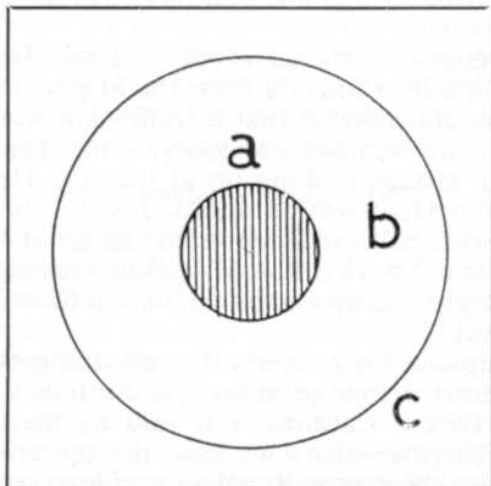


A close encounter in Tatebayasi

Takao Ikeda

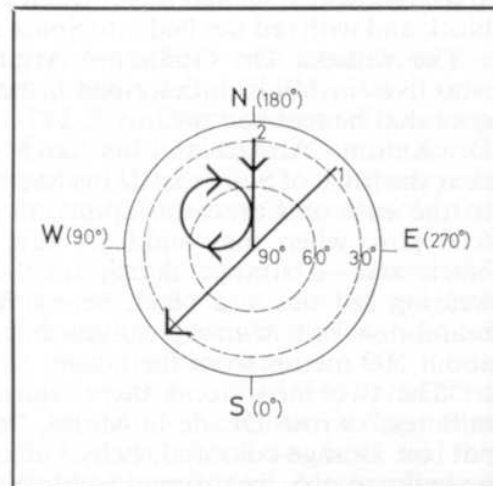
Our contributor is Editor of *Reports of UFO Phenomena happening in Japan*, published by Japan Space Phenomena Society of Hiroshima, Konu. This article is prepared from an item which appeared in issue No. 1 of the journal, dated April 1, 1972.



Left.

Diagram of the UFO when at its visually greatest size.

Key: a. Dark central portion.
b. White, shining area of Lunar magnitude.
c. Indistinct outline.



Right.

Trajectory of the UFO across the sky.

THIS incident was reported by Mr. Giyouiti Mita, a teacher at Oizumi High School, Oizumi City. The witness, Arai, is a seventeen-year-old schoolboy who has requested that his full name and address are withheld.

At about 18.30 hrs. on November 29, 1970, Arai was riding his bicycle on the way home at Kone, Tatebayasi City, Gunma Prefecture, after doing some shopping, when he saw the UFO. His main observation was heralded by the sighting of five or six objects which "flew" in formation on a straight path for about five seconds. Their course was from NE to SW.

Several seconds later a solitary object appeared in the sky to the North and approached swiftly. Arai parked his bicycle and ran up some steps into a raised enclosure to get a better view.

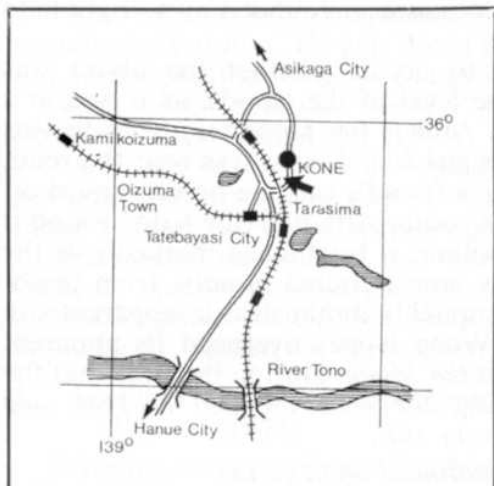
When it reached a point overhead the UFO changed direction and swung round towards the West, and then

went on to complete a circular course. This manoeuvre was repeated, by which time the object had descended so that its apparent diameter was approximately ten times that of the full moon. The UFO then hovered at a very low altitude for two or three seconds, then it climbed and disappeared overhead. Throughout the whole of its passage it was soundless. Its central part was described as being "a little dark" while the main ring around it was glowing white, its light being the equivalent magnitude of that of the moon. The outline was indistinct.

Arai had barely continued on his way when he saw a bright flash of white light to the SE from where he was riding. He was so surprised that he momentarily lost control and tumbled from his machine.

He stated, when interviewed, that it was cloudy, but calm, at the time.

Recovering his composure sufficiently to remount his



Left.

