

# DR. FELIX ZIGEL' AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF UFOLOGY IN RUSSIA: PART III.

Some recent landing cases, including a report of humanoid occupants.

*Gordon Creighton*

ACCORDING to the Soviet astronomer Dr. Felix Zigel', the gigantic UFO that was observed over the territory of the USSR for at least 40 minutes during the night of June 14/15, 1980, was only one of the many "extraterrestrial craft" that have flown over that country, or landed on its soil, during the last ten years. I shall here give a few details of some of these, as reported in Henry Gris's two articles in the Italian magazine *Gente* (July 31 and August 7, 1981).

## The Landing at Petushka

One of the most remarkable of the landing cases investigated by Dr. Zigel' and his team of 19 scientists occurred outside the village of Petushka, near Istra, in the Province of Moscow, at approximately 5.00 p.m. on September 2, 1979. The sole known eyewitness was a land-surveyor named Aleksandr Norin, who, in view of the nature of his profession, and his eye for distances and dimensions, naturally was able to make an excellent sketch of what he had seen, and of the position and lay-out of the site.

For a long time Aleksandr Norin was afraid to tell anyone about it. Then at last he confided in a friend, who suggested that he write to Dr. Felix Zigel' and gave him the latter's address. In due course Norin was interviewed by Zigel', and it was arranged that Zigel' and some of his team of 19 investigators should make an expedition to examine the site.

On August 28, 1980, the Zigel' Group set out from Moscow. Knowing already of course from Norin the approximate area where the landing had taken place, Zigel' was careful to take along with him a qualified geologist named Aleksandr Pluzhnikov. Pluzhnikov, a regular member of the Zigel' Group, is already well known in Russia for his remarkable successes in finding archaeological remains and historical treasures and jewelry, etc., *simply by means of his dowsing rod*.

Pluzhnikov had not been shown Norin's sketch-map of the site. The party were taken at once to the general landing area, and very rapidly Pluzhnikov succeeded in establishing the precise spot, which lay just outside of a wood. Dr. Zigel' recorded the process in his diary: "Pluzhnikov made for the edge of the wood and, with a few small coloured stakes, indicated

the precise spot where the central body of the machine — a circular object about 2½ metres wide — had stood. Then, with more stakes, he went on to mark out a larger circle concentrically around the smaller one. The diameter of this larger circle was 25 metres."

Satisfied that they had found the spot, Zigel' got out Norin's original statement and also listened carefully to the tape made by Norin when he was interviewed.

**Statement of Aleksandr Norin: The "Flying Mushroom."** "On September 2, 1979, I was picking mushrooms in the wood, when, at about five o'clock in the afternoon I saw something that made the blood freeze in my veins, and I had to lean against a tree to prevent myself from collapsing in a faint. It was a shining, metallic "mushroom," standing on a stem about 1½ metres wide at the base.<sup>1</sup> The stem resembled a fluorescent neon shaft, and was emitting a soft pink light. The top part of it was a cupola 1½ metres high and 5 metres wide, bathed in an orange-coloured mist. From the edges luminous vibrations or flashes were shooting out at regular intervals, making it seem as though the mushroom itself were spinning round on its axis."

Norin went on to describe how, as he watched, he saw two "men" emerge from the craft. They were only about 1 metre high, but strongly built, with broad shoulders and well developed chests. They were clad in black space-suits covering the entire body from top to toe, with two small slits at eye-level. They were talking animatedly, and it sounded more like the twittering of birds than human speech.<sup>2</sup> They walked around the "mushroom", as though carefully inspecting it. Then they were "sucked up"<sup>3</sup> into it, and it vanished.

One member of Zigel's team, the botanist Yuri Simakov, made an interesting discovery that fully bore out Norin's story. Simakov found that, around the spot where the "mushroom" had stood, the soil was now totally sterile (almost a whole year after the landing), and even the microorganisms that should have been there in the subsoil at a great depth beneath the spot were also completely missing.<sup>4</sup> Zigel' concluded from the tests made by Simakov and his other scientific specialists that these furnished abso-

lute proof that an extraterrestrial space-craft — only one of the many to have landed in recent years — had stood at that spot just as Aleksandr Norin had affirmed.

