

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF AN UNTHINKABLE AND INADMISSIBLE KIND

Gordon Creighton

THE very first issue of FSR (Spring 1955, Vol. 1, No. 1) carried on its third page an extraordinary report that had come from a man who today is well known in the world of broadcasting and television on both sides of the Atlantic. Because few readers today possess or have access to FSR No. 1, I am here reproducing the report, which appeared under the heading "Star Puzzled" in full:—

"Broadcasts reporting a flying saucer crash picked up on his car radio as he drove across America have baffled stage and radio star Hughie Green since June 1947.

"He was driving alone from Hollywood to Philadelphia for a business appointment and was tuned in to broadcasting stations most of the time ... 'because it's a long and boring trip.'

"But let Mr. Green take up the story.

" 'About 250 miles out of Philadelphia,' he said, 'a commentator interrupted the programme to announce that a flying saucer had crashed in New Mexico, and that the Army were moving in to investigate.

" 'Later the programme was interrupted again, and quite a few details were given.

" 'Several newsflashes about the incident, from various radio stations, followed. The last I heard was just before reaching Philadelphia. The announcer promised further bulletins. None followed.

" 'When I got to Philadelphia I bought all the newspapers I could lay my hands on. But not one carried the story. And questions at the radio stations just drew a blank. It's mystified me ever since.'

"This is not the first time the story has been heard. But it is the first time someone who actually listened in to the transmissions has been interviewed.

"The question arising from Hughie Green's account is: 'Do the Americans have a flying saucer in their possession?'

"Reports from America suggest that the U.S.A.F. has more than one! One — or parts of one — at Wright Patterson Field, the American Farnborough, and another at Edwards Air Force Base, the U.S. equivalent of the Ministry of Supply's experimental station at Boscombe Down.

"Flying Saucer enthusiasts all over the world believe there is some truth in the story, but that it is being as carefully guarded as any atomic or military

secret for fear of causing public panic.

"In London the Air Ministry persists in not having a clue about flying saucers. And the indications are that they would give a lot to know what they really are."

Such, then, was the intriguing Hughie Green story. It only remains for me to add that, if my memory is not at fault, Mr. Green had himself been an officer in the Royal Air Force, and so may well have been especially intrigued by the UFOs because either he or some of his friends in the Service had "seen things" themselves during World War II, or had heard rumours about other colleagues who had done so.

(FSR's first Editor, who was responsible for the selection of this extraordinarily interesting report, was of course Derek Dempster, himself also a former pilot in the Royal Air Force.)

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Let us move on now to the third issue of FSR (July/August 1955) where we find, on page 6, another fascinating story, which I also reproduce in full. This account appeared under the heading "UFO crash in Britain?"

"Has a flying-saucer crashed in Britain? This story cabled to America through the *International News Service's* London office by Dorothy Kilgallen, a staff-correspondent on the *New York Journal-American*, indicates that one has, and that it has been examined by British scientists and airmen. Here is the account, reproduced from the *Los Angeles Examiner*:

" 'London, May 22: I can report today on a story which is positively spooky, not to mention chilling. British scientists and airmen, after examining the wreckage of one mysterious flying ship, are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions, but are flying saucers which originate on another planet.

" 'The source of my information is a British official of Cabinet rank who prefers to remain unidentified. "We believe," he said "on the basis of our enquiry thus far, that the saucers are staffed by small men — probably under four feet tall. It's frightening, but there is no denying that the flying saucers come from another planet."

" 'This official quoted scientists as saying a flying ship of this type could not have possibly been constructed on earth. The British Government, I learned,

is withholding an official report on the "flying saucer" examined at this time, possibly because it does not wish to frighten the public.

"When my husband (Richard Kollmer, Broadway producer and radio commentator) and I arrived here in Britain for a brief vacation, I had no premonition that I would be catapulting myself into the controversy over whether flying saucers are real or imaginary. In the United States all kinds of explanations have been advanced.

