

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.

On the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

Dear Sir,—As a kind of postscript to my last letter [in FSR Vol.20, No.3—ED], may I express my most recent view on the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

That view is based on the opinion of most astronomers, who now think that many civilisations do exist in outer space, and that many of them are more advanced than ours.

I think that the advanced civilisations have developed high scientific achievements.

I think that the most flourishing galactic science is ufology. Among those ufologists who subscribe to the extraterrestrial hypothesis the big question is: "Where the devil do these damned flying saucers come from?" The rational and sensible answer given in response to that question by responsible extraterrestrial ufologists is that they come from outer space.

Yours sincerely,

Aimé Michel

Alpes de Haute Provence,
France.

October 4, 1974

Spiritualists and UFO experiences

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read in the lead article "Behind the Times" in the latest issue of FSR [Vol.20, No.2] the mention of a possibility that some UFO manifestations might be produced non-physically "and maybe even with psychic overtones." In my opinion, the inclusion of the whole field of Psychics in UFO investigation might open a very promising area — once one forgets the flippant attitude to Spiritualism and allied subjects — sometimes described in the U.S. as "psycho-ceramics," i.e. crackpot theories.

In this connection it may interest you to know that many Spiritualists — rather like Dr. Puharich — have had UFO experiences. For instance, Peggy Mason, a prominent Spiritualist writer, described one of such experiences in a recent article in "Two Worlds," a British Spiritualist magazine edited by Maurice Barbanell. It would perhaps be worth while to contact Miss Mason and interview her about it. The sighting which Miss Mason described occurred in broad daylight — presumably in the vicinity of her own home.

We all agree that keeping "an open mind" — a semantic abstraction and psychological impossibility — is a very important condition in the entire field

of Ufology, and I strongly feel that serious Psychical Researchers should not be excluded as reliable witnesses and co-investigators.

Very sincerely yours,

George St. George

Vanves, France.

January 13, 1975

The vanishing tapes

Dear Sir,—Two items in Vol.20, No.2 struck me, wondering whether there is some link. Firstly, the disappearance of taped interviews in Gordon Creighton's article on the French radio broadcasts, then your own article commenting on Dr. Andrija Puharich, author of "Uri."

Vanishing tapes are apparently a fairly common experience in Puharich's experience, if one is to accept the truth of his book. Was there, in fact, a burglary in the ORTF office, or did the tapes just 'disappear'? I for one would be interested to know a little more of the circumstances of the alleged theft — was nothing else at all taken, was there evidence of a broken lock or something else physical to point to a conventional happening?

Perhaps I am barking up the wrong tree, but if not we may have before us yet another strange facet of the enigma, and a warning to beware of taped records with relation to UFOs, etc., without secondary backing notes — at least until someone goes to his carefully filled notebook and finds the pages blank . . .

Yours sincerely,

G.W. Holman

36 Freshfield Bank

Forest Row, Sussex.

December 27, 1974.

The Vienna Woods sketches

Dear Sir,—For the sake of the record I have to answer Mr. Gordon Creighton's letter published in FSR Vol.20, No.2. Mr. Creighton found it suspicious that the Hering sketch given in our report "New Tales from the Vienna Woods" is "entirely different" from the sketch depicting the object in "World Round-Up" (FSR Vol.19, No.5). In fact there is no reason to be doubtful about Mr. Hering's testimony and sketches.

In our investigation Mr. Hering told us that the sketch he produced for the popular paper *Kurier* and it's

highly erroneous report, which was the primary source of information for Mr. Ludwig Hanemann, Germany, shows only a *hypothetical cross-section* of the object, not the right impression he had when looking into the sky at the object's upper side. When asked to leave hypothesis out of the question, Mr. Hering drew the sketch which is given in our report. Hoping the mystery is solved now,

Yours sincerely,

Ernst Berger

A-1094 Vienna

A matter of control?

Dear Sir,—I find the current issue of FSR (Vol.20, No.2) very fascinating, especially your own article about "Uri," and Gordon Creighton's articles "Curiouser and Curiouser," and the one about cosmic zoology, which was both eminently sensible and a real scream. It is helpful to keep a sense of humour in the matter of ufology otherwise we could all be oppressed with it.

