

WAS IT A LANDING AT MARLIENS?

by Alain Rifat

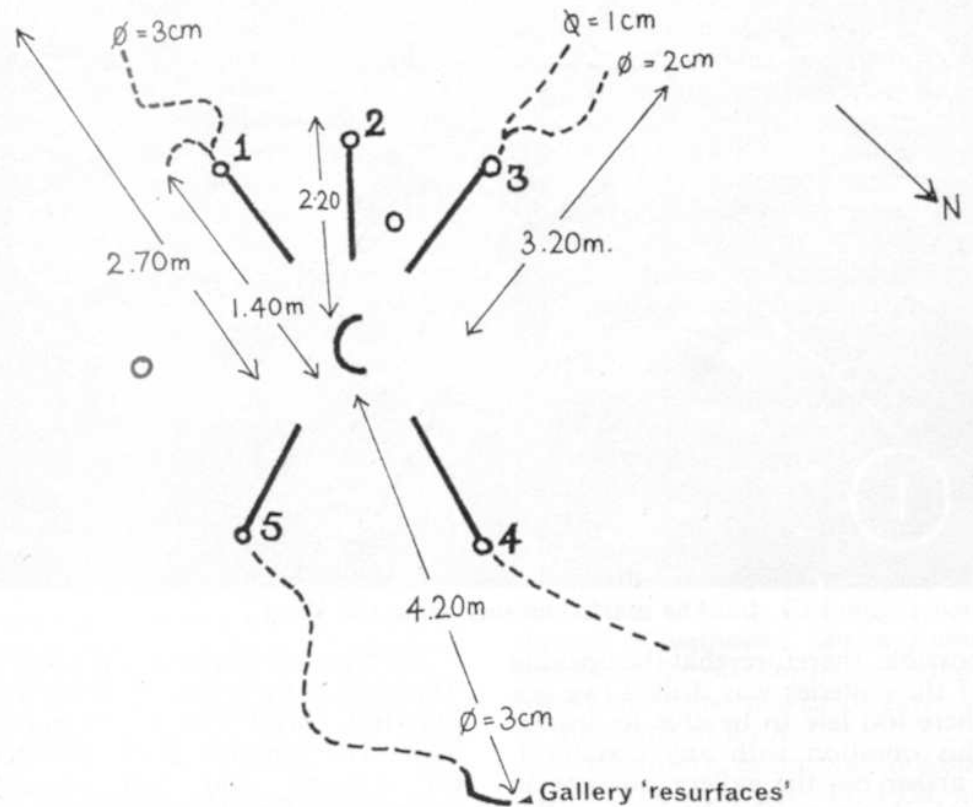
Our contributor, a reader who lives in Geneva, reports on the strange hole and associated marks found in a clover field in France, marks which remind one immediately of the Charlton crater of 1963, and Valensole of 1965.

ON Tuesday, May 9, M. Bretin, an employee of M. Maillotte, the Mayor of Marliens, a village near Genlis in the Cote d'Or, discovered some curious imprints in the edge of the field where he was working. He told M. Maillotte, who did not think it necessary to advise the official authorities. On the other hand, M. Bretin told the Secretary at the Town Hall, who is a correspondent of the journal *Le Bien Publique*, and who in turn told the Genlis police. The latter passed on the discovery to Captain Thepenier of Police Headquarters at Dijon, and to Captain Troubat at the air base at Longvic.

On Wednesday a helicopter and some specialists were despatched to the spot on authority from Dijon and Paris. The imprints were for the most part in a track running alongside a field of lucerne, 550 metres from Route CD25. We were only able to get to the place four days after the official enquiry, but we were able to gather information about its condition thanks to the local papers of Thursday, May 11, and Friday, May 12, as well as from the Genlis police, the Mayor's Secretary and the Mayor himself.

The police found an imprint in the form of a star with five well-defined points and a sixth less easily visible. The points radiated from a central excavation which, it seems, was of a diameter of about 30 cms and of a depth also about 30 cms. "It was made by a cylindrical object, rounded at its extremities and very heavy, because all the pebbles in that vicinity were broken" (*Les Dépêches* May 12). We also found numerous pebbles which had been recently broken.

