

# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## FRANCE

### A new UFO wave?

Surprise, surprise! The following news item made a brief appearance under the bold heading 'Flying saucers' in the London mass circulation *Evening News* on Tuesday, March 22, 1972—

"Paris, Tuesday.—Flying saucers were reported landing or zooming across the sky in three separate areas of France during the past 24 hours.

"A Normandy fireman said he saw a saucer land in a field and a farmer said his car had a total electric power failure when the object took off again. Reports of unidentified objects in flight were also received from central and south-west France."

We have asked our French friends to let us have detailed accounts as soon as possible.

## ENGLAND

### Hertfordshire objects

A member of the South West Herts. UFO Investigation Group (SHUFOIG) reports as follows:

"At 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday January 12, 1972, while working at Woodcock Hill, Rickmansworth, I observed in the sky a silver disc of the apparent size of a fairly bright star. It was motionless, at an angle of approximately 60°. Subsequently, the weather conditions being perfect, with cloud cover nil, five more such objects were seen. They were at a great height and moving in different directions. At times they were directly overhead. I also had three fellow-workmen with me who witnessed them.

"The place is approximately 4 miles from Watford. At 12.45 p.m. six more witnesses observed one of the objects very high above Watford. Three witnesses reported them over Chorley Wood, and I am informed that teachers and pupils at the Salvatorian College in Harrow Weald also saw the objects.

"Altogether the objects seem to have been in sight for a total period of about 2½ hours.

"I asked the Meteorological Office in London if the objects could have been weather balloons, as one of the witnesses had thought. They replied that this could not have been so, since this was a group of objects and they do not release balloons in batches. They pointed out that Reading and Bristol Universities do conduct experiments with balloons,

but that it was most unlikely that balloons would remain in an area for such a length of time. At no time in this conversation had the term 'UFOs' been used, until the Met Office man gave me a Ministry of Defence telephone number to call, concerning UFOs. I called this number and spoke to a man who said that they had a form on this subject and would probably be writing to me. I duly received their letter, but it contained no explanation of what we had seen."

This witness informs us that when he spoke to the man at the Ministry of Defence, the latter seemed to be primarily interested in these two questions:

- (1) *Had the witness told anybody else of his sighting?*
- (2) *Were there "any installations or any bodies of water" in the vicinity?*

The witness replied that a power-line passed in the vicinity, and that the whole adjacent valley, from Rickmansworth to Denham and beyond, is dotted with a string of deep lakes formed from old gravel workings. (This same valley has in fact been the scene of at least a dozen UFO reports over the past ten years.)

A lady living at Chalfont St. Peter, unknown to the SHUFOIG member, informs us that she saw tubular-shaped objects on the same day, January 12.

We also understand from the first mentioned witness that the disc- or star-shaped objects were again seen over the Watford/Rickmansworth area on the following day, January 13.

### One from the past

The following item appeared in the *Daily Mirror* (March 14, 1972) "Live Letters" column, and although the subject matter is treated in the usual amusing manner, it could prove a useful "tip" for historical researchers—

*W. Cornish, of Mawneys-road, Romford, Essex, writes:*

"While browsing through an old newspaper dated May 19, 1803, I came across the following report:

"About a quarter before one o'clock on Monday morning, a very large and luminous meteor was seen in the air, apparently about two hundred yards distant from the earth.

"It passed over the town of Cambridge, taking its course from SW to NE.

"In size and colour it nearly resembled the moon, and had a tail of considerable length. Its light

was very splendid, and its velocity astonishing, being visible not more than half a minute."

"If that UFO contained Martians and they haven't landed yet, one hundred and sixty-nine years later, they must be dying for a cuppa. I'll go and put the kettle on."

*You do that, friend, and we'll all sleep easier in our beds tonight!*

Credit: C. Bodimead of Barnet, Herts.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Fireball phenomenon

Hugh White, who teaches at a High School in New York State, reports as follows on a fireball case of which he heard recently:

"I overheard another teacher relating how his twelve-year-old daughter and a friend of hers had seen a mysterious fireball which changed shape as they watched it.

"I therefore went over to interview them and made a tape of it, which I will send to you in due course.

"The phenomenon happened indoors. The children were on the floor in a bedroom, engaged in making a coloured poster, when a golden ball about three inches wide and one inch thick came out from under the bed beside them. It was pulsating, and moved across the room and passed through a closet door. They saw half of it extending out from the wooden door while it was disappearing into the closet.

"Later they saw it again, between two dresses, inside the closet. It was by now about six inches wide. One of the girls chanced to put her hand through it, and it vanished. She said it 'felt cold—like sticking my hand into a freezer.'

