

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

From Dr. P. Guérin

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Among the anti-saucerites, fashions change periodically. At the outset, they used to say that observers of UFOs had seen natural objects or natural phenomena in the sky, which however they had observed badly and interpreted badly. Then, when the close encounters became more numerous, or at any rate became better known, it was necessary to find something else: and so now it had to be hallucination (collective hallucination if needs be) on the part of the witnesses, who moreover frequently had to be drunk as well. However, the huge number of eyewitnesses, both at close as well as far range, now obliges the heirs of Dr. Menzel to revert to their original "explanation" of known objects or known phenomena incorrectly observed. But now they have introduced a variation: they now say the sightings are being made correctly by the witnesses and that then, during the interval separating these visions from the oral report that the witness makes of them, a distortion creeps in, wherein the UFO makes its appearance. The said UFO is thus a sub-product of disquiet in the face of the world situation, which creates anxieties in the unconscious.

The anti-saucerites, who thus "explain" how it is that the sightings of UFOs obey the laws of optics and the laws of atmospheric absorption — since there are real objects or real phenomena at the basis of the reports — are consequently returning, though with a variation, to the first attempts to whittle down the sightings — attempts that Menzel had set up as dogma. In particular, the anti-saucerites are once more on the look out for atmospheric phenomena, such as haloes, photographic effects, or optical effects (camera lens flares), etc..

I write this letter to you with this in mind. For I deplore the fact that, in the last issue of FSR (Vol.22, No.1, 1976) the anti-saucerites may, alas, find some excellent justification for their neurotic frenzy to explain everything away. For, without any critical spirit, this issue in fact presents them with at least three photographs which have all that is required to rejoice the hearts of Dr. Menzel and his heirs. In the picture at the bottom of page 4, the light patches are obviously reflections in the lens of the camera

(they are — as they should rightly be — completely in line with the Sun, which is up above, to the right of the picture, and the line passes right through the centre of the field.) On page 6, the two photos may very well (in the absence of any indications as to the position of the Sun in the photographic field) be explicable as the luminous condensations of a solar halo or parhelion seen through the fine ice crystals of a slight mist or a diffuse cirrus cloud. Anyway, there is the wherewithal there to gladden the MUFOB folk. As for me, I am saddened.

Yours sincerely,
Pierre Guérin

Astrophysicist, Chief of Research,
National Centre for Scientific Research
30 June 1976.

From Dr. David Jacobs

To The Editor,—I thank Colin Bord for his kind words about my book, *The UFO Controversy in America*, (FSR, Vol.21, No.6) and for pointing out several errors in one paragraph about George Adamski. I have asked the publisher of the paperback edition to correct these and other errors. Part of the confusion came about because I misread Adamski's phrase "seven loaded films" to mean seven rolls of film rather than seven single negatives.

Mr. Bord says that I have made Adamski seem like an idiot. This was not my intention. Adamski was far from being an idiot. Indeed, he was a very clever and shrewd fellow. To suggest that he was anything less is to denigrate his ability to tell a splendid tale, inspire confidence and trust, and make money from these talents. I certainly would not want to take away credit where it is due.

Mr. Bord complains that I did not write about Adamski objectively. I take issue with this. I treated him as the evidence overwhelmingly indicates UFO researchers should treat him — as a person who fabricated a hoax. To believe anything else about Adamski is to launch oneself into the subjective realm of the "will to believe" which has no place in UFO research.

Sincerely,
David M. Jacobs
Department of History, Temple
University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
June 6, 1976.

The Knutson photograph

Dear Sir,—I would like to thank Mr. S. Conway of British Columbia for providing additional information on the Knutson photograph (FSR, Vol.22, No.1). However, it does not change my opinion of it.

Mr. Conway quotes a number of interesting sightings occurring in the Surrey area where the picture was taken. These may be quite extraordinary but they have no bearing on the reliability of Knutson's alleged sighting of a UFO. Each case must be judged on its own individual merits and not on the basis of other sightings happening within weeks or months.

