

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.



Mystery holes with clean-cut rims, quadrants of reflected light, and no pathways or foot-trodden tracks to be seen.

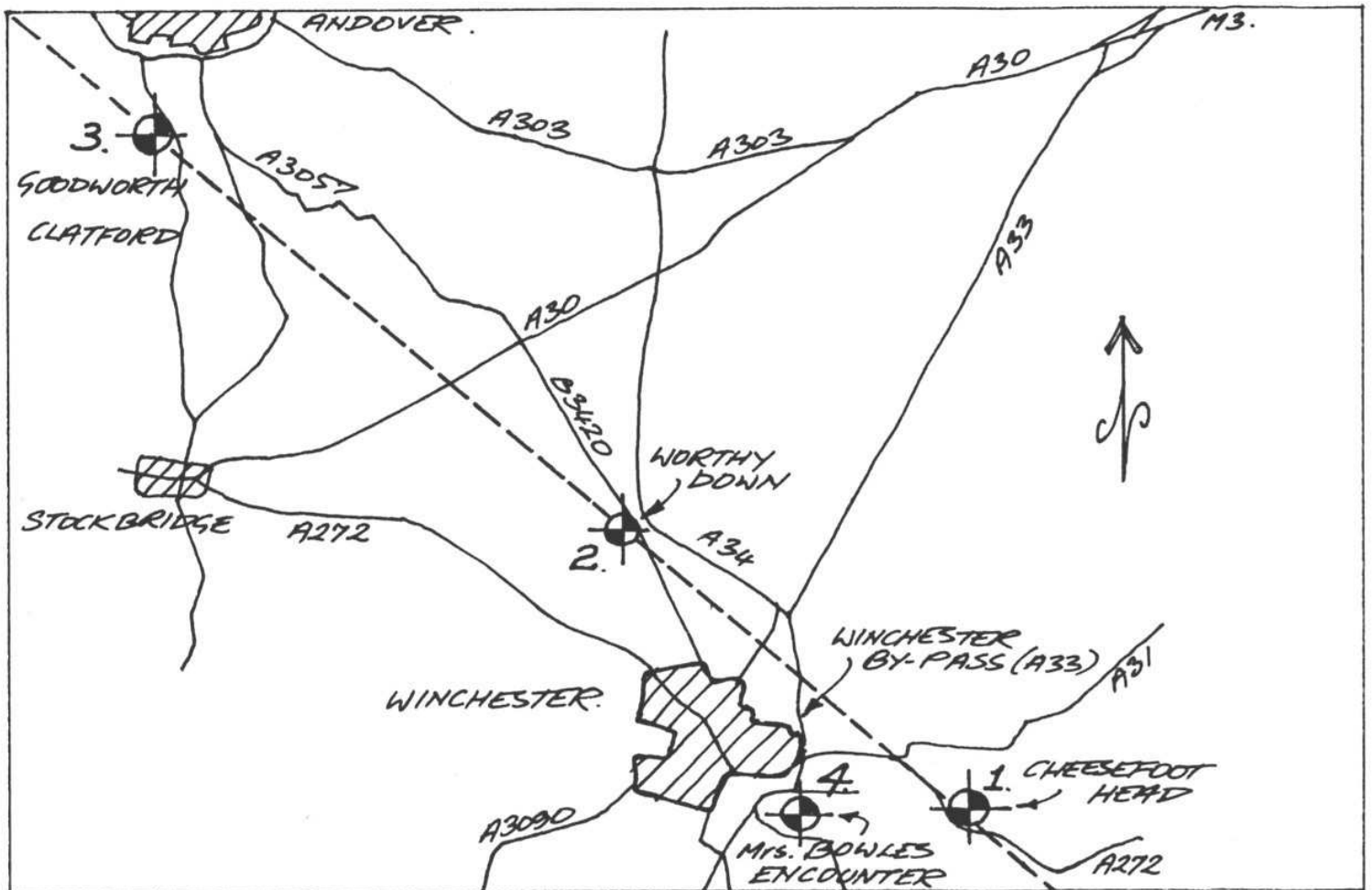
Photographs p. 13 and p. 14, copyright Kit Neilsen.

at least fifty two feet. Measured in the same manner, the diameter of each smaller ring was found to be about seventeen feet.

Some faint tractor wheel tracks were discernible across the field, obviously from fertiliser or pesticide spraying carried out much earlier in the year. The

corn growing in the tracks was erect, but slightly shorter than that on either side. Being an artist as well as an engineer, I drew a crayon sketch of the scene, and this matches with the newspaper photograph, but with much more surrounding detail.

On Monday afternoon, August 24th, I telephoned



BBC TV Southampton, and told the news editor about the rings. He was interested enough to ask me to write a letter to him about the affair. So I rang ITV Southampton, and the news editor there was extremely interested. Indeed, she arranged for a camera crew to go to the site right away, and an item about the rings was featured in their *Day by day* programme on Tuesday August 25th.

