

that i) life could scarcely be more stressful than it is at present, with open warfare between Iraq and Iran while other neighbouring states eye each other balefully, with Afghanistan under Russian military occupation and torn by guerilla warfare, with workers' unrest seething in a Poland surrounded by the armies of the USSR, with famine stalking in the wake of sporadic fighting in Kampuchea and East Africa, with nuclear weapons lurking at every turn, with our environment being destroyed while we watch, with a desperate recession sweeping the world and unemployment escalating on a shattering scale all around us, with the horrifying, senseless killing of Beatle John Lennon, poet and man of peace, whose murder shocked and brought grief to

millions of people around the world. Furthermore ii) an augmented version of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* has recently completed a new general release in many countries, while iii) a magazine published in London, *The Unexplained*, has been reaching the public in the United Kingdom and abroad during the last four months or so. Among the features of this publication is a regular series on famous UFO reports. *The Unexplained* has been backed-up by a massive TV advertising campaign.

So, according to those who know about such things, the scene has been set, for many months, for the onset of a massive global wave of UFO reports. Where, we may ask, are those reports?

DID FLYING SAUCERS LAND AT BROADLANDS?

Alleged encounters on the Estate of Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Desmond Leslie

THIS story has had to remain untold until now for obvious reasons. It was taken out of the front page of the *Sunday Graphic* to protect Lord Mountbatten from the ridicule he might well have suffered in the anti-UFO climate of the fifties. Now that he is dead I think the facts can be revealed without hurting anyone's reputation.

I cannot give the exact dates, but I believe the close encounter took place in the mid, or late fifties. Some while later I managed to locate the contactee who gave me his full story, provided I did not publish it during Lord Mountbatten's lifetime.

The facts are these: an ex-army NCO, Sgt. Briggs, was occasionally employed to do odd jobs and repairs at Broadlands, the Mountbatten home at Romsey, in Hampshire. There are two avenues to the house; one approaching the portico direct, and the other approaching it at right angles, passing a small dell, or depression, about 100 yards from the house. Sgt. Briggs was on his way to work along this second avenue on a day when a light fall of snow had covered Hampshire. This proved to be of some importance, as we shall see.

Suddenly, he said he noticed a largish disc-shaped flying object descending in front of him, slightly to the right, and over the dell. He was riding or wheeling a bike; wheeling, I believe, because the ground was slippery. However he went forward to investigate, still clutching his bike, and noticed the object, which he estimated to be between 40 and 60 feet in diameter, had stopped and was hovering directly over the dell, 30 to 50 feet in the air. Then, a trap door opened, or a portion of the underside seemed to detach itself, and float down towards the ground. On it stood a "man", about 5ft 6ins tall with fair, or silvery, hair, and wearing "blue overalls" — or a close fitting garment. The man looked perfectly normal, and continued his descent until he was almost at ground level.

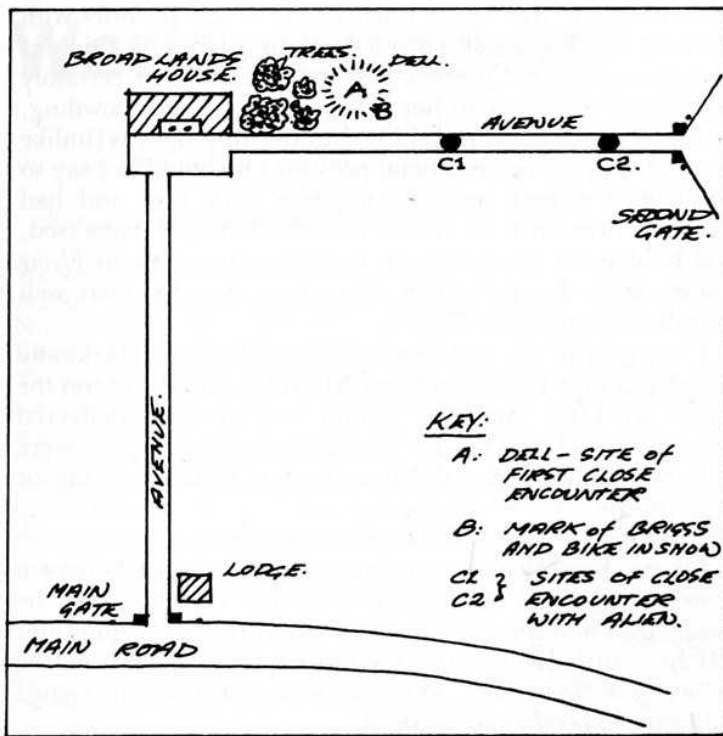
Then, seeing Mr. Briggs, he appeared to change his mind and retreated into the object. Briggs noticed that the platform on which the man stood was suspended from the craft by a long metal rod or piston, and it was this which had raised and lowered it along with its blue-clad passenger.