As regards this excavation, a Genlis policeman who took part in the enquiry compared it to that which would have been made by a very heavy cone falling on to a flat

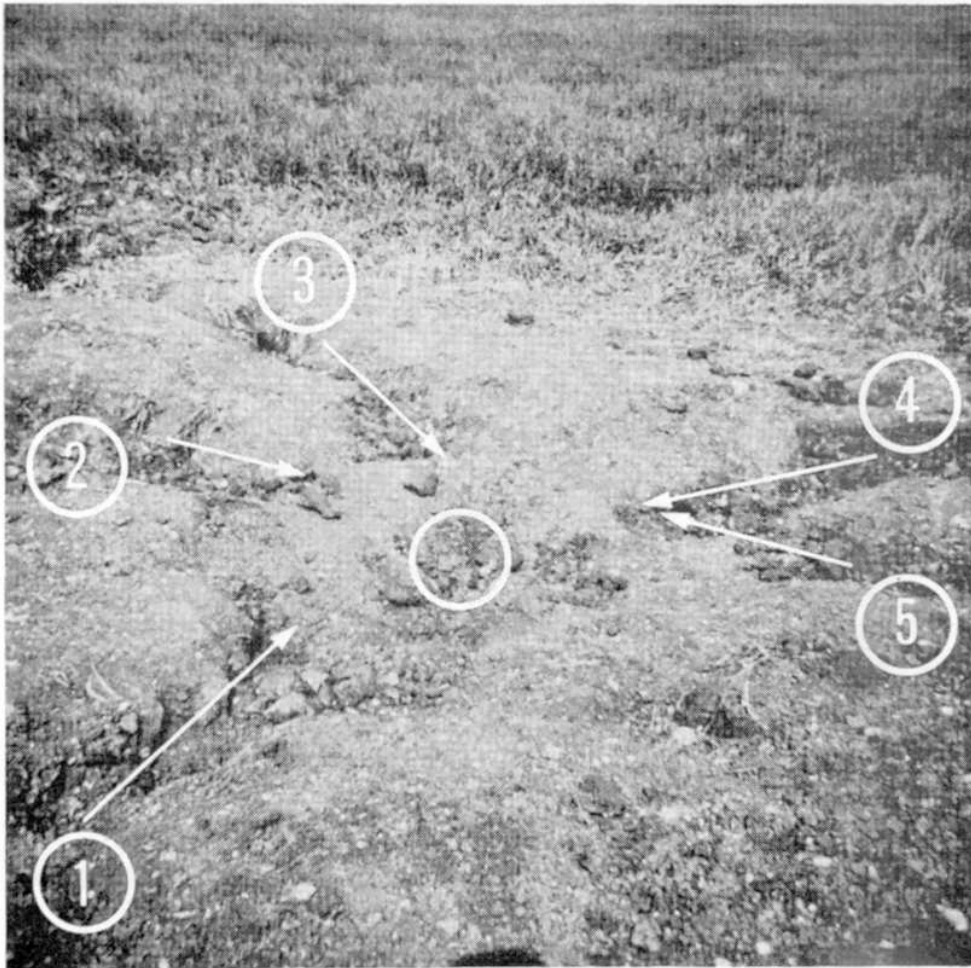


1. Diagram provided by the Genlis police

surface, but slightly at an angle, because the imprint was clearer on one arc of the circle. The five radiating imprints (see sketch 1 made by the Genlis policeman) were made up of holes of about 20 cms in diameter at the base, and narrowing the farther away they got from the centre to end, after about 30 cms of travel underground, in a gallery 3 cms in diameter and perfectly round.

Plaster casts of these imprints were taken by the Dijon police. They revealed that the imprints were round at the end but in the shape of an open shell; that is to say, that apparently a meridional vertical depression separated two rounded "bays" which penetrated into the earth.

