

quarry pit lay a perfectly round burned area about 15–20 feet in diameter. Outside the circle the grass was perfectly green. Inside it, it was charred black.

But that was not all. When Gibson inspected the scene close-up, he noticed three rectangular indentations in the ground, situated in a triangle within the burned area. One inch deep, five inches wide and 12 inches long, each was located two feet in from the surrounding edge and together they formed a triangle in the northern half of the circle. The ground was "firm" and Gibson speculated that the UFO must have been quite heavy to have made such marks.

Rushing back home, Gibson told his parents what he had seen and his father urged him to contact the highway patrol in nearby Cedar Falls. This proved a mistake. The officer at Cedar Falls openly ridiculed the story and refused to accompany the Gibsons back to Waverly to examine the evidence. The Waverly police also dismissed their report and would not investigate.

Determined to speak no more of the incident, Gibson returned to the apparent landing site the

next day and checked the area for additional prints. There were none.

Curiously, about a week later Gibson saw a UFO again. Maybe even *the* UFO, since it was identical in appearance.

At 1.00 a.m. on a Saturday, while returning from a date with the girl whom he later married, he caught the object in his headlights as he approached the crest of a hill. At the time he was driving south on a gravel road four miles east and a half a mile north. The UFO was hovering about 30 feet above the ground. When the carlights hit it, it shot away to the right and could no longer be seen.

DeGraw, a capable and intelligent investigator, believes that Gibson is a "responsible person who witnessed on two occasions something which he could not explain." Gibson himself is convinced he saw a "spacecraft."

Notes

1. Jerome Clark, "The Greatest Flap Yet?", *Flying Saucer Review*, January/February 1966.
2. "The Greatest Flap Yet? Part 2," *FSR* March/April 1966.

Readers' Reports

Fusiform object over the Channel

We thank Peter Bowles, Chairman of the East Sussex Gliding Club for the following report, and also Timothy Good who asked him to write it down for us.

The sighting of the UFO is so long ago now that I cannot put a date to it, but my wife and I think it was August (or late July), 1971.

Our house at Bexhill overlooks the English Channel approximately opposite the Royal Sovereign Light Tower. The house stands on a cliff approximately 50 feet above the Highwater mark and has a vista of about twelve nautical miles across the bay to the south-west, to Eastbourne and Beachy Head and the South Downs. All this can be seen whilst seated in our lounge which has very large picture windows to the south and west.

The sighting occurred at 19.45 hours approximately. It was still half daylight – a beautiful clear evening. My wife, who had been watching

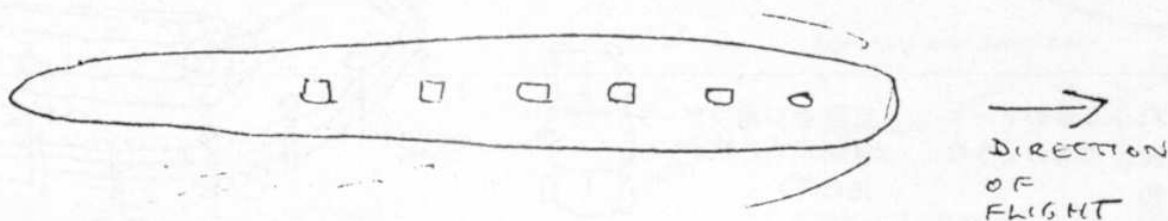
television, called me as I entered the room. To the south, about a quarter mile out to sea, was a large cigar-shaped UFO proceeding parallel to the coastline, going towards Eastbourne. It had lights in its windows which were like large portholes. It was approximately 700 feet up, proceeding at great speed in a *level flight path*, clearing the downs behind Beachy Head (the highest points on these downs are 450 feet a.m.s.l.). The object was in view for about six seconds, during which time it covered approximately 16 miles.