A point on witness sincerity. I had mentioned the Alec Birch photo in my previous letter (FSR, Vol.20, No.6). Here is a case of a fourteen-year-old schoolboy fooling everybody for an entire decade, including a variety of "experts." He was very sincere. The fact remains that the photo was always a hoax and was accepted by UFO researchers as evidence of the existence of extraordinary machines in our skies. Also, the photo would, possibly, still be considered unknown if Mr. Birch had not exposed himself. Here is the problem. Is David Knutson only sounding sincere? A lie detector test may resolve this problem.

Mr. Conway also mentions that the photo shows two UFOs. If he is referring to the dot above and a little to the right of the disc in my copy of the picture (FSR, Vol.20, No.4), then he is weakly defending his case, indeed, as the dot looks like a dust speck to me. Remember, the picture is taken through a window which may have been spotted with a few specks of lint. As a matter of fact I see *three more UFOs* in the photo, two a little less than ¼ inch from the right edge and 1 7/8 inches from the bottom and one 1/8th inch from the left edge and 2 1/16 inches from the bottom.

In conclusion, Mr. Conway is convinced of the validity of the case but has ignored my criticisms in my other letter. I am convinced of the validity of these criticisms and would want these answered before I would take the Knutson case seriously.

Sincerely,
Barry Greenwood
6 W. Hancock Stree, Stoneham
Mass, 02180, USA
July 5, 1976

Fátima Thought-forms

Dear Sir,—I would like to suggest the following hypothesis concerning the events at Fátima in 1917. My suggestions are based upon the many weeks of patient study I undertook during which time I used the literature at the Catholic Central Library, and material from abroad. The theories are largely those of C.G. Jung, who mentions Fátima at least twice to my knowledge. In correspondence with the Jung Institute in Zurich I have been unable to ascertain whether he mentions Fátima in detail in any of his writings. They do not know.

Jung, as you know, developed the idea of the Collective Unconscious. The *personal* unconscious was seen as a self-regulatory mechanism. Similarly the Collective Unconscious was thought to possess these characteristics. It would appear that whenever some massive imbalance occurs in the collectivity the regulatory mechanism comes into play. I base this hypothesis on the study of apparitions through the ages. These manifestations occur at times of social upheaval. Where the human collectivity is leaning too much one way, the Collective Unconscious will throw up a message in terms relevant to the peoples' belief and experience.

Fátima is the most interesting example of this phenomenon since it was a multiple witness case. It occurred, characteristically, when the inclination was too much towards the left, i.e. shortly before the Russian Revolution. Here, clearly, the compensatory mechanism came into play. Detailed study of the 'lady of light' show her to be right-wing authoritarian!

May I suggest that these entities were neither the 'soul-forms' of historical characters nor beings from outer space, but thought-forms from the Collective Unconscious manifesting themselves in terms we can understand.

Gay Mosley
Flat 26, Norman Court
154/160 Lower Richmond Road,
Putney, London SW15 1LU

Ufology in Yugoslavia

Dear Sir,—In Yugoslavia there are now many UFO clubs and societies, most of them for students and young people. The oldest, most popular and well-known is "NLO Društvo" ("UFO Society"), Studentsko naselje, ul. Zveza Solt 4, 61000 Ljubljana, S.R. Slovenija; the President is Mrs. Alenka Brenčič, and I am also a member.

A year ago, a group of students from Belgrade University established a research society "Man and Space," which has a ufology section. Our

President is Professor Slobodan Petković, who is a member of several international UFO societies.

We have our own UFO and popular science library with a number of good books in various foreign languages, and a few in Serbo-Croate, such as Frank Edwards' book "Flying Saucers — Serious Business" "Leteći tanjiri — osbiljno pitanje." Many of these books were donated by our friends and collaborators in ufology worldwide. We have some copies of *Flying Saucer Review* too. In Belgrade's biggest library, the "National Library of S.R. Serbia," there are complete volumes of *FSR* for the last few years. All library members who are interested can read them. Your magazine helps us to improve and spread our knowledge of ufology, as Yugoslav libraries, bookshops and information centres have very little literature on the subject.

