

# THE PORT MONMOUTH LANDING

*Berthold E. Schwarz M.D.*

Dr. Schwarz is Consultant, Brain Wave Laboratory, Essex County Medical Center, Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

PORT MONMOUTH, New Jersey, is a small residential community on the Raritan Bay, and about ten miles from New York City. It is closely surrounded by numerous installations. Throughout recent years the newspapers have reported many UFO sightings in this area.

In an article in the July 18, 1970, issue of *The Courier* of Middletown, New Jersey, Mr. Walter Garner described a UFO hovering over the meadows for approximately one hour. Mr. Garner, who visited the scene as late as two weeks after the incident, said the grass was "still flattened" in the reported areas as well as in a smaller section several feet away. The grass, "still living, would not stand erect, yet grass flattened by footsteps quickly bounced back (Photographs 1 and 2)." The family who witnessed the incident did not wish any notoriety and therefore was not identified, but the following is an account of their experiences.\*

On Saturday, July 4, 1970, at 3.00 a.m., Mrs. D.J., a 33-year-old housewife, suddenly woke up for no apparent reason and looked out of her open, second-floor cottage bedroom window. Hovering over the meadows, across the street, she saw "a big round ball. It had an eerie white glow, and was bouncing back and forth across the meadows. I propped myself up on the pillow and watched it for approximately 15 minutes. I shook my husband but he wouldn't wake up. I had gotten in bed at two in the morning, and had dozed off again before waking. We had been out but had no liquor.

"It was something spectacular. The light was flashing in order as in the back tail-lights of modern cars—flashing red in series across the middle. I could only see half the thing (see Fig. 1). It was the size of our garage [approximately 20-25ft. in combined width and height]. There was no sound. The street light had gone out for 15 to 20 minutes and then came on.

"When I woke up again at 5.00 a.m., the fog was rolling in [it was clear before] and I couldn't see anything. I told my husband but he wasn't impressed. The kids were excited and wondered why I hadn't called them. A little later they called me, and my son said, 'Mom, you should see the big spots in the meadows.' There were areas where the grass was mashed down."

Interviews with Mrs. D.J.'s son Billy, age 15, and her brother-in-law, D.R., age 22, revealed that, "There were three imprints that made a perfect triangle. They were about 30-40ft. apart and about 18in. square. There was a large circle [in the grass] between 15 and 20ft. in diameter, and a smaller circle about 50ft. away, which was about half the size of the larger one.



Photograph 1.

Photograph of Mr. Walter Garner

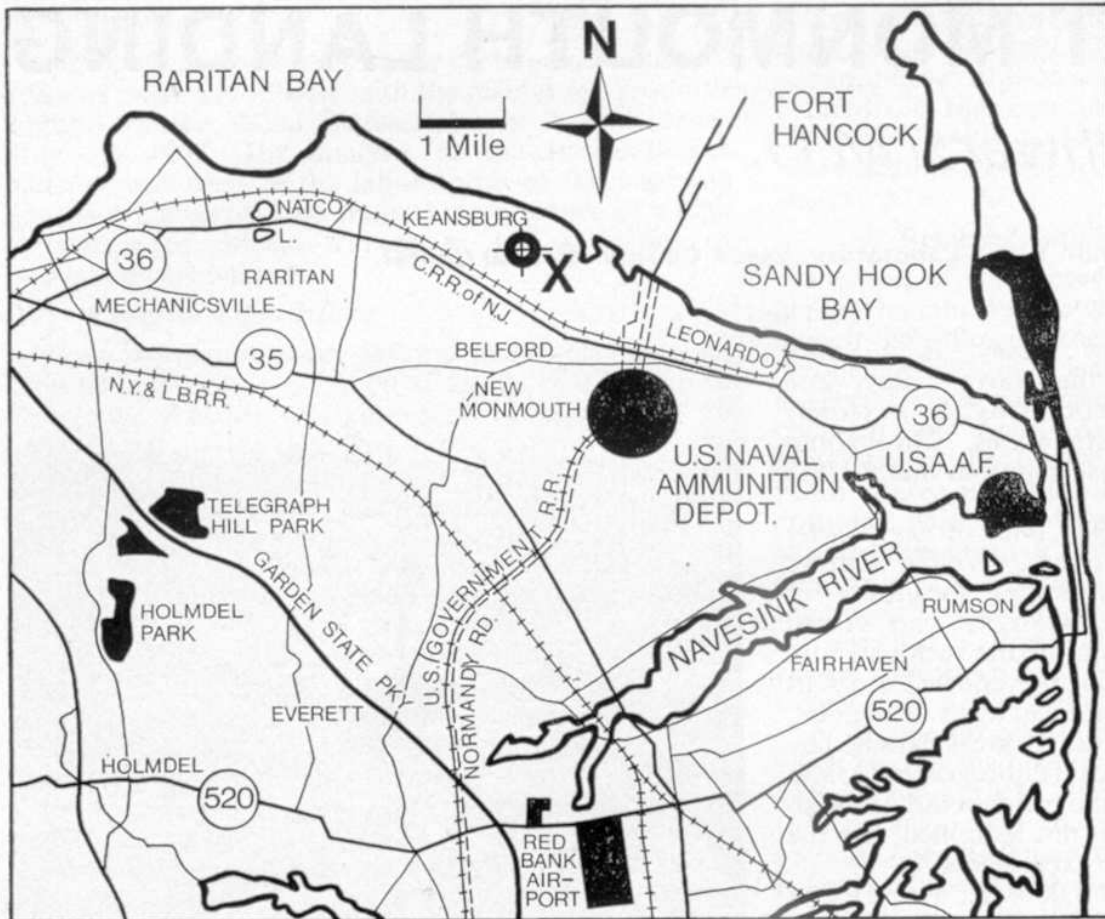
"Something strange is leaving marks on the Port Monmouth meadows." (*The Courier*, July 16, 1970.)