My first thought was that it was a supersonic airliner and that there would be one hell of a bang and noise once it had passed. I had the sliding glass door open in two to three seconds after the first sighting of it. As I saw it disappear I was standing outside the lounge on the terrace. To my utter astonishment there was no noise of any kind, except that made by the sea, which was very slight as it was a very calm evening. It was then that I realised I had seen no airliner.

It was about the size of a Jumbo Jet, only sleeker in line. In those few seconds of seeing it I was not conscious of the presence of any wings or tail-fins. We talked about it for a considerable time as both my wife and I have had a lot to do with flying and observing aircraft, both in wartime and at air shows. We have both flown a lot, observed satellites, meteorites, parachutes and balloons. We have witnessed Neville Duke flying the Hawker Hunter through the sound barrier and hearing the sonic "boom" on the ground; we have seen him fly at over 700 miles per hour at less than 200 feet above our heads at Farnborough Aeronautical Establishment. But this sighting was an entirely new experience.

The next day the newspaper contained reports of a UFO being sighted from Dover to Bognor Regis by a number of witnesses.

Peter Bowles
South Cliff,
Bexhill-on-Sea,
Sussex.
15 June 1975



Peter Bowle's sketch of the UFO he sighted

18th Century enigmas

Miss Barbara Steer, of London, SW1, in the course of her work as a genealogist, has come across quite a number of possible UFO reports, usually under the heading of "Meteors", in the *The Annual Register*. * For example -

"February 24, 1759: At ten at night was felt, at Liskeard in Cornwall, a slight shock of an earthquake, which extended north and south six miles, and about four leagues east and west; it was a vibratory motion, and continued about two or three seconds.

"George Thompson, esqre, apprehensive of what it was, went out to observe the air, and saw multitudes of blood-red rays converging from all parts of the heavens to one dark point, but no luminous body.

"The phenomenon disappeared in fifteen minutes."

Again, in a report from Scotland dated September, 1767: "An uncommon phenomenon was observed on the water of Isla near Cupar, Angus, preceded by a thick, dark smoke, which soon dispelled, and discovered a large luminous body, like a house on fire, but presently after, took a form something pyramidal, and rolled forwards with impetuosity till it came to the water of Erick; up which river it took its direction with great rapidity,

and disappeared a little above Blairgowrie.

"The effects were as extraordinary as the appearance.

"In its passage, it carried a large cart many yards over a field of grass; a man riding along the high road was carried from his horse, and so stunned with the fall, as to remain senseless for a considerable time.

"It destroyed one half of a house, and left the other behind, undermined and destroyed an arch of a new bridge building at Blairgowrie, immediately after which it disappeared.

"As few instances of this kind ever were attended with like consequence, various conjectures have been formed concerning it."

* This chronicle began in 1758-59 as a digest of political, literary and social events.