Shortly, our ufology section at the University will publish a monthly UFO journal in the Serbo-Croate language. At present, the "UFO Society" at Ljubljana publishes a UFO newspaper, *Almanah*, but as yet it is only obtainable in the Slovenian language.

We would like to develop collaboration with other societies and clubs throughout the world, and are always grateful to receive literature — especially in the English language.

Markovic Vladimir,
Vukasovičeva 21, 11191, Rakovica,
Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The bottle cooler business

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest your article in connection with my discovery last September of a bottle cooler in a London restaurant, and I should like your readers to know that I will not be held responsible for the discovery going to press as I had no intentions of releasing my story in connection with George Adamski and this cooler, without checking out the patent number of the machine first.

Exactly how the press became aware of the discovery remains a mystery to me, but I can assure your readers that any comments which I made through the press and television

media last September about George Adamski and his claims, were made in full belief that the patent number had already been checked and found to be issued in the late '40s. It was not my aim to discredit Adamski but merely to pose a question as to the authenticity of his claims. It was subsequently discovered that the bottle cooler was manufactured in 1959 seven years after Adamski took his picture of the Venusian Scout Ship, and by a refrigeration engineer from Bristol.

I have heard much criticism about the story but no consideration for what feelings Adamski may have had about the whole affair, and it is my belief that in the main he would have like so many others, laughed at my discoveries...

... Yours sincerely
Richard Lawrence,
Flat 1, 4 Belsize Square,
London N.W.3.

[This is an extract from Mr. Lawrence's long letter, in which he concluded that the publicity which went with the "bottle-cooler" furore, would have brought more people to seek out Adamski's books, and so on. This is something of a change of attitude from that in his letter to me dated September 13, 1975, in which he wrote that readers of *FSR*:—

"...may be interested to know that the famous photograph of a Venusian Scout Ship taken by George Adamski in 1952 is in fact the lamp of a 1940's portable beer cooling machine made by Pormer Products."

That much was 'released' to *FSR*, presumably before the facts of the patent were checked, six days before the story, with photograph, got into the "Evening News," and most other papers.

My editorial on the bottle cooler rumpus was in no way a vindication of the Adamski claims, but was instead a warning about the dangers of releasing unchecked and dubious facts to the press whether they concern Joe Soap, Tom Bloggs, or Adamski, presumably in an attempt to seek publicity.—EDITOR]

BACK ISSUES OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The following are available . . .

Vol. 22 1976	Nos. 1 and 2	Vol. 18 1972	Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
Vol. 21 1975	Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Vol. 17 1971	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
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World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

UFO over Redruth

This item is taken from the Cornish newspaper, *The West Briton* of July 15, 1976, relating to an incident on July 9, 1976—

"For about five minutes on Friday, three adults and at least 90 children at Treleigh CP School, Redruth, watched a spherical object cross high in the midday sky... and what exactly it was is a complete mystery to them.

"Most of them — they watched from the school yard — agreed that it resembled two dinner plates face to face.

"It was white and spinning," said Miss Deborah Foster, a teacher. "It appeared to be very high up, and came from the Truro direction. We lost sight of it over Carn Brea. It was saucer-shaped and seemed to have an aura or halo."

"Another teacher, Mr. Sam Hawkins, said he clearly saw silver and yellow flashes at 90 degrees to the object's direction. He said it was travelling very slowly. 'It went through high cloud, yet we could still see it,' he added.

"Mrs. Sylvia Harris, school secretary, agreed it was round and whitish. She also saw flashes from it. 'They were like lightning and were spasmodic,' she said. 'I have never seen anything like it before.'

Miss Foster added: 'It was a little frightening. I do not like anything I cannot explain.'

"Pupils said there was no sound, and the sphere changed to a green hue when it went behind high clouds. They agreed it was spinning and say they saw flashes from it. They were certain it bore no markings.

"Mr. Sidney Thorne, head-master — who is interested in unidentified flying objects — missed the sighting. He said it could not have been a weather balloon, as the object's journey included a distinct manoeuvre. He added that unexplained objects had been sighted at the school and by parents at Northcountry, Redruth, in March and November, 1973."