### The Landings in the Oktyabrskiy Oilfield

The geologist Aleksei Zolotov of Zigel's team went in person to investigate a report that, in the early part of August 1980, a UFO had landed in the Oktyabrskiy Oilfield (Russia's richest oilfield) in the Bashkir Republic.<sup>5</sup>

It was an excessively hot night, and it was difficult to sleep in the workers' huts in Oktyabrskiy village. At 1.00 a.m. a man got up and went out to take a breath of fresh air, and saw a big object, about 130 metres wide, slowly flying along at a height of only 70 metres or so from the ground. Describing it later, the man said it looked "like a big snowball," white and glowing, enveloped in a sort of huge whitish cloud. Paralysed with terror, the man stood there awhile, watching it, quite unable to move. Then he managed to dash into the hut and give the alarm, shouting "*The Antichrist has come!*"<sup>6</sup> He climbed into his bunk and pulled the blankets over his head, and most of the other men did likewise. Two younger and bolder men went outside however, and both saw the UFO, which had now landed, and on a spot that was in fact at just about the very centre of the whole oilfield. The shape of the UFO as observed by these two men now looked more flattened or squashed, "as though pressed down by some tremendous weight" they said later, when giving their account.

Then two more workers came out and saw the UFO. One of them was Ivan Shcherbakov, foreman of the group, and it was he who subsequently reported the sighting to the Administrative Offices of the oilfield and later to the geologist Aleksei Zolotov when he came there to investigate the case.

Shcherbakov told Zolotov: "I was pretty scared, I can tell you. For a good while I couldn't even speak, couldn't even open my mouth. When finally I did, my voice was just a whisper. I managed to say, faintly, "What's that?" I wouldn't have gone near that thing for a fortune, and my mates all felt as I did, so we went back to sleep . . . we felt a bit safer inside the hut along with the others. When back in the hut I tried to 'phone the Office and report the thing, but the 'phone wouldn't work. It didn't occur to me at the time that this might have been due to the thing. But when I tried to 'phone the Office again next day to report the affair I got through straight away without any trouble."

At 5.00 a.m. next morning Shcherbakov roused his group of workers and they went out and made a cautious investigation and found the UFO had gone. After an hour's search of the spot and the surrounding area, one of the men shouted: "I've found something!"

It was a small deep hole, only 30 cms wide. When they touched the rim of the hole, they found it was hot. They also found three large rectangular imprints, each one metre long, which seemed to be the points of a big equilateral triangle. At these three spots the soil (very sandy) looked slightly blackened, as though by great heat or flame. Indeed some of the sand had clearly been turned to glass.

### The Second UFO at the Oktyabrskiy Oilfield

During the same night, early in August 1980, and at almost the same time, another group of the oilfield workers headed by a foreman named Migulin saw a second UFO. This one was red, its sides seemed to "throb" or "pulsate," and it too appeared to be flattened as though by some great weight bearing down upon it. Migulin thought the red UFO was about 130 metres in diameter (the same size as the white object seen by Shcherbakov and his men) and it remained there a full hour before rising and vanishing towards the north. Unlike Shcherbakov, Migulin did not dare to investigate at the landing site, but he did draw up a statement and get his men to sign it too.

For many weeks both Shcherbakov and Migulin kept quiet about what they had seen, and sent no report to the Oilfield Administration, fearing that, if they did, they would be accused of heavy drinking. But the men in both the groups were unable to keep their sightings secret, and finally the stories of the flattened white globe and the flattened red globe became common knowledge. When the stories reached the ears of the Management, the latter sent for Shcherbakov and Migulin. Contrary to what the two foremen had feared, their accounts were found credible, and in due course both cases were investigated by Aleksei Zolotov.

### A Strange Hole

When Zolotov agreed to investigate the two landing sites and study the events of that night of August 1980, he certainly could have had no idea of the extraordinary surprise that Shcherbakov's "hole" had in store for him.

The topography of the site of the Shcherbakov case was particularly favourable for the making of a thorough scientific investigation, because it lay on the slope of a small hill, and so they were able to excavate from below.

What had seemed to be a simple "hole in the ground" turned out to be merely the "neck" of a huge "bottle-shaped" cavity hollowed out inside the hill.<sup>7</sup> This "bottle" was ten metres high and five metres wide, and its smooth, compact walls looked as though they had just come out of a ceramics kiln, for the sandy soil of which the walls consisted had all been fused by heat and converted into a vitreous substance.



They found that the interior of the “bottle chamber” was slightly radioactive — though not sufficiently so to be dangerous. When they had reached the bottom of the “bottle,” they found that it had a diameter at that point of about three metres. Perhaps the thing that amazed them most was that although there was this great “vitreous bottle” ten metres high and made with the most meticulous care and perfection right inside the hill, *no detritus whatsoever was to be seen anywhere round about on the surface*, so that one could only conclude that all the sandy soil enclosed originally in what was now the “bottle” had been removed or disintegrated by the beings operating the UFO.

