

guidance; information, transmitted up to the moment of impact, indicated that the Moon has no magnetic field.

"A launching towards Venus with an economic trajectory is possible 87 days before each conjunction" (p.243). An exceptionally favourable conjunction took place in September, 1959, but neither the Americans nor the Russians were ready to take advantage of it. Conjunctions with Venus take place every year and seven months and the next, in April, 1961, saw a Russian vehicle speeding towards Venus, its transmitter gone silent; we may expect more fruitful attempts in the early Autumn of 1962 for the November conjunction.

Although it is not stated in the book, we realise that it is possible for astronomers to work out favourable times for launchings from our neighbouring planets towards Earth. We think that, if this were done and the results compared with periods of the greatest frequency of flying saucer sightings, it would provide circumstantial evidence of the planet or planets of origin of the visiting space craft. But the author does not speculate upon "space travel in reverse."

It is impossible to read this scientific book without being aware of its human implications. The decision in May, 1961, by the United States to compete with Russia in the conquest of space and, at unprecedented cost, to get a man to the moon and back before the end of this decade; the reception given by

the Queen and people of Britain to Yuri Gagarin and the simple words of the Minister for Air that, while we would have liked to welcome a British space hero, this is above politics. These are signs of hope for humanity.

It is as though, in the darkened rooms of Earth, the curtains are being drawn back from windows looking out upon the universe; one after another, a window is flung open and those within gaze with joy upon the beauties of nature spread over the field of view. Soon, the children will go out to play and the old folk sit at the doorstep, in the sun. There is no lack of space, but it is good and companionable to be near one another; how different it used to seem to the nations as they elbowed one another, before the windows were opened.

**WE WANT YOU** by Michael X; Futura Press, P.O. Box 38594, Los Angeles 38, California, U.S.A., \$2.00).

Here is drama on a vast and confusing scale for those who like to feel that big happenings are afoot, involving the prophecies of Nostradamus, the escape of Hitler to Patagonia and a mystery man named Michalek (no connection with the author). Karl Michalek is said to have begun in 1958 to write articles from Santiago in Chile for the newspaper *Neues Europa* published by Louis Emrich in Germany, announcing that he was in contact with the Government of Venus and, having been chosen by them

to be president of the coming world republic on earth, he delivered an ultimatum to Krushchev on March 12, 1960, and predicted a landing by the Venus Fleet on April 21, 1961.

Flying saucers are made in Patagonia, especially those with German-speaking crews, as well as on Venus; but no connection is apparent between the two kinds. In fact, this is the case with nearly every statement in the booklet.

Hitler's escape to the Argentine was made by submarine and his plans for world conquest are being organised by Martin Bormann: we are advised to read an article by George McGrath in the *Police Gazette* for December, 1960. However, plans for flying saucer construction were taken along and, in support, we are shown a drawing of an experimental copper model designed by V. Schauburger and built in Vienna by the Kertl Co. in 1940, as described by Egerton Sykes in the June, 1957, issue of *Uranus*.

What puzzles us is how sensation-seeking imagination can be earthbound to the extent of preferring to speculate about Patagonian-produced flying saucers (indiscreetly appearing in advance of *Der Tag*) rather than on the origin and nature of the interplanetary kind. Perhaps the latter, being beyond the scope of the author's imagination, do not offer suitable material for the sensational treatment he aims to provide.

—Our Reception Committee.

## BOOKS ON FLYING SAUCERS

While we try to help all our readers with their enquiries concerning books, we would like to remind them that we are not booksellers. It will obviate delay, therefore, if orders and remittances for books are sent direct to a bookseller and we recommend the John M. Watkins Bookshop in London and Allen's Book Shelf in Fontana, California. These booksellers are regular advertisers in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* and their addresses will be found in the current issue.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

5s. for 3 lines and 5s. for each additional line

**URGENTLY WANTED.** Copy of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, Vol. 3, No. 5 (1957, September-October issue). Offers to V. D. Oliver, 82 Moran St., Boulder, W. Australia.

**LUFORO Brains Trust**—Experts will answer your questions—Caxton Hall, Westminster: September 23, 7.30 p.m. Admission 2s. 6d. October 14: Lecture by J. Dale.

**INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN** gives ufological and Fortean informations from Europe—\$1 for four issues. Write to P.O. Box 1524, Amsterdam, Holland.

# FATHER GILL AND THE REV. LIONEL BROWNING

## *What the Officials had to say*

OUR readers will not need reminding that the sightings over Papua in 1959 and Tasmania in 1960 were among the most significant and trustworthy of recent years. In our May-June issue we issued a challenge to Squadron Leader F. A. Lang, of the Royal Australian Air Force at Canberra, to justify his statement in a letter to Dr. Finch that the objects sighted by Father Gill were not manned vehicles "from this or any other planet." To date we have received no reply, but the following correspondence sent to us by Mr. P. E. Norris, Hon. President of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society of Melbourne, should prove of great interest to those of our readers who like to note

100 Collins Street,  
Melbourne,  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.  
June 23, 1961.

The Editor,  
"Flying Saucer Review",  
1 Doughty Street,  
LONDON, W.C.1, ENGLAND.  
Dear Sir,

I read with interest your article in the May-June issue concerning Rev. Gill's sighting and the R.A.A.F. evaluation thereof. I enclose correspondence received from the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence which you may care to compare with that received by Dr. Finch.