The police established that when the objects hollowed out these galleries they followed a winding course which enabled them to pass through the earth at a shallow depth. At these points the earth was "bloated" on the surface as if it had been stuffed (see sketch 2). The windings were round in section and we were able to establish this for ourselves. In effect, we followed the course of two galleries. We found that to begin with, and for a distance of about 30 cms, the gallery was perfectly round and smooth, and then it divided. The pebbles seemed to be thrust upwards when M. Maillotte, who was one of the first on the scene, found a clod of earth had been pierced by the gallery as if by a gimlet. It is



The marks, as seen from the West

possible, therefore, that the opening of the galleries was drilled (we got there too late to be able to answer this question with any certainty). Farther on, the gallery was not as smooth as at the beginning. We followed the gallery over a distance of about one metre to a depth of about 20 cms. It ended in a point.

Here is another interesting discovery: A Genlis policeman told us that there were lumps of earth sticking up weighing up to one kilogramme and about 10-15 cms in diameter along an arc more or less orientated from east to west and at a radius from the centre of about 30 metres (see sketch 1).

All these lumps of earth, as well as the galleries and the excavations, were covered with a very fine deposit of pale mauve crystals which became grey/blue in the dry state. All the witnesses and we ourselves are agreed in affirming that the earth was extremely hard and crusted. We dug beside a mole hill about 8 metres away from the imprints and established that the earth was much lighter there.

No trace of burning was found. The roots of the crushed plants were also not burnt. The Dijon police had taken samples of the powder for analysis and had already established that there could be no question of an insecticide. We also took samples in the galleries, and under the microscope it looked like blue mineral crystals, for the most part in droplet form.

Theories explaining this phenomenon have been numerous. One of them favoured an explosion: the arguments in favour of this are furnished by the radiating symmetry of the imprints starting from a central excavation as well as by lumps of earth sticking up. The authorities, however, quickly rejected this idea since in the first place they knew that no aircraft had dropped any projectiles in the neighbourhood, and secondly, the specialists thought that "the marks do not correspond to those which would have been made by any kind of explosive. Besides, in such a case one would have found metallic debris or pieces of wadding and

there were none" (*Les Dépêches* 12.5.67.). Furthermore, an explosive would not have dug winding and perfectly symmetrical galleries.

The investigators are equally doubtful that there is any question of a land or air machine. The Dijon Chief of Police said "An armament specialist from the air base at Longvic has checked whether it could possibly have been an aerial machine, and has established that this was not possible. As a final hypothesis one must support lightning as the cause" (*Le Bien Publique* 12.5.67.). On the other hand, we may think like Mr. Maillotte that "a lightning stroke would not have dug hollows in the ground nor disturbed the soil without burning it". For one must be very insistent on this point: the earth was very hard and dry, but bore no trace of burning, not even on the grass nearby.

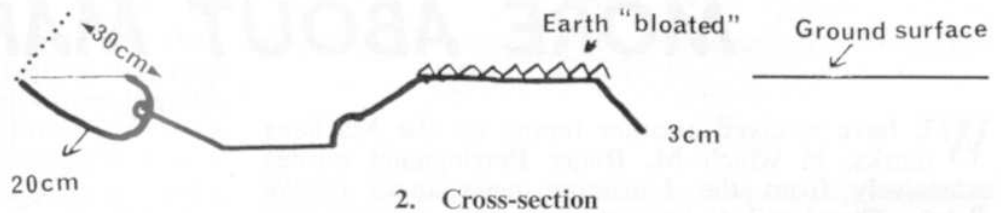
Mr. Maillotte also removed a piece of earth which had been pierced by one of the galleries: he established that the round hole was coated with a mauve deposit and that "on one of the edges a flint, a very hard stone, had been cut as a nut might have been by a razor blade". In fact, the soil is composed for the most part of clay containing very numerous small pebbles, but the latter did not prevent the gallery from being perfectly round and smooth, at the beginning at any rate.

Soil specialists have been to the site and according to them: "The holes cannot have been dug by any land object, drill or other similar machine. They are not of natural origin and make one think somewhat of what might have been produced by the tariere (sorry don't know translation of tariere) of a giant insect! Another strange discovery is that they carefully dug along a natural fissure in the soil which adjoined the central cavity. All along this fissure at 20 cms below the surface and over a width of 3 cms the famous grey/mauve powder was found again. There can be no explanation here either, for if a gas or powder had been injected it would have marked the fissure from top to bottom." (*Les Dépêches* 12.5.67).

