



# CASE HISTORIES

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Case Histories

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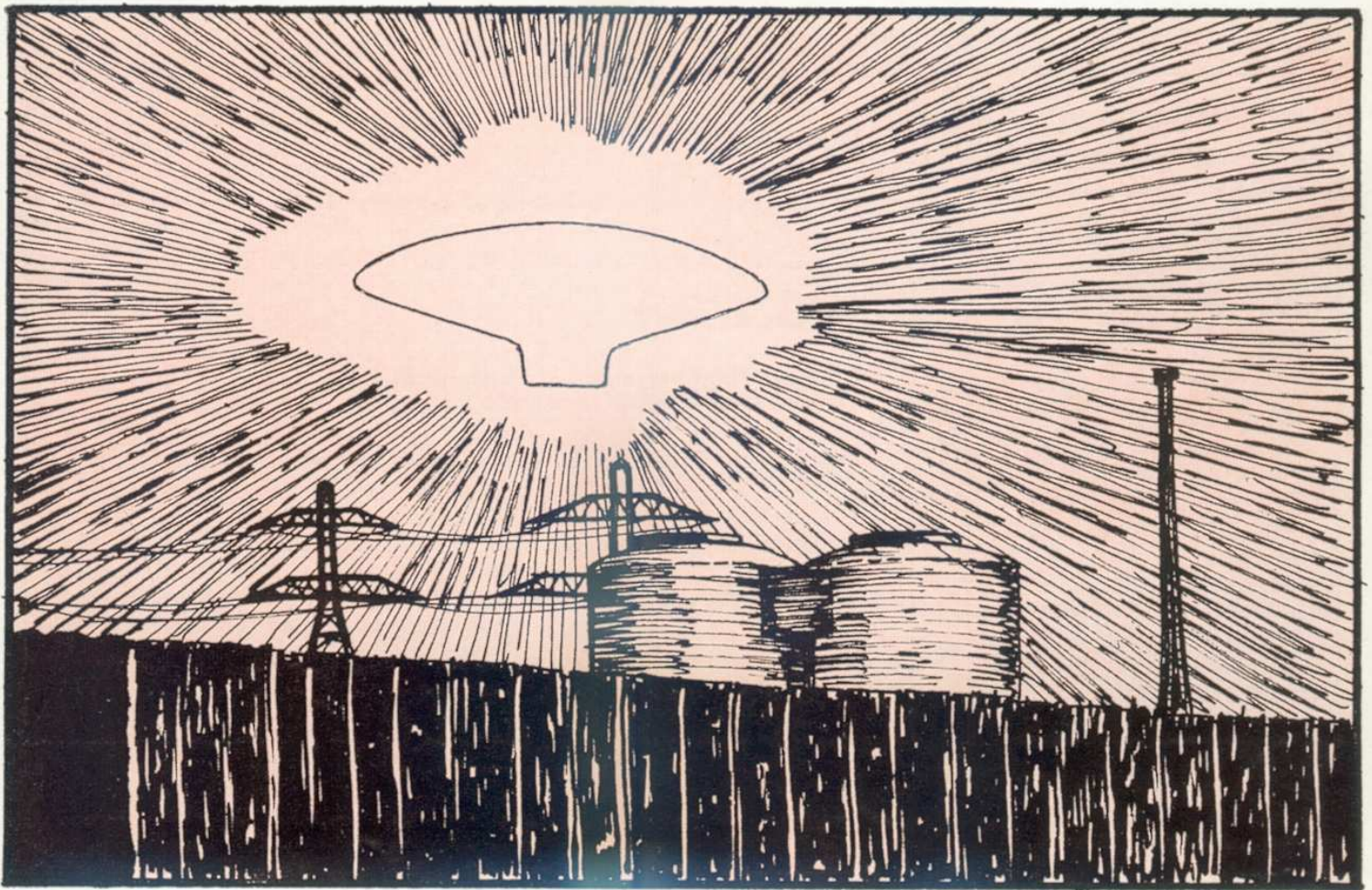




# CASE HISTORIES

TWENTY-FOUR PENCE

SUPPLEMENT 15 JUNE 1973



**UFO OVER TRANSFORMER  
AT CRAWLEY**

See page 1



# UFO Hovers over Transformer at Crawley

H. Watkins

IN March, 1972, a sighting took place in Crawley New Town which shows some familiar textbook characteristics. It is even more interesting in that in parts it is a multiple witness case, and what could be called a repeat performance took place two weeks later.