The evaluation can be better understood if it is remembered that Rev. Gill actually sighted simultaneously two types of U.F.O.'s - a large "mother ship" with distinct features and manned by four apparently human beings, and several small comparatively indistinct discs which stayed at all times at a comparatively great distance from the observers. When Squadron-Leader Lang concludes in his evaluation that "at least three of the lights were planets", he is referring to the discs. At no time does he expressly refer to the "mother ship" - an agile evasion which is not readily discernible at first reading. In fact, had Rev. Gill and his party sighted only the discs, the R.A.A.F. evaluation would be practically unassailable. The nature of the "mother ship" therefore remains officially unexplained.

The ratiocinations of the authorities are even more extraordinary during their investigations into the series of Tasmanian

how the authorities all over the world react to sightings which cannot be simply explained away in terms of "balloons," "meteorites" and other conventional objects.

The first letter printed below is from Mr. Norris to the Editor and explains the background very lucidly. We should explain that the phrase "mother ship" as used by Father Gill did not refer to a cigar-shaped object but to the largest and nearest of the circular objects which he saw. In this instance, therefore, it is important that readers should bear in mind that the "mother ship" is in fact the object on which the four human beings were observed. It is this object that Squadron Leader Lang avoids mentioning.

sightings highlighted in October, 1960, by the Rev. Lionel Browning's report of a "mother ship" and several attendant discs. In a letter dated November 15, 1960 (original on V.F.S.R.S. files) the Minister for Air, Mr. F. M. Osborne, in effect admitted that his Department had been unable to adduce any natural explanation for Mr. Browning's sighting. But this did not deter Squadron-Leader Lang and his colleagues in Intelligence from analysing the Cressy U.F.O.s as "scud type clouds moving in varying directions due to turbulence". Mystery deepened when a thirty-five-year old Cressy woman, Mrs. Webster, and her eleven-year old daughter, Sally, sighted a "mother ship" apparently identical to that of Mr. Browning. They told V.F.S.R.S. investigators that R.A.A.F. officials had requested them not to repeat details of their sighting to members of the public.

I have enclosed copies of the official letters above referred to for your file.

I believe I may also be able to answer Mrs. L. Pugh's question stated in her letter to the Editor, concerning Rev. Browning's reported speculation as to whether the U.F.O.s are of Russian origin. The first report of his sighting appearing in the Melbourne papers bore the unfortunate headline: "Cleric, wife: 'We saw space-ship.'" Neither Mr. or Mrs. Browning at any time said anything of the sort. Realising that the value of his report would be seriously depreciated by the mis-quote, Rev. Browning quite rightly attempted to compensate it by being perhaps unduly sceptical in his later press utterances.

Having had several meetings with Rev.

Browning following his initial press statement, I can assure Mrs. Pugh that, whilst he remains highly objective in his approach to the subject, Mr. Browning does not seriously entertain the notion that U.F.O.s are Russian secret weapons.

Yours faithfully,  
(P. E. NORRIS, LL.B.),  
Hon. President.

From: Squadron-Leader F. A. Lang.  
Royal Australian Air Force,  
Directorate of Air Force Intelligence,  
Department of Air,  
Administrative Building,  
CANBERRA. ACT.

554/1/30 (5M) February 22, 1960.

Mr. P. E. Norris,  
Honorary President,  
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,  
100 Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 25th January, 1960. An officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of U.F.O. activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to appropriate authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201(AAA) dated 14th February, 1957, such reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the phenomena observed by the Reverend Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movements.

Yours faithfully,  
(F. S. Lang).

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
Minister for Air,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.  
November 15, 1960.

Dear Mr. Duthie,

I have received your letter of 9th November about the sighting of aerial lights reported by the Rev. Lionel Browning of Cressy, Tasmania.

My department does not interview everyone who claims to have seen unidentified flying object or unexplained lights in the sky. It accepts reports from any appropriate source of such sightings and assesses them for reliability. Those reports which appear to justify further examination are then subjected to another investigation in which the meteorological services, the civil aviation authorities and the Government Astronomer are asked to offer suggestions to see whether they can be explained. If no

natural explanation is given, a more detailed investigation is then carried out during which the persons who reported the sightings may be interviewed by Air Force officers.

In the present case my department has received a written report from the Department of Civil Aviation in Tasmania concerning Mr. Browning's experiences and as a result, Wing Commander G. Waller, the Resident Air Force Officer in Tasmania has been instructed to interview Mr. Browning and others.

