

WATER SUCKING GLOBE IN HOKKAIDO

Jun-Ichi Takanashi

Our Contributor is Chairman of the Japanese "Modern Space Flight Association".* A preliminary report of this interesting case appeared in *World Round Up* in *FSR* Vol. 21 Nos. 3/4

HOKKAIDO is the northermost district of Japan, where UFO sightings occur more frequently and in more drastic and interesting fashion than in the other districts. During July, 1974, we received a very intriguing UFO report from a university student by way of a letter. He was not resident in Hokkaido, but a Second Grade student of a university in the Kanto district. When he had been working during his previous summer vacation as a Night security guard at a lumber yard in Hokkaido he had, he claimed, undergone a startling and eerie experience.

The exact location of the occurrence was at Tomakomai, a small industrial town on the southern coast of Hokkaido. As the student prefers to remain anonymous, we will call him Mr. Masaaki Kudou; he was 20 years old at the time of the incident. His story is as follows:—

"It was during July, 1973, but I do not remember exactly what day it was. As the school had broken up for the summer, I had returned to my home town, Hokkaido, where I had taken a job as night security man at the lumber yard there.

"Although a car was used in the job, the lumber yard at night is a very desolate and lonely place, with only a few dark warehouses and chimneys in the distance. As the night watch is done alone, it was not a pleasant feeling being left there is solitude. After making the round of the lumber yard, I returned in my car to the prescribed place, switched on the radio and lit a cigarette. I was looking up at the clear night sky, absent-mindedly, through the driver's window, relaxing in the seat, when suddenly a streak of light shot across the sky.

"As the light went out immediately, I first thought it might be a shooting star. But then the light reappeared at the very spot where it had gone out, like a miniature bulb being switched on, and then it began to expand and contract alternately with extreme rapidity, finally becoming the size of a baseball. At least, it appeared so to my naked eye, but it might have been much larger, as I suppose it was in the far distance.

"I felt as if my heart would explode, and then felt my hair stand on end, but after an instant of extreme surprise, although aware that I was in the grip of tremendous fear, I was making frantic efforts to follow the movements of the UFO. The light moved to and fro in all directions, within the limit of one metre, visually. I decided then and there to continue to watch the manoeuvres of the object, suppressing what was now my great excitement.

"Suddenly it began to descend with a spiral motion, and having come down to the altitude just

above the dome of a cement factory, which was visible in the far distance, it began to send out what appeared to be intermittent green light rays in one direction, which I supposed to be north.

"As the scene was too much like science fiction, I wished what I had been observing might prove to be a dream or my imagination, but in spite of such wishing, the UFO just would not stop its action.

"When at last it stopped its strange 'signalling', it began to descend over the waters of the bay, describing a big arc with startling speed. Fortunately the bay could be seen from where my car was located, and I could see all that happened there. I also realised at that time that the light was rather nearer to me than I had at first thought.

"The light descended to an altitude of about 20 metres from the surface of the sea and stopped, and then (I am positive you will not believe my words from now on!) from the underside of the light what appeared to be a glass-like, transparent tube, came down, and when the front edge of the tube touched the surface that part of the tube began to glow and appeared to be sucking up the water!

"Accompanying the elongation of the tube, I heard a faint sound, just like the sound of a cicada, especially of the kind which emits the noise which sounds like, 'Min-Min-Min-Min...' but the sound was not so monotonous, and appeared to be lowering its pitch. I was stupified, and suddenly felt like an idiot! After dropping my head downward for some minutes, having been struck to such a degree by the scene, I looked up again and saw that the light had already finished its sucking action and was maintaining its position in the same place. And then it began to fly again, and then to approach me — and when I realised that it was heading to the point just about 50 metres above my head, I was frightened and felt more dead than alive! The simple feeling I had at that moment was that I would be attacked and killed by the object, the size of which appeared now to be about that of a volley ball.

"The intensity of the light had now diminished compared with what it had been in the distance (or it might have seemed so, as the surroundings were lit up by its light as in daytime and the details of the object could be made out; it was now emitting a whitish rather than an orange colour. *(He said later that its surface was as smooth as a ping-pong ball, and appeared to be white, and although not so bright it was glowing by itself — J.I.T.)*

"Then I saw with my own eyes a row of what looked like small windows around the centre of the object, which was round, and in one of the central ones I saw an eerie, shadow-like figure, and just two windows to the right of it two more figures, too

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small and deformed to be called the shadows of men.

"When I caught sight of that strange spectacle (I was fully conscious that the object was just over my head) I remember I began to groan with my head resting against the steering wheel between my hands, and emitted a soundless cry. I may have been experiencing excruciating pain at that moment, as I remember that I had the feeling as if I was bound hand and foot. But I still tried to observe the object, and then I saw in positions, slightly oblique from just over my head, three or four other objects which were very similar to the original one. To my further terror, however, I saw just beside them what appeared to be three gasoline drums connected together lengthwise, hovering there noiselessly in a blackish, dark brown silhouette.

"Then suddenly all the glowing balls, four or five in all, were sucked into the huge drum-like object which began to move and rush, disappearing into the northern sky with the splendid speed of a shooting star.

"I still remember that as this terrifying phenomenon receded from me I began to feel my whole body numb, as if I had been sitting for a long time in a yoga practice. It was then that I perceived that my car radio was emitting meaningless sounds and at the same time I felt my head aching heavily. The duration of the experience, although it felt as if it were very long at the time, may have been only 11-12 minutes in all. I could not sleep that night and was only too eager to be replaced by another man at dawn, awaiting it most impatiently."