Aleksei Zolotov categorically ruled out any possibility either that the “bottle-shaped” cavity could have been a “quirk of nature” or that any sort of “extraterrestrial material” had been used to form it. The conclusion at which he arrived after his exhaustive tests was that the site was where a genuine UFO landing had taken place, and where the occupants of the craft, be they humanoids or robots, had extracted a “bottle-shaped” sample of the soil, no doubt to carry it off for closer study. As regards the three rectangular metre-long furrows, Zolotov concluded that these had been made by the legs of the alien craft.

### The “Mini-UFO” in Lithuania

At 7.30 p.m. on November 11, 1979, as he was driving back to his home in the town of Palanga in the Republic of Lithuania, Antonas Balikis encountered a “frisbee UFO.” As he reported in due course to Dr. Zigel’, he saw the tiny, toy-like UFO in the field of his head-lights, flying so slowly that it could not possibly be anything telecontrolled by a human near by. As he explained, it was almost stationary at times, so that if a device or toy operated by a child or an adult human, it would inevitably have fallen. It was the size of a small dinner-plate and had a black top, while all the rest of it was of a brick-red colour. As it was right there ahead of him in the field of his headlights he had plenty of time in which to study it in detail. “It seemed to be examining my car and my headlights with evident curiosity. I must add that, being so small, it produced no fear in me.”

Balikis drove past the little UFO, and after having gone a short distance he stopped to look back, but it was gone. When he got to his home in Palanga, however, he found the whole town agog with a story about a “miniature flying saucer” that had been seen dancing around in the air and seemingly taking a puckish pleasure in peeping in at the windows of the houses.

Dr. Felix Zigel’ devoted a good deal of study to the Palanga mini-UFO, which is obviously the sort of thing well known to us from the early reports of “*foofighters*” during World War II, and from a number of accounts from Brazil and Europe and elsewhere, of

small discoid or tubular objects that have been seen to enter homes and fly around as though making an inspection.<sup>8</sup> Zigel’ described the Palanga mini-UFO as “a miracle of technology, containing instruments far more sophisticated than those we use in our gigantic *Salyut-6* space-modules.” He said it was presumably collecting information for transmission to a mother-craft.

### Some final considerations

Throughout the articles in *Gente* Dr. Felix Zigel’, the USSR’s best-known UFO investigator, is represented as being firmly convinced that none of the alien beings associated with the UFO Phenomenon wish us any harm; all — so it is suggested — are filled with nothing but benevolence towards Mankind. The popular-science writer Aleksandr Kazantsev, Zigel’s close friend, in whose apartment Zigel’ had his private meeting with Henry Gris and William Dick in the mid-1970s, is also quoted by Gris in the *Gente* articles as being confident that none of the aliens are anything but well-disposed towards us. Kazantsev is quoted as saying:

“Apart from everything else, the civilization that has produced a little marvel like the tiny UFO seen at Palanga is at least a thousand years ahead of us. Such a civilization cannot possibly feel itself threatened by the infantile squawkings of mankind’s technology, which is still in its swaddling-clothes stage, and they could not expect to gain much benefit from anything here even in the event of their wishing to conquer our planet.’

Well, many may wonder, as I do, on what grounds Messrs Zigel’ and Kazantsev base all this sort of talk. From what I have seen of the UFO story so far, I see no grounds whatsoever for such a view (just as I see no grounds yet for the assumption that any of the UFOs are what we describe as “extraterrestrial.” While in the translations which I make from various languages for *Flying Saucer Review* I frequently use the terms “extraterrestrial,” “Space-craft,” “Space-men,” etc., it should not be overlooked that I use these terms because they are there in the original languages. It is now a very long time since I ceased to desire to employ such words myself.)

Maybe however the Soviet ufologists will change their tune before long? For, as we see, they seem to have gone a long way already, in a very short time too. They now admit that they believe, as many of us in the West do, that there are a lot of strange and alien beings around, in strange and alien craft — beings of all types and sizes, and craft of all types and sizes too. Yet, only ten years ago, no Soviet scientist would admit (so far as we know) that there had ever been a landing by a UFO on Earth, or a contact with UFO entities, within historical times. As Zigel’ said to Gris in the mid-1970s, “... it could only have hap-

pened at the dawn of history, when our species was still very primitive." So it looks as though there has been a remarkable evolution in Dr. Zigel's thinking. Moreover, he even talks now about the entities and the craft as being of "other-dimensional" or "multi-dimensional" origin — a possibility that many of us here in the West have been prepared to think about and talk about for the past twenty years, and more.