Since this encounter we have had quite a few more involving silvery or golden haired men in close fitting blue garments. There were the Roestenbergs, Mrs. Gerald Miles (Pixy Marchmont), and the famous case during a missionary service described at length by Dr. Allen Hynek in *The UFO Experience** along with the late Dr. Menzel's predictably silly debunking by clumsy misuse of the Dishonest Subjunctive. These events came after Briggs's case, and he had never even heard of them.

At this point it is assumed the occupants seemed to get worried about Briggs who was by now, bike and all, standing almost directly below the hovering. The Green Light "cow catcher", or safety device, apparently came into action, "paralysing" Briggs, and knocking him and his bike flat on the ground, from which position he was unable to move until the UFO went away; which it did quite shortly.

This, I think, is the first example of the Green Light which paralyses, and whose purpose seems merely to stop people or animals getting hurt in the direct down-blast or force-field, or whatever it is, that comes down when the UFOs go up. Anyway, Briggs arose, unharmed but shaken, and continued to Broadlands House where he went about his duties.

* [And before that in FSR's Special Issue No. 4 *UFOs in Two Worlds* (published 1971) in which the Rev. William Gill's Papuan experience was described in full detail by the head of the Mission, the Rev. Canon Norman Crutwell — ED]



Probably nothing more would have happened, had not the Mountbatten chauffeur, who was friendly with Briggs, noticed his pallor and said to him; "You look as if you've had a shock!" or words to that effect.

Briggs felt he could trust his friend, and began his story with the now standard "You're never going to believe this but..."

Instead of laughing, the Mountbatten chauffeur listened quietly, and with growing interest. At the conclusion he said: "You must tell 'the Boss' this. He's interested in these things."

Briggs protested. The chauffeur insisted.

The end of it was that the chauffeur went and spoke to Lord Mountbatten, who had Briggs brought to him, sat him down, and asked for a blow by blow account of the incident.

Now we come to the bit that just could not be published until now, for it was stated that Lord Mountbatten produced a number of UFO photographs and asked Briggs to study them closely and try to identify the one he'd just seen. To encourage him he told him not to be ashamed, nor to feel foolish, because "we know about these things and are very interested in them." Those are the words Briggs related to me as spoken by Lord Mountbatten.

So Mr. Briggs, being a good soldier, did just that. He examined all the photos, and then took Lord Mountbatten to the site of the encounter. Here, his lordship became really interested, for the snow in the dell had melted in a perfect circle, exactly below the space occupied by the UFO, added to which the marks were plainly to be seen where Briggs had fallen with his bike. The outline of his back has been clearly imprinted in the snow, with some force, as if he'd had a heavy fall or had been pushed violently backwards.

I understand that Lord Mountbatten then took Mr. Briggs back to the house, which was only about 100 yards away and just visible from the dell, and invited him to write out a statement. His secretary then made seven

copies, all of which Mr. Briggs and Lord Mountbatten signed. He was told to keep one of them for himself. This he produced for me and I read it very carefully. What interested me was Lord Mountbatten's own statement which said in effect: "I have personally investigated the above claim by Mr. Briggs and I believe it to be true and correct." (Signed) "Mountbatten of Burma."

Then I was shown another document, — a letter to Mr. Briggs from the then Editor of the *Sunday Graphic* deeply regretting they'd had to kill the story (it had been due for the front page). Briggs had been offered, I seem to remember, £180 for his tale, which was a lot of money to a working man in those days. The Editor ended by saying what a marvellous story it was, and what a shame they'd had to change their minds about printing it.

So that was it — the Mountbatten near-CEIII. But more was to come. Meanwhile I tried to make a character assessment of Mr. Briggs. Lord Mountbatten apparently considered him a very reliable, sober, unimaginative man, not given to fantasy. My own feelings during the time I spent with him were much the same. A good honest down-to-earth sort of a fellow who'd had an extraordinary experience which he could not explain.

* * * * *

I thought that was to be the end of it when an odd thing happened. Mr. Briggs suddenly turned and looked at me closely, before saying: "I think I'll tell *you* something which I never told to a living soul."

"Why me?" I asked. "Why not 'the Boss'?"

"I don't know. I'm not sure 'the Boss' would believe me."

"Go ahead. Tell me."

"Promise you won't write this while he's still alive?"

"I promise."

Then followed the tale of Sgt. Briggs' second close encounter and voluntary abduction. Why he should tell me and no one else I cannot quite understand. Nor do I find the motivation of the aliens easy to fathom.

