight regulations. The next day headlines throughout the State of Connecticut loudly condemned the pilots for nearly causing accidents on many major highways. Demands were made for an FAA investigation. The pilots were never found. Paul Estefan, administrator of*

Danbury Municipal Airport, dispatched a plane to track the lights and the pilot reported that they were light aircraft. He tracked them to two separate airports in New York state. Estefan, however, refused to name the airports,¹ saying that the pilots had not really broken any laws.

Was it really a coincidence that these planes put on a display that began just as the Channel Twelve show ended? Was it really coincidence that immediately after Lesnick and Imbrogno presented the evidence of two years of solid investigation, the perfect and easily accepted explanation casually flew over? Was it really a coincidence that this explanation flew over the exact area where the show was being seen? From years of patient inquiry into the UFO phenomenon, I can assure you it was not.

The panic in high places: Mankind impotent

UFOs have profoundly alarmed those at high levels of national security in almost all the countries of our planet. They have effortlessly rendered ICBM sites ineffective, easily evaded interception attempts by the most advanced aircraft of the United States and the Soviet Union and destroyed anti-aircraft missiles launched at them with a technology far beyond our own. They have, at the same time, made a distinct and almost mythological impression on people throughout the world. They have not displayed overt hostility² towards individuals, have not landed and disrupted our society, and have shown no inclination to do so as yet. We may evolve into a unified world which peacefully moves out to explore our solar system, our universe. In such a case, UFOs may not make open and direct contact for hundreds of years. It may take that long for us to develop socially to the point where we would not be totally disrupted by such contact. We may also attempt to violently commit nuclear suicide, poisoning our world, killing all lifeforms on our planet. In such a case, somebody may come down and take our toys away, scolding us severely and imposing their own order upon us. It seems to be our choice.

In reaching these kinds of conclusions, we must understand that the majority of people in the United States do not have a firm grasp on the UFO reality. Most simply avoid it. The avoidance manoeuvres are varied: scientists, in general, see the UFO scene as a can of worms, full of inconsistencies; the media, especially the national media, still treat the subject with tongue in cheek; authorities, from local police to those visible public servants up to and including the President, simply deny it or explain it away as misidentification of natural or man-made phenomena. A significant proportion of the population treat it in a semi-superstitious manner, in much the same way religious prophecies are treated. It is important to re-

alize that these attitudes are not symptoms of a "planned cover-up", at least for the most part. Habitual attitudes such as these are more the symptoms of the cultural consensus reality within which we all usually function.

The realities of our world are largely our own creation. Reality is only a word, a concept. In trying to understand that concept, in trying to delineate its boundaries we very often create that reality most comfortable to ourselves and those around us. This process leads to the consensus "reality" which most of us share and support. People often ask me "Do you believe in UFOs?" My most consistent reply is "No, do you believe in helicopters?"

The "arms race" and arms control

Perhaps one way of seeing this is in relating it to something more clearly "real" in the current world culture. We might ask each other "Do you believe in arms control?" Many would say that they firmly believe in arms control. This does not make arms control a reality. Whether one "believes in" a concept or not does not determine its reality. Such belief systems may help to bring about some of those realities, especially if acted upon in a creative manner. UFOs are a reality not subject to our belief systems, although it seems they have initiated numerous "beliefs", "mythologies" and even possibly "religions", *UFOs exist. The evidence for that existence is now much too solid to deny. That evidence could be an underlying force behind our rapidly evolving military technology. Deep-seated fears of what we label as the "unknown" may be a factor in our feverish arms race.* It is even almost comforting to realize that now, as we peer off into the darkness of our self-created position, we could, if unified, at least have some chance to "battle" those "dark forces of the unknown". Unfortunately, those "dark forces" are largely creations of our own imaginations. Alien invaders haven't yet arrived to enslave us. In fact I should imagine any advanced life form would be hesitant to try. We are an aggressive and pugnacious species and would make very poor slaves.

An "ineffable reality"?

The human race is rapidly moving into an age where the nature of "reality" is changing every day. We need to understand how completely we create and maintain that kind of reality where we all pretty much agree on "how things are". The ultimate reality of our existence is still very much of a mystery, even to those scientists who specialize in exploring and defining it. We are directly part of a matter/energy universe which is only now beginning to be somewhat understood. Small-particle physicists, those closest to what we might call "ultimate" reality, readily admit that at this stage of

on a reinforcement schedule. Often these appearances coincide with demonstrations of the technological ease with which missile bases are electronically nullified, interceptor aircraft easily outdistanced, and anti-aircraft missiles destroyed at launch. Examples of these kinds of incidents are coming more and more into the public eye.