As regards any hair-brained plan to docket the ufonauts, my guess is the boot is on the other foot.

Those three words with a paragraph to themselves at the end of your "Notes on Uri..." might baffle some people. Yet here is a very deep question. It is feasible that the same unseen intelligence may sometimes appear to wreak evil and at other times good. Though I must own that our own concept of good and evil might sometimes be inaccurate. For instance, a Government or a private army might be dedicated to the project of euthanasia for the long-term unemployed, being a sound economic plan devised in the national interest. The vast majority of people would deem it good; only a small minority, including the victims and their loyal relatives, would think it bad. Advanced intelligence, however, might consider it bestial.

I haven't yet read Dr. Puharich's book but have recommended it at the local library. I am hoping to read a description of the appearance of these cosmic beings from an extra-galactic planet. If they stay here, they must at times assume some form, one would think.

Personally I think that advanced intelligence lives very close to us. Its control over matter is probably near-perfect. Whether in the long term it

has our interests at heart is a moot point. It is probably benevolent at times, and at other times destructive. I do not see why we should expect it to be always altruistic, considering that we exploit the lower animals and let few off the hook.

It is very strange that the best brains among us cannot get the easiest time. The more ability people have, the more they are pressed. It is more understandable though, if we accept that we are the stewards of this

earth, providing alloys, fibres, energy, etc., for our superiors!
Yours sincerely,
Olga Atherton
85 Crab Lane,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire
December 12, 1974

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

England

UFO activity over Herts?

From the *Evening Echo* of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, dated Tuesday December 10, 1974, we learn that a "ball of fire" report sparked off a big search for a mystery plane,—"Hundreds of police, firemen, and volunteer rescue workers searched woods and muddy fields on the Hertfordshire / Buckinghamshire borders last night* after two reports of a light aircraft exploding in mid-air.

"In separate searches rescue teams combed the countryside around Berkhamsted and the Ashley Green area of Bovingdon.

"Emergency services were put on full alert, but nothing was found.

"The two searches lasted seven hours — and today the cause of the alarms is still a mystery.

"In a joint operation, under the command of senior officers from Thames Valley Police, more than 100 police, using Land-Rovers, lights, and dogs, searched the area helped by fire crews from both counties and scores of civilian volunteers.

"Uniformed police toured ^{Bucks} in the Bovingdon area asking for volunteers. 'The public responded magnificently,' said incident-commander, Superintendent Michael Mortlock.

"The search began after an aircraft enthusiast at Northchurch, near Berkhamsted, saw a light aircraft — which he thought was a single-engined Cessna — vanish behind trees in a dive after performing aerobatics. He alerted Hertfordshire police and the search was on.

"As the hunt ended at dusk, Leading-Fireman Dennis Horwood returned to his Bovingdon home to be told by his wife, Margaret, that she had seen what she thought was a 'ball of fire' in the sky near the village's disused airfield.

"Mr. Horwood immediately called his control, and the search was on again. Cross-bearings on the two sight-

ings fixed the most possible crash site as Ashley Green.

Superintendent Mortlock of Chesham Police, set up a control in the village's tiny school. Extra police were called in from Hemel Hempstead, Watford, St. Albans, Amersham, and High Wycombe, and special equipment — including arc lights — arrived from Thames Valley Police headquarters at Kidlington.

"As he called off the search, Superintendent Mortlock said: 'If we had had something definite, we would have gone on. We are satisfied there is no crash in this area.'"

Gordon Creighton, who lives very near to the area concerned, comments:

"Over the past fifteen years and more there have been many possible or probable UFO sightings and UFO rumours from the Bovingdon and adjacent Chipperfield areas. For a considerable time people in Bovingdon and nearby villages (it is a very rural pocket of the British countryside despite its relative nearness to London) were plagued by the famous 'hum,' for which no satisfactory explanation was ever supplied.

"The disused RAF airfield at Bovingdon might indeed serve as an excellent entry point for some of the millions of Asians now waiting eagerly to enter Britain illegally and add to our already acute problems of housing, employment, and food. One may therefore rightly demand that the British authorities shall attempt to intercept such illegal entries by light aircraft, as they have done in many similar cases in other places in the east and south of Britain recently.