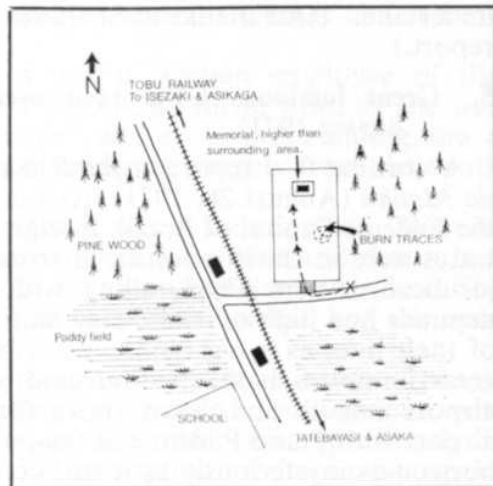
Map of the area in which the sightings occurred.

The grid is a 10Km. square. The arrow indicates location of sighting (see detail map of this area).

Right.

Map of the area in which the sighting occurred.

Broken line indicates route taken by Arai. The 'X' indicates approximate position where he left his bicycle.



bike, he pedalled home as fast as he could, and once in the house he switched on the television set and sat waiting for the news programme, so certain was he that the incident would be reported. However, the news programme passed without a solitary mention of UFOs.

The next morning, when on the way to school, Arai stopped at the place where he had parked his bicycle and ran to observe the UFO. It was the site of a tombstone for the dead. He found, in the grass of the area surrounding the raised tombstone, four circular marks of flattened grass (see sketch). The three smaller marks B, C and D were equidistant (2 metres) from the larger mark, A. In marks C and D, and in part of A the grass was burnt brown. The UFO had been at its largest when it passed very low over this tombstone area, and as it passed a pillar of dust was drawn up.

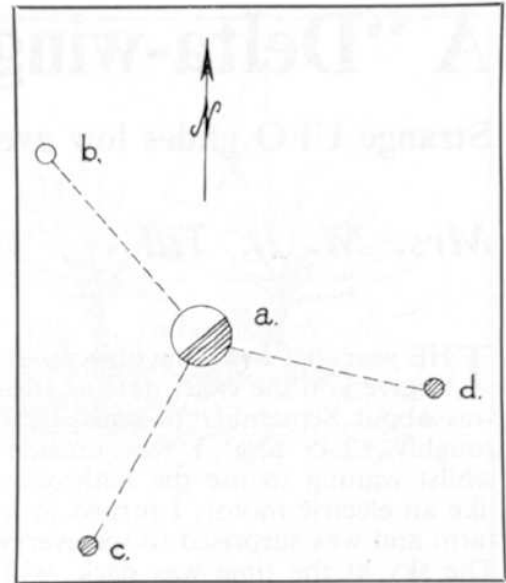
Mr. Mita said the witness was trembling when he interviewed him.

(Continued on page 13)

Sketch of the landing traces:
Scale: 1:100 (metric).

Shaded areas denote areas of burnt grass.

Clear areas within circles denote flattened grass.



South American Round-up—continued from page 9

Sr. Walter Cantovitz claims to have an open mind about the subject of flying saucers, but is now more than curious about them.

7. UFO hovers over Rio suburb (On or about October 1, 1971)

At 7.50 p.m. on a dark overcast night, on or around October 1, 1971 (report in *O Globo* of October 7, 1971), at São Cristóvão, a northern suburb of Rio de Janeiro, about one dozen people saw a round, shining UFO which came flying slowly and silently and very low, and then stopped and hovered, and rose and fell once or twice, sending down three beams of light of various and changing colours, red at times.

One witness photographed the object. The picture, which is reproduced in this paper, shows a white object, like one plate upside-down on another, with a thick surrounding rim and two white appendages hanging down below (so-called "Medusa" effect?). Before it vanished, the UFO performed the usual change of colours, passing from white through yellow to red. (Our thanks to Dr. W. Buhler for the above report.)

8. "Attacked by 'Space Hippies'" (1970?)

The *Domingo Ilustrado* (Rio de Janeiro) of October 3, 1971, mentions that, about a year previously, the Brazilian farmer Luís Flozino de Oliveira was the victim of an attack by "Space Hippies". Small, very aggressive beings, bearded, with long hair and *assymetrical eyes*, they caught him working in his rice-field. Stunned at first, Flozino tried to fight back and grappled with them, knocking one of them down with a well-aimed blow, whereupon they all fled. [N.B. For "assymetrical eyes," see also the case of Tiago Machado in *The Pirassununga Landing*, by Nigel Rimes in FSR Special Issue No. 3, *UFO Percipients*—EDITOR.] (We are indebted to both

Dr. W. Buhler and Mr. Nigel Rimes for copies of the *Domingo Ilustrado* of October 3.)

