

UFO observations concern quite local incidents, with a small number of witnesses, as emphasised e.g. by J. A. Hynek.⁹ In general, one should be cautious of night-time light phenomena simultaneously observed over large areas, because these usually are due to either astronomical phenomena or our own space-technology.

Acknowledgement: I would like to thank Dr H. Oja from the Observatory and Astrophysics Laboratory of University of Helsinki, who kindly helped me to locate information concerning Cosmos 1188.

References

- 1 FSR Vol. 23, No. 4; Vol. 24, No. 3; Vol. 25, No. 1
- 2 FSR Vol. 27, No. 4.
- 3 IUR Vol. 2, No. 10.
- 4 *Science News*, 112, October 8, 1977.
- 5 *Journal of UFO Studies*, Vol. II, p. 91.
- 6 *Ultra* 11/1977.
- 7 Jyri Lina: *Ufotutkimuksesta Neuvostoliitossa* (Alea-Kirja Oy, 1979).
- 8 *Spaceflight* Vol. 22, No. 11-12, 1980, p. 350.
- 9 J. A. Hynek: "Estimate of the Situation," IUR Vol. 1, No. 1 1976.

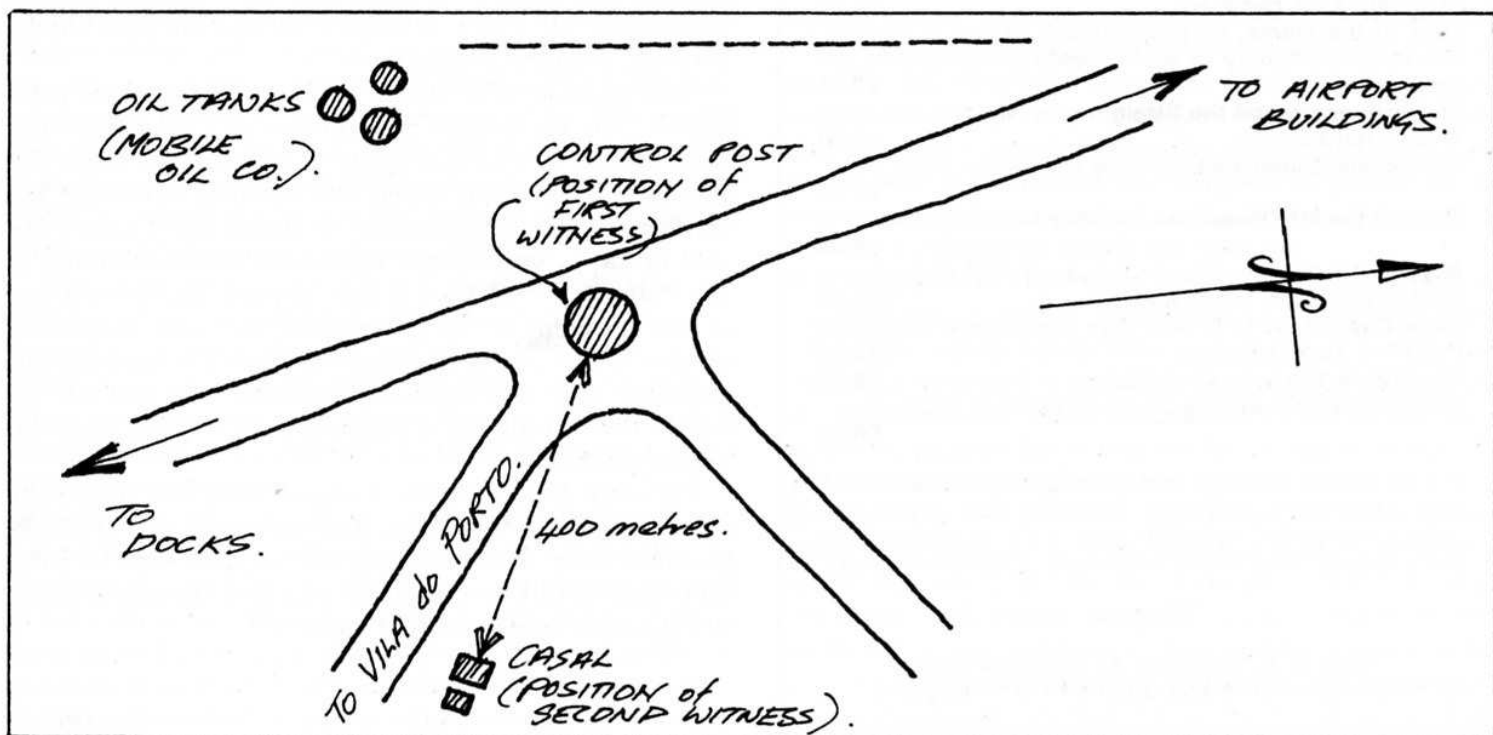
MORE ON THE AZORES LANDING OF SEPTEMBER 1954