"Nevertheless, my friends who live in Ashley Green village tell me that the turn-out of Police and other personnel and the general 'flap' on this occasion were something quite exceptional, and one is left wondering. Lacking anything firmer on which to go, we can but speculate. One odd point however is worth noting: it looks as though the 'ball of fire' may have been seen many hours later than the 'light aircraft.' If so, more than one

phenomenon was evidently involved, and an attempt may have been made to confuse the public about this.

"In this respect the matter may be thought reminiscent of the Welsh Mountain Explosion case recently reported by Eileen Buckle (*FSR Case Histories No. 18*)."

France

More landings near Les Nourradons

From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No.125 of May 1973, we learn of investigations by J-C. Dadone, J-L. Pale and J. Chasseigne (Précis translation by G. Creighton),—

Witness, a Monsieur Delchevalerie, made his first observations between 8.50 and 9.50 p.m. on January 25, 1972, at a place some five km. to the south of Draguignan and three km. from Les Nourradons (Var), scene of sighting on March 29, 1971. (See *FSR Vol.19, No.3: A French Repeater Case: Events at Les Nourradons.*)

Witness was outside his house, in a lonely area in pine forest. His attention was drawn to a strange sound, of rather low frequency, "a bit like the noise of a large ventilator." Looking up, he saw a large object descending vertically. It was almost spherical, but slightly flattened, dark grey in colour, and very clearly outlined in the sky despite this. An intense orange light appeared to be revolving around it, or perhaps this effect was due to the object's rotation on its own axis.

It vanished among trees, at a distance he was unable to assess, though he felt the size of the thing might equal that of two or three cars. He went to the area where he thought it had gone down, found nothing, and returned home. But an hour later, at 9.50, he saw it take off again from the spot and rise over the trees, with the same orange light seemingly rotating around it. It rose vertically and slowly at first, then made a 20° turn and vanished rapidly towards St-Raphael.

The sky was overcast, the weather warm, and he says what he saw was

* Occurrence was on evening of Monday, December 9, 1974.

quite definitely no helicopter or other conventional machine.

Three weeks later he again saw the identical phenomenon taking off from precisely the same spot. These experiences have left him disturbed and unable to sleep.

The terrain in question consists of growths of conifers, evergreen oaks and scrub, deeply slashed by valleys and ravines, very isolated, and sparsely inhabited. There are no villages or hamlets for 10 km. or so in the landing area.

Spain

UFOs seen near air bases: entity also reported

From a detailed report in the Badajoz newspaper *Hoja del Lunes* of November 11, 1974, we learn that,—

A Madrid economist named Jose Maria Cavero and an unnamed lieutenant of the Talavera Air Base both observed a UFO over a main highway near Badajoz and in the vicinity of the Air Base.

"The occurrence was on November 5, 1974, and the time 2.00 a.m. As he saw the UFO approaching, the economist stopped his car. He then got out of the car, the saucer now being no more than 100 metres from him, and shone his torch towards it, whereupon its lights, of alternating colours, at once went out. Holding it in the beam of his torch, he could see that it was now stationary and seemed to be about eight or ten metres in diameter. (See sketch.)

"Witness stated that it was quite silent, but that nevertheless all the dogs on the neighbouring farms were barking furiously.

"The UFO continued to hang there for a few moments, at a height which he estimated at about 300 metres, so that he was able to examine it in detail. He described it as oval, and like a reversed deep dish set above a

small rectangular portion resembling a platform. While its lights were on it had a silvery colour, 'like a silver tray,' but when they were extinguished he was able to see a large rectangular window, like a panel, running right across from one side to the other. This window was still emitting light. (There is a discrepancy here, as his sketch seems to show not one wide window but a series of six small ones—G.C.)

"He began running forward, to get a closer view, whereupon it rose slightly and, with its lights still off, flew away. As it went he noticed a burst of hot air from it, and observed how the fruit trees beside the road, and even the grass, were moved by the blast. As it moved off, slowly at first, the saucer turned red and finally, as it gained speed, it was silvery. In no time it was lost to view.

"Sr. Cavero told the newspaper that this was not the first UFO he had seen. On September 7 and 21 he had had sightings at Granada, and on those occasions there was also a Spanish Air Force base close by. Both sightings had also been in the early hours of the morning, and the type of UFO appeared to be the same. (He also voiced the view that, since nobody seemed to be talking about these matters, the UFOs were evidently able to operate without being detected by the radar equipment of the Air Force bases.)