Alerted by the ITV programme the local newspapers got in on the story. The *Hampshire Chronicle*, on August 28th, published a photograph of the site, gave details, and mentioned that UFO enthusiasts were visiting the site, and that sceptics said the answer was simple — “youngsters at work, deliberately setting out to create a ‘flying saucer’ scare.” What the paper failed to say was how the child vandals got to the site without leaving any marks of their passage through the cornfield. According to the *Southern Evening Echo*, there was a more sophisticated, albeit noisier, explanation: a Royal Air Force *Chinook* twin-rotor helicopter — a type based at Odiham, Hants. What wasn’t stated was how the *twin* rotor helicopter made *three* holes in the crop, all neat and tidy. One gathers from the *Echo* article that the owner of another damaged crop was Mr. G. Rowsell, and that he had claimed compensation from the Ministry of Defence, who said they were studying his claim. Meanwhile Mr. Rowsell had dismissed, as “. . . a load of tripe,” a claim by the chairman of the British UFO Society that the circles at Cheesefoot Head were caused by UFOs. On September 10th came the RAF disavowal, as reported in the *Winchester Extra*. “Highly unlikely” said the spokesman, adding that the pilots were under strict instructions not to fly or hover

low over cornfields in summer. “Aircraft” he said “would only land if in trouble . . . and they wouldn’t make such a tidy job.”

So what are we left with? The UFO society’s load of tripe?

It is worth noting that the field had been harvested by the evening of August 31st. The floors of the rings were still visible, although partly covered by heaped rows of cut stalks. The floors of all three circles had the corn flattened in the same clockwise direction. There were no interconnecting tracks between circles. The accompanying photographs are prints made from colour transparencies taken by Mr. Kit Neilson of the *Alton Herald*. Note the quadrants of reflected light in the circles, due to all the stalks lying in a clockwise direction (similar to the effect that can be obtained from gramophone record grooves).

On the map I have located the positions of three sites that recently acquired mystery rings in the corn. No. 1 is the position of the Cheesefoot Head rings. No. 2 marks the approximate site of three reported similar rings at Three Maids Hill near Worthy Down to the north west of Winchester. No. 3 is the approximate position of rings recently reported in the local Andover newspaper. It will be observed that the three points lie in a straight line. It should also be noted that position 4, quite close to the line, is the site of Mrs. Bowles’ famous encounter in 1975.

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# THE BRIGHTENING OF THE CHINESE UFO SCENE

With an 'aside' about a darkening on the Soviet horizon

*Charles Bowen*

A YEAR AGO our artist's impression of a Chinese UFO incident was featured on the cover of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and news was given in our *World Round-up* column of the establishment of China's UFO (Flying Saucer) Research Society. This society, set up to handle the investigation and analysis of all kinds of unidentified flying objects, had received the recognition of the Chinese Society for the Study of the Future — a name which itself conjures up interesting implications. Our information came from an item in the *Beijing Wanbao* (Peking Evening News) of November 28, 1980, which was translated by Gordon Creighton. We learned, furthermore, that at that time the China UFO Research Society had "...over 300 members distributed throughout 24 provinces."

In the recent past neither Mr. Creighton nor I made any secret of the fact that there seemed to be, in 1980-81, a considerable recession in UFO reports. We were fairly confident, however, that waves, or flaps, were going on in parts of the world where there were communications difficulties. Our respective hunches probably stemmed from the fact that over the years there had always been a certain official interest in our subject; the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Peking, and the Soviet Academy of Sciences too, have always been punctilious in renewing their subscriptions to FSR. In addition the Chinese have maintained an exchange as well: FSR for a technical — non-UFO — publication. Now that there seems to be some lifting of restrictions on communications with modern China, we begin to learn that a considerable volume of UFO reports have been made in that country over the past two years. Perhaps we were correct in our assumptions that "something was going on, unknown to us, in some relatively remote part of the world." (Again, in the past, the occasional visitor to China who has come our way — and I am thinking in particular of an Australian businessman friend, who wishes to remain unnamed — have always insisted that "... the place is 'running alive' with UFOs.")

## FSR banned

Our recent articles from Russian sources, directly and indirectly, have revealed there have been a good deal of UFO — and humanoid — cases in that country as well. At the same time, however, there has been

an unhappy development. Even before our articles were published, the "clamps had gone on". A small number of Soviet ufologists have long received the Review, without charge, through the post. We have learned now that our journal is proscribed, and that during the last two years all copies, other than those addressed to the Academy libraries, have been confiscated by the Soviet authorities. The Academy copies may only be read by specially approved persons, and we'd bet our bottom dollar that those persons do not include ufologists.

## Attempts to communicate with the Chinese UFO Society

Encouraged by the unprecedented trickle of UFO news items out of China, via Tokyo, in 1980, Gordon Creighton and I visited the Chinese Embassy in London. Our purpose was, first, to obtain a print of the UFO photograph allegedly taken near the Great Wall on August 23, 1980, and secondly, to establish contact with the UFO Society which, we understood, was centred at Wuhan University. Our hopes were to receive a few knocks, for our experience of the apparent "easing of restrictions" is that they still seem to be buried in a frustrating mire of suspicions. Two officials in turn stared at us in blank amazement, and neither seemed willing to take responsibility for doing anything about our request. In the end one of them suggested we try the *Xinhua* news agency, which has an office in the city. When we arrived at the agency office, the door was bolted and barred. After a while, a formidable gentleman opened the door, and we put our request to him about the photograph, whereat he looked somewhat confused. In the end he bellowed something up the hallway, and a charming lady arrived at the door, and in perfect English invited us into the news room. We repeated our request about the photograph, and spoke about the Society.

Now Gordon Creighton happens to be fluent in Mandarin Chinese, and after the lady had spoken to a colleague — the only other person in the room — and interpreted what we had said in (so Gordon told me) Shanghai Chinese, he interjected in Mandarin. The amazed Chinese faces were a wonder to behold, but they quickly recovered their composure, and switched to Mandarin, and a good time was had by all