The principal witnesses are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Chard and their son and daughter. The son, Francis Junior, was walking home (30 Greenacres, Furnace Green, Crawley) from Three Bridges (East Crawley railway station) at about 8.55 p.m. on March 5, a Sunday. The night was very clear, and Francis was looking at the stars as he walked down Haslett Avenue which is part of the A264 trunk road. This road is usually very busy since it is the through route from Horsham to East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells, but that night it was practically deserted. Then suddenly Francis noticed an object hovering on his left.

At this point a few notes on the surrounding area will be useful. The first thing to note is that the object was hovering directly over or in the near vicinity of a large electrical transformer and was rather near to a lot of power lines. Now Crawley is supplied with electricity from two power stations at Portslade (near Brighton) 22 miles away, the supply being brought to Crawley by high-voltage power lines supported by a double row of pylons. The transformer supplies domestic-voltage electricity for pretty well the whole of Crawley, but another line of pylons carries electricity to the Crawley Industrial Estate, and a line also runs off to Tunbridge Wells which is to the east. So if a UFO crew wanted to hang around a lot of high-voltage power lines, and they were in the Crawley area, this is the best spot for miles!

Around the transformer lies a small light industrial estate, and just beside it there is an important railway junction, marshalling yard and sidings. Westwards there is the large office block of the Paymaster General.

In general the object appeared as an indefinite yellowish-white glow, but in the glow there was a distinct black outline somewhat mushroom-like in shape. The glow was of the same hue and intensity inside the outline as outside. From the left-hand corner of the outline a thin red spotlight shone downwards at an angle. There was a similar spotlight shining down from the right-hand corner, the difference being that this one was blue.

Francis estimated the angle of elevation to have been 20°. The apparent size was more difficult to decide with certainty, but he settled for 4 feet across. The problem is of course that apparent sizes are usually inaccurate and can be misleading, but in this case the object was rather big.

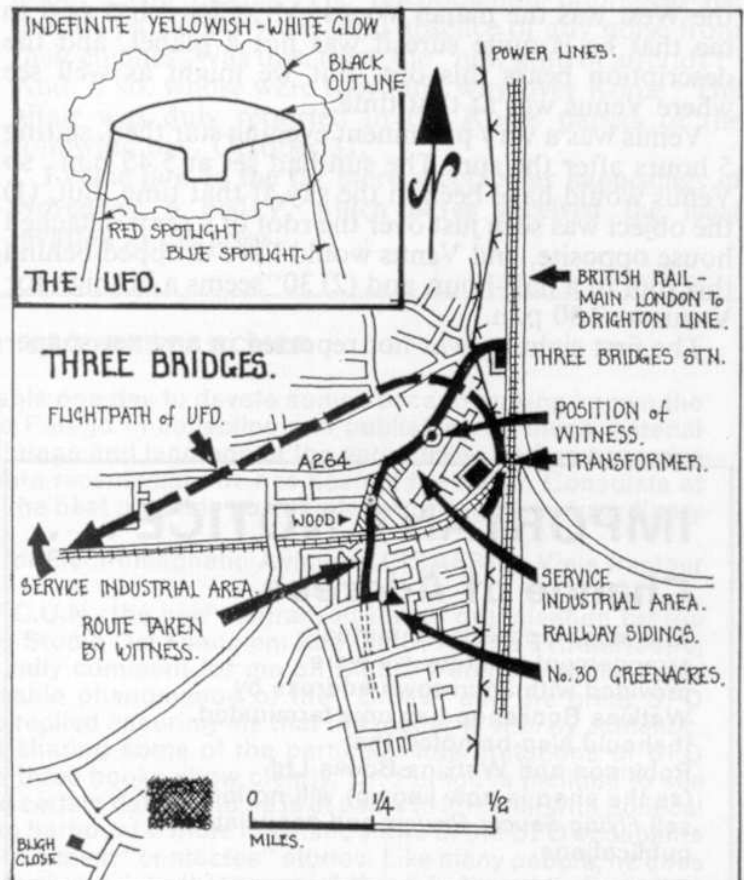
After Francis had seen the object it started to move. It described a rough 180° arc, seemingly using Francis as the centre of rotation, passing behind him and round to his right. Then it shot off to the South West, passing

