

# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## CANADA

### "Censored" facts emerge

In a gossip column entitled "People", the Toronto *Daily Star* of October 6, 1970, carried the following item, a seemingly insignificant little piece with a neat explanation, tailor-made for the respective notebooks of J. A. Keel and W. T. Powers:

"Paul Scott, a 16-year-old Truro, N.S., youth, spotted an 'orange, yellow and green object as big as a bungalow,' trailing white smoke and emitting a high-pitched whine, as he was on his way to school this week, thus setting off the Maritimes' first flying saucer scare in some time. Paul's mother reported that the UFO sounded 'like a kitten being killed' and there were reports that horses in a nearby field were terrified. Canadian and U.S. officials were trying to piece things together yesterday, and the anti-climax apparently is that the mysterious object was an artificially produced barium ion cloud used by the U.S. space agency for atmospheric research."

It so happened that the reader who sent us this clipping was able to obtain a copy of the UPI story, presumably the *Daily Star's* source, as it came off the Canadian Press wire. In the interests of accuracy we here fill in those points which were omitted from the newspaper's version.

The emergence of a far-from-insignificant news item suggests the newspaper version could be just one more essay in the gentle art of de-bunking.

1. The wire story was headed: "*Thing 10/5 MR*" and datelined Halifax, Nova Scotia. The story was numbered 244A. It can be assumed the date of the incident was October 5.

2. Truro is some 60 miles N.W. of Halifax.

3. Paul Scott was "*One of the first to spot the object . . .*"

4. Paul "*. . . ran home to his mother, who said she saw the object as it disappeared over the horizon.*"

5. It was U.S. officials of NASA at Norfolk, Virginia, who announced that . . . "*the object Nova Scotians saw early Monday was 'an artificially produced' barium ion cloud . . .*"

6. Completely omitted was the following information: "*The Canadian Armed Forces Radar base at Sheerwater, near Halifax, said it made contact with a 'solid, stationary unidentified object' at 6.10 a.m. (AST). 'The object was motionless and stayed*

*that way for about 10 minutes,' said the Base Air Traffic Control Officer, Capt. R. G. H. McKendry. 'That's pretty unusual,' he added. His report placed the object at an altitude of 2,500 feet, seven miles north of the base. Contact was lost when radar control had to be redirected to incoming aircraft.*"

7. We learn that: "*Local radio stations were flooded with reports from early risers, some of whom expressed concern.*"

## ENGLAND

### Mystery animals again?

In 1964 a number of reports were received telling of mystery Pumas, sometimes associated with strange aerial light beams, and even, in South Africa, with a flying saucer. Mystery animals have been reported from time to time since then; here is the latest, reported in the *Daily Mail* of August 14, 1970:

"Animal resembling a black panther was seen by AA patrolman at Telegraph Hill, near Exeter, Devon. Several similar sightings have been reported there recently."

Again, in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* of August 14:

"A.A. patrolman Les Richards believes he saw a black panther while on patrol duty near the main Torbay road, Exeter. Police searched the area but found no trace of it."

(Credit: **Unknown reader**, to whom we also would like to say "Thank you" for other support!)

## MALAYSIA

### Very little men!

A strange story from Singapore and Malaysia burst on us at the end of August. The account which follows (we will include extracts from other accounts where additional information appears in them), is taken from the *Singapore Straits Times* of August 21, 1970. It was forwarded to us by G. Hagland, who had just returned from Malaysia to rejoin his school at Witley, Surrey. The account is datelined "Penang, Thursday" (August 20). Penang is an island off the West Coast of Malaysia.

[A well-meaning reader recently asked me why I had included the bizarre story of the tiny aeroplane and pilot in *FSR* for July/August 1970. I explained that reported UFOs and occupants come in all shapes and sizes, and, as it is within the bounds of possibility that some of the things seen and reported are images induced, perhaps by radiation or by a form of hypnosis, in the minds of wit-

nesses who could be under some form of control at the time—even to the extent of inflicting injuries on themselves, or making holes in the ground—we cannot afford to overlook anything—EDITOR.]

"The 'little men' are here again—if you are to believe six little Bukit Mertajam schoolboys.

"The boys, all students of the Stowell English Primary School, claimed that a soup-plate sized flying saucer landed near them as they were playing 'cops and robbers' in the bush beside the school yesterday evening.

"One boy claimed that he was even shot at by one of the five 'horrible looking' three-inch space Lilliputians, using a minuscule space gun.

"Whether it was mass hallucination or over-wrought imagination of the boys, the tale has gripped the whole Bukit Mertajam district in Central Province Wellesley with flying saucer fever. By tonight, hundreds of people were converging on the school, which was forced to shut its gates.

"This is the first report of a Malaysian 'landing' of a flying saucer since a similar story of 'little men' being found near a Johore Bahru school last year.