"But no responsible official of the United States Air Force has yet intimated that the mysterious flying ships had actually vaulted from outer space."

"*Flying Saucer Review* has made big efforts to get to the bottom of this account, but without success. Said the London news editor of the *International News Service*: 'We tried hard to get the source of this story, but drew a blank.'

"Was this a party hoax, an attempt by the official concerned to sound out world reaction, or is it true? The question remains unanswered for the time being."

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So much, then for the second intriguing little story which I have culled from the very earliest pages of FSR, pages printed a quarter of a century ago. But I can add a few further details which will not be thought devoid of interest. Firstly, as regards the identity of the very famous Englishman from whom Dorothy Kilgallen said she had got this story, I learnt later that, as indicated in the closing paragraph of her report, the conversation took place among a gathering of very distinguished guests at a cocktail party in London. As regards the identity of the titled Englishman, I had no doubt at the time as to who he was — a great leader and servant of our country who has represented us well both in one of the highest of our military posts in World War II and in the political sphere during the early post-war era. He is a man who, as Editors of FSR have always known, has taken a deep interest in the UFO problem since the beginning. A year or two later I saw a fuller account, received from a correspondent of mine in the USA, of what precisely Dorothy Kilgallen had said in her very widely syndicated newspaper column. She had described her British host as *an Englishman of Cabinet rank — a man whose name is a household word to every American.*

Dorothy Kilgallen herself, whose regular syndicated reports appeared, as I recall, in a large chain of America's regional newspapers, died a few years or so afterwards. However, as soon as I saw her UFO story I at once wrote to her, through the *International News Service*, in the hope that I might be able to winkle out of her some further scraps of intriguing information. But I never got an answer. Once again, as has happened so often, an individual who yesterday spoke out loudly and clearly today falls inexplicably silent. I never heard of any further utterances given by Dorothy Kilgallen about UFOs. I imagine that she was effectively silenced, as so many others have been over the past thirty years.

The Kilgallen report of May 22, 1955, was reproduced, as I have indicated above, in FSR, issue No. 3 (July/August 1955.) But be it noted that already, in his Editorial leader in Issue No. 2 (May/June 1955) Derek Dempster had opened with the following significant paragraphs!—

"Government statements on Flying Saucers have always been confusing, and the general consensus of opinion has been that officialdom was just as anxious to know the answer to the riddle as anyone else.

"But last month something happened which gave rise to the belief that Whitehall did in fact have the UFO answer.

*"The Air Ministry announced that the results of a five-year probe into Flying Saucers by the Royal Air Force had been submitted to high-ranking officers, but that, for security reasons, it was never to be revealed to the public."*¹

I find it remarkably strange that nobody today ever seems to remember this Editorial in FSR, or quotes from it. Clearly it has been generally forgotten — a fact for which the faceless bureaucrats in Whitehall have surely had reason, many, many times in the past quarter of a century, to be more than ordinarily grateful.

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We come now to FSR Vol.1, No. 4 (September/October 1955), where we find, on page 5, a report under the heading "Landed disc entered in Argentine." The report ran as follows:—

"On May 7, the Caracas, Venezuela, daily *El Universal* carried a story of an engineer's encounter with a saucer and its dead occupants in 1950.

"The engineer was driving along a road in the Bahía Blanca district of the Argentine, when he saw a metallic disc-shaped object on the ground. He stopped his car, got out, and went to investigate.

"He watched for a few moments to see what would happen, but, as all was quiet, he approached it and found a sort of curved divan with three seats, two of which were occupied by small beings covered from head to foot, except for an opening for the face, in tight-fitting overalls.

"He estimated their height to be about four feet. Their faces seemed charred and burnt. Another little creature was sprawled in a seat situated in approximately the centre of the cabin.

"In front of them was a screen with rays playing on it, and on the top of the screen was a rotating glass-like globe.