The following day, while cycling to work along the same avenue, he stated he met the blue-clad alien standing in the middle of the road. His expression was friendly, and he signalled the ex-army sergeant to dismount. He offered his hand, which Briggs took, a trifle too strongly it seems, for the alien winced and asked him in plain English to be gentler saying: "We are not as strong as you. Please be careful."

The hand was very soft, said Briggs, like a baby's hand, delicate and not at all bony. Briggs said he stumbled some kind of apology, and was led to the grounded space craft. Now I cannot recall clearly at this distance in time whether the UFO had come down in the same dell near the house, or whether on this occasion it was stated it had chosen a more secluded location where it could not be observed either from the avenue or the house. I believe it was the latter.

Mr. Briggs said he was invited aboard, and was asked to sit on a chair or seat in a small compartment boasting a single triangular window. From his description, it sounded like the semi-triangular windows on the *Caravelle* aircraft — which had not been built at that time. Again, I believe that Briggs felt the conversation to be mental in nature. He said he heard the words in his head in the

manner that has since become all too familiar on these occasions.

He said he was asked if he'd like to take a trip. He decided he was in friendly hands and that he would. On being asked if there was anywhere in particular he wanted to go, he said (using plain language, not telepathy) that when he was with the army in Egypt he'd seen the Pyramids and had always wanted to see them again. I understand his request was granted. Indeed he said that after a very short flight — about ten minutes — there were the Pyramids of Gizeh right outside his little window. But was it a window?

"I was able to see them **from above and from the side at the same time,**" he told me, extremely puzzled.

I asked him if perhaps it was some kind of long range viewing device and not a window (the thought had crossed my mind of two signals coming in from two mini-UFOs or "Betz balls," one from the side and from above, and being superimposed on the viewing screen.

He was sure it was a window. It looked like a window, and things outside looked as they should through a window. It was just this two angles at once which had him really confused. (Are there any other cases like this for comparison?)

Mr. Briggs was alone in his small compartment during the trip which ended quite soon. He thinks he was only away from Broadlands about half an hour. Then came the most extraordinary statement of all. He claimed that just before returning him to ground, the aliens said: "If Lord Mountbatten met us *he could change the world.*"

This seemed totally idiotic. If they *wanted* to meet Lord Mountbatten, why didn't they? Why not send Briggs off at the double to fetch him? Why land only 100 yards from the house and then go away again? Why not land under the Study windows, or on the front steps if Mountbatten's celestial briefing was the object of the operation? Why on earth bother to deal with Briggs — who was only confused and rather frightened?

I've given this enigmatic sentence a lot of thought over the years of silence. Did he say it in such a way as to mean: "If *only* Lord Mountbatten would meet us, he could change the world!" Or did they at that juncture have no intention of directly contacting so famous a personage, but had decided to test out his reaction via Briggs? The words, or thought-message, would then have been pitched differently, as a remark in passing like: "You know, if it was Mountbatten we were to meet (and implied that he would then speak about it) it would certainly change things on earth."

I feel that is the more likely assessment.

A third possibility is that the remark implied: "If we *were* to meet Lord Mountbatten and if we *were* to instruct him in our arts and ways he could certainly change the world." (The implication being that the time was not yet right for such an ambitious project.)

Perhaps the reader may come up with something better? I only know that at the time it somewhat shook my belief in the whole business, making the aliens seem rather stupid at first interpretation, which I now believe was a wrong one. Briggs himself probably did not get the full nuance. He was, as I have said, a very nice, ordinary army sergeant, not given to subtleties.

My next problem was what to do with all this information. I felt it should be given to Lord

Mountbatten. But how? Fortunately I was friendly with General Sir Frederick (Boy) Browning whom I think at that time was the Queen's Private Secretary, or certainly an official very near to her. He was, like Lord Dowding, extremely interested in UFOs, but because he was (unlike Lord Dowding) in an official position, he could not say so publicly. I'd had several meetings with him and had supplied him with as much information as I possessed, and he'd been good enough to praise my work in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* which, I gather, was by then well thumbed around the Palace.

I rang him up and told of my dilemma. He kindly suggested that I write to Lord Mountbatten, but send the letter to him, and he would see it was delivered personally. This way, by use of a third party, we were able to exonerate Lord Mountbatten from receiving or replying direct.

I did get a reply. And it was very direct.

Of the second close encounter — he didn't believe a word of it! That's what the General told me, and he laughed. Then together we both asked the same question: "If he didn't believe the second encounter, why did he believe the first one?" We'd all seen and read his signed statement about that incident.

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World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

Republic of China

Surge of interest in UFO reports

We learn from a headline carried by the *Beijing Wanbao* (Peking Evening News) of November 28, 1980, of the **Establishment of China's UFO Society**. The full text of the report (we apologise for the quality of the photostat reproduction of the original) has been translated by **Gordon Creighton**.