"The six boys who reported their unearthly brush with the tiny spacemen were: Mohamad Zulkifli, 11, Abdul Rahim, 10, David Tan, 9, Sulaiman, 10, S. Vickneswaran, 10, and Mohamed Ali, 8.

"We went back to the scene at about 6.30 this morning and found the saucer still there, surrounded by the spacemen," said Zulkifli today. "They were only about three inches high but they looked horrible," he added.

"Another boy, Mohamed Ali, told the headmaster, Mr. Ooi Keat Guan, that one of the spacemen took out what looked like a little gun and took a shot at him.

"It struck me on my hand, but didn't hurt very much. All I felt was a little pain."

"Mr. Ooi promptly proceeded to the scene with another teacher but found no trace of the space ship or the aliens.

"Zulkifli said some of them were busy playing when they suddenly saw a small flying object land near them.

"To our amazement five little men put out a gangway and alighted from the saucer," he said. "One of them, obviously the leader, was dressed in a yellow suit. The other four wore blue uniforms. We then saw them installing an aerial on a tree branch and send out signals. We got scared and ran away."

"Early this morning, some of the



Little men and "Saucer" as drawn by the boys

boys went back and saw the flying saucer still there.

"It had been moved a few yards but the spacemen were guarding it," they said.

"At 11 a.m. today, Sulaiman and Vickneswaran returned to the spot during the school recess but the flying saucer had disappeared. They, however, saw the aerial still hanging over the tree branch.

"Mr. Ooi said tonight that he had questioned the boys and he felt the whole thing was a figment of their imagination."

*Copies of other newspaper accounts were given to FSR by Richard Beet and Ron Toft of Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, while yet another batch was received from A. Pezarro of Hong Kong. These consisted of other editions of the Straits Times for August 21 and 22, 1970.*

From the latter article we learn that: ". . . It was 10-year-old K. Wigneswaran [same boy—different spelling—as the one in the earlier account?—Ed., FSR] who spotted the one sporting the horns as he emerged from his spaceship yesterday. He must have been the leader, as he was wearing a yellow uniform while his four companions each with his own ship sported a more mundane shade of blue.

"They're pretty fierce when aroused, too. The five were armed with miniature space blasters and the one with horns loosed off at Wigneswaran when the youngster tried to capture him.

"The result? A small red dot on Wigneswaran's right leg which he is proudly showing his chums as a battle scar today.

"Unlike true Outer Space tradition, he fainted after the extra-terrestrial

attack, and woke up in a classroom. He had been discovered where he fell among the blukar outside the school perimeter fence and carried there by prefects.

"It was Wigneswaran who reported seeing 25 tiny men stepping out of a similar number of space ships at the same spot on Wednesday."

*There was another casualty of the so-called violent "mini-men". He was Mohamed Ariffin bin Mokhtar, aged seven, an afternoon pupil whose father is a police corporal.*

"Cpl. Mokhtar bin Haji Taib said: 'When he returned home at 6.30 last night, he told my wife and me he had seen two tiny spacemen among the blukar outside the perimeter fence.

"When he tried to catch them, one shot him. He had a small cut on his left hand and my wife treated the wound.'"

*There was another reported encounter which, while non-violent, was perhaps even more interesting, particularly with regard to the method of departure described by the boys.*

This was . . . "the case of T. Veerasingham, another 10-year-old and his pal A. Devaraj, 12. After classes yesterday, they went to a spot in the blukar where there were reports of a tiny space ship landing on Wednesday. Sure enough, they saw two miniature figures, one perched on a branch, the other taking it easy on a rock on the ground.

"When the boys tried to gain immortality as the first pair ever to capture a spaceman, the little men simply vanished.

"The boys are prepared to swear in a temple that they were telling the truth.

"Veerasingham, who tried to capture the one on the branch said: 'He was about three inches high and the branch was about three feet from the ground. He too was wearing a yellow suit and had only one arm—his left. I am very definite I saw him. He was sitting on the branch shaking his head from side to side claspng what looked like a tiny gun.'"

*One report stated that CID officers had called at the school to question the boys, while we read, finally, that the headmaster questioned all the boys carefully and that they insisted on the truth of their stories.*

"Mr. Ooi said he brought two of the pupils, Mohamed Shukri and Abdul Rahim, to the scene again this morning, and they still maintained that they had not been imagining things.

"I don't know what to think," Mr.

Ooi said pensively. 'Frankly, I don't believe them. They might have seen some leaves or insects moving and mistaken them for tiny spacemen.'"