"An ungovernable impulse urged the engineer to touch one of the creatures. It felt stiff and rigid. It was then, he said, that some inner voice warned him to get out as soon as possible, as he was in the presence of 'strange life.'

"He rushed to his car, and returned to his hotel at high speed to relate his story to a few intimate friends, who returned to the scene with him on the following day.

"On reaching the spot, however, all they found was a heap of ashes² and, in the sky above them, a cigar-shaped object and two discs.

"One of the discs was hovering at an estimated height of 2,000 feet. It was about 30 ft. in diameter. The engineer took pictures of it, but of the six exposures, only two showed the craft with any degree of clarity.

"The group felt that they had been observed during their visit, for the two discs shot up, merged with the 'cigar', which, after travelling horizontally for a short distance, disappeared into space at a colossal speed."

(This report was also published by *APRO* in their Bulletin.)

Three years later, in the summer of 1958, FSR reader Peter Roe of Nottingham was good enough to send me a slightly fuller version of this same report, which gave the name of the man who had had this experience in Argentina with a crashed disc. He was, it seems, Signor Eorice Bessa, aged 44, and Italian architect, formerly a pilot in the Italian Air Force in World War II, who had since become a citizen of Argentina.

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My next selection from the past comes from FSR Vol. 2, No. 1 (January/February 1956) where we find, on page six, under the title *Let's Talk Space. Flying Saucers Are Real*, a highly interesting report from a Special Correspondent of FSR visiting Mexico.

The first part of the article runs as follows:—

"The United States Authorities have established that flying saucers are manned by visitors from outer space. They are trying to work out a method of breathing and staying alive in our atmosphere before landing and establishing contact.

"This statement was given to a *Flying Saucer Review* special correspondent by a top ranking American V.I.P. — a man whose name would ring millions of bells throughout the world. Here is the report.

'One morning during the summer of 1951, news reporters, news photographers and movie camera men moved into the airport at Mexico City to meet a V.I.P. from the United States. The group was gathered together, and waiting for the visitor, when somebody looked up and gave a shout. Three saucers were hovering over the airport at a height of about 5,000 feet.

'Immediately the cameras went into action, and many photographs, in colour, black and white, stills, and movies, were taken. People poured out of the waiting rooms and restaurant, and several hundred had a fine view of the saucers before they darted off at high speed in a southerly direction. The day following, the newspapers of Mexico City broke the story on their front pages, but there were no pictures. It was reported that the pictures had all been taken by the authorities, and that, after a study had been made by the Mexican

and United States authorities, they would be released for publication. So far³ they have not appeared.'

"Later that summer, a highly placed American who was in touch with Air Force Intelligence and in a position to know the facts about flying saucers, admitted to *Flying Saucer Review's* special correspondent, after trying to shrug off the Mexico City Airport incident as 'mob hysteria,' that a camera does not become hysterical, and that dozens, perhaps hundreds, of pictures were taken that day.

"Having got that far, he revealed that it had been established that these were visitors from another planet. That they were completely friendly — their hovering over defence establishments and airports being taken to mean 'We could blow you all to bits at our leisure if we had any evil intent.' That they were undoubtedly trying to work out a method of remaining alive in our atmosphere before landing and establishing friendly communications, and that the United States authorities were completely convinced that Earth had nothing to fear from them. That the U.S. Air Force had been ordered to take no action against their craft.⁴

"Asked why such emphasis had been imposed on denying their existence, and on censoring reports, the V.I.P. official — who would equal a British Cabinet Minister — said that the U.S.A. wanted her people to concentrate on the real menace, Communism; and not to be distracted by the visitors from outer space.

"He went on to say that the Orson Welles broadcast some years ago had demonstrated what reaction might be expected were the true facts generally known: a welter of hysterical nonsense, and a complete disorientation from the tasks in hand. Rumours and speculation would create an atmosphere that the skilled propagandists of the Kremlin would be sure to make the most of.

