

in any case, they will rejoin our ranks the moment it becomes fashionable again for them to do so.

1960 was not a good year for the sort of people we have just described, but it was a notable one for everybody who has taken a lasting interest in flying saucers.

In nearly every issue of this year's REVIEW will be found an admission by one scientist of note after another that he has had to abandon the long-held theories concerning outer space and the conditions on other planets. While it is true, as one of our contributors has pointed out, that not all astronomers in the past have held that life on the earth is unique, the predominant chorus of scientific opinion certainly led the public to believe that we *were* alone and therefore that the inter-planetary saucer could not exist. The fashionable astronomers certainly held that opinion. Sir Harold Spencer Jones, when Astronomer-Royal, advised us to bury the flying saucers for this reason: the present Astronomer-Royal still fights his rearguard action by asserting that "the surfaces of the moon and the planets

are so inhospitable that there is no question of living on them." But times have changed: Sir Harold Spencer Jones was listened to a few years ago when he acted Sir Oracle, but Dr. Richard van der Riet Woolley is laughed at or ignored. He has, without noticing it, been deserted by practically every other astronomer of note, Russian, English and American. Even the scientific journalist, Chapman Pincher of the *Daily Express*, has plucked up the courage to reply: "I say that Dr. Stay-on-the-Ground Woolley is in danger of finding himself sole holder of this belief five years from now."

The changed views of the scientists will take some time before they percolate downwards into the mind of the man-in-the-street, but the process will already have started. When it is complete the saucers will have arrived not just as a temporary fashion but as an accepted fact. This revolution in thinking will undoubtedly be traced back to the year 1960 which may, as a result, rank as one of the most important in the annals of the flying saucer.

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## **Heresies**

Orthodoxies are more than orthodoxies. They are vested interests. Around them are organisations, schools, funds, jobs. When a fact comes along that menaces the orthodoxy, the interests move into action. They pounce upon the poor little heresy and, if possible, suppress it. If they can't

suppress it, they "explain" it. If they can't explain it, they explain it away. If they can't explain it away, they quietly bury it. Our newspapers are full of little heresies. But their average life is only a few days and then "the rest is silence."

W. J. Brown.

# WHAT HAPPENED IN PAPUA IN 1959?

## A Consideration of the Papuan Sightings and their Significance

*By the Revd. N.E.G. Cruttwell*

WHEN the Revd. William B. Gill, of the Anglican Mission, Boianai in South East Papua, reported that on June 26 and 27, 1959, he had seen a "flying saucer" hovering over his Mission Station with men on it, who waved to him, the fact was in the fire. The story hit the Australian headlines and even got a few small paragraphs in the British press.

The report created a sensation because it was reported by a clergyman, who was presumably unlikely to be a deliberate liar. However, Fr. Gill has come under a great deal of criticism and says that he sometimes wishes he had never seen the object. Many have suggested that he had an hallucination, or that he misinterpreted some normal phenomenon (especially, of course, Venus). He himself is the first to say that, if anyone can give him a reasonable explanation of the phenomenon, he is prepared to accept it, but he cannot deny what he saw.

However, the evidence for the objects over Boianai does not rest on Fr. Gill's word alone. It was seen by at least 38 Papuan witnesses. Not only have I questioned Fr. Gill very closely on the subject and have been unable to detect any flaw or inconsistency in his story, but I have also seen most of the Papuan witnesses and have asked the most intelligent of them (all Mission teachers) to draw what they saw on that fateful evening. Each drawing was done independently and without the knowledge of the other or of Fr. Gill. These drawings, together, with the original sketch of Fr. Gill, are reproduced on page 5.

The drawings differ in detail, but agree in all essentials. This is what one would expect of a true happening. If there had been any collaboration all the details would have been the same. All the drawings (and the accounts) agree that the machine was round, had two decks, legs, a shaft of light and that four men appeared (though not all at the same time). Some mentioned illuminated panels, or portholes, and there was some disagreement as to the number of legs.