"Continuing his statement, he said that on November 8 (three days after his sighting near the Talavera Air Base at Badajoz) he returned to the site, and saw a strange being walking along beside the road just outside the town. He stopped and got out of his car and approached the being, who however took evasive action and got away without speaking. He was unable to overtake him.

"Describing the entity, he said the

latter appeared to possess no nose. It was wearing a dark brown jacket, black trousers, and, on its head, a sort of 'Roman helmet.' He shone his torch on the entity, and was able to see that it had slant eyes.

"The shape of the body was human. He got no view of the arms or legs. The body was tall and slender. He said he was forcibly struck by the furtive behaviour of the being.

"I think they are living here among us,' he concluded."

* * * * *

(Possibly with a view to reducing the impact of this report, the newspaper printed alongside of it a photograph, supplied by *Telefoto-UPI-CIFRA*, showing a saucer-shaped triangular (as seen in profile) machine, seemingly standing on eight or more flexible, springy, thick metal legs, allegedly taken by one Paul Massa at White Sands in the USA in 1966 or 1967, the suggestion being that the craft seen at Badajoz and elsewhere in Spain are identical with the machine shown in the photo, and that all are of American construction. According to Paul Massa, "the U.S. Government prefers to be silent rather than give details" regarding this secret project—G.C.)

Credit and thanks to Sr. Ignacio Darnaude, Sevilla.

Translation from the Spanish by G. Creighton.

Spain

UFO lands at Air Force base

The following item, taken from the national daily newspaper *The Guardian* of January 9, 1975, was datelined "Madrid, January 8,"—

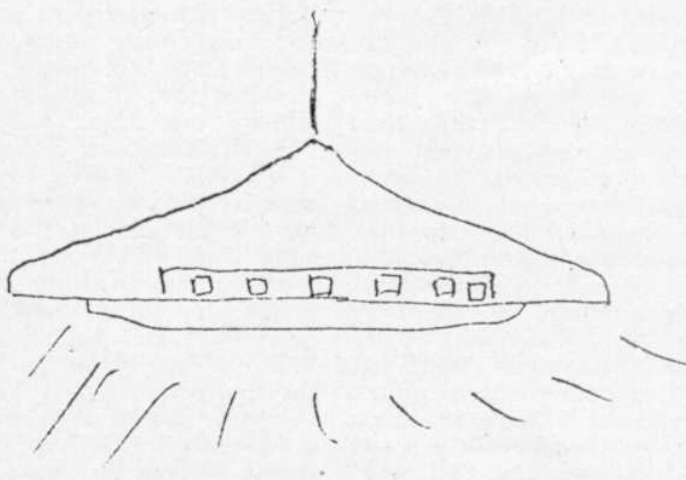
"For the first time senior officers of Spain's military air force have taken up the case of UFO with the grim seriousness which they usually apply to politics.

"On the night of January 2, an unidentified flying object reportedly landed on an air force bombing and gunnery range at Las Bardenas Reales, near Zaragoza, where the United States have a lease on a joint Spanish-American base.

"The Spanish military authorities of the Third Air Force Region, after consultation with the Air Ministry in Madrid, have appointed an investigating judge to inquire into the incident.

"These reports were confirmed by members of the US Air Force. Numerous more sensational but contradictory stories have been furnished by local inhabitants."

Our thanks to Robert Chapman for drawing our attention to this item, also to Mrs. Anne Dooley.



The UFO seen by José María Cavero

Spain

More explanatory moonshine

The following item appeared in the *Yorkshire Post* of January 10, 1975, under the heading "Thing from Space just moonshine."—

"Prospective holidaymakers to Spain can breathe easily again—there is no risk of meeting beings from outer space on the beaches.

"An unidentified flying object was said to have landed on the night of January 2 at an Air Force bombing and gunnery range near Zaragoza, a joint Spanish-American base leased by the U.S.

"Although reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are not uncommon in Spain, this one was taken sufficiently seriously for the Spanish military authorities and the Air Ministry in Madrid to appoint an investigating judge to inquire into the incident.