"On another occasion, they saw it floating about in the attic, 'like a jellyfish', and later on, in the bedroom again. This time it was more than a foot wide, and near the ceiling.

"It always vanished whenever someone else came into the room.

"I questioned the children very carefully and got each of them to write out an account for me. They struck me as entirely sincere and honest, and I was unable to detect any discrepancy or any faltering in what they had to say."

Normally, one would say that the above was an interesting but entirely typical case of ball-lightning. But we still know very little about ball-lightning, and there do seem to be cases where it is very hard to decide

whether it may not be a UFO phenomenon. In this particular case, the report that the ball vanished whenever anyone else joined the children in the room is peculiar, and we have therefore thought it well worth while to record it in FSR, particularly as we shall shortly have some very interesting similar cases to report from Brazil.

We have not yet received details as to the precise date and place where this American case occurred.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Fliers report Hillcrest UFOs

We are indebted to a correspondent in the Republic of South Africa for hurrying to us the following interesting item from the *Highway Mail* of Pinetown, issue dated February 25, 1972—

"Eye-witness accounts of 'flying saucers' seen over the Hillcrest area cannot be explained away by weather balloons or similar meteorological equipment, said a spokesman from the local weather office this week.

"Unidentified objects, bearing a certain resemblance to the description of flying saucers reported in other parts of the world, were seen by at least two Highway residents in the Inanda Road area on Sunday, February 13.

"They made three separate appearances in less than 15 minutes and, inexplicably, says one witness, were so frightening that they made her hair stand on end.

"Describing her experience to the *Highway Mail* this week, Mrs. Kay Easson said she was driving down Link Road, near Inanda, on a Sunday evening two weeks ago, when she saw what she thought was a rocket, behaving rather strangely.

### EGG-SHAPED

"A few minutes later, she and her companion saw three egg-shaped objects fly across the sky, in perfect formation and at extraordinary speed.

"They were sort of egg-shaped, red at the front and white at the back. They kept close together in flying formation, but at terrific speed and quite silently.

"For some reason I cannot explain, I went quite cold looking at them and felt the hair rise on the back of my neck.

### WEIRD

"Although both my companion and myself are fliers and pretty knowledgeable about aircraft, we could think of nothing normal to explain their weird appearance.

"At Forest Hills, I saw them again. This time there were three of them—again flying in perfect formation—

egg-shaped, orangy red at the back and whitish at the front and they flew straight across the sky at an incredible speed.

"I think I can say I am no fool—but the sight of them really frightened me. The wind was howling and the whole thing was unaccountably eerie."

### CONFIRMED

"Mr. Hugh Kemp, an amateur pilot, confirmed Mrs. Easson's story.

"There were three sightings of the flying saucers," he said, "but I only saw the three which flew over my house at Forest Hills . . . if you can call it flying. They moved at an amazing speed and there was absolutely no sound at all. To me they looked like crimson, sausage balls.

"They moved in perfect line-ahead formation, from almost dead north to south, following the contour of the land.

### UNTRACKED

"The time was between 8.34 and 8.40 p.m. and it was on a Sunday about two weeks ago. They were not tracked on any radar screen that I know about and were definitely unidentifiable flying objects.

"Mrs. Easson saw the first one. She thought it was a rocket and commented on it, because it was a strange night for anyone to be letting off fireworks. It was rather cold and very blustery.

"She also thought it odd that a rocket should be travelling parallel to the ground. She said it had given her a chill feeling and made the hair stand up on the back of her neck.

### ACROSS CAR

"We would have thought no more about the incident, probably, but about a mile and a quarter farther on, three of them went right across the front of the car and over a hill.

"They looked like very big Roman candles and I thought, *hello, someone must be having a fireworks display.*

"Then I saw that the only house near by was in darkness and reasoned that, in any case, the objects were travelling too far, too fast and in complete silence, so could not possibly be fireworks.

"The third sighting occurred after about the same interval of time as between the first and second sighting.

"We had turned into the drive and I had left the car to go and open the front door. I heard a yell—*There they go again.*

"This time they went along the ridge in an exactly 90 degrees different direction, which look them towards the sea, pointing towards Umhlanga from Forest Hills.

### LINE AHEAD

"Once again they were in line-ahead flight and completely silent.

"Mrs. Easson said: *Let's get out of here.* She was frightened and said her hair was standing on end all up the back of her neck."

"Mr. Kemp was so interested in the flying saucers that he obtained a book written by Otto Binder which, he says, attempts to tabulate all the information received from different parts of the world about 'flying saucers.'

"The book is purely a list of reports and expresses no opinion," he states, "but it makes clear to me that the appearance of such objects is nothing unusual.