Credit: Tony 'Doc' Shiels of Truro, Cornwall.

New Zealand

Occupants seen near Auckland

From the pages of the *New Zealand Spaceview* No. 66, Journal of New Zealand Scientific Space Research of Auckland (as reported in the

Australian UFO Bulletin of May 1976), we learn how on January 8, 1975, at about 11.30 p.m. Dale Norton and Miss Sheryl Ricard were returning from a flounder fishing trip, when they saw a brightly lit globe in the sky in front of them.

They were driving along the Alfriston Road about half a mile from Brookby, Auckland. Mr. Norton said it was an aeroplane when it was lost from sight behind trees, but once they had passed the trees the object closed in and passed over the car and over a field beside the road. Mr. Norton slowed the car to get a better view.

Miss Ricard said she saw a circular object with a bright white dome in the middle and two red and two white lights on the rim. There seemed to be four "legs" protruding underneath the UFO and a small red light at the foot of each "leg". Inside the apparent "plexi-glass" dome, she could see three shadowy figures moving around.

The object now came close and paced the car; it was above power lines along the right-hand side of the road.

The UFO, about the size of an average family car was about 24 feet away, and when Mr. Norton said he would stop for a better view, Miss Ricard became very agitated.

Mr. Norton drove into a house drive-way and switched off the car's engine; they could hear a humming noise. After a few seconds the object shot off over the hills, before the house holder, who had emerged to see what was happening, had time to see anything.

Weather conditions were fine and clear, with no wind.

Mr. Norton's mother, a registered nurse, saw Miss Ricard was in a state of shock when they arrived at her home, and she administered tranquillisers.

Canada

Mountie UFO witness silenced

From the *Vancouver Sun* of April 26, 1976, we learn (in a report dated 'Terrace') some details of an event which is said to have occurred on April 21, 1976,— "Bill Toffan, the 21-year-old Terrace RCMP constable who said he had a near crash last Wednesday after sighting an unidentified flying object while on highway patrol, has been ordered by his superiors not to comment on the incident.

"Toffan says he would be putting his job on the line if he said anything further, but his superior says there is nothing out of the ordinary in the order.

"RCMP subdivision head, Edward Trefry, denied there is any police cover-up of the incident.

"We're not trying to hide anything. It's simply policy which has been laid down throughout this subdivision that all press releases are made by senior personnel at each detachment instead of by the individual officer.' Inspector Trefry said in an interview from Prince Rupert.

"This is to avoid confusion and there are no exceptions to the rule,' he said.

"According to a press release made last week by Staff-Sgt. Murray Morrison, commanding officer of the Terrace detachment, Toffan saw a vehicle with its lights flashing ahead of him on Highway 16 about 60 miles east of Prince Rupert.

"However, when he drew closer, he discovered it was not on the road, but was flying. As Toffan drew abreast of the air-borne object there was a blinding flash. He was so startled he nearly lost control of his car. He stopped and investigated the area on foot but found nothing.

"Immediately after the sighting, Toffan dropped out of sight — on four days' prearranged leave, according to Morrison.

"Morrison told a reporter Friday that police further checked the area in daylight but found nothing to assist them in identifying what Toffan saw.

"As far as we're concerned, the matter is now closed,' Morrison said then.

"He was unavailable for comment today.

"The earlier theory of a light aircraft in trouble has been discounted by the rescue co-ordination centre in Victoria."

Credit to: W.K. Allan of Kelowna B.C.

Australia

Car pacing at Dargo

This item is based on a report which appeared in the *Australian UFO Bulletin* of May 1976, issued by the Victorian UFO Research Society of Moorabbin. The witnesses were a young man and his cousin, a middle-aged lady.

The incident took place at about 11.00 p.m. on January 28, 1976, at a point some three miles from Dargo, in Gippsland, Victoria. The witnesses are farmers who, at that time, were harvesting a cucumber-gherkin paddock. When picking finishes for the day an irrigation pump is switched on, and is switched off at 11.00 p.m. This,

presumably, is one of the things the witnesses were setting off to do when things began to happen.