"Have you ever seen a visitor from space? What in fact are these mysterious flying objects which people describe as being like saucers?"

"Very recently a technical study group has been set up, the Chinese UFO (Flying Saucer) Research Society, to handle the investigation and analysis of all kinds of unidentified flying objects, and it has received the recognition of the Chinese Society for the Study of the Future, and has been accepted as an affiliate to the latter.

"At present the UFO Research Society has over 300 members distributed throughout 24 provinces and towns, and autonomous areas of China. As soon as it had been set up, the UFO Research Society at once plunged into the task of collecting reports of UFO sightings, and of collating and analysing all the material. To date they have received over 100 sighting reports from within China."

Credit, and thanks for sending the

中国UFO(飞碟) 研究协会成立

本报讯 你见过天外来客吗?那个被人称为象碟子一样的神秘飞物到底是什么?最近,一个从事各种不明飞物的调查、分析、探讨、研究的学术团体,中国UFO(飞碟)研究协会成立,已得到中国未来研究会的承认,并成为该会的团体会员。

目前协会已有会员三百余人,分布于全国二十四个省市自治区。协会成立后,马上投入了UFO目击报告的收集、整理、分析和理论探讨等工作。现已收到国内目击报告一百余份。

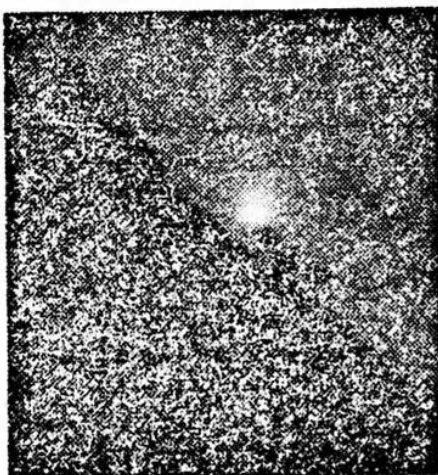
(雨村)

北京晚报

我国的第一张 UFO 照片

编辑同志:

八月二十三日我们三个同志去昌平沟壑游玩,当晚露宿在山谷之中。第二天4时8分左右,我们正在看天空中的星星,透过不很浓密的树叶,从山的轮廓线露出一个泛白光的东西。确切地说这



Chinese text, to **Yusuke J. Matsumura**, Director of CBA International, Yokohama, Japan.

First newspaper report of a UFO photograph

The establishment of the Chinese UFO Research Society, as reported in the *Beijing Wanbao*, no doubt received publicity after this and the following items, also sent to us by **Yusuke J. Matsumura**, who kindly provided a translation of the first report which came from UPI teletype No. ZCZC HTA224 XH242 NX 1 00 HUP NRS R1 received in Tokyo, datelined Peking, November 5, 1980:—

"Two campers near the Great Wall saw a bright unidentified flying object and took a photograph of it, the first ever made in China of a UFO,* a Peking newspaper reported Wednesday.

"The two campers sleeping out in the open near the Great Wall and the historic Ming Tombs said they saw a UFO over the north of Peking at 4:08 a.m. on August 23, 1980.

"In a letter to the Peking Evening News (*Beijing Wanbao*), they said they saw an object, possibly ringed, that emitted white light. The object appeared to have a darker core, and was

Reproduction of headlines, part of Chinese text and the photograph, from the *Beijing Wanbao* of November 4, 1980.

apparently revolving on an axis, they said.

"The campers, Xin Seng and Bi Jiang, said the object moved farther away and then closer for half an hour, but they heard no noise.

"The newspaper printed a photograph showing a moon-like object, with what appeared to be protusions around the middle. It hovered just above the side of a slope. The newspaper's editor said the film was received undeveloped. The newspaper processed the film and made the print of the first photograph of a UFO in China.

"Although Chinese scientists have expressed an interest in the study of UFOs they have always based their discussions on overseas reports. UFO sightings, if they ever occurred, had until now gone unreported in the mass media."

*[We feel our heading to this item is a little more cautious! — ED]

Build-up of a UFO wave?

In the English-language edition of the Tokyo newspaper *Mainichi Daily News* of November 12, 1980, we read how —

"What are commonly known in other countries as unidentified flying objects (UFO) have been observed by the Chinese people on more than 100 occasions, according to a Shanghai magazine.

"The *Nature Magazine* said people in 15 provinces, cities and autonomous regions have sighted the UFOs, most of them round-shaped pans or balls emitting silver glare in the daytime and orange light at night."

Credit: **Yusuke J. Matsumura**

A UFO photo from the past

Our correspondent, Mr. Matsumura, writes to inform us that 18 years ago his