## CANADA

### Noisy UFO illuminates bridge

From the Ontario newspaper, *Peterborough Examiner* of August 7, 1970, we learn how, on August 5—

". . . 16-year-old Griffin Pink or RR 1, Bailieboro . . . near the Bensfoft bridge, seven miles south of Peterborough . . . with four other boys from the area, Jeff Bartly, 14, Garry Pin, 13, Joe Kolorz, 14, and Peter Greer, 16, said they noticed three strange lights in the sky about 11 o'clock Wednesday night.

"The boys were walking toward the bridge when they noticed the lights. The bridge crosses the Otonabee River, connecting Peterborough and the United Counties.

"First we noticed a jet away up, and then all of a sudden the bridge was lit up as bright as day by this object," Griffin said.

"He estimated the object was about 5,000ft. high.

"Only the three lights in a triangular form were visible to the boys, and they were unable to see what form the object took.

"Griffin said the lights could have been landing lights on the craft. They were pointing down, not aimed horizontally as are the lights on a jet.

"The boys said they watched the craft for about two to three minutes, then it took off in an easterly direction with the three lights changing to amber colour.

"Then we noticed the noise of the craft," continued Garry Pink, 'which was far louder than any jet you've heard.'

"You know how loud the noise from a jet engine is when you're standing right behind it; well, this noise was twice as loud as that.'

"Griffin gave a firm 'Oh yes' when asked if he believed in UFOs and cited a similar instance about three or four years ago . . .

"That ship we saw above the bridge had to be controlled by intelligent beings," Griffin said, 'because it wouldn't bank when it changed course as a jet does, but it would just sort of jag back and forth.'

"The boys said they weren't scared by the eerie object, just curious about it."

Credit: H. H. McKay of Agincourt, Ontario.

## CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

### The Ra 2 sighting

A number of accounts of the sighting of a saucer-like object by the members of the *Ra 2* expedition have reached us.



We have chosen this short item from a Norwegian newspaper, *Morgen Avisen* of July 1, 1970—

"Thor Heyerdahl and his crew aboard *Ra 2*, the crew of the United Nations oceanographic ship *Calamara* and thousands of inhabitants of St. Thomas, St. Croix and other Caribbean islands, have told of the sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object in the early morning of Tuesday, June 30, at 02.45 hrs.

"The first report, from the navigator of *Ra 2*, described how, during his steering watch, he saw a flat, round and illuminated object. He alerted Mr. Heyerdahl and the Mexican anthropologist, Dr. Santiago Genoves. Together they watched it for 10 minutes. Also, the *Calamara* bound for a rendezvous with *Ra 2* reported their own observation of the object.

"Newspapers and broadcasting stations in the Caribbean islands reported that hundreds of people had telephoned in about the object. Several fishermen also reported having observed it."

Credit: Mrs. Eva Erichsen of Bergen, to whom we are also indebted for the translation.

#### ITALY

##### More Men-in-Black?

"Here's a delicious little piece for you, if you care to use it," wrote the sender of this item—

"The *Daily Times* of Victoria, B.C., Canada, Saturday, April 11, 1970, announces that all priests in Naples, Italy, will soon have identity cards, because unidentified men disguised in dark clerical clothes have been celebrating masses, and hearing confessions, in local churches. Now, that's a new angle!"

Credit: Professor P. M. H. Edwards of Victoria, B.C.

#### NORWAY

##### Motorist hurled to ground by UFO

There seems to have been a wave of UFO activity in Scandinavian countries in recent months. Here is the latest item—on which we may be able to comment in more detail in a later issue of FSR—taken from the *Yorkshire Post* of November 4, 1970—

"Oslo, Tuesday [November 3, 1970]: A 35-year-old Norwegian claims he was struck to the ground by the invisible rays of a flying saucer while driving along a desolate road in southern Norway.

"Reidar Salvesen, of Kristiansand, said he was blinded by a 'fiery disc' which hovered just above the ground in front of his car.

"He said he had time to write a description of the object before being hurled to the ground as the saucer soared away and disappeared in a flash of light." [A.P. item.]

#### PUERTO RICO

##### Red and blue UFO

The following account was published in the Puerto Rican newspaper *El Mundo*, of July 23, 1970. It related to an incident reported the previous evening, a Wednesday:

"A strange object was observed last night in the Metropolitan area by residents of the Villa Andalucia development, as well as in other parts of the capital.

"Sr. Mario, and Sra. Emilia Matos stated that they saw an object similar to a flying saucer, red in colour and blue at the edges, which moved slowly towards the west until it disappeared among the Mountains of Bayamón.

"Meanwhile the radar tower of San Juan reported that a number of calls had been received about the supposed UFO. The radars did not record any object in the indicated area, but continued the search in case something would show up on the screens.

"Officials of the Weather Bureau announced that they too had received telephone calls about the UFO. Although they do not have instruments for observing such objects, the Bureau stated that they did not see anything in the sky."

Credit: Alfonso Martinez Taboas, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, to whom we are also indebted for the welcome translation of the account.

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