"Then we saw tracks going to the creek like they had dragged some small round thing into the ditch. [On the periphery of the large circular flattened area] there were about two sets of a dozen imprints which were about 2ft. apart. They were curved like raindrops (see Fig. 2). It was very visible, the grass was all crushed down, there was mud on the banks of the creek, and there were signs of the tracks in the mud."

One week to the day, at 4.00 a.m., Mrs. D.J. suddenly woke up and pounded her husband in an attempt to arouse him, "for I felt that something was going to happen. It was a funny feeling—I was scared half to death. I told him. Then the street light went out. We sat there for about five minutes and out of the sky came a round ball of light. It went from the tower [across the field] behind the trees. It was glowing, yellowish-white. I called the police. They came with their guns drawn."

While this was going on, Billy was sleeping on the front porch. He noted, "There were three coloured—red patches of lights. They went around the disc in about one to two seconds. The outer part was greyish in colour (see Fig. 3). The noise it made was like an aeroplane in the distance. The noise became louder

\* Name and address on file with FSR—EDITOR.



The Raritan Bay, N.J. area. "X" shows the position of Port Monmouth; the crossed-O symbol indicates the approximate location of the UFO sightings

as it picked up speed. Just as soon as it was out of sight I didn't hear it any more. I would guess it was going very slowly, as it came up from the ground.

"The police were starting to go upstairs to my parents and look out of their bedroom window when the disc came up from the ground (across the street—approximately 60ft. away) and I saw it for a half minute. The disc was hidden in the grass [about 10ft.

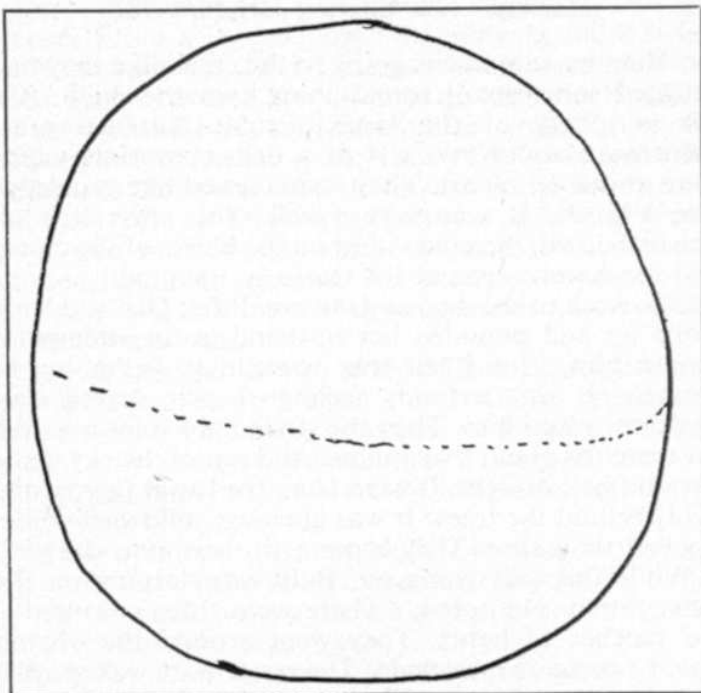


Figure 1. Mrs. D. J.'s drawing of the UFO

tall) and was the size of an Oldsmobile. I yelled, 'Look. Look!' but nobody heard me. I watched it as far as I could and again yelled, 'Mom, look!' I was wide awake, and don't often see things like that (Photograph 3)."