Personally, I think that a very heavy gas could have penetrated

into the fissure but would have very quickly dispersed as a result of cooling: it would have been in some way precipitated by contact with the cold earth which would serve to trigger off crystallisation: as the gas would have entered by one of the galleries, that is to say, through the bottom of the fissure of which the top portion would have been closed by the compression of the soil, it would only have been the lower part which would be covered with crystals, the substance being exhausted before reaching the top of the fissure. Now, while exploring a gallery, we established that towards the end the mauve powder did not cover the whole surface, but only the lower face of the gallery.

Furthermore, the clods of earth which were sticking up and covered with mauve powder make one think of the same explanation: the machine would have pushed up the soil as it went along (along the east-west arc) loosening it and releasing the gas which would have crystallised on the clods as they fell back to earth. In other cases of UFO landings it has already been noted that the earth appeared to have suffered the effect of inverse gravity generated by the machine: that is to say, that it would be lifted up to fall back to earth a little farther away, so marking the



trajectory of take-off. To confirm this hypothesis, it would have been necessary to examine the distribution of the lumps of soil, but the investigators had removed them as they were covered in mauve powder. In fact, the weight of the lumps should have decreased in proportion to their distance from the centre because of the inherent inertia of mass would bring it about that at the same distance and the same speed of displacement, the smaller masses would be carried furthest. Coming back to the galleries, the investigators think that they have been dug by some sort of "antennae" seeking their way through the soil for reasons unknown to us (stopping, steadying the machine, or taking samples?).

Geiger counters reveal nothing, and no one in Marliens saw a UFO. Finally, one should remark that this is not the first time that similar traces have been found. Indeed, at Valensole in the Basses Alpes on July 1, 1965, a machine landed in a lavender field. An agriculturist of

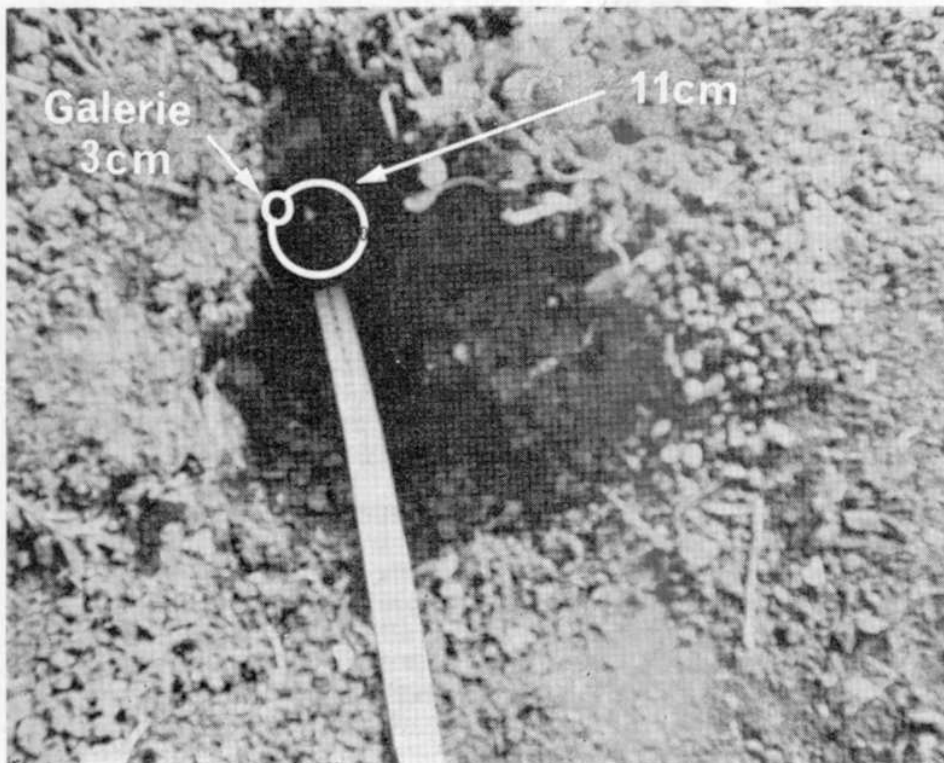
the neighbourhood, M. Masse, a man of serious and sober reputation, saw it and observed two small beings getting out of it. One of them paralyzed him with a sort of weapon which he took from his belt when M. Masse had approached to within eight metres of the machine. The saucer was resting on a sort of central pivot which was burying itself in the soil and which was surrounded by six rods, also resting on the earth. The marks found at the spot indicated by the farmer were exactly comparable to those at Marliens with the same round holes 30 cms deep and 20 cms in diameter, ending in small galleries of a much smaller diameter. These facts have been established by Commandant Oliva and Captain Valevet of the Digne police. There was an identical phenomenon in Argentina on July 19, 1965, on the beach at Ciudad Colonio where dozens of witnesses saw a round machine take off. On the sand they found the same marks of furrows in the shape of an X.