### **Some curious details**

Some of the details noted by Fr. Gill were very curious and most unlikely to have been invented. One of these is the extraordinary halo of light which surrounded the machine and also continued round the outline of the men, though not quite touching that outline. The men were also illuminated themselves by reflected light in the manner of men seen working high up on a building late at night illuminated by the reflection from an oxy-acetylene flare. When asked if he thought they were wearing transparent space suits, he said that that could have been the explanation, but he could not be certain. A possible explanation of the halo is that the machine was surrounded by a field of ionised air due to its high electrical charge, which would also be carried by the men in contact with it. Another curious point was the complete absence of sound. Although Fr. Gill and his boys shouted,

DRAWING OF OBJECT SEEN IN THE SKY AT BOIANAI MISSION  
IN JUNE, 1959.

[Drawing here]

1. Object seen by Stephen Gill Moi at 1 a.m. on 21st June.

Light Shaft (blue).

[Drawing here]

4 'men'

2 (? double) legs

2. Object seen by Stephen Gill Moi at 6.45 p.m. on 26th June. Stephen did not see the object on the second night, as he was at Dogura, 20 miles away.

Above drawings by Stephen Gill Moi.

Light Shaft.

3 men only seen 1st night.

[Drawing here]

4 men on 2nd night.

4 port holes

4 (? double) legs.

3. Object seen by Ananias Rarata on 26th and 27th June. Same object and time as Stephen Gill but seen again on second night. Drawing by Ananias Rarata.

Note similarity

[Drawing here]

to Ananias Drawing.

Drawing by

Dulcie Guyorobo.

4. Object seen by Dulcie Freda Guyorobo on 26th and/or 27th June. Same object and time as other witnesses.

These drawings done quite independently in the presence of the Revd. N. E. G. Cruttwell. They are direct tracings from the original drawings, unretouched. No suggestions were made. Each witness declared that this was what he or she had seen with his or her own eyes.

They were drawn on Jan. 25th, i.e. 7 months after the sighting. It is not surprising that details differ, but the essentials are remarkably constant.

[Signed] N. E. G. Cruttwell.

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IN JUNE, 1959.



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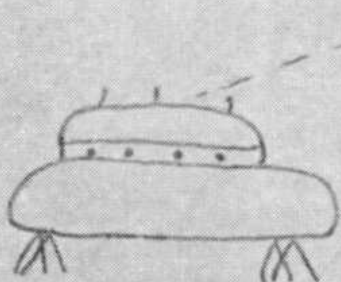
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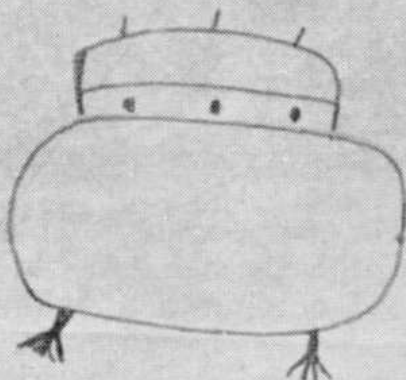
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*N.E.G. Cruttwell*



the figures responded only by waving and manœuvring the saucer, and neither they or their machine emitted any audible sound. The figures appeared to be human in their shape and proportions, but no detail could be made out and they were only seen from the waist upwards. That they were of normal stature is only an assumption as there was no scale by which to measure them.

If the Gill sighting were a single occurrence unrelated to any other, one might feel hesitant in accepting it. But it was only one of a wave of sightings over south east Papua extending over several months.

Quite unknown to Fr. Gill, on the very night (June 26) of his first sighting, a trader named Ernest Evennett was staying at Giwa on the other side of Goodenough Bay, about 15 miles from Boianai. He was astounded to see an object like a shooting star come down to within 500 feet of him, and reveal itself as an oval craft with a band round it and four portholes below the band. It hovered for four minutes just above him and appeared so large that he could cover only half of it with his closed hand at arm's length. He saw no men, but it was obviously a manned aircraft of some sort. When it took off again it made a curious triple sound described as "WOOMP, WOOMP, WOOMP!" It became brilliantly luminous with a green light and shot away over the mountains.

### Independent observations

This sighting is an amazing independent corroboration that there were strange things over Goodenough Bay that night. The coincidence that two independent observers fifteen miles apart would have invented seeing such similar objects at the same time is beyond reason.