So it does not look as though Dr. Zigel' now has very far to go before he comes out with it openly and admits (a) that the majority of the so-called UFO entities display anything but a loving attitude towards our species, and, (b) that "other-dimensional" or "multi-dimensional" (whatsoever these terms mean) at any rate do not necessarily mean "extraterrestrial"! We might all be wiser if, at the present stage in our knowledge, we used John Keel's word "ultraterrestrial" or Dr. Hynek's "metaterrestrial."

From what we have heard so far about the doings and behaviour of many of the so-called UFO entities, some of us may feel tempted to murmur: "With friends like these, who needs enemies?" But we do not know the whole picture yet. The human crisis on our planet is rapidly approaching the explosion point that so many seers and prophets have foretold, and it is possible that we may not have to wait much longer before we see "a little less darkly," and before we have some firm clues as to whether there are an "Goodies" around in our outlying area of this Galaxy. *We may take it as certain that They exist somewhere. The 64 billion question is merely: "Are They here too?"*

A close study of some of the religious traditions and writings (of Judaeism and Islam as well as of Christianity) yields clear hints that *They* are not here, and that Earth is an area where *They* lost the control a long time ago. If this be true, it may constitute the most dangerous aspect of the dilemma in which *Homo Sap* (so-called) currently finds himself.

## Notes and References

1. There have been a lot of reports of "mushroom-like" UFOs, standing on "stalks" or "stems," sometimes fairly wide, with "lifts" inside them, or sometimes much narrower, and "pinkish," or "glowing like a neon tube." Examples of the previous type are those of Mario Zuccalà in Italy in April 1962 (FSR, Vol. VIII, No. 4, p. 5.), of Luciano Galli in Italy in 1957 (FSR, Vol. VIII, No. 5, p. 29) and the Pajas Blancas case in Argentina in 1957 (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 1, p. 20). The "mushroom" shape was remarked on in a case of two UFOs seen in Northern Argentina in February 1966 (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 5, p. 29) and there have been quite a number of cases where "stems" were mentioned, including one in Patagonia some years ago which I recall but cannot at present locate in FSR.
2. There have been several cases in which contactees said the speech of aliens resembled the buzzing of insects or the twittering of birds.

3. There have also been several cases in which eyewitnesses said that they saw UFO entities suddenly "sucked up" or swept into their craft.
4. Likewise there have been several reports of UFO landings which left the soil at the spot sterile for many years afterwards. The best-known is probably that of the lavender farmer Monsieur Maurice Masse at Valensole, France, in 1965. (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 5, p. 9; Vol. XI, No. 6, pp. 5 and 7; Vol. XIV, No. 1, p.6.)
5. At about 54° 54N., 56° 57E.
6. Despite 64 years of Marxist-atheist repression, religion is still deeply ingrained in the Russian people, and chiliastic-eschatological concepts have always been prevalent among them. It is interesting therefore to see that an oilfield worker, like the old ladies of Moscow, "reverts to type" when a crisis comes along, and speaks of the reign of the *Antichrist* being at hand. (If I were a betting man, my money would be on the oilfield worker and the old ladies.)
7. It would be too lengthy a job to enumerate all the UFO landing cases in which holes or craters in the ground have been reported. But I recall such features in cases at Wormer, near Amsterdam in September 1960 (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 1, p. 16); in Kent, Berkshire and Hampshire in 1960 (FSR, Vol. VII, No. 1, p. 26.) at Charlton, in Wiltshire in July 1963 (FSR, Vol. IX, No. 5, pp. 3 and 8; and Vol. IX, No. 6, p. 30.); at Canyon Ferry Lake, USA in 1964 (FSR, Vol. X, No. 4, p. 24.); at Niton, Isle of Wight, in 1964 (FSR, Vol. X, No. 3, p. 18; Vol. X, No. 6, p. 14); at St. Alexis-de-Montcalm, Montreal, Canada in November 1964 (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 2 p. 26.); in Berkshire in 1965 (FSR, Vol. XI, No. 2, p. 31); at Valensole in France in 1965 (FSR Vol. XI, No. 5, p. 9; Vol. XI, No. 6, pp. 5 and 7; and Vol. XIV, No. 1, p. 6.); and at Marliens, France in May 1967 (FSR Vol. XIII, No. 5, p. 11). There have of course been plenty more "holes" and "craters" since 1967, but the cases of Charlton and Valensole and Marliens are probably among those that are best remembered. After reading this Soviet case about the huge hollowed out "bottle", one might wonder what would have been found had the investigators made deep excavations at some of these other sites I have listed above? What, for example, could have lain beneath the extraordinary network of surface markings left to Marliens?
8. Readers may recall a case in Brazil a few years ago, in which eye-witnesses are reported to have seen a small elongated device (not a disc) flying around *inside a house*. H. T. Wilkins has a similar story about a *foo-fighter* (disc-shaped) which entered through an open waist-hatch on a British bomber flying low over Germany in the closing days of World War II, or, more likely, just after its end. The little disc flew slowly up and down inside, seemingly "taking a good look at everything, including the astonished crew", and then slipped out again through the waist-hatch. There have been one or two other cases where very small discs have been seen, seemingly, as here at Palanga, "peering into the windows of houses." The "foo-fighters," or "kraut-balls," or "mini-discs," have struck many folk as being one of the most intriguing aspects of Ufology. I once worked for seven years in a Government Department in Whitehall where they knew a great deal about "UFOs" and "Flying Saucers," and where officers of the CIA and of U.S. Air Intelligence were frequently to be encountered. An American Air Force Intelligence Officer whom I met there gave me a