Perhaps it is time we started growing up. Our visitors, friendly or not, certainly cannot afford to let us come swarming off our planet loaded for bear. What would you do if you were up there looking down on a planet whose dominant lifeform seems to be preoccupied with making bigger, better and deadlier devices to either kill themselves or to keep each other from killing themselves? It would seem our visitors have been extremely patient. Perhaps they can help. Perhaps not. Perhaps they are *angelic*, attempting to help only indirectly. Perhaps they are *demonic*, attempting to move us onward towards "Armageddon". Perhaps they are neither.

Here we sit, our haloes held up by our horns, for the most part unaware of the real nature of our visitors. Perhaps that nature is unimportant. Perhaps

more important is our own perception of *their* nature. Perhaps, just perhaps, we can help ourselves. With the awareness that the universe is not our enemy, that it is just the opposite, we might possibly move into a future of tremendous potential. We are growing up. Hopefully we shall share our movement into racial maturity with others who seem to have already evolved towards social and racial sanity. Again, it is our choice. We are, after all, fairly intelligent, especially when we're not chasing each other through the treetops.

FOOTNOTES BY EDITOR, FSR

1. In their article "Boomerang" Update: Part 2, Philip Imbrogno, George Lesnick and Chris Clark mentioned Stormville Airport in Dutchess County of New York State as a source of these small aircraft flying in formation. (See FSR 30/3, page 21.)
2. I fear that many experienced investigators of our subject would not venture to utter so optimistic a view!
3. And particularly so, inasmuch as here Mr Collins agrees that several groups, or several species, of visitors appear to be involved!

DELTA-WINGS AND "BOOMERANGS"

OUR Mail Bag section in this issue contains an interesting letter from Mrs. Joan Richardson about a delta-shaped or crescent-shaped craft which she saw flying over Hampshire, in the southern part of England, so much as 33 or 34 years ago!

I give below a photostatic copy of an article which appeared in the London *Daily Telegraph* on December 28, 1982 and which describes some of the most advanced craft that our designers have been thinking up, and gives sketches of them.

No doubt many folk will like to tell us that the first sketch, entitled the *Delta Spanwing Loader*, shows the machine which Mrs. Richardson saw in 1951 or 1952 and which at least 30,000 people saw over New York State in 1983 and which Antonio Ribera saw over Catalonia in 1984 (see the articles "Boomerang" Over Three Counties and "Boomerang" Update in FSR Vol. 30, No. 3, and A "Boomerang" In Spain in FSR Vol. 31, No. 1.)

The trouble about this theory, however, is that, according to the article in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Lockheed-Georgia Company have not yet built the *Delta Wing Spanloader*. It is planned for 1995. It will carry a payload of 770,000 lbs. (i.e. pounds) for a distance of 3,500 miles, the whole cargo being inside the delta-wing, thus eliminating fuselage weight and drag. — G.C.

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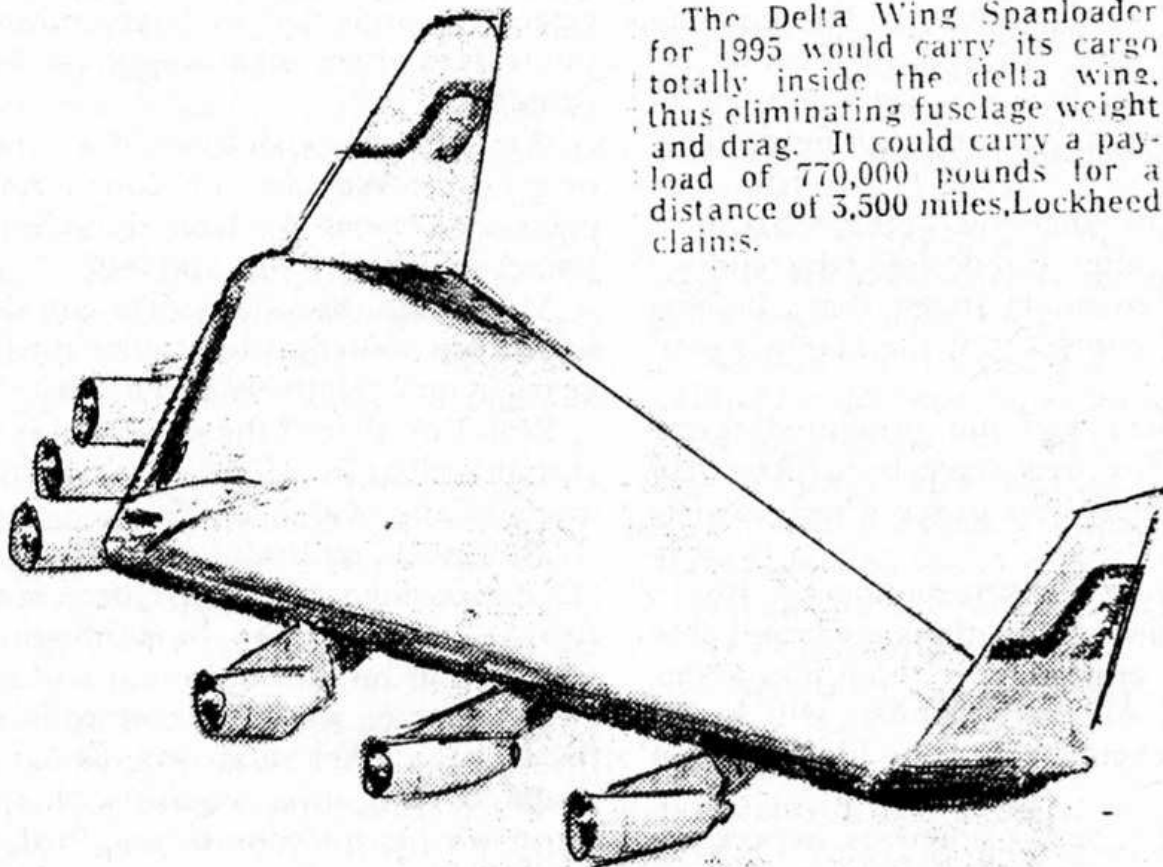
The shapes to take aviation into the 21st century