There ends the account of Masaaki Kudou.

You may understand immediately why this incident is of particular interest to us. There are only a few detailed cases in UFO history where an object sucked up water through a "pipe" which protruded from its underside. One such occurred on a sunny July morning in 1965 in British Columbia, Canada, where a geologist and exploration manager of a mining company, Mr. John Hembling, and his companion geologist saw a mushroom-shaped object descend to less than 50 feet above a small glacial lake and lower a pipe-like instrument from its underside, dip it into the water and remain thus for about eight minutes before withdrawing it and flying away.† Another occurred on the afternoon of April 9, 1970, on a small German country road near Langenschemmern, Wurttemberg, where a retired electrician named Max Krauss, aged 65, saw a small transparent ball with a diameter of some 40 cm., and containing eight spokes projecting from its dark nucleus, which had been floating along behind him for some 150 metres. It stopped at one side of the road and projected a "hose-pipe" from its inside, dipping its front edge into the stream of water formed at the side of the road by the rainfall. It remained in such a state for a short while before drawing up the pipe and flying away.+

If anyone knows any similar case or cases, please enlighten me.

† See Canadian UFO Report, Vol.1, No.3, May/June, 1969 pp 4-6.

+ FSR, Vol.18, No.4, July/August, 1972 pp 15-17.

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THE GRISONNE PARADOX

Aimé Michel

YESTERDAY was one of those edifying occasions when my cat, Grisonne, condescended to favour me with her opinion.

"Till now" she said, "you ufologists have behaved like nuts when dealing with astronomers and other scientists. For a quarter of a century you have tried to make them acknowledge impossible statements such as: 'There are flying things from elsewhere in our atmosphere,' or: 'There are flying things which produce huge and impossible phenomena.' Why in heaven's name should sensible folk want to admit to such foolish ideas?"

"Then would you propose an alternative strategy?" I asked.

"Yes," she said. "I propose that you ask scientists why there are no flying saucers, *granted that according to their own teaching there might in fact be plenty of flying saucers everywhere in the skies.*"

"Please explain yourself," I asked.

"To be sure," she said. "First, let us look at the *General and Logical Theory of Automata* by John von Neumann* in which the author demonstrates the following proposition: 'Every automaton that can produce other automata will only be able to produce less complicated ones. There is, however, a certain minimum level where these degenerative characteristics cease to be universal. At this point, automata which can reproduce themselves, or even construct higher entities, become possible.' Let us give the name 'von Neumann's threshold' to that point where automata begin to construct entities higher than themselves.

"Secondly," she continued, "It is asserted by specialists in computer science that its performance doubles every four or five years. Then I conclude that whatever von Neumann's threshold can be, as soon as it is crossed it will initiate a self-directed, exponentially augmenting evolution of intelligent automata."

"Perhaps so," I replied thoughtfully, and then continued: "But since that is all speculation on the future, I would call it science fiction, and scientists don't care much for science fiction."

"They don't care much for the future, I agree. But what if I show that their *present* statements are in contradiction with either von Neumann's theorem, or the data of computer science, or indeed, both? Let me continue," she said.

"A viewpoint of present-day scientists is that life and intelligence are natural, and not miraculous phenomena. But such a belief is impossible. In effect, if life and intelligence were natural phenomena, then von Neumann's threshold would have been crossed, and repeatedly, at an unknown number of points of space, and this may have been going on over an unknown span of time, and space might well be stuffed to bursting with ubiquitous and almighty artifacts and contraptions. It is not, and I ask, why not?"

"But perhaps it is," I muttered.

"Perhaps so, but if it is not, then, as I said, I ask myself, why not? Do you know *Olbers' Paradox*?"

"Of course," I said: "A century ago the German astronomer Olbers calculated that if the current laws of thermodynamics were true then the night sky might be white, and the temperature of space infinite. But they are not, and he asked: 'Why not?'"

"To supply an answer to that simple question physicists had to discover Relativity, and the Red Shift phenomenon."

"Well," purred Grisonne, "I too must put my question: 'Why are there no flying saucers, granted that according to the teaching of scientists there might in fact be plenty of them everywhere in the skies?' Let's call it the *Grisonne Paradox*. I want an answer."

A.M., February 22, 1976.

Note:

* von Neumann, John: *The General and Logical Theory of Automata* in: Newman, James R., Editor: *The World of Mathematics*, Vol. IV, pp 2070 to 2098 (George Allen and Unwin, London, 1956).

About von Neumann: born in Budapest in 1903; training at the University of Berlin, the Zurich Polytechnical Institute and the University of Budapest; Professor of Mathematics at Princeton in 1933, then in 1933, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies. His main works are on mathematical logic, theory of continuous groups, ergodic theory, quantum theory, high-speed computing devices. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he won many awards for his mathematical discoveries.

THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP

Based in Barking, this group has been expanding considerably since its formation in 1974. It covers the whole of Essex and East London and, in conjunction with the Dagenham Paranormal Research Group (D.P.R.G.), have investigated all the reports of the mini "wave" of sightings during 1975 in Essex. We publish our own monthly newsletter and hold regular monthly meetings where lectures and film and slide shows are given (they are open to members and non-members alike).

We have an impressive array of essential research equipment, including a mobile magnetometer. Sky-watches are held fortnightly in areas yielding higher than average sightings.

We aim to co-operate and liaise with serious minded research groups in the UK and welcome enquiries. We cover research into the paranormal as well as UFOs.

New members are welcome. For full information on the group, please contact the Chairman, Mr. Roy Lake 252, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, Essex.