Furthermore, according to Aimé Michel, on September 29, 1954, an object was seen along a line from Rigney (Doubs) to Nevers; on October 2, 1954, along a line Jeumont (Nord) Morestel (Isere); on October 3 along a line Montbeliard (Doubs) to Chateau Chinon (Nièvre); on October 7 along a line Jettingen (near Mulhouse) to La Chatre (Indre). Now these four lines intersect in the neighbourhood of Marliens (*Les Dépêches* and *Le Bien Publique* 12.5.67.).

Furthermore, a mysterious phenomenon has already been seen in the neighbourhood which dug a cavity of cylindrical form (*Le Bien Publique* 11.5.67.).

All this leads one to think that a UFO landed at Marliens on May 6th or 7th. The reason for this landing is unknown: it should be noted, however, that it took place near a road, in a field not far from some power lines.

Translation: J. Hugill



MORE ABOUT MARLIENS

WE have received another report on the Marliens marks, in which M. Roger Perrinjaquet quotes extensively from the Lausanne newspaper, *Feuille d'Avis*. The detailed description in this account was obviously prepared during preliminary enquiries, so it is essential that it goes on record. This description of the marks is as they were soon after discovery, and therefore some days before M. Alain Rifat was able to visit the site.

"On May 9, 1967, on a vast agricultural plateau beside the tiny (ten farms) hamlet of Marliens, some 17 kilometres south-east of Dijon in East-Central France, a farm worker found a curious hole in a field of clover. The hole, 25 cms wide, gave the impression that a wheel-shaped object had been rammed down on edge with very great force into the ground. Radiating from this

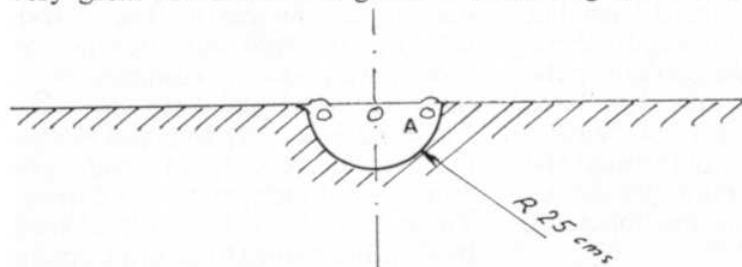


Fig. 1. The central hole (cross-section)

central hole in an irregular star pattern were six arms consisting of meandering, slightly raised tunnels, all of which terminated in extraordinary twin shafts cutting downwards into the earth. The longest of the meandering raised tunnels was between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 metres; four were about 2 metres, and the shortest was 1 metre in length. (See Figure 1) . . .

"The Gendarmerie found that the mysterious hole 'looked just as though a cheese 25 cms in diameter had been rammed down into the ground edgewise'. The soil in and around the basin thus formed was so hard that they had to use a hammer to knock off samples of it. (At Valensole too the soil around the central hole was as hard as cement). From this central hole, the six meandering tunnels, more like blisters or swellings, or mole-workings, and only slightly raised above the surface of the field, led out irregularly. The tunnels were only slightly beneath the surface, and about 20 cms in diameter. At the termination of these tunnels, and also at intervals along the course of four of them, were some strange open marks 'like the imprints of a camel's foot'. But now comes the most extraordinary feature of all. For, from each of the ends of these superficial meandering tunnels there ran a pair of completely straight and regular round shafts, 15 cms in diameter and some 120 cms in length, separating off with an angle of about 45° degrees within each pair, and cutting downwards at an angle of about 45° into the ground. (See Figure 2).