As far as the family could tell, there were no physical changes in the meadows across the street after this close sighting. However, from then on the television set, which had worked well previously, no longer functioned. Mrs. D.J. said, "Although the tubes were changed, and it was taken to a repair man, the TV only flickered." The family were unable to use it for many weeks, and had to borrow the grandfather's TV set, which worked all right in their house. When they took the broken TV set to the grandfather's home and tried it there, it still didn't work. "Also the ignition in my husband's car was ruined. It conked out five times in the middle of the road, although it had not given trouble before. Even though we had a mechanic work on it and had a new ignition put in, it still gave this trouble.† There was no effect on other household appliances. I cannot remember if the electric [battery] clock stopped working. I phoned Army Intelligence. The guy pumped me. He pooh-poohed it and implied it was all baloney, and I was nuts."

Although Mrs. D.J. has an unlisted telephone number, she received two to ten calls a day between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. for four days following the sightings. When the phone receiver was picked up, there was no one on the other end. This had seldom happened in the past, and never in the exact manner recorded after the sighting.

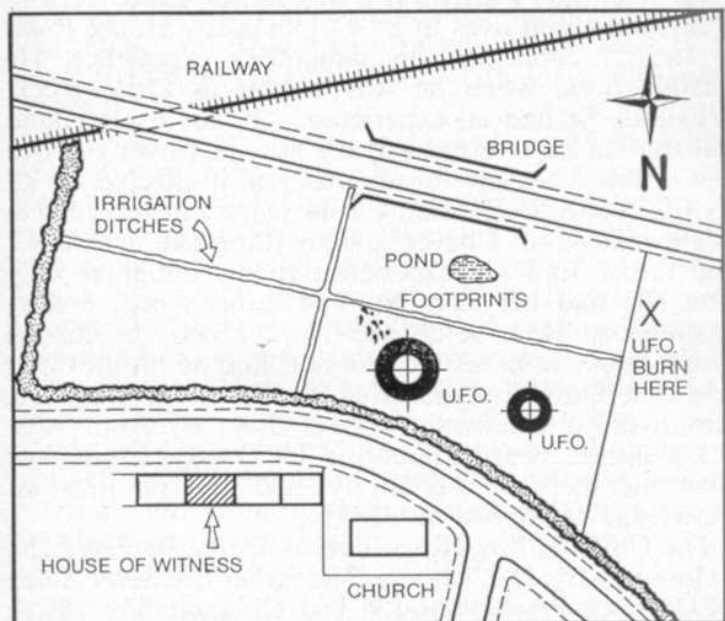
Mrs. D.J., her older children, her husband, and her



**Photograph 2**

Mr. Garner, standing in an area of "flattened grass, approximately 25ft. in diameter, beneath the spot where the UFO reportedly hovered for an hour." He is pointing to the D. J.'s house and the second-storey window, on the right from which Mrs. D. J. made her observations (Courtesy of *The Courier*).

brother-in-law recalled several other possible sightings that occurred throughout the remainder of the summer. These generally happened when they were driving on the highway to get the children ice cream. As an example,



**Figure 2.** Billy's sketch of the landing sites and "footprints" was the basis for our artist's version

Mrs. D.J. recalled such a sighting when, "My ten-year-old said, 'Look at the bright star.' We looked up and [I knew] I'd seen this before. 'That's no star—it's moving. It's not a plane, because it stopped.' We were all eyes then, as it moved across the highway. It came so close, it was like a big light, but with no form behind it . . . yellowish-white. It seemed to follow the car. When we were halfway down the highway it veered off to the left and went over the bay. This happened on about ten occasions . . . usually on Fridays. It scared us."

Approximately two months after the first sighting, the D.J.'s had a very strange experience. Mrs. D.J. said, "When I came upstairs there was a smell in the bedroom: rotten, like death. I never noticed this before, or since. I woke up my husband. The smell was not from the meadows. It made me want to vomit. I sent downstairs to check on the kids and I closed the windows. I went back to bed and felt as though I slept in a coma. I had no energy and my husband couldn't arouse me. I finally got up at 9.30 (a.m.) whereas I usually get up at six. I had no contact with the flu or anything like that. Everyone at home was fine. My husband noticed the odour also. We had lived in the house a long time (house 90 years old).



**Photograph 3.**

Billy on the spot where the craft hovered.  
Photograph taken October 21, 1970.