The Flying Saucer Research Societies of Victoria and South Australia have asked for access to my department's files on several occasions, but I am not prepared to make such official documents available. My department will, however, examine and evaluate any information which these Societies may care to submit.

Yours sincerely,  
(F. M. Osborne).

G. W. A. Duthie, Esq., M.P.,  
The Opposition Whip,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
Directorate of Air Force  
Intelligence,  
Department of Air,  
Canberra, A.C.T.  
March 7, 1961

Telegraphic Address:  
"Airforce Canberra"  
In Reply Quote 554/1/30  
Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 24th February, 1961, the findings of our investigation are as follows:

"The Phenomena was (sic) the result of the moon rise associated with meteorological conditions at the time of the sighting. On 4th October, 1960, moon rise (full quarter) at Cressy would have been visible shortly after 1800 hours and in an ESE direction. The objects apparently seen were near the sky-line in an easterly direction. The presence of 'scud' type clouds, moving in varying directions due to turbulence in and around the rain squall near which the objects were sighted, and the position of the moon or its reflections, produced the impression of flying objects."

Yours faithfully,  
(H. Syme).

Mr. P. E. Norris, LL.B.,  
Hon. President,  
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,  
Box 32,  
TOORAK, VICTORIA.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
Directorate of Air Force  
Intelligence,  
Department of Air,  
Administrative Building,  
CANBERRA. ACT.

554/1/30

November 26, 1959.  
Thank you for your letter dated 16th

March, 1959, enclosing Father Gill's sighting reports. We have initiated enquiries into Father Gill's claims, but it is too early to have reached any conclusions.

Reports of this type are continuously filed in an attempt to develop sufficient

After having read this correspondence carefully, we can say that we do not believe in the explanations put forward by those in authority.

depth of evidence for accurate analysis to be made. It may, however, be some time before the required depth of evidence is available.

(H. B. Syme).

Mr. P. E. Norris,  
100 Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE. VIC.

Furthermore, we do not believe that those in authority believe in their own explanations.

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# LIGHTS OVER HERTFORDSHIRE

## *Witnesses Alarmed*

READERS of our World Round Up feature in this issue will notice that activity of UFOs over Great Britain seems to have reached a peak during the summer. An attempt to plot the sightings on a map revealed that the incidents were so numerous—hardly any region seems to have been missed—that the visitations resembled more a demonstration than a planned survey. It has led to the speculation that the attempt by Jodrell Bank to get into touch with the Russian Venus probe may have been misinterpreted as an attempt at a contact on our part and caused this demonstration. We did not have space to include all the incidents, but the following deserves special consideration as it contains a number of unusual features and was very well attested. In addition, the "explain-it-all-away" brigade had to admit defeat.

### **Two witnesses**

"Another unidentifiable object has been spotted over East Hertfordshire—an object which, because of its relatively low height, this time alarmed the two people who witnessed and reported its appearance." This was the beginning of the lengthy account written by Peter Lee in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* on July 7. The incidents occurred on June 30. The witnesses were eighteen-year-old Peter Wilkinson, of 147 Old Highway, Heddesdon, and his girl friend, Josephine Steele, of 11 Hoddesdon Road, St. Margarets. They had been watching the sun set and were sitting on a park bench. Then Peter looked up and suddenly saw two lights in the heavens set together as would be two car headlights seen from a distance, only more brilliant. "We jumped to our feet," Peter Wilkinson reported, "but the light appeared to move into the

distance, at an astonishing speed. It then became only a dot in the sky, veered to the right and disappeared."

### **Additional confirmation**

The couple were disturbed by what they saw and hurried home. "No sooner had we covered two or three yards, however, when we saw the lights again, this time much closer, but with the same brilliance." This time the twin lights seemed to move towards the couple. "We were considerably worried and ran for a group of houses near us." By this time the twin lights were partially blotted out by some trees, but were still visible through the branches and had apparently stopped moving. When the couple had nearly reached the girl's home they met a group of five or six people talking by the road-side. Asked if they had seen anything, one of the group replied: "Oh, I expect it is a Russian flying saucer!" But they admitted to seeing the twin lights.

The height of the object during its second appearance was estimated to be "that of a low-flying aircraft." Peter Wilkinson dismissed the idea that it was an aircraft because of its speed and the brilliance of the lights, which were yellowish in colour. The night, incidentally, was brilliantly clear, a fact which disposes of the suggestion that the lights might have been those used in landings through cloud when a plane tries to pinpoint its position. The Air Ministry, for once, had no explanation and its spokesman stated: "I am afraid our met. men can throw no light on it. We doubt whether it was one of those radio-sonde balloons which are being sent up to collect data: the nearest one to Hoddesdon was sent up in Sussex. These balloons do drift, but if

*(Continued on page 4 of cover)*