"From the ends of all except the shortest of the six meander-tunnels there were also much finer threadlike tunnels, only about 1 millimetre wide and 1 centimetre high, which continued on in the same general direction. These were at a depth of some 10 cms from the surface

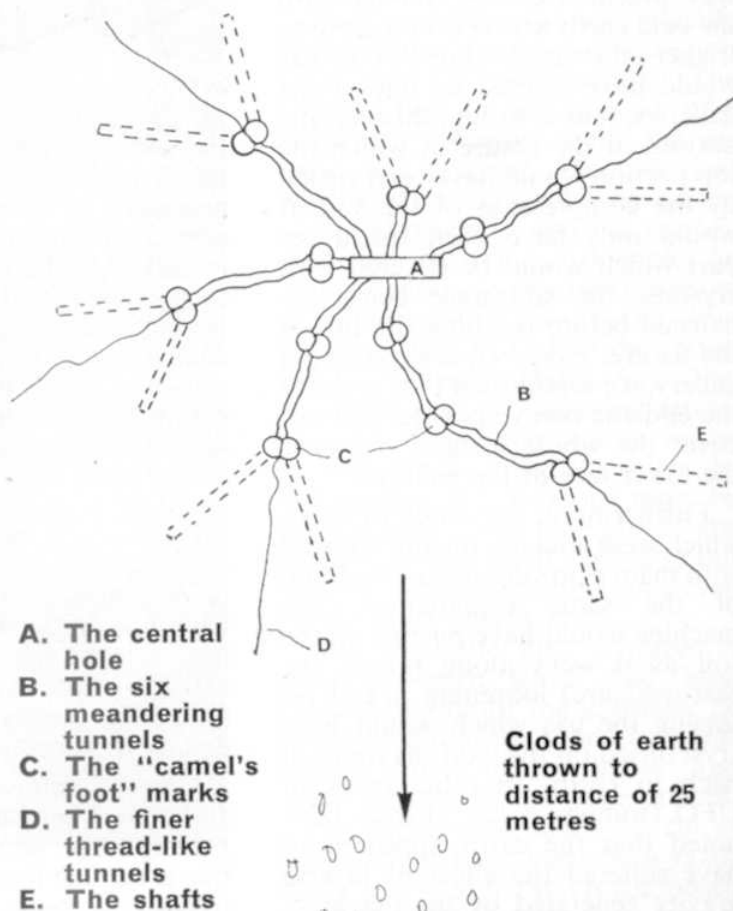


Fig. 2. Plan of marks presumed to correspond with the Genlis diagram (page 11)

of the field, and ran parallel with the surface.

"These five threadlike tunnels were found to be full of a grey powder resembling cigarette ash, which however turned to a violet-mauve colour over the next few days. Some of this powder was also found in other places, particularly beneath the many clods of earth that had been flung away to a distance of some 15 to 25 metres towards the east, i.e., roughly in the same direction as the longest meandering tunnel . . ."

Caused by lightning?

At Dijon, French Air Force authorities were satisfied that lightning was the cause of the hole and associated marks. However,—“as everyone knows, a characteristic feature where lightning has struck is a persistent ‘sulphurous smell’. The gendarmes detected no such smell at the site.

“As regards the argument that the storm and the lightning caused the marks and holes, it is the general opinion of everybody who has viewed the marks that they can only have appeared *after* the date of the big storm, May 3. For the rainfall was extremely heavy, and all are agreed that it is out of the question for these marks to have been there throughout any part of the storm and still have retained their clear and sharp outlines, which were completely unimpaired.

No radioactivity

"At this point it should also be mentioned that, alarmed by a certain queer prickling feeling that they experienced after taking their soil samples from the site, the Gendarmerie sent to the Dijon Air Force Base for a Geiger counter. The Geiger counter revealed no radioactivity at the site. Nevertheless there is still the prickling to be accounted for, and to be remembered, for 'pricklings', 'tinglings' and many odd skin conditions are encountered frequently enough in UFO phenomena, as every student of this subject knows . . ."