"While in the 'coma' I had a dream. I was at home (Colonial Spy House by the beach) and my father was there. The UFO landed in the meadows and there was water all around and everybody was screaming. I got all the kids upstairs and locked the windows and doors. In the bathroom I could see [indistinct] forms but no faces [Mrs. D.J. was too upset to draw them]; they were trying to get in. There was fire, and I saw my father breathing hard, and having a heart attack. These things were coming in and hurting me.

"The next day I thought I had a needle [points to right gluteal region] in me. I looked to see if there was anything wrong. I had trouble bending the right knee, and pain [along the sciatic nerve] down the back of the heel,

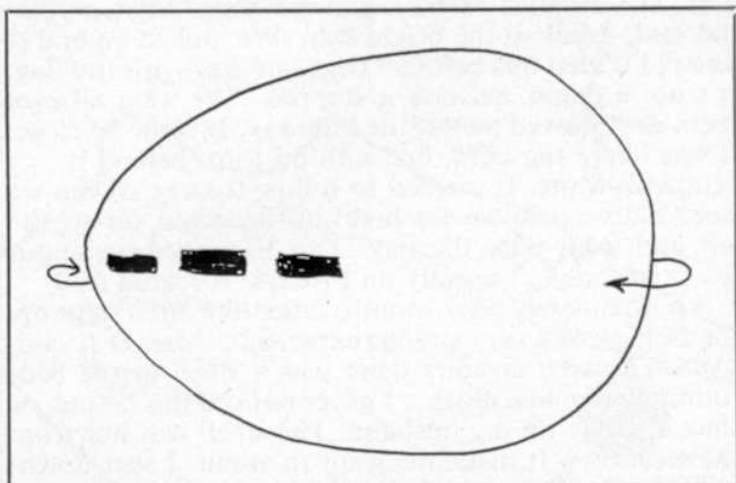


Figure 3. Billy's sketch of the UFO. The dark areas were red lights, and the outer area was greyish

like when I had a blood clot on the left, following the birth of the twins. Because of the pain, I went to my doctor, who examined me and found there was no reason for it." § Also my 11-year-old son acted strangely and talked foolishly and I don't know why."

When asked about her associations to this dream, ‡ Mrs. D.J. said, "I had a feeling that something was wrong, like when I saw a werewolf movie as a child, when they would say, 'They're calling you.' That's the feeling I had. I did not have any alcohol, and I only have an occasional Scotch when we go out. I was not taking any drugs, and I have never been hypnotised."

Mrs. D.J. then described some highly personal possible precognitive experiences that pertained to the death of her baby years ago, an episode where she unexpectedly received a minor windfall of money, and several unusual childhood episodes when she lived in her maternal grandmother's haunted house.

The possible UFO landings were explored by interviews with Mr. and Mrs. D.J., their two older sons, ages 15 and 14, their oldest daughter age 10, Mrs. D.J.'s sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. Marie S., a lifelong friend of Mrs. D.J., the Chief of Police of Middletown, New Jersey, and Officer Chick Wilson, who was on the switchboard the night Mrs. D.J. phoned the police, and Mr. Walter Garner, business manager of the *Courier*.

Although Mr. D.J. was interviewed only on the telephone, he confirmed the essentials of the events and seemed quite disturbed and puzzled over the experiences. He said, "I hope it never happens again."

The essential facts of the D.J. case were also checked out later by an interview with Mr. Garner on September 16, 1970. He recalled a similar UFO sighting, which was reported in the *Courier* two years ago. He remembered how the D.J.'s experience was relayed to the Army on a Saturday morning and that helicopters flew over and examined the meadows shortly after that time. He mentioned a private citizen, who works for one of the adjoining government installations, and who checked for radiation one week after the sighting. Nothing, allegedly, was found. Arrangements were made to have an article about the incident published in a national weekly, of wide circulation, but nothing appeared. Similarly, nothing was carried in any of the larger New Jersey newspapers.

An interview with the Middletown Chief of Police and several of his officers on September 16, 1970, revealed that there had been many UFO reports over the past 18 years. On one occasion a few years ago, an officer chased a light. The police knew Mrs. D.J.'s family for many years, and they clearly recalled how frightened Mrs. D. J. was when she telephoned. They recalled how the street light was unaccountably out (and came back on after the UFO went away). Mrs. D.J. had never called the police before, nor has she since for such a complaint. Confidential material that the police told the physician about Mrs. D.J. was independently volunteered by her. In the two different accounts there were no discrepancies or apparent attempts to withhold details. This particular background material was not relevant to the presumed sighting.