"Questioned about landings, the official admitted that there had actually been contact with the men in the saucers, and that on three occasions there had been landings which had proved disastrous for the occupants. On each of these occasions breathing the heavily oxygenated atmosphere of this Earth and literally incinerated the visitors from within and had burned them to a crisp.

"At Cuernavaco in Mexico later in the summer of 1951, flying saucers came up in a conversation between our Special Correspondent and a group of Mexican professional men. One of them, an engineer engaged in highway construction, said that he had actually helped to load a flying saucer and its dead crew into an American 'Flying Box-Car' aeroplane. The saucer, according to the engineer, had come down in an uninhabited valley in the Sierra Madre, near where his crew were working.

"'Ah, Señor,' he said, 'they were handsome, those little men, with fine features and beautifully formed tiny hands. But there must have been an explosion in their craft, for they were burnt black, and when I touched the face of one of them the

skin came off under my finger as though it had been cooked!"

* * * * *

Such, then, was the gist of the special report from FSR's correspondent who went to Mexico in 1955 and secured a personal interview with a top-ranking American V.I.P. regarding the reality of crashed saucers containing small dead beings. But who, you may ask, was this "top-ranking American V.I.P." anyway, and why should one attribute any value whatsoever to such a tale?

The truth as to the identity of the V.I.P. can be revealed, as he is no longer in this world. I contacted FSR's Editor, Derek Dempster, immediately after reading this article in our Journal early in 1956. I asked whether he would kindly tell me, in strict confidence, who the American V.I.P. was?

He replied that it was General George C. Marshall, America's impressive Army Chief of Staff in World War II and, subsequently, the equally brilliant Secretary of State whose name is for ever enshrined in that of the famous Marshall Plan, the unique and unparalleled act of vision and idealism whereby America was able rapidly to see the free nations of Europe on their feet once more, put them firmly on the road to economic recovery.

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My recapitulation of events and reports as given in FSR of almost a quarter of a century ago has been long enough, and I am anxious to keep it down to a manageable length. But there is still one more piece of evidence to which I must refer if this extraordinary business of the early FSR reports of crashed UFOs and little dead men is to be grasped in its proper perspective.

This final piece of evidence is not merely a report, but a whole book, *Behind the Flying Saucers* by Frank Scully, an American journalist. Frank Scully was a veteran newspaperman, and his book, first published in the United States in 1950, is, so far as I am aware, probably only the second or maybe the third of all the many hundreds of books that have now been written on the UFO Phenomenon. Victor Gollancz of London produced a British edition of it in that same year, which sold out very rapidly. Gollancz had difficulty in finding a single copy when they decided they would like to re-issue the book in 1955, and this edition too was soon exhausted.

Scully's story was about an electrifying lecture, which he said had been delivered at 12.30 p.m. on March 8, 1950, before a small audience (350 students) at the University of Denver, Colorado. There was no advance publicity for the talk, which was described simply as "confidential and scientific." It was given during the lunch break, so that the students had to skip lunch to hear it. The lecturer was brought to the auditorium by a Mr. George T. Kohler of Denver, a staff member of a local independent Rocky Mountain radio station with the call

letters KMYR. As to the identity of the lecturer himself, it does not seem that anyone was over-anxious to divulge it at the time, and only after he had gone was it discovered that nobody at the University could say who he was. The local press, when reporting the lecture, simply described him as "an unidentified middle-aged lecturer." Only later, when Scully's book came out in the same year (1950) was it revealed that the lecturer was a famous businessman and personality, Silas M. Newton, a graduate of Yale, a Texan by birth, and one of the great geophysicists of the American oil industry, with a record of successful oil exploration second to none (and a millionaire as a result).