9. Motorist harassed by UFO (October 3, 1971)

The following is a report which appeared in *O Globo* (Rio de Janeiro) for October 6, 1971:

"For God's sake don't make me talk about *that* any more! It was one of the worst moments of my whole life!" said Brazilian businessman Aziz Cury Jr. when he arrived at his Posto Avenida petrol-filling station at Anápolis (State of Goiaz). 'That' was a silent luminous object which, he said, had flown across the road in front of his car and had caused him to do over 160 kilometres per hour.

"As he told the Anápolis Highway Police Patrol, it was at about 1.40 a.m. on Sunday, October 3. He was driving from Brasília, accompanied by his wife. When approaching Anápolis, he noticed that the engine of the car was beginning to sound quite different and that—not at his volition—he was now doing over 160 km.p.h.! Then there passed across in front of them, at a distance of about 300 metres, an enormous ball of light. Silently it passed to and fro in front of them several times, causing a change in the speed of the car on each such occasion. In shape it resembled a 'Mexican hat', and he said it only disappeared from view just before he reached the Highway Patrol Post.

"Friends of the witness describe him as a serious sort of man, incapable of perpetrating a hoax. He now becomes nervous and trembles if any of his friends so much as mention the matter, and he says he will never again travel by night, but only in broad daylight." (Our thanks to Dr. W. Buhler for this report.)

[Mr. Creighton's round-up will be concluded in the next issue of *FSR Case Histories*.]

A "Delta-winged" oddity

Strange UFO glides low over a Staffordshire village

Mrs. M. L. Till

THE year that I saw the object was 1964. I am unable to give you the exact date as I lost my diary, but it was about September or early October and the time roughly 12.45 a.m. I was outside satellite spotting whilst waiting to use the bathroom. Hearing a noise like an electric motor, I turned to look for lights at a farm and was surprised to see everywhere in darkness. The sky at the time was dark, with a slight horizon glow from a town about eight miles away over the hills.

It was then that a black silhouette rose, so it seemed, from behind the damson trees by the garage. I could not have moved had I wished! As soon as I saw the red light on it I relaxed and watched it coming slowly onwards. I shall never forget it. I was intrigued rather than scared. As a designer, I want to know the how and what about everything. Moving at about 5 m.p.h., the triangular object cleared our TV aerial by approximately 10-12ft. The height of the cottage is 16ft. to the eaves. The damson trees are about 22ft. high. Judging its size in relation to the cottage, the object was 30-35ft. wide; the length was not accurately observed due to the fact that my attention was drawn to other details, but I would guess it to have been about 40ft. The distance from where I stood to the back of the garage was 40ft. exactly, and to the point where the object was first seen, approximately 60ft. (please see diagram).

The colour of the object was dark metallic grey and I could see streaks in what I took to be paintwork, as though the coating was applied very thickly. There was a panel lying along the centre, the colour of red-hot metal, the glow from which enabled me to make out the colour of the bodywork. However, the panel was *not* of metal. It seemed to be composed of a material like perspex, set in a double row of nine squares, moulded, translucent and faceted. A bar of brighter light of a more orange hue moved along the panel in number order, i.e. after 9 came 1, 2, 3 etc., at roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ -second intervals. I looked in particular for signs of a glow from a cabin, but the craft seemed automatic—no sign of port-holes or cabin. There was no light at the front or *below* the wing-tips, but when the object was 15 yards ahead, i.e. across the lane, I noticed an oval-shaped light at each tip, magenta in colour, apparently inside a hollow channel. The sound which the object gave off was like a gentle "singing" purr, like a small electric motor. The tone or note was G natural.

My impressions during the sighting ran like this:

"That panel has something to do with the propulsion: caterpillar tractor-wise.

"Almost soundless—not jet, not piston. Electric?

"How the devil does it go so slowly?

"It lifts over trees, sinks again over the fields, rises again over the next clump of trees.

"Where is it beaming in? P.O. tower at Macclesfield Road?

"Might be an Army or RAF experimental thing.

"Odd. All aircraft have red and green lights. Those wing-tips are strange, like neon reflecting down a tube.

"Beautiful thing, designed with maximum external simplicity."

I described the sighting to my husband who was waiting to hear what the strange humming noise had been. I cannot say we are not sky-watchers. We saw our first inexplicable object in the 1950s, and have been interested since. The route of this delta-wing-type object,