J.T.
28/12/82

By Air Commodore G. S. COOPER Air Correspondent

AIRCRAFT designers finding it increasingly difficult to improve near-perfect transport designs are investigating new shapes that look more like fantasy aircraft than realistic projects for the future.

Since 1964 the Advanced Concepts Department at Lockheed-Georgia Company has been exploring new transport design ideas.



The Delta Wing Spanloader for 1995 would carry its cargo totally inside the delta wing, thus eliminating fuselage weight and drag. It could carry a payload of 770,000 pounds for a distance of 3,500 miles, Lockheed claims.

The Delta Wing Spanloader

A LOOK AT THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD ROY,* DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

BEFORE setting out for the meeting of the International Astronomical Union in India in November, Professor "Archie" Roy of the Glasgow University Department of Astronomy was interviewed by FSR consultant Paul Whitehead, on the subject of SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), which was on the agenda at the Union's meeting in New Delhi.

Prof. Roy is one of a number of scientists, astronomers and physicists who have begun to talk about alien intelligences and possible contact. Last year Prof. Roy "went national" in *The Observer* newspaper in the UK with a series of statements which may have surprised more conventional astronomers of the "older" school of thought.

He predicted that once the SETI programme gets under way in earnest in 1986, "we can expect to make contact very quickly, probably within a decade". He added:

"I believe we are just an ever so 'umble form of galactic life. I am sure civilisations are ten a penny round the cosmos," he said. "Indeed, in the vast cathedral of the universe, it is surely very peculiar to argue that we are its heroes. We are much more likely to be bit players."

Then he moved on to what was perhaps his most contentious argument, after pondering why contact had apparently not been made so far (here he was talking about "official" contact, not the claimed contacts by some people).

The reason why aliens had not presented themselves to us was that "we may have been placed in quarantine while the aliens wait to see if we grow up or blow up".

The Observer's science correspondent, Robin McKie, commented: "such speculations are impossible to answer at present, as are concerns about how aliens might appear and act. All that scientists will say is that they expect their chemistries to be like ours and be based on carbon."

Mr McKie concluded: "most scientists expect the forthcoming searches for extraterrestrial intelligence to have fruitful results". But he noted that the US biologist Lewis Thomas had given the following caution, bearing in mind that any intelligence contacted will probably be superior to our own:

"We are going to be in for a shock. We are going to feel smaller than ever." Worse still — we could give up the ghost in determining our own fate "and could increasingly rely on our advanced neighbours to provide for us technically."

Echoes of what has happened here on earth when a less "advanced" civilisation has come up against a "superior" civilisation?

It was against this background that Prof. Roy was interviewed for the *Flying Saucer Review*. Had he been quoted out of context, or misquoted, when talking about humans being in quarantine? Did he think it possible that the earth was already being visited? And what did Prof. Roy think about UFOs, presuming them to be some form of craft or other device from outside our solar system?

"No, I was not misquoted or quoted out of context," he said. "If there are intelligent creatures, the big question is 'why don't we know of them?' One suggested reason is that we have nothing that could be of interest to them whatsoever — because we are so primitive.

"Or they may wish to see if we are going to blow up or grow up. We have not done a lot so far that would encourage them. We have done more damage to this planet than any other species."

My next question was, "Do you think the earth may have been visited at least once during the last 50,000 years (man's relatively recent past)?"

Prof. Roy shared the view that is not uncommon in certain scientific circles: "it's possible, but I don't know of any evidence".

The next question elicited a similar response. "Could an alien probe have been sent to our solar system, perhaps long ago, to monitor the progress of any species that might be present within it?"

Considering that the sending of unmanned probes (by man) to other solar systems has already been proposed by our own scientists, this did not seem an unreasonable question to ask. Prof. Roy stated:

"This is one of the possible ways of exploring the universe — using probes incorporating computers containing a high degree of artificial intelligence. These would visit stars, find planets, and send messages back.