The evening was dark, with the moon in its last quarter. What was thought to be a "shooter's spot light" was seen by the witnesses from their car when they were just outside the built-up area at Dargo. As the car approached the "spot-light" it was found to be instead a brightly luminous object floating in the air alongside the road; as the car drew level the object began to pace them at about 45 mph. Where the road ran for a mile in a deep cutting they lost sight of the object, and then, when they turned off the main road to take a gravel track by a paddock on the side of a hill, they saw the light again, traversing the paddock.

According to their testimony it reached the top of the hill before they did, and waited above a gateway in the fence which bordered the track. As the witnesses passed it, they saw that the light was the colour of the full moon, and that it was about 2 feet in diameter and had two projections about one foot in length, one on either side horizontally, and two similar projections beneath, each at an angle of 45° from the vertical.

The witnesses kept the car moving, now downhill with a 30-40 ft. bank on their right, and a steep drop to their left. The object now gave forth a great glare and illuminated the inside of the car as bright as if it were a midsummer's day.

The object kept pace with them, but above the trees on the bank. The car went down the track swinging to left and then to right, descending 300 feet, while the object maintained its station, giving out less light, and looking like a full moon in the sky. The car crossed a paddock at the bottom of the slope, and through a gate to reach the pump, close by some sheds.

With the irrigation pump turned off, the witnesses became thoroughly scared when it seemed the object, which had hovered above the sheds, now moved to follow them. The young man drove the car flat out across the paddock, up the hill and down towards the road with the UFO following them. Just as they joined the highway, the object gave another intense, prolonged "flash".

At that point another car came along, and when its lights had passed, they could no longer see the UFO.

The two people arrived home, looking, and feeling, pretty scared.

Weather conditions in the mountainous area were a clear night with no wind.

The object was described as "brighter than a sodium street light" and at its closest it was about 20

Spain

Motorcyclist chased by UFO

According to a report dated June 1, 1976, from Joaquín Mateos Nogales of the UFO Investigation Group at Gerena (Sevilla), a remarkable sighting occurred at 8.10 p.m. on the evening of February 15, 1976, at kilometre 7 on the Olivares-Gerena highway, some 30 km. from the provincial capital, Sevilla.

Francisco Calero Gelo, aged 27, bricklayer, and Ignacio Pérez Carmona, aged 26, agricultural worker (both of Olivares) were travelling to Gerena on the motorcycle of the second-named when, about a kilometre before reaching an old ruined tower known locally as "la Torre Mocha," they were suddenly alarmed to see, no more than five metres from the edge of the highway and hanging stationary at only one metre from the ground, a cigar-shaped craft about 30 metres long. They got to a distance of 100 metres from it, and then their engine cut out.

They could see about twenty windows along its length, all lit by an intensely vivid red light which made it impossible for them to make out whether the windows were round or square.

Thoroughly alarmed, the two witnesses turned round and fled back to Olivares at full speed. When they had gone about one kilometre Ignacio perceived in his driving mirror that something was following them. Francisco, riding pillion, then looked round and saw that there was an intensely vivid white light almost right over their heads. This light continued to pursue them for some four or five kilometres, until they were a couple of kilometres or so outside Olivares.

Reaching that town in a state of fearful panic, they pulled up at the local filling station. They said they had almost had an accident through taking a corner too fast, so great was their fear.

Investigations have shown both witnesses to be reliable, steady individuals, not given to exaggeration and not seeking publicity.

Credit and thanks to Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla. Translation by G. Creighton.

Gigantic UFO at Cambrils

According to a report published in the Barcelona magazine *Lecturas* (May 28, 1976) a professor and his wife and son were driving in their car along the coastal motorway from Tarragona to Valencia, down the central eastern side of Spain, when they saw and photographed a gigantic UFO.

The Professor, Don Vicente Ballester and his family live at Hospitalet, near Barcelona. The sighting was at 12.45 p.m. on March 22, 1975. They had just passed through Cambrils when the son, aged 13, pointed out a strange great 'cloud' in the sky. However, as the professor told reporters, the sky was totally clear and this was no 'cloud'! There were in fact many UFOs. The one shown in the photographs (apparently very good pictures indeed, though FSR have only received photostats) is of disc type. The professor described how they saw six craft emerge from this large one and fly off, and then about ten or eleven more small ones appeared in the distance and entered the 'mothercraft'.