On the second night of the Boianai sightings objects were also seen by the Government Officers at Baniara, A.D.O. Ronald Orwin and P.O. Robert Smith, and by the Roman Catholic Mission at Sideia. These objects were much farther away and appeared spherical in shape, but they further corroborate the existence of strange craft in the sky. The one seen at Baniara was accompanied by a small bronze disc which seemed to hover at a fixed distance below the glowing spherical object and moved in perfect sympathy with it, as if attached by an invisible wire. Then when the main object suddenly dived as if it was about to land, and became dazzlingly bright, the disc appeared to jump upwards to meet it and vanished into it.

Such an extraordinary phenomenon is hardly likely to have been invented, and has in fact

been observed occasionally in other sightings elsewhere, as recorded by M. Aimé Michel. It has been termed "The Eccentric Patch," and is supposed to be connected with the magnetic method of propulsion.

### Further cases

Other cases of saucer-shaped objects were reported in the month of July. One of these passed right over Menapi Station, where I work, in broad daylight. It was missed by me by about 30 seconds. On July 21, at 9.15 a.m., the school children were filing across the playground into church. About half of them had entered the building, but there must have been at least a hundred outside together with seven Papuan teachers. They suddenly noticed a "moving star" crossing the blue sky. As it came nearer they saw that it was "like a silver plate with a dark rim" and about the size of the sun's disc. It was travelling "faster than a plane" and wavering slightly as though affected by the wind. Unfortunately they waited too long before calling me. I rushed out of the house, telescope in hand, just too late to see the object, but only to see everyone staring over the coconut trees, where it had just disappeared. Apart from its shape, it could not have been a plane, as I myself can vouch for the fact that it made no sound. It could have been nothing else but a "flying saucer" and was in fact drawn as such by two of the teachers independently immediately after the sighting.

At about this time sightings were reported to me by Papuans almost every day. Twice objects were described of dome-shaped construction, apparently very similar to those described by Adamski and others. Nearly all sightings were at night, usually between 7 and 10 p.m. The objects were illuminated, generally with a steady white light, but occasionally fluctuating. Others changed colour at regular intervals, the colours being nearly always white, red and green. Some rotated as they went, and some emitted shafts of light.

These primitive people had never heard of flying saucers and were completely puzzled and often frightened by these objects. Many thought they were some wonder machine of the white man, and the Boianai people said that it must be the American Air Force come back.

There is an interesting pattern in the sequence of different types of object seen in the Papuan skies. The first recorded UFO was seen by the then Director of Civil Aviation in Port Moresby on August 23, 1953. This Mr T. P. Drury, of Melbourne, saw at midday a patch of white

cumulus appear in a clear cloudless sky, from which suddenly shot a silver bullet-shaped object at tremendous speed, leaving a dense billowing vapour trail. He had a movie camera and had the presence of mind to film the cloud and the object. He sent the film to A.T.I.C., who have retained the relevant part of it.

This is the only reliable report of a cylindrical object being seen over the territory, but it has been noticed by M. Michel that a "cigar-shaped" object with its "cumulus agité" is often the first to appear in a wave of sightings.

Though there were a few isolated sightings of "lights in the sky," it was not until the autumn of 1958 that they became at all frequent. During that year a number of inexplicable lights and a green flare were seen by many observers, myself among them. In April-May, 1959, there were increasing numbers of reports of white spherical lights "like Tilley lamps" crossing the sky and performing various manœuvres. Some appeared to be at quite low altitudes, one passing in front of a 4,000-ft. mountain. Clearly they were not astronomical.

Then in May the kaleidoscopic colour-changing lights began, reaching their climax in June and July and persisting till September. A few of these were associated with a noise like thunder, which was heard just after they were out of sight.

### Close approach

It was in June and July that the real "saucers" appeared, and the recognisable space-craft, which came close enough for their details to be observed. These I have already described. They appeared to be manned by intelligent beings.

In July and August we returned to spherical lights again, usually white, but sometimes changing colour and of quite large apparent size. Sometimes they were accompanied by the eccentric disc and sometimes by long needle-like rays of greenish light projecting below them, making three prongs diverging at an angle of 15 degrees.

They often remained stationary for long periods and then moved violently in a small area. They also appeared to fluctuate in size, one increasing steadily to the size of a florin at arm's length and then exploding with a blood-red flash, never to appear again. This was observed by a Patrol Officer and many native witnesses,

and he emphasised the weirdness of seeing such a huge explosion in the sky and hearing no noise whatever.