The subject of Newton's astonishing talk to the students was crashed saucers and little dead crews. Newton told his listeners that there had been, up till that date (March 1950), three of these wrecked craft found in the USA, with their dead crews, and that all three machines and the crews had been inspected by scientists with whom he himself was currently associated in geophysical research. He said that the three machines had contained a total of 34 little men measuring between 36 inches and 40 inches in height. The first saucer, said Newton, was found, "less than a year ago," at a place "within 500 miles of Denver."⁵ It was 99.99 feet in diameter and its cabin was 18 feet wide and 6 feet high. The second machine, 72 feet wide, also contained, like the first one, 16 little dead men who, however, had seemingly not suffered from burns like the crew of the first disc, because they had fair complexions. They had no beard, apart from a fine facial down "resembling peach fuzz."

The third disc, said Newton, measured 36 feet in diameter, and contained only two little corpses. The little men had apparently been alive when it landed, but had died as they tried to emerge from the cabin.

Newton gave a vast amount of detail about the craft and the little men — far too much for me to reproduce here. He described the current theories of the American scientists, namely that the discs were *operated magnetically*, and he also related how American service personnel had succeeded in looting a great many of the smaller instruments and fittings before the authorities could put a stop to this souvenir-gathering. Those who want to see the story in detail must try to get Scully's book and read it. And that may not be easy, for, unless somebody has the sense to republish it, I predict that it will remain a rare and much-sought item. Indeed, in the light of the material already winkled out of the Pentagon by Ground Saucer Watch under the terms of the American *Freedom of Information Act*, and in the light of the revelations now made by Mr. Leonard H. Stringfield in the article *Retrievals of a Third Kind* which follows this, there may be a mad rush soon to get Scully's book — poorly written though it may be, like so much of the UFO literature.

The Scully book was dynamite, and it naturally created a sensation. It was therefore imperative that Scully be stopped in his tracks, and a feverish and powerful campaign was at once launched to damn and discredit him utterly. That campaign was 100%

successful. Today I wager that you will not find a soul anywhere who has a good word to say for Scully. An unscrupulous hoaxer, they all tell us. *They know.*

But, as Stringfield remarks, the job is now seen to have misfired somehow. For, "*so completely was Scully's UFO retrieval story 'put down', that some researchers today have begun to wonder, in retrospect, whether the 'exposure' was not contrived.*" (Leonard Stringfield, address to MUFON Symposium, July 29, 1978).

I have been in correspondence with Mr. Stringfield and we are extremely grateful to him for his permission to use in our Journal the whole of his material published thus far. In a letter dated March 13, 1979, he has informed me moreover that he has now gathered a considerable amount of further evidence since he wrote the paper which he read before the MUFON Symposium last year. He has at present statements supplied by more than fifty witnesses.

Well, they say "there's no smoke without fire." I suggest that fifty such statements must mean a powerful lot of smoke, and I suggest that the time has come for us to weigh most carefully these extraordinary claims now being made by Leonard Stringfield. It looks as though there may be a real likelihood at last that the whole cover-up will be blown sky-high. If this happens, UFO researchers everywhere will owe a great debt to Leonard Stringfield.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

1. My italics.
2. One may deduce that the corpses had been cremated at the site, and the disc retrieved.
3. The Mexican report from FSR's Special Correspondent presumably dates from some time in 1955, four years after the alleged taking of the numerous photographs. Is it necessary for us to add that today, in 1979, there still appears to be no evidence that those pictures have ever been released for publication?
4. From what we know now about the over-all UFO situation, this idea that *all* UFO occupants are harmless to mankind would seem to be an extremely dangerous one to embrace. As to the suggestion that Air Force pilots had, or have, been ordered to take no action against UFOs, we now know that there is a mass of evidence to refute this and that airmen have lost their lives when going after UFOs. Perhaps we may conclude that in 1955 somebody in high office still *thought* that all UFOs were "friendly," but that today they know far too much to fall any more for such a naive idea.
5. This is the UFO which Leonard Stringfield says came down in 1948 at Aztec, New Mexico (Lat. 36° 49' N. Long. 108° 59' W.). Stringfield takes it to be the first of the crashed hardware, but I would point out that if Hughie Green's story is true then it cannot be the first, since Green says he heard his radio newswatches about a crashed saucer in *June 1947*, the same month as Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting which began it all.