Asked how far distant the machine was from his car, Professor Ballester estimated that it was about one kilometre. He said they had a perfect view of it, and he estimated its width at not less than 50-70 metres. It was grey beneath and white on top.

They stayed there and watched it for no less than one hour, during which period it was totally immobile. Then it vanished from sight in less than thirty seconds.

The nuclear plant of Vandellós is close to the place where this sighting took place.

(Of the two photographs reproduced in the magazine, one was evidently taken from a greater distance and the image, though very clear, is smaller. The second photo however looks most impressive. Can any of our friends in Spain get some prints for us?)

No details about the camera are given, except that it was automatic.)

Credit: Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla. Translation and précis, G. Creighton.

Argentina

Olavarría Oyster

According to a report dated June 1, Aires newspaper *La Razón* of May 12, 1976, a 47-year-old truck driver from Olavarría, named Néstor Urruti, claims that he was kidnapped by extra-terrestrial beings on May 14, 1976, as a result of which experience he is still suffering disorders of a physical, mental and neurological nature.

The report from the newspaper's correspondent at Mar del Plata about the case runs as follows:

"I suddenly saw something like a gigantic oyster which emitted a brilliant and blinding light. It opened... and I found myself inside it, with my truck."

"Such is the fantastic story of an astonished truck-driver, who claims to have been 'kidnapped in the early

hours of a foggy morning by extra-terrestrial beings.'

"The name of the driver is Néstor Urruti, and he lives at Balcarce in the Avenida Circunvalación, in Olavarría. As a result of his strange encounter, he is now the talk of the town.

"He related his incredible experience as follows: 'I was driving across a bridge on the Avenida Pringles in a thick fog when I saw *that thing*... It opened up like a big oyster, and was very dazzling. Immediately after that, I found myself inside it, along with my truck. From that moment on all was completely dark. The tremendous brightness had blinded me. Afterwards I gradually began to see again, and saw a huge panel, three or four metres long

and shaped like a horseshoe. On the panel were instruments similar to clocks, with needles, but without numbers. On the panel there were also designs resembling flowers of weird shapes, in violet and yellow colours.

"I had begun to calm down a bit, when I felt a thing like a cask, with several cables attached to it, being put on my head. I heard many things said. Things I don't want to translate (*sic*) because I have got a wife and a daughter, and I don't want anything to happen to them...'

"When Urruti turned up later at the offices of the firm where he works, he was suffering from 'a bad attack of nerves.' The truck was also there, with its load intact. Urruti said the curious

event had occurred in the early hours of Friday, May 14.

"Urruti is still receiving treatment from the Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Coronel Olavarría Hospital, because he continues to be overcome by peculiar sensations between 3.00 and 3.15 a.m. As he describes it, 'I feel as though I am somebody else then.' His whole body is overcome by a sensation of languor, and then when he finally wakes up again he usually finds he has sharp pains in the neck and waist."

Credit and thanks to Sta. Jane Thomas of Buenos Aires, who made the translation.

REPORT FROM BUFORA

The British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) is the oldest existing national UFO group in the British Isles. In the past our relations with *Flying Saucer Review* have generally been excellent, and we are now more than grateful to be able to utilise this highly respected medium to bring news of current developments in this country.

It is very pleasing to see the growing realisation that co-operation within ufology is essential. Consequently BUFORA has made considerable efforts to further its links with other organisations by means of the introduction of 'liaison officers' whose specific task is to maintain this spirit of friendship. Great strides forward have been made with CONTACT, whose British branch is the other major national organisation. This has blossomed into close integration on field investigation and an ever growing awareness of the need to produce compatible data-gathering systems, and to work on joint research projects.