Finally in September there were a few more reports of moving lights and the wave ended in November with a white globe disappearing into a dark boat-shaped object over Koyabagira. Since then no more reliable sightings have been reported to the writer.

It appears that there was a wave of these objects and that they progressively came nearer and then gradually receded. Whether they were actually of many distinct types or whether their different appearance was a question of varying distances and luminosity it is hard to tell. I am inclined to think that the fluctuating spherical objects of rather vague outline were perhaps an envelope of ionisation round an object of fixed size. However, recent photographs in the REVIEW suggest that there may be objects in the sky of less solidity than others . . . but who knows?

### Systematic surveying

If we are honest we must always end with a question mark. One thing only is clear, in my opinion. The many witnesses, Government Officials, Doctors, Traders, Missionaries and intelligent Papuans cannot all have had hallucinations, many of them at the same time and in different places. There was something there. And the behaviour of these objects suggests that they were manned by intelligent, probably humanoid, beings, very like us, who for some reason of their own were making an intensive survey of this small area of South East Papua. It was noticed that these visitations were often repeated on subsequent nights in the same place and that they behaved in exactly the same way. They often hovered over one area for up to three or four hours before suddenly speeding away. All this suggests some kind of systematic measuring or surveying operation.

They do not appear to have had any hostile intent, indeed the waving to Fr. Gill seems to indicate definite friendliness. They have done no harm to anyone or anything and have now (apparently) departed. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why did they concentrate on this remote backwater of our planet? And why, having come so close, did they not land? These are questions we cannot answer. We need more evidence.

# A man on the moon?

## It may take longer than we think

By Derek Dempster

Derek Dempster, a former Editor of the "Flying Saucer Review," explains the human problems that await the first man attempting a landing on the Moon. It is instructive to consider that, if human beings exist on other planets and have been landing on the Earth, these problems, in reverse, must also have confronted those pioneers who first came to visit us.

*The first manned landing on the Moon came in July 1969 (Apollo 11 - with Armstrong + Aldrin!) Less than nine years after this article.*

FOR thousands of years men have looked at the stars and wondered. The majority attributed to them powers we have scarcely been able to verify; others wove fascinating tales around them, while a handful applied the limited instruments and powerful intellects at their command to discover the truth about the universe.

Today mankind is closer to discovering that truth than ever before, but whereas Hipparchus, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton and Einstein laboured for the sake of knowledge, their successors have been forced into an unholy alliance to continue the quest.

### The real motives

It would be difficult to disguise the real motives behind the race to put man into space, but when the fruits of such an achievement are considered, it is not surprising that such prodigious efforts are being made in the United States and the Soviet Union. The first nation to develop the capability of putting a man on the moon, manned observation platforms and radio and television repeater stations into orbit around the earth will obtain immeasurable military and propaganda advantages, and since the only two serious contenders for the laurels represent the ideologies now splitting the world in two, there can be no doubt about which would find favour this side of the Iron Curtain.

Political advantages apart, is space flight really essential or would the interests of scientific progress not be better served by adopting more modest aims—simply space research?

No scientist today could seriously assert that our knowledge is adequate enough to plan all phases of a manned trip to the moon with a high enough degree of safety for the space-ship's crew. We can only venture step by step into the perilous zone that separates us from our natural satellite. Even our experiments with unmanned satellites and space probes have gone forward gropingly; and this should be borne in mind when we consider the results achieved so far by the Americans and Russians, and why, despite giant strides in the art of rocketry, space research will be slow to yield comprehensive results.

And yet, here we are planning to put some unfortunate fellow, with little more than a mass of cold recording apparatus and a national flag for comfort, on the moon within ten years. The die is cast and when the momentous occasion has been announced with an avalanche of publicity, we shall all gape in wonder and for a couple of silent minutes mourn the pioneer who failed to return.

### The fulfilment of a dream

It is all very exciting, and it all adds up to the fulfilment of a dream that has haunted men for centuries; but it is far from logical, even though the great powers assert that science will have learnt enough by 1970 to ensure the success of such a mission.

As I see it, the moon pioneer of 1970 will not be able to contribute much—except perhaps his