Spherical object off Japanese coast sucks up sea-water

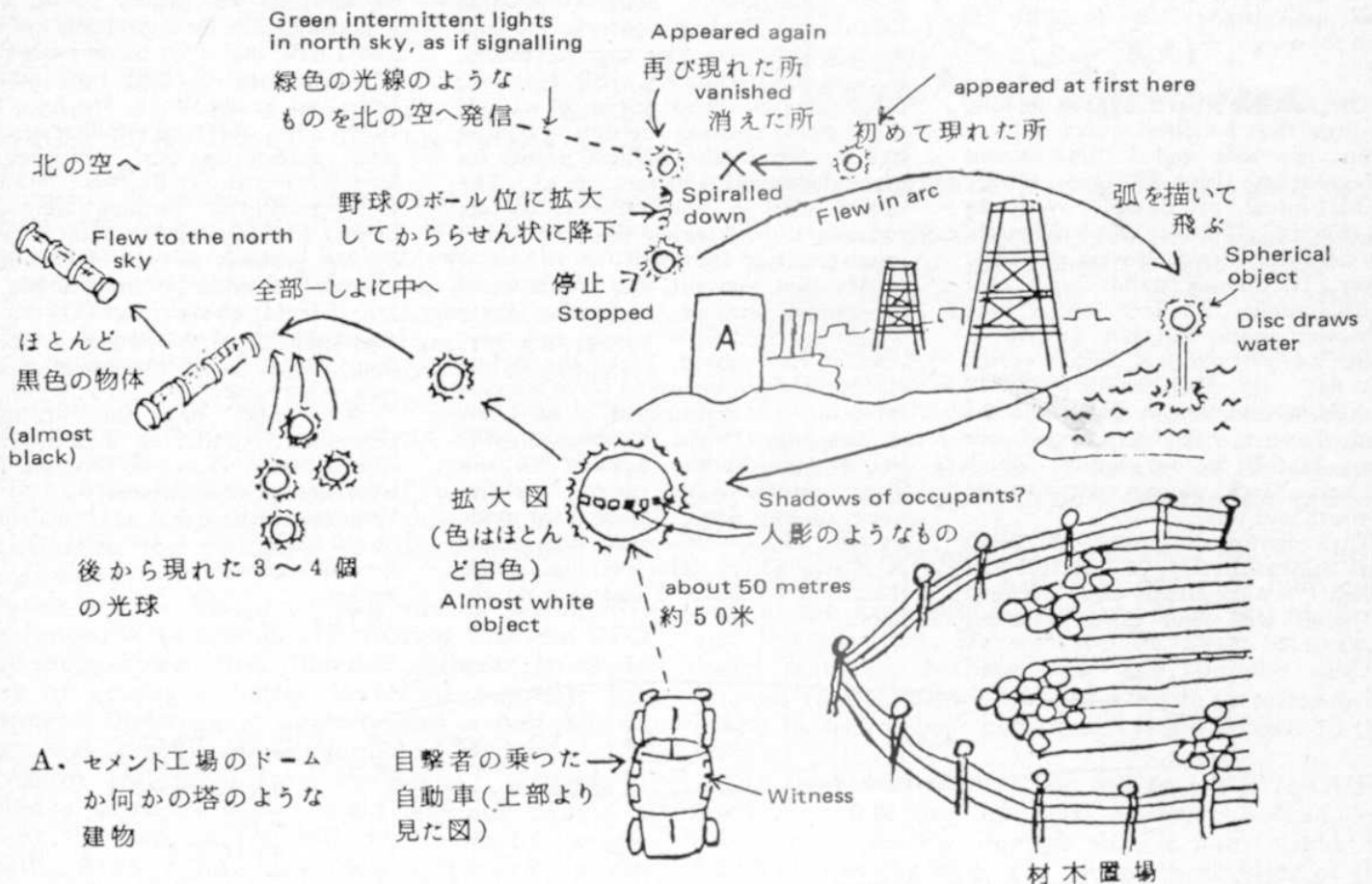
Dear Sir,—In the last two or three years there has been quite a "flap" in Japan. One of the many incidents took place in July 1973 (although it was not reported until July, 1974) at Hokkaido, a large island in the north. The witness was a 20-year-old college student who was working at the time as a guardsman in his summer vacation. As he sat in a car in the yard, he

noticed a brightly shining object to the north in the dark sky. The object subsequently vanished and later re-appeared again a little way off. It flashed green, intermittent light as though signalling. Next it spiralled downwards and then flew in an arc across the sky, coming down over the waters of a bay. The object was spherical and was seen to be sucking up water through a prolonged, pipe-like protrusion. Thereupon it flew within 50 meters of the witness, who was terrified. He saw the shadow of one occupant in a window and the shadows of two occupants in another. The object then met with four or five similar objects; all entered another object, which was almost black, like three drums put together end-to-end, and which finally flew away to the north.

Jun-Ichi Takanashi
Chairman, Modern Space Flight Association, C.P.O. Box No. 910, Osaka, Japan.