"The American Air Force has been charged with investigating similar reports in the U.S. and even the U.S.S.R. has apparently been forced to acknowledge the truth of such sightings.

"So the only unusual thing is that we saw them. Whether or not anyone else in the area saw them I don't know—but I can say that there was no one driving or walking in the area when we saw them, so perhaps we were the only ones."

### Cato Ridge case

"However, something very like a flying saucer was seen over Cato Ridge about three years ago—and so frightened African factory employees there that they refused to go on working.

"A spokesman for the factory concerned said that he was not there at the time of the incident, but had heard all about it from the previous manager.

"The factory, which processes metal, is a 24-hour concern and many of its employees are required to work out of doors and at night.

"At about 3 a.m. on a night over three years ago, a strange object was seen overhead, emitting a very bright light and different colours. African employees who were working out-of-doors were so frightened by the object that they ran away from the area and refused to return to work there.

"Mr. J. Pretorius (of Ferraloy Ltd.), Cato Ridge, said that the strange object disappeared and, as far as he knows, has not been seen again—although he keeps a watch for it when he is on night duty and would very much like to see it himself.

"Asked to comment on Mr. Kemp's story, he said: 'I know Mr. Kemp and he is not the sort of man to make things up! It must be the Martians watching us, as some people suggest. I can't help wondering what they think

of us and if they would like to swop with us . . . I doubt it!

"A spokesman for the local Meteorological Office said it was unlikely that the unidentified objects would be weather balloons. His department, he said, sent up only one balloon at a time twice a day—at

1 a.m. and at 1 p.m.

"It is not possible that one of our ballons could burst into flame. They do sometimes burst—but they do so at 50-60,000ft. (15,000m to 18,000m) and it would be quite impossible for anyone to see them do it. When they burst, they just burst

and the gas escapes—they do not burst into flame.'

"He had received no reports of 'flying saucers' having been seen by anyone in his department, he said, nor did his department 'fly' any other meteorological equipment."

Credit: E. R. Turnbull of Pinetown.

# A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

## The effects of UFOs on animals, birds, and smaller creatures Part 12

At one time it seemed that the period covered by this part of the Catalogue which Gordon Creighton has prepared for us, would be the final one. New cases have come to light, however, and we have remembered a few that were omitted in earlier parts, so its expected that there will be two more parts.

### THE CATALOGUE—(xii) October 1969 to March 1971

**184. Kaharoa, near Rotorua, New Zealand** (October 4, 1969). After two bright orbs of light had been seen flying low from the direction of Katikati and over the farm of Mr. I. A. McGregor, at 2.50 a.m., two mysterious circular burnt patches were found on the grass on a hillside at a neighbouring farm owned by Mr. C. T. Johnson. Mr. Johnson reported that he found the brown-coloured circles while out on horseback. When he desired to examine the marks more closely however, his horse became "spooky and silly" and reared up, and absolutely refused to approach them, so that he was obliged to dismount and make his inspection on foot.

*New Zealand Herald*, October 8 and 9, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR March/April 1970.

**185. Puketutu, near Te Kuiti, New Zealand** (first half of October, 1969).

A total of nine of the mystery circles were found in Central North Island. The ninth was discovered by Mr. C. Blackmore, farmer, who was herding his cattle towards a pond to drink when, having reached a certain spot, all the animals turned round and "bolted back up the hill". On examining the pond, Mr. Blackmore found the circle on a small island in it. There was a strange smell in the area, his dog refused to drink from the pond, and further attempts to get the cattle to drink there likewise failed. The ducks normally present on the pond had vanished. The mystery circle was on rushes, which had been flattened and had turned brown.

*New Zealand Herald*, October 16, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up* in FSR March/April 1970.

**186. Waipukurau Airfield, New Zealand** (3.10 a.m., October 30, 1969).

Mr. Cudby, Security Services Patrol Officer, saw a metal object which he estimated to be circular and 60ft. wide, at a distance of about 300ft. from him and only about 60ft. above the airfield. He was able to traverse it three times with the searchlight on his patrol-van before it made off at high speed. He reported that his guard-dog became unusually excited during the sighting. The animal, seven years old and well trained, refused for several minutes to obey him—something which had never been known to happen before.

*Daily Telegraph* (Napier), October 31, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR, January/February 1970.

**187. Waikupurau, New Zealand** (just after 3.00 a.m., October 31, 1969).

Another Waikupurau resident, who lives half a mile from the airfield and who wishes to remain anonymous, awoke for no apparent reason and, going outside, found that his sheep were in a highly disturbed and excited state. He was unable to find any reason. The time coincided with the time of case no. 186.

*Daily Telegraph* (Napier), October 31, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR, January/February 1970.



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