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RETRIEVALS OF THE THIRD KIND – Part 1

A Case Study of Alleged UFOs and Occupants in Military Custody

Leonard H. Stringfield

This contribution to FSR is based on a paper delivered by the author at the MUFON Symposium on July 29, 1978. © Leonard H. Stringfield (address: 4412 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227, USA).

SINCE the advent of the UFO, dating back to World War II when there was official recognition of the “foo fighter,” one hard fact stands out: the world public at large still disbelieves its existence. Another fact: most of our world’s scientific community does not believe in UFOs either, although a small number of its Fellowship today will admit their puzzlement, and sometimes curiosity, over the persistence of UFO reports.

For those of us dedicated to serious UFO research, working in all professional levels, there is no doubt that a real interloper from somewhere exists! Knowing this is frustrating. Today, after 31 years of prodigious effort, our research has failed to discover, or uncover, the real nature of the UFO, its origin or intent – and I hasten to add, to force open the door of alleged official secrecy behind which may be concealed the hard evidence, or, if you will, the extraordinary and sobering *proof* we have all sought.

Today, considering the long, evasive history of the UFO, and an equally evasive official posture, our research stands at a critical crossroad. Here we find a two-way split-off, a growing and sharpening divergence of opinion about the nature and origin of the UFO.

One view entertains the notion that the UFO is a parapsychical or psychical visitant from another realm, or of another dimension, and that all the paranormal evidence reportedly associated with the UFO precludes a simple “nuts and bolts” physical explanation. This hypothesis, in the view of some researchers, rules out the interplanetary “nuts and bolts” spaceship.

The other major hypothesis, and now considered a conservative view, postulates that the UFO is a structured machine and comes from across the vast reaches of space and time from another solar system. This belief maintains that the extraterrestrial race has, by virtue of its advanced technology, overcome the problem of spatial distance and has developed great psychical powers by which it can manipulate man’s mind when it sees fit to do so. Thus, in this postulation, the reported paranormal events can also be explained.*

Of course, there are many other provocative

splinter theories, some interlacing the two major hypotheses and some radically disregarding the known facts. Theories are free, and are a dime a dozen.

In its honest endeavour to proceed down either hypothetical path, research today continues to investigate UFO reports, correlate and compute the reported data, computerize photographs, conduct conferences and symposia, and drudge over the 13,000 UFO reports released by the Air Force’s former Project Bluebook which have been made available for public study at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Therefore, it is not by accident that UFO researchers have provided for their brethren, a convenient language by which to describe events and, more specifically, a terminology so that UFO reports can be classified.

Speaking of terminology, we borrow a page from the eminent Dr. J. Allen Hynek’s book *The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry*. From this major work, we now have Close Encounters of the First, Second and Third Kind, which are labels covering a hypothetical set of conditions wherein the human witness observes or experiences a UFO at close range. These include physical or electromagnetic effects on a witness or his surroundings, or an encounter with a strange alien being.

Popularized by the movie of the same name, “Close Encounter of the Third Kind” has become a household name. Now anybody and everybody can share in an awareness of these rare and bizarre events. But there is another event of the Alien Third Kind. This is an event known mainly through rumour. Even knowledgeable researchers admit they know of it only from shadowy sources, and when they pursued these, they encountered sudden dead ends.

* [The Editor of FSR and his consultants have long considered it possible that visitants from extraterrestrial – or other – regions could be capable of inducing paranormal phenomena, or of projecting images into the minds of human observers, or even of influencing or imposing controls on those observers, so creating the impression that the UFO phenomenon is of a psychic nature – C.B.]