Gordon Creighton

IN my letter to the Editor in FSR Volume 27, No. 4 (page 23), I gave some details of the Azores Incident to which our lady correspondent had referred in her report of the gigantic "cigar" that she saw from an aircraft while crossing the Atlantic. As readers will recall, she said that the incident took place on September 20, 1954, at Santa Maria Airport in the Azores, and that it was the case listed as No. 14 in Dr. Jacques Vallée's study, "The Pattern Behind the UFO Landings," which forms part of *The Humanoids*, edited by Charles Bowen and first issued in 1966.

Our friend and reader Sr. Joaquim Fernandes of Oporto (Northern Portugal), who is himself a professional journalist on the important newspaper *Jornal*

de Noticias, and also the Director of the review *Insólito* and a member of the "OURANOS" UGEPI UFO INVESTIGATION GROUP, has now written to me a very interesting letter enclosing the full text of the original press report of November 21, 1954, as it appeared in the Azores newspaper *Ocorrencia*. Readers will undoubtedly be interested to see this, so I give below my translation of the complete Portuguese text. Our thanks for this go not only to Senhor Joaquim Fernandes, but also to Senhor Teixeira Pombo and his colleagues of the Azores Branch of CEAFI (*Centre for the Study of Astronomy and of Unwanted Phenomena*), of Apartado 3, Aeroporto de Santa Maria, Azores, who were good enough to send the text to Sr. Joaquim Fer-



nandes. Incidentally Sr. Pombo mentions in his letter that there used to be on file a sketch of the UFO, made presumably by the witness, but that "not for the first time, we find that, in some mysterious fashion, the sketch has now 'disappeared'!"

The report (in *Ocorrencia*, Santa Maria de Açores, November 21, 1954)

Reporter: Airport Guard No. 14, Vitorino Lourenço Monteiro.

Subject: Sighting of an unknown aircraft.

I beg to inform you that, at 2240 hours today, when I was on duty in the Central Control Post of this Airport, the lights being turned off, I observed a fairly bright yellow light travelling silently and at a moderate speed through the air from North to South over this Island. Then, at a certain point, it started to descend vertically right by where I was, and came to rest on the ground.

I perceived at once that it was an elliptically shaped machine of unknown origin. It was about three metres long and about 1½ metres high. It was of a bluish colour, and on the top of it it had what looked like two transmitter aerials. No landing gear was to be seen.

On the central, upper part there was an opening devoid of any cover, through which its single occupant suddenly emerged.

I switched on the light inside the Control Post, and was able to see that this individual was wearing a uniform, with a dark-coloured helmet, a dark yellow over-all, and trousers of the same colour, secured with a dark belt, and long yellow boots with zippers at the side. He was of normal height and looked about 35 years old, with fair hair, slight beard, and no moustache.

Emerging from the machine he quickly stepped forward to contact me, greeting me correctly with a handshake and a couple of slaps on the back, and uttering words that I was unable to understand, being in a language different from ours, and not resembling either English or French. The strange occurrence left me glued to the spot and puzzled — indeed all the more so, as the craft had meanwhile taken off again and was heading away to the south, without having refuelled. In a flash it was gone and out of sight, so it had been impossible for me to take any sort of action.

The sound made by the craft was like the sound made by wind against telephone wires.

A few moments later, up came José Batista, aged 45, married, a native of this Island, and residing at Atabúa, Ribeira Grande, Vila do Porto, here at Santa Maria. He asked me what that light was that had just taken off in a southerly direction. He said he had seen it from a distance that he estimated to be about 400 metres.