The family doctor was contacted on the telephone and he recalled seeing Mrs. D.J. on September 15, 1970, for pain in the right sacro-sciatic notch with radiation down the sciatic nerve. He had no record of any rash or puncture mark. He knew nothing about his patient's possible past UFO experiences, and felt that as the mother of eight children was kept very busy. Although Mrs. D.J. frequently sought medical help for her family, and was often upset and had multiple complaints, these events did not seem to have any direct bearing on the possible UFO sighting. The physician's records indicated that Mrs. D.J. had had previous occasional sciatic notch pains since 1968. || Physical examination revealed that Mrs. D.J. could do straight leg raising without any difficulty. There was no history for the injudicious use of drugs or alcohol.

Indirect check with the commanding officer of the nearby Sandy Hook U.S. Coast Guard Station revealed that the men there were unaware of any UFO reports at the time of Mrs. D.J.'s sighting. However, the Commander did not rule out their possibility. Because of some unique circumstances, it was possible to ascribe a high degree of credibility to the Commander's appraisal.

An interview with Mrs. D.J.'s father, aged 70, who is custodian and lives in a "Colonial Spy House (built in 1667)," confirmed his daughter's experience. He recalled how, when he was a boy in Little Rock, Arkansas, he had an experience: "It was a big round ball that sailed overhead in the sky, just over the tree tops. I saw it for several minutes and it affected me all my life. I was a salesman for 44 years and travelled in all the states, but I never saw anything like it before." The father told his experience to his daughter only after she had her sighting. The father's past history was healthy. He is descended from Parnell, the famous Irish statesman on his father's side, and on his mother's side is a Sioux Indian. Mrs. D.J.'s mother, age 50, who lives in California and is divorced from Mrs. D.J.'s father, heard about the UFO experience from other members of the family. She had no previous knowledge or interest in UFOs.

The Colonial Spy House overlooks Raritan Bay and is close to Mrs. D.J.'s home. The father has never noted UFOs since his boyhood. ¶ The Colonial Spy House is supposed to be haunted, and is a museum where different artifacts which have been found there are displayed.

Mr. William A. Roventine, Radiological Physicist, St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey, kindly performed an analysis for gross gamma activity on various specimens of marsh grass and soil taken on September 29 and October 21, 1970, from the landing sites, track areas, creek, and from control areas that were presumably not affected. The general appearance of the landing sites at these times was essentially similar to the earlier *Courier* observations and photographs. Mr. Roventine reported: "No activity above background levels was observed. In addition, a cursory examination for high energy alpha or beta radiation was negative."

Psychiatric study on three separate occasions (September 29, October 21, and November 5, 1970) and several phone calls to Mrs. D.J., two of her sisters, her brother-in-law, and two older boys failed to reveal any UFO-relevant psychopathology. There was no past history for neurotic character traits. Mrs. D.J. is left-handed. She has had relatively good health in the past, with excellent vision and hearing. With her eight children, she had little time for reading or television. She did not classify herself as a UFO "believer". Although she was most cooperative and open for the purposes of this study, she assiduously avoided any publicity about her experience.

Mrs. D.J. was the oldest of four surviving sisters. She spent most of her life in New Jersey, and was mostly of old American stock. She had a former marriage that was at times stormy and terminated in divorce. Her account of these life situations was in accord with what was learned from other sources, and there was no apparent motivation or evidence for dishonesty. She could have omitted several aspects of her life that might have raised questions about her social adjustments, but she chose not to do so. In all, her accounts of her UFO experiences seemed to be truthful.

She recalled a life dream of "A bronze man laying naked by a small lake. I'm in the attic. There are bars in the window and I see out. I'm a child. The attic door isn't locked but I never think of turning the knob and going out. This dream means that I want to get down to that bronze man [Oedipal dream of half-Indian father?]"

On November 5, 1970, Mrs. D.J. and her children were studied by Joseph Dunninger, the famous telepathist.<sup>2</sup> Although Dunninger could not remember any experience quite like hers from his more than half a century career,<sup>2</sup> he felt that she was reporting the truth as she saw it, and that something very frightening had happened to her. He could think of nothing along the lines of a hoax or distortion of everyday natural phenomena that could account for this. Mrs. D.J. related several psychic experiences that had happened to her during her life and which in the opinion of Dunninger (as well as the physician) were not in themselves unheard of: viz., if one asks about such data, they are not at all rare, even though often extraordinary and unexplainable.

Mr. Dunninger did not receive any telepathic impressions from the D.J. family that could throw any light on their experience. We checked the house, the rooms from which the phenomena were witnessed,

the meadows across the street, and the surrounding areas.

