

# "AN UNIDENTIFIED FLASHING OBJECT"

Paul Whitehead

The *New Scientist* is not usually taken with giving that sort of headline to a story, but on November 20, 1986, it did just that, and the story ran as follows:—

“Amateur astronomers in Canada may have found a new kind of astronomical object. Located in the constellation Perseus, it emits occasional bright flashes of light, but it is not easily detected in any other way.

Members of the North York Astronomical Association in Ontario watch the sky regularly for meteors. Between August 1983 and September 1984 they saw four bright flashes from the region of Perseus, and the neighbouring constellation Aries. A regular watch for the flashes turned up another 25 in the following year.

The team was convinced that the flashes were real, because in one case two astronomers 10 kms apart saw the same flash; and in another instance, they managed to record the flash on film, so pinning down its location precisely.

The evidence was strong enough to convince some professional astronomers, and they used the Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico to search for any radio source. There turned out to be none; and the only star near the object is 10,000 times fainter than can be seen by the naked eye.

The investigation was so thorough that it was accepted by the leading astronomy journal, the *Astro-*

*physical Journal*” (Vol. 307).

The astronomers dismiss two possible explanations: (1) a meteor seen ‘head-on’. Because the source of these flashes always appears in the same direction in the sky. (2) Gamma rays. For many years astronomers have known that some close double-stars can emit flashes of gamma rays — and some of these *can* produce a bright flash of light as well. But their flashes are much fainter and less frequent than the reported object in Perseus, which apparently flashes on average a couple of times a day.

Despite the report in the *Astrophysical Journal*, many astronomers will need further convincing that the flasher in Perseus is a new kind of celestial object, rather than something as mundane as, for example, a “*pirouetting satellite*”.

Among FSR readers there are some professional astronomers, and we would appreciate any further reports they may have on this phenomenon. A flashing object which does not emit radio waves and could be as close to the Earth as a few hundred miles (yet appears to always flash from the same direction) could be of some significance. It seems that there is more than one flashing object (the flashes come from both Perseus and Aries), which adds further to the puzzle.

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## A VERITABLE “UFO WAVE” OVER ITALY IN 1985

FROM the material sent to us by Dr Roberto Pinotti, Director-General of C.U.N. (CENTRO UFOLOGICO NAZIONALE — the Italian National UFO Centre) 1985 was clearly a “bumper year”, with sightings from far and wide all over Italy. We have already supplied English translations of many of the more important cases, in which landings allegedly took place, entities were seen or encountered, or CE-III's were recorded. More than this we cannot hope to give, in view of our very limited number of pages. We will however, mention briefly a few of the reports, in which *larger numbers* of flying objects are mentioned:—

1. For example, at Ancona, on May 5, 1985, between 4.40 and 5.10 a.m., a witness, identified in the press-reports only as Signor Ugo G—, claimed to have watched a total of six UFOs, three of them huge and three smaller, over the sea off Ancona (half-way down the “leg” of Italy, on the eastern or Adriatic coast).

2. On the night of August 22, 1985, over the same re-

gion around Ancona, many people observed, for about one hour, a total of 28 UFOs continuously changing colours and performing all manner of evolutions and movements in the skies.

3. The newspaper “*La Città*” of Firenze reported (September 5, 1985) that a squadron of 15 UFOs had been observed on the previous night flying from east to west across the north of Italy, being seen and reported by witnesses at Mugia (Trieste Province), San Giorgio di Nogaro and Azzano Decimo (both in Friuli Province), and from Modena, and Novara, and from Montebelluna in Treviso. The 15 intensely bright objects (one witness described them as four times the size of the planet Jupiter), were travelling slowly in “Indian file” and were of a yellowish-orange hue.

The times of the sighting reports were: Mugia, about 9.00 p.m.; San Giorgio di Novaro, 9.30 p.m.; Azzano Decimo, 10.10 p.m.; Montebelluna 10.40 p.m.; Mantova, 11.10 p.m.; and Novara, midnight.

# MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

## Another "Tiny Entity" Claim (Washington State, USA)

Dear Sir, — The undermentioned episode happened on the afternoon of a spring day a couple of years ago. ... The person involved in it claims that he had entered a rather large field surrounded by trees. While strolling through this area and enjoying the out-of-doors, he claims that he chanced upon a shiny metallic disc approximately one meter in diameter, with a dome-like protrusion in its center.

As the young man in question was of the inquisitive type, he bent down to pick up the object in order to examine it more closely. And he claims equally adamantly that beneath the clear dome there was a very tiny man holding what appeared to be a control-rod.

As he picked the disc up, the little man cringed in a frightened fashion, but then quickly recovered his composure and proceeded to accelerate his little circular craft. First it emitted a high-pitched hum, and then it began to oscillate and waver and then took off and vanished at high speed. The little man had feet like the feet of a frog.

The young man seemed to have suffered no ill-effects or felt any pain or discomfort from the experience, other than the usual shock syndrome that one would expect to accompany such an episode.

The particular young man in question is not a person prone to fantasy. And this event occurred in the city of Vancouver, State of Washington, North-Western U.S.A.

No other details appear to be available about this affair, and there appear to be no other witnesses who are prepared to comment upon it.

Yours sincerely,  
**Dudley D. Starr,**  
2311 S.W. 6th Avenue,  
Camas, WA 98607, U.S.A.  
December 12, 1986.

*\*One does not know what comment such a story calls for, especially as there is no supporting witness. Normally, the ordinary sane man-in-the-street would just say: "Rubbish!", and leave it at that.*

*However, anyone who takes the trouble to thumb through more than thirty years of FSRs will — if he be honest — be astounded by the quite high number of precisely similar sorts of stories that we have on record. Maybe it is a fact that there really are tiny entities (not necessarily of our type of matter), as indeed the whole Arcane Doctrine states most emphatically that there are. Failing that, it may well be that there are intelligences — or conditions — which in some incomprehensible way affect the human mind and induce us to think that we are encountering tiny beings. All we can do is to go on noting the stories. — EDITOR.*

## The "Guardians"

Dear Sir, — Herewith my subscription for a further year to your most stimulating magazine. In what continues to be a total void of UFO reports in the media here in New Zealand, it is nice to know that we can still rely on FSR to keep us in touch.

Taken on face value, the message from the "Guardians" (FSR, 31/6) has quite staggering implications. Could it be that the commonly held belief that we Earthlings are capable of using only a small percentage of our mental capacity relates directly to the control by the "Guardians"? If so, what kind of stimulation would be required to "shift us into a higher gear?" What mysteries we could solve if only we could locate and question some of those "key people"!

Sincerely,  
**David C. Little,**  
Dunning Road, RD4,  
Wellsford,  
New Zealand.  
January 19, 1987.

*\*A very perceptive reader! Personally, I have long speculated that our "UFO contacts" may either take place "out of the body" (i.e. in the hypothetical "astral body"), or that they may involve those other large areas of the brain which we apparently do not employ in our ordinary lives. — EDITOR*

## "UFO or Ball-Lightning?"

Dear Mr Creighton,

I have recently been collecting information on my family name, and whilst looking through some Parish Registers for Hertfordshire for the year 1741, I came across an account of what could have only been describing a UFO. The Bushey, Herts., Rector of that time wrote as follows:—

11th December 1741  
45 minutes after 12

*"On a bright sunlit day towards the S.E. in the cloud, a bright flame or ball or fire which ran about the seeming distance of 4 yards then disappeared or fell. It appeared and grew larger as if in appearance as big or bigger than a large man's hand. As it moved, its course was W.N.W. to E.S.E. In its space that it ran there remained a narrow white cloud broader where it ended than where it began, which spread wider. After 8 minutes it was no longer visible. No wind stirring, and (weather-) vane at ENE.*

**James Smith,**  
Rector, Bushey.

Yours sincerely,  
**(Miss) J.B. Bodimead,**  
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February 16, 1987.