Dazzling object over South East London

Dear Sir,—On Saturday evening (September 20, 1975 - 8.35 p.m.) whilst on my terrace, I glanced up to the sky to the south, my attention being drawn to a disturbing dazzling, though blurred white light, slightly smaller than the full moon which appeared elsewhere against a black sky. At a very rough



estimate I would say the light was between a quarter and a half mile away, but I am not experienced at judging distance.

My primary and logical impression was that this was a roof-top light (as it appeared above some flats); however if this was the case why had it never been so obvious before? The sight which followed though, some 30 seconds later, soon dispelled my original belief, for this stationary light suddenly displayed a gigantic flash, diminished to the size and shape of an egg, and moved very slowly in a South-Easterly direction, by this time being very clear and definitely in focus.

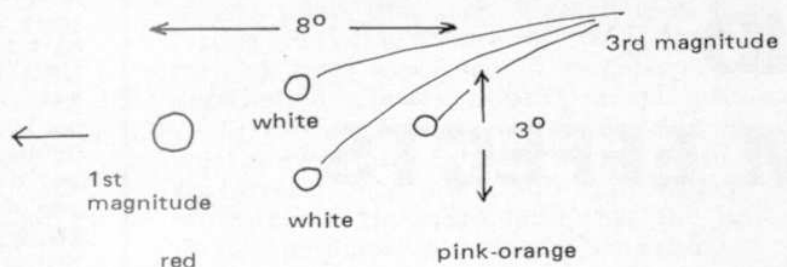
On tracing the direction of this silent, oval, white object, it appeared to alter to a north-easterly course, and after about half a minute disappeared into the sky.

I might add that this series of events occurred simultaneously to two aeroplanes traversing the sky, offering a visible comparison between normal aircraft and something usual in the sky.

H. D. Green (Miss)
15 Oldfield Grove,
Rotherhithe New Road,
London SE16 2NA

Puzzling phenomena over Rock of Gibraltar

Dear Sir,—Being a new subscriber to FSR, I feel I must write to you about a sighting experienced by some people in Gibraltar at about the end of June. It was a Sunday, and they were bathing at one of our beaches when they saw on the horizon a strange formation of clouds such as had never been seen before around here, as far as I know. The clouds had the colours of a rainbow. On another occasion a friend of mine who happens to be interested in the subject of UFOs saw a light



The four-lights UFO, as seen by Mr. James

falling vertically, very slowly, until it disappeared behind a mountain to the north of Gibraltar in the Spanish mainland.

Last night I was looking up at the sky with a pair of 7 x 10 binoculars when suddenly I saw a light, the size of a small star, travelling from south to north apparently over the Rock of Gibraltar. I was standing on the west side and looking due east. At first I thought it was a shooting star, but then I realised that shooting stars fall in a straight line, or rather an arc, but this light was zig-zagging as shown in the sketch. What do you think it was?

Angel Freyone
55 Picton House,
Red Sands Road,
Gibraltar.

south west. I observed the light through binoculars and noted it was actually composed of four lights.

These four lights became visible to the naked eye. The object went behind a roof for a couple of seconds and re-appeared. I got my binoculars to it and it "went out" as if a light had been switched off. Here are some properties of the UFO:

1. visible — 20 seconds
2. brighter than dark sky [?ED?]
3. magnitudes — 1st and 3rd
4. sound — none
5. shape — all lights circular
6. colour — red, white, white and pink-orange
7. its edges were sharply outlined
8. apparent size — 8° long 3° deep
9. appeared in SW disappeared in S.
10. speed — 1 second / 10°

Mystery lights

Sir,—On August 4, 1975, at 10.00 p.m., my father, a neighbour Mr. Reed and myself were talking when I noticed a bright red light (1st mag.) moving about 30° above the horizon to the

Weather conditions: clear sky, no clouds, temperature 21°C; wind light (Force 2 — 3) ESE; dry.

B. James
18 East Fields, Blewbury, Nr. Didcot,
Oxon OX11 9NR
7 August 1975