\* \* \*

The Port Monmouth UFO landing might constitute a hidden case. There might be several obvious and also less apparent reasons about why this was not widely reported in the press: e.g., military security, tie-up of highways, unanswerable questions asked of the authorities, etc. This part, as well as different segments of this report, might be profitably explored by sociologists and others. Stress is placed in this report on the psychiatric and possible paranormal aspects.

From personal experience, perusal of the psychiatric literature, and discussion with colleagues, the writer suspects that such UFO events as reported here seldom, if ever, come to the attention of the psychiatrist. As in some other critically important but neglected areas<sup>1</sup> that do not ordinarily come to the psychiatrist, it is necessary for the psychiatrist to go out and conduct first-hand studies. In the Port Monmouth case the persons involved were obviously not psychotic or suffering from delusions or hallucinations, and did not have a pre-existent relevant psychopathology. Then what happened?

Certainly, it would be desirable to have many more details about the family before, during, and after the event, than are reported here. The technique of collaborative research has been very useful in elucidating a variety of hitherto vaguely defined conditions.<sup>2</sup> In this technique a team of highly skilled psychiatrists study separately each member of a family over a period of time, compare notes, and then piece together the detailed chronology of events and, in particular, all the subtle conscious and unconscious communications within the family.

Collaborative research might be most useful in evaluating what happened in Port Monmouth and possibly in eliciting other significant data that might otherwise have been overlooked. For example, one would be curious about the grandfather's possible UFO experience in Arkansas years ago, the 15-year-old Billy's 1961 Florida sighting with friends, and the events involving the family in 1970. Could there be hypothesized psychosomatic factors as a common denominator for three generations of the family? Or, assuming the accounts are valid, as claimed, is the family "selected" for some particular reason? The confusing, often contradictory, bizarre, and tragic experiences of various contactees and their families have been investigated by Keel.<sup>3</sup>

If, after collaborative study, the family UFO experiences are substantiated—even allowing for some discrepancies and inaccuracies of memory, cryptomnesia, etc.—we would still be left with questions of how to explain the apparent physical evidence of the landing in the meadows, the "monster" tracks, possible electromagnetic or telekinetic phenomena, odd phone calls, odour of sulphur, and possibly Mrs. D.J.'s nightmare and its sequelae.

It is an admitted shortcoming that Mrs. D.J.'s paranormal experiences are anecdotal. However, they should not be dismissed from consideration because of this. Although intensive psychiatric study might show how the paranormal events might be interrelated with the

psycho-dynamic *Anlage*, the connection with the UFO experiences is tenuous and mostly speculative. Mrs. D.J.'s past history for psychic events is in itself not unusual for many families, if one but takes the trouble to uncover them. Her premonitory feeling of dread and then her awakening to see the UFO might best be explained as a response to subliminal stimuli. However, this type of specific UFO experience, of which I have collected several examples, might also be telepathic. Under such awesome circumstances, telepathy serves the purpose of maintaining communication or equilibrium. As in applying the telepathic hypothesis to the psychopathology of everyday life, where one is confronted with the paradox of being both cautious yet audacious, in the attempt to grapple with the relationship of the paranormal to ufology one has a tiger by the tail.

Thus, in the instance of the D.J. family one might ask, as in other examples that involve psychic matters and UFOs: (1) how firmly established is the alleged UFO-psychic relationship and in what precise ways are the two phenomena linked? (2) could the anxiety and splitting in the awesome UFO situation have opened the way to telepathy? (3) was the pre-existent experiential awareness to telepathy evoked by the unusual UFO circumstances, and then psychopathologically coloured in such a way as to make it *seem* as though it came from the UFOs or the intelligence behind them [many alleged spiritist communications are probably mediated in this manner]? (4) or, did the telepathic notions come directly from the intelligence behind the UFOs?

The last possibility, although espoused in many sensational contactee claims, is the most difficult one to document with solid facts. Yet the matter should not be written off as completely hopeless. By analogy, Jule Eisenbud's brilliant researches<sup>4,5</sup> into the psycho-dynamic complexities of telepathy, thoughtography, and allied psychic phenomena, give reason for optimism in exploring some of these refractory challenges of ufology. Perhaps a careful follow-up of the Port Monmouth case, as in Aimé Michel's continuing and provocative studies at Valensole<sup>6</sup> and the South-East of France,<sup>7</sup> will eventually lead to a better understanding of what happened and what is happening.

#### NOTES

\* Billy recalled: "Once in Miami, Florida, in 1961, I saw a shiny, silver-gray, cigar-shaped thing angling out of the clouds. Dave D., his mother and father were with me and saw it too."

† The trouble was later ascribed by Mr. D. J. to a "defective plug."