A very important major step has been the agreement between BUFORA and CONTACT to jointly produce an investigators' training manual. Most of the ground work for this has already been done by BUFORA, and hence publication is imminent. It is not the first such publication of its kind, but it is one of the few. Certainly it is an invaluable asset to any scientifically-minded group, forming as it does the basis for a comprehensive training programme to upgrade the standards of investigation work.

BUFORA have also decided to work on the compilation of a listing of research workers and their specialist fields. Initially this will be based on Great Britain, but it is planned eventually to extend it beyond our shores.

The co-ordinator of this work is BUFORA's Research Projects officer, Charles Lockwood, and he would be pleased to hear from any one who is involved in any specific research work (address: c/o Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, England).

To initiate this project a listing of hypotheses has been drawn up. We realise this may be controversial, or may omit something. Either way BUFORA would like comments on it. It also allows people to state which particular theory is the basis of their research work. The results of this should indeed prove interesting.

Suggested Hypotheses

- 1 That the sightings involve mis-identifications of objects which are man made or natural, and are well known to experts.
- 2 That the sightings involve man made devices known only to their inventors.
- 3 That the sighting reports are hoaxes or involve fabrications.
- 4 That the sightings involve natural events, which are not observed often enough by scientists to have produced suitable scientific explanations.
- 5 That the sightings are mental projections by, or received by, the witnesses.
- 6 That the sightings involve devices produced by one or more alien advanced technology, which originates: (a) Elsewhere in our universe, being (i) within our solar system, or (ii) within our galaxy, or (iii) beyond our galaxy, or (b) In a universe which is not obvious to us, yet using conventional techniques and which is (i) parallel to ours in space and time, (ii) parallel to ours in space, but not contem-

poraneous, (iii) parallel to ours in time, but not space.

- 7 That the sightings are of intelligent processes beyond our space-time continuum, and not explicable in any of the categories listed above.

It should be pointed out that BUFORA works on the assumption that most reports received are in category 1, with a small percentage in categories 2 - 5, but that a small percentage seem consistent with either category 6 or 7.

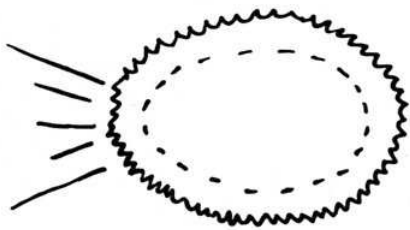
1976 Conference

Following last year's successful British conference held at Hanley, BUFORA is again to sponsor a scientific UFO convention. There will be papers on various fields of research, and discussion seminars in a similar vein. The event is to be held in the centre of the country, at Birmingham, on November 6 - 7 1976. Details are available from Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester.

To conclude this report we highlight some of the recent sighting reports received for investigation. Many, of course, do prove to have a natural explanation, but the following are some which are of greater interest:

Object over Laindon, Essex

Mrs. S, aged 28, is highly intelligent, a part-time probation officer who also has five years experience as a light aircraft pilot. She requests anonymity since she has already been subjected to some ridicule. On November 18, 1975, at about 7.20 pm, she was walking the short distance home from her mothers house. With her was her seven-year-old son. He spotted the object