"All was explained. According to the Spanish news agency in London, yesterday, the two soldiers who reported the UFO landing had 'experienced an optical illusion' because of the effects of moonlight and cloud." Credit: Valerie M. Parkinson of Bradford, and others.

Peru

UFO Base in Peruvian jungle?

Sr. Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla has forwarded to the Editors of *Lumières Dans La Nuit* the following report from the Spanish newspaper *Arriba* of November 8, 1973,—"Lima, (EFE): According to an article in the paper *Ultima Hora*, a farmer named Fausto Alvinco Bermudez, resident of the region between San Martin and La Libertad, says there is a flying saucer base in the vicinity of the famous ruins of Gran Pajaten in the jungle of Peru.

"Besides being a farmer, Bermudez is also a guide. He has a perfect knowledge of the forest areas in the Province of Mariscal Caceres, lying to the N.E. of Lima.

"Bermudez and his neighbours declare that nightly they see strange craft, of dazzling vivid colours — red, violet, or green. These flying objects vanish behind the Pajaten Mountains, where their base is believed to be.

"*Ultima Hora's* correspondent learnt about these matters from the inhabitants of Chagnalvijos and Pias, who apparently are so completely used to seeing these mysterious flying objects that they take them entirely as a matter of course and hey no heed to them."

(Translation: G.C. from LDLN No. 139, November 1974.)

Irish Republic

UFO over Limerick

From the Dublin *Sunday Independent* of February 16, 1975, comes the following item,—"Gardai in Co. Limerick were last night investigating reports that a meteorite may have burnt out over the Knocklong area shortly after dusk.

"The object, spotted shortly before 7 p.m., was described as pear shaped, twice the size of the sun and almost as bright.

"But last night despite strong reports from locals who claimed to have seen the object for more than five seconds, both Dunsink Observatory and the Meteorological Station at Shannon Airport said that nothing unusual had been reported to them.

"The object was sighted by a local farmer, Mr. Patrick Perkins, of Ballinahinch, Knocklong. Mr. Perkins described the object as 'pear-shaped, about three times the size of the sun, white at the end of the pear, and having no tail.'

"There was a lump of white turning red out of the pear and a stream of smoke following it. It was travelling towards the Galtees and coming down at an angle of about 30 degrees. It was travelling east to west when I sighted it first.

"The sky was clear and it was visible for about five seconds. During that time the area lit up and became as bright as the sun shining on it. There was no heat and no noise from the object,' he said."

Italy

Top Secret

According to a report dated November, 19, 1973 from Signor Ameglio of Treviso and published in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 139

(November 1974), the following landing account was given in the newspaper *Veneto Notte* for November 19, 1973,— "A disconcerting occurrence has taken place at the military air base at Istrana*, and the affair — contrary to what usually happens — is being shrouded in the greatest secrecy.

"It seems that two extraterrestrials were seen to arrive at Istrana and to depart from there, aboard a small space-craft. From what has leaked out, it appears that the episode occurred at night.

"A few evenings ago, near a lookout post on the perimeter of the Air Force base, a sentry, who was just about to be relieved, was coming down the ladder when he saw, in a field close by, two individuals dressed entirely in white and no more than 1.5 metres in height. A little further away, near a hedge, there was a small space-craft, also completely white.

"The whole affair was also observed, so it is reported, by the second sentry as he was taking over the guard-duty. The two sentries were dumbfounded and when the 'extraterrestrials' had departed in their machine in total silence they dashed to the nearest post and gave a detailed account of their incredible sighting. It seems that a patrol was at once sent to the spot and that marks were found on the ground, confirming that a machine had been there.

"The authorities in charge of the Istrana military air base have classified the matter as *top secret*, and nobody is at present prepared to admit that it occurred.

(Translation: G.C.)

* Istrana, on Italian mainland, 30 km. N.W. of Venice.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW . . .

The Vilvorde Humanoid

by Jean-Luc Vertongen

The David Seewalt encounter

by W.K. Allan

A Brief Taste of Fairyland

by F.W. Holiday

The Case of Bruno Facchini

by Antonio Guidici

UFO with a taste for Fish

by J. Tyrode

With many other interesting items, including "Ummo," the Lansing Clocklike UFO shapes, and Pascagoula.