Our contributor, a reader who lives in Tilgate, Crawley, Sussex, followed a "lead" and conducted an investigation; we are grateful to him for his assistance. The original observation is a most interesting one of an incident that could have been a near-landing, although from that point onwards it would seem that the witnesses were "on the look-out for UFOs," a fact that *may* have influenced their further observations.—EDITOR.

over the playing fields on Francis' right and moving out of sight. It moved "very fast," but he said the speed was not supersonic.

## Second appearance?

When the object had departed, Francis went straight home, which was only five minutes away, and alerted the whole family. Now the object was visible again, hovering this time in the West. They watched it for a



Flightpath of UFO over Three Bridges and Crawley. Inset: How the object appeared to witness. Cover drawing: UFO and transformer towers as seen over the fence from Haslett Avenue

good half hour, hovering at an angle of elevation of 30°, and it appeared like a very bright star, yellowish-white in colour. Francis said it was about the apparent size of a "tennis ball" (I realise now that he could have been talking about table tennis as Mr. and Mrs. Chard were playing in a tournament at that time). Mr. Chard fetched a pair of binoculars of the type used at horse racing. He told me he saw the red and blue lights through these. He also said that the object seemed to be very far away, perhaps over Ifield which is two miles away on the other side of the town.

Three other people also saw the object. They are Mr. and Mrs. Fenton who live at 27 Greenacres, and a woman using a public telephone box who did not stay to watch.

At one point Francis said that the object jinked about, but as Mr. Chard wasn't looking at the object at that moment he didn't see this. The sighting ended abruptly after half an hour (at about 9.30 p.m.) when the object just faded and vanished.

At 9.00 p.m. that Sunday I was in bed, but my mother was watching the television. She said later, when I had told her about the sighting, that at about that time interference distorted the picture and that it was like a "tweed cloth pattern." Our television set has experienced a lot of trouble, but she remarked that she has never seen that kind of interference before.

#### Venus, or not?

Of course, people are likely to say that the UFO in the West was the planet Venus. Mr. Chard has said to me that he is quite sure it was not a planet, and the description bears this out. But we might as well see where Venus was at that time.

Venus was a very prominent evening star then, setting 5 hours after the sun. The sun had set at 5.45 p.m., so Venus would have been in the sky at that time. But, (1) the object was seen just over the roof of a semi-detached house opposite, and Venus would have dropped behind this roof in a half-hour, and (2) 30° seems a bit high for Venus at 9.30 p.m.

The first sighting was not reported in any newspaper

as Mr. Chard did not contact anybody about it. I heard about the sighting on the social "grape-vine," contacted the Chards on March 9 and questioned Mr. Chard and Francis on March 10.

The second sighting occurred exactly a fortnight later, on March 19. The same family were watching television at 8.40 p.m. when "wavy white lines" ran across the picture. Mr. Chard looked out of the window and saw what looked like the same object in the sky in the West, only it was higher (about 40°). He got into his car and drove to my home, hoping to tell me about it. I was watching television (the unusual interference had come on for a few seconds before) and I didn't hear him knock. As nobody came to the door, Mr. Chard drove back and contacted the police.

The object had