‡ At approximately the time of several close sightings and a landing case in Pemberton, N.J., late in the fall of 1959, witnessed by Officer Samuel Cowell, Jr., his two neighbours, Mrs. E. Ahlrichs and Mrs. R. Grover, noticed a foul sulphur odour. From study of the environment there was no reason to suspect external factors or olfactory hallucination as causes.

§ Mrs. D. J.'s dream is in sharp contrast to UFO investigator CA's recurrent nightmare of being captured by humanoids near their UFO. "They had large foreheads, big eyes, a slit for a mouth and hair set way back." CA's reaction was precipitated after his investigation of an alleged close

sighting of a craft with occupants who reputedly had heads like lobsters with antennae. C.A., a twenty-one-year-old factory worker, was convinced that he was being harassed by MIB; and he claimed many bizarre events, including MIB, visual hallucinations of a menacing alligator head, and the recurrence of unaccountable burning sulphur odours. On one occasion, while discussing his problems with another UFO investigator (who verified this incident to the author) on long-distance telephone, there occurred an interruption like a rooster crowing, and beeping. Because of many such events C.A. became so panicked that he was unable to work; he sat at home in his living room, and aimed a loaded shotgun at the door for the expected nocturnal visitation of the MIB. C.A.'s past history revealed previous psychiatric treatment in a state hospital and treatment for his current disturbance. He was rejected from military service because of his emotional problems. He had a long-standing fear of being alone, of tall buildings, and of spiders. He had past enuresis, sleep walking, sleep talking, school problems, and two episodes of fainting (possibly due to trichlorethylene which he used in his work). He was deeply enmeshed in UFO literature. From psychiatric examination it appeared that C.A. had chronic paranoid schizophrenia and that his quasi UFO symptoms were chiefly the products of his psychopathology. (For further details about this interesting case see Clark, Ramona A.: "The Ordeal," pp. 27-30 in "The Truth About the Men in Black," Kurt Glemser, 489 Krug St., Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, 1970.)

† It should be stressed that Mrs. D.J. had no detailed knowledge of Betty Hill's experience [Fuller, John G.: *Interrupted Journey*, Dell, New York City, 1966] of a painful injection in the navel with a long needle. The only one in the family circle to take a deep interest in UFOs was Mrs. D.J.'s brother-in-law, and this was chiefly *after* the episode. His previous readings about UFOs were limited to occasional newspaper and magazine articles. Unlike the case of C.A., Mrs. D.J. has remained well since her episode.

In a recent interview with Mrs. Betty Hill, the author learned that she has stuck to the account of her experiences, has enjoyed good health, and has an excellent work record. However, unlike Mrs. D.J., who is fearful of further UFO knowledge, Mrs. Hill maintains her interest in UFOs and has collected some instances of presumed close sightings. She has not come across anything like her previous experience.

As an example of speculation versus first-hand study, the eminent psychiatrist and parapsychologist Meerloo, apparently basing his opinion on the account in *Look* magazine of October 18, 1966, wondered if the Boston psychiatrist was totally captivated by the two New Englanders who asserted they had been aboard a flying saucer. Dr. Meerloo wondered if his colleague was caught in a temporary psychosis among the three! Cryptomnesia was offered as a possible explanation: i.e., the accounts were unconsciously assimilated, distorted, stored in the memory, and brought out much later under hypnosis (Meerloo, J. A. M.: *Le Syndrome des Soucoupes Volantes*, *Méd. Hyg.* Vol. 25 : 992, 1967).

|| The exacerbation of sciatic notch pain and radiation down the sciatic nerve following Mrs. D.J.'s UFO dream brings to mind Mr. O.'s experience where he had relief of severe sciatic pain following a possible UFO exposure (see FSR for March/April 1971).

¶ Why one family can be affected over a span of time is an intriguing question. A well-documented case involves the Merz family of Oak Ridge, New Jersey, where at different times the grandmother, father, and the son, with additional witnesses, on two occasions all had striking UFO experiences. Possibly, as in the D.J. case, the Merz family had some allied, unusual telekinetic and telepathic

aspects. The relationship of the two events—UFO sightings and psychic phenomena—is difficult to pin down.