← Direction of Travel

**Object seen at Laindon, Essex
November 18, 1975**

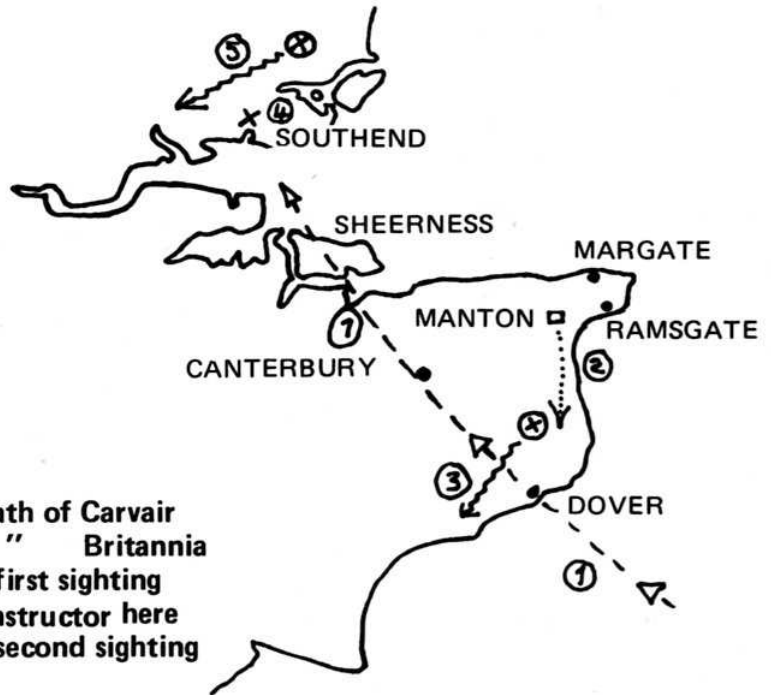
first, and pointed it out to his mother, who was disinterested. However, the object then crossed their path and glided silently through the sky towards them.

In shape it was like a flattened yellow pear, and was emitting sparks from the flattened end. It was also surrounded by a glowing aura. Mrs. S. was unable to say any more about the size, except that it looked as big as a 'Jumbo Jet' (Boeing 747). As the object came directly overhead the witnesses became frightened and quickened their pace. They rushed home with the object still directly overhead, and apparently quite low. On arriving indoors Mrs. S. switched off the light and called her husband across to see the 'thing'. It had moved, flattened end first, and had taken up a new position some distance away. It remained stationary there for twenty minutes before 'shooting upwards' into the clouds. It did not return.

The following day Mrs. S. did a great deal to try to identify the object. The airport told her that there were no aircraft in the vicinity and the cloud ceiling was found to be only 1000 feet at the time. She was also subsequently interviewed at great length by the Ministry of Defence. After a detailed investigation the BUFORA investigator, Barry King, was unable to trace any cause for this observation.

**Pilots see UFO over South East
England**

On February 25, 1976, Captain Philps was piloting a British Air Ferries *Carvair* from Basle to Southend. At 7.15 pm he passed over Dover at 4000 feet on a heading of 340 degrees. Manston radar informed him that a Britannia aircraft was taking off below him. He saw what he at first took to be this, although the direction that the control had given seemed incorrect. He could detect no shape,



KEY

- 1. Flight path of Carvair
- 2. " " Britannia
- 3. Object: first sighting
- 4. Flying instructor here
- 5. Object: second sighting

Flight path of Captain Philps February 25, 1976, with associated sightings

only a white light flashing very quickly and mixed with a steady red light. The object was gaining height slowly, from close to ground level, and gaining speed rapidly. It shot past them about one mile ahead, heading south-southwest, and after about thirty seconds just went out, like a lightbulb being switched off. He then saw the Britannia aircraft in its expected position, and could see the smallness of this other object by comparison.

Ten minutes later, whilst passing over Sheerness, still maintaining a speed of 180 knots, the object (or a similar one) was spotted again. This time it was only in view about five seconds, but performed similarly and cut across their path a little further ahead than previously. It also went out instantly.

Both sightings were reported over the radio, the first to Manston radar and the second to Southend. Both claimed that there was nothing on radar and no aircraft in the vicinity. Captain Philps has twenty five years experience and this is the first time he has ever seen anything he could

not explain. The co-pilot and the flight engineer also saw the object, plus a passenger on a *Carvair* going in the opposite direction (*Carvairs* are built mainly for transporting cars and do not carry many passengers). Apart from these, BUFORA were able to interview Mr. Barry Powling, a thirty-year-old flying instructor for Southend Aero Club. He was flying with a pupil at 2000 feet heading north. When he heard Captain Philps report his sighting over the radio he too spotted the object some miles ahead. It was apparently stationary and flashing white (about five second intervals in very fast bursts). There was also a steady red light. After thirty seconds the light just went out.

Although there is not a great deal of substance to the reports there is no doubt in the mind of investigator Andy Collins that all are truthful men. In view of their experience and the lack of alternative explanations it seems justified to call this report unidentified.

FSR CASE HISTORIES

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