very interesting account of his own encounter with a 'foo-fighter' near Tokyo soon after the Japanese surrender. The little device seemed to make a pass at his plane, just as he was coming in to land at the airport, and then exploded right before his eyes. He told me that American troops and Japanese police combed the area around but never found the slightest trace of it. On the other hand, we all recall that at Ubatuba, in Brazil, in 1957, one of these small discs was seen to explode in the air and fall in thousands of pieces, partly in the sea and partly on the beach. Our correspondent, the late Dr. Olavo Fontes, wrote about the case for us, and had several scientists make analyses of the fragments. The verdict was the same in all cases — that the metal was 100% magnesium, "of a degree of purity outside the range of present-day technological developments of our science." (FSR, Vol. VI, No. 4, pp.21-22.) It was reported at the time in the *APRO*

*Bulletin* that their next issue would "reveal the attempts made to thwart their efforts to get these facts over to the public."

Not having had a scientific training, I am not competent to discuss the properties of magnesium, but several of my more qualified friends tell me that it is a highly suitable material for use in a device designed to burn up and auto-destruct, if one may use this term.

I hate to be a spoil-sport, and I know what bad form it is held to be to mention Adamski, but I do want to point out that in one of his books — I feel pretty sure it was in his *second* book — Adamski speaks of small expendible discs which are sent out from "mother-craft" and which are programmed to "auto-destruct" if necessary after they have relayed back to the "mother-craft" whatever information they have gathered. Maybe we aren't done yet with Adamski, after all.

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## CHEESEFOOT HEAD MYSTERY RINGS

*Pat Delgado*

IT was on Wednesday, August 19th, 1981, that I first heard about the discovery of mysterious flattened rings in a cornfield at the beauty spot of Cheesefoot Head "punch bowl," which is near Winchester in Hampshire. I was at Alresford Golf Club with some friends when two other golfers, well-known to us, asked if we could explain the phenomenon which they had seen a couple of days earlier. Needless to say there was a variety of suggestions as to how the three rings came to be there, ranging from practical jokers, and school children, and rutting deer, to whirlwinds.

As the site of the rings lies only a few miles from my home, I went to see them for myself on Saturday, August 22nd. The road runs close to, and well above the cornfield, and there were the rings in full view. The cornfield, golden brown, presented a completely smooth top surface broken only by the sharply-defined circles.

I had taken my ten magnification binoculars with me, so I was able to examine the area in some detail. The edges of the rings were sharp, consisting of a circle of erect stalks inside which the immediate stalks constituting the floor were flattened in a clockwise direction. To get a similar effect one would have to drive a stake into the ground, and pivot on the stake a heavy pole, pulling it round to "iron out" a flattened circle.

I was unable to detect, even through the binoculars, any pathway, or track, from the perimeter of the field to any of the three rings, viewed from positions at ninety degree locations. It appeared that the rings could only have been made by something descending on to the field. The centres of the rings lined up exactly.

The size of the largest ring may be judged from the photographs, for it was ascertained, at the edge of the field, that the wheat was just over two feet high. The height of the plants goes into the diameter of the largest ring about twenty-six times, so the diameter was



Rings in a cornfield at Cheesefoot Head.