Additional note from Sr. Teixeira Pombo of CEAFL, Santa Maria, about the second witness

On May 2, 1977, the Second eyewitness, José Batista, was contacted (reference the landing case of November 21, 1954, observed by the Airport Guard Vitorino Lourenço Monteiro).

This man is now about 70 years old, and in poor health. He no longer remembers the incident very well, but in fact he was quite some distance from the spot at the moment when the landing occurred. He confirmed that it took place at about 2300 hours. He said he saw a very bright light over in the direction of the Police Control Post at the Airport. He himself was at that moment at the spot known as Casal, about 400 metres distant from the Control Post. He had the impression that the light subsequently moved off towards the Mobil Oil Company's oil depots, over towards the sea.

He went to the Police Control Post and asked the guard what the light was, and was told that it might possibly have been a flying saucer, and that its pilot had tried to talk to the guard and had then re-entered his machine and vanished rapidly.

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THE UFO PHENOMENON: LAUGH, LAUGH, STUDY, STUDY

J. Allen Hynek

Dr Hynek's article was first published in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Journal *Technology Review*, Volume 83, Number 7, July 1981.

I first became involved with UFO reports in 1948 — I was then an astronomer at Ohio State University — when the Air Force's Air Technical Intelligence Center asked me to help determine how many of the current sightings had possible astronomical origins as meteors, planets, and twinkling stars.

A Persistent Craze

I was squarely in the ranks of those who were sure that the reporting of flying saucers (as they were then called) was simply a postwar craze that, like all fads, would quickly run its course. Yet UFO reports have proven to be at least a long-lived "craze"; three decades later it persists, in many levels of society, and in many areas of the world.

The comprehensive catalogue of UFO reports maintained at the Center for UFO Studies contains entries from some 140 countries. Not only is the global ubiquity of the UFO phenomenon undeniable, but the same sorts of sightings are reported from diverse cultures, climates, and levels of sophistication. There appears to be a high awareness of the concept — a Gallup poll has amply verified this in the United States — and every major language has an appropriate term for UFOs. Moreover, critics who hold that interest in UFOs is largely generated by the media may be surprised to learn that sightings have been reported in countries in which discussion of UFOs, especially by the media, is sternly discouraged; the Soviet Union and China are cases in point.

The most useful reports come from people who are sophisticated, responsible, and mentally stable (as judged by commonly accepted standards), if only because they have so much to lose by "going public." Their "experiences" are almost certain to be greeted with disbelief, even ridicule, by their colleagues. Consider these examples:

● Some years ago an M.I.T. professor called me from across the country. "Drop everything and come to Cambridge," he said, to investigate a sighting by one of his colleagues, the associate director of the Instrumentation Laboratory. I did so and listened with interest to his technical description of the trajectory and appearance (even as to its colour-temperature) of a

J. Allen Hynek is professor emeritus and former chairperson of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. He was associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass. from 1956 to 1960, when he was in charge of the U.S. Optical Satellite Tracking Programme. Dr Hynek was scientific consultant to Project Blue Book (the Air Force UFO study) from 1952 to 1969, and in 1973 he founded the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois. He has also been a consultant to *Flying Saucer Review* for eleven years.

EDITOR

light coursing through the sky. Its origin remains unidentified.

● I recently interviewed a high-ranking officer of the Argentine Air Force, in the presence of other officers, who had sighted a UFO some months before. He was driving through open country late one afternoon with a colleague, in threatening weather, when a cone-shaped object suddenly appeared out of low-hanging clouds and proceeded to move at a moderate speed just beneath the cloud cover. He immediately stopped the car and had only enough time to step out and snap one photograph before the object rose back into the clouds. I examined the original negative under magnification; it appeared to be a bona fide image, with no evidence of darkroom trickery.

● A four-person crew from the Army Medical Rescue Mission was flying a helicopter to Cleveland from Columbus, Ohio when they encountered a wingless craft that swooped towards them, hovered momentarily, and seriously affected the behaviour of the helicopter: a strange force reportedly raised it while the pilot was attempting an emergency descent.

● A commercial pilot — a commandante for many years with Alitalia — was flying at 12,000 feet on a sunny day when he and his crew observed a strange "metallic" craft flying alongside. It paralleled the airplane for a few moments, then suddenly rose vertically and disappeared into the sky. Upon reporting a "strange balloon" (he was not going to report a UFO),