Analysis called for

M. Perrinjaquet had a suggestion to make:

"A friend of mine visited Marliens and brought back specimens of the soil and the mauve-violet powder, and a private laboratory in Switzerland has made a rapid analysis, more particularly of the earth. This analysis was done by gas chromatography, and the results show that the essential elements in the powder had not been destroyed. Traces were found in it of sulphur, carbon-

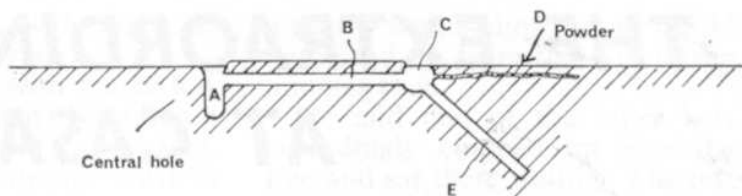


Fig. 3. Showing one of the finer threadlike tunnels containing the violet-mauve coloured powder (grey on discovery.)

ates and metals. The presence of the carbonates is thought to indicate clearly enough that at any rate no fusion or calcination could have taken place, so that the theory of an explosion of some device—perhaps dropped from an aircraft—would seem to be eliminated.

"I myself have made an analysis, with special papers, to detect the gamma rays of Cobalt 60, and the result was negative.

"If FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has access to the services of a laboratory able to make an analysis of the powder, I can send you some."

STRATFORD-ON-AVON LANDING WITH OCCUPANTS: JANUARY 1959

by John D. Llewellyn

Our contributor is a B.U.F.O.R.A. area investigator.

THIS is a report of a personal investigation of statements by Mr. Leonard Hewins of Tredington, Nr. Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, conducted on July 12, 1967. The witness is employed as a general labourer with Stratford-on-Avon Corporation.

Here verbatim is his statement:—

"I had finished work at 5.15 p.m. one night in January 1959 and had gone to collect my bike from the rear of refuse tip near car park in Arden Street—close by is a tennis court seen in the direction of North West—when my attention was attracted to a fiery round red object, size of the setting sun, coming from the East. I watched it travelling slowly and falling, coming to rest approximately 100 yards away. As it stopped the glowing light went out. I then noticed a blue haze forming, approximately 12ft high, which seemed to hover just above the ground where the object was. The bottom of it could not be seen as it was quite dark, but there were some lights from the town. I then saw three figures, human-like in appearance, moving in the blue haze. If these were inside whatever it was, it must have been transparent. They were quite tall relating their height to the depth of the haze and height of the wire of tennis court, perhaps 10ft. One of them faced towards me and I could see heads and arms which they raised up, and they then appeared to step up, lifting themselves as if sitting on something. This, they did with a clumsy bulky movement. At this point, to my surprise, I saw a fourth figure of similar appearance, and they had seated themselves two in the front and two in the rear. During this time I was quite frightened and was staring, feeling unable

to move. The blue haze rose slightly then faded gradually. The object then began to glow and brighten to the same brilliance it had been before; the bottom of this red colour was seen to touch the ground. Then it changed to an extremely bright light, rising swiftly. A trail of multi-coloured, very beautiful stars shot out from the rear. I then heard a sound like rushing water, the same that you hear when pressing your ears in and out with your fingers when at a waterfall. The object then disappeared towards the west."

Elaborating on his sighting report statement, Mr. Hewins then told of seeing the same type of object when a boy of 14 in 1930, with the same description and noise, approximately 50ft up, travelling from east to west. This occurred at the same time of the year, sky dark but very clear. The object did not stop.

In 1953, with another witness, he had observed three star-like objects travelling very fast—thought to be meteors—and watched them descend to the horizon, "getting larger as they came down".

In the opinion of this investigator, Mr. Hewins is considered to be a reliable witness of the above sightings. He was subjected to the usual ridicule when relating the above facts, which he states firmly to be true. He has no desire for publicity in any form, this investigator being given brief details indirectly. Impression of witness as being a man of simple philosophy, uncluttered by a too formal education. Of interest therefore, is his reply to the question: "In your opinion what was the object?"

"Something that do not belong to this Earth just yet."