② The interview in the D.J. home was recorded on a Sonny-Auto-Sensor, thirty-minute cassette, using a Sonny TC-100 compact-set tape recorder. The beeping of the tape signalled the end of a thirty-minute segment and the need to turn the cassette over to continue. At the point of beeping, which happens only at the end of the recording and when in the "record" position, Dunninger, the children, and Mrs. D.J. remarked on how well this unique patented invention worked. While making the recording, I was careful to aim the microphone at the different speakers and monitor the modulating needle that fluctuated with their speech. A few hours later (in my office) when playing back the recording for analysis, I was shocked to discover that the description of the actual landing, the dream of the little men, the visit to the rooms from where the observations took place, etc., was not recorded. The tape was a complete blank. Although this model recorder and patented auto-sensor tape has been in extended and intensive use, I have never had this happen before or since. When asked for a possible explanation, the tape recorder repair man could not understand how this could happen. The particular tape cassette and machine worked well in my office. Although no explanation is offered, attention is drawn to this peculiar "coincidence" which points out the difficulty in interpreting such data.

③ While giving a telepathic demonstration at the Huntington Hartford Theatre, in Hollywood, California, on November, 1956, Dunninger was approached by a well-dressed, mannerly group of contactees who told him about their intention of establishing radio communication with "visitors from outside the planet." Dunninger, although he had grave reservations about the group's flying saucer claims, was impressed by their sincerity and behaviour.

Dunninger said, "I had them on the show for several evenings where they explained what was going on. I asked them to speak to my audience. One young lady said certain individuals were walking around from another planet and I should tell her which one was which. I said, "None of them." She swore she had seen them float in and out at times, and that a round object would float up

to them. She said it with tears in her eyes. She was an extremely attractive young woman, but I didn't believe her. She didn't seem mentally disturbed and she had the audience spellbound. They had nothing to sell—there was no money involved. They published a magazine. They gave me photographs of the so-called (UFO) phenomena which they claimed they had taken of the object in the sky during the time they were on the show. They left a tape recording with me. They said they were Martians.

The young woman divorced her husband because he failed to believe in what she saw. Their leader was a good-looking young fellow who spoke like a reporter. The group acted in unison—what one saw, all the others said they saw. Whether or how they sold themselves the idea of what was going on, I don't know. They didn't appear to be dishonest or ill."

The Los Angeles *Herald and Express*, November 8, 1956, had an article entitled "Men from Mars Fail to Keep Date." The leader of the group later ran for the presidency of the United States.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 Duncan, G. M., Frazier, S. H., Litin, E. M., Johnson, A. M., and Barron, A. J.: "Etiological Factors in First-Degree Murder," *Journal of the Am. Med. Assoc.* 168 (1958), pp. 1755-58.
- 2 Robinson, David B. (ed.): *Experience, Affect, and Behavior, Psychoanalytic Explorations of Dr. Adelaide McFadyen Johnson*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1969.
- 3 Keel, J. A.: *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1970.
- 4 Eisenbud, Jule: *The World of Ted Serios: "Thoughtographic" Studies of an Extraordinary Mind*, Morrow, New York, 1967.
- 5 Eisenbud, Jule: *Psi and Psychoanalysis*, Grune and Stratton, New York, 1970.
- 6 Michel, Aimé: The Valensole Affair, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 11, No. 6 (November/December), 1965.
- 7 Michel, Aimé: The Strange Case of Dr. X, *Flying Saucer Review*, Special Issue No. 3, September 1969 ("UFO Percipients"), pp. 3-16.

#### JAMES E. McDONALD

It was with very great dismay that we learned on June 21 of the death of Dr. James E. McDonald. The news came by way of a number of newspaper reports airmailed to us by readers.

The body of the 51-year-old University of Arizona professor was found on Sunday, June 13, in the desert north of Tucson, Arizona. Pima County sheriff's deputies said he had, apparently, committed suicide: he had died of a head wound, and a note and a .38 revolver were found beside the body.

Dr. McDonald was a senior physicist specialising in clouds at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the University of Arizona. He was credited with contributions to the advancement of cloud physics and weather modification research. He was widely known in the United States for the controversial stands he took on UFOs and the Supersonic Transport plane.

In our field Dr. McDonald came into prominence with the discovery, and publicising, of the fourth "UFO debunking" recommendation of the Robertson Committee's original report on UFOs in 1953—a recommendation that was omitted from publicly-released "sanitised" version. In July 1968 he read a paper at a UFO symposium held before the House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics, and in December 1969 he spoke at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting on UFOs.

James McDonald was never afraid to speak out: he was highly critical of many of Project Blue Book's verdicts on notable UFO reports, and it was largely due to his efforts that the notorious "trick" memorandum sent to the University of Colorado by Mr. Robert Low of the Condon Committee was revealed to the public.

We were particularly grateful to Dr. McDonald for the valuable work he did in connection with an important British case—the Lakenheath/Bentwaters radar-visual incidents of 1957—his report of which was published in *FSR* for March/April 1970.

Dr. McDonald's was a powerful "voice in the wilderness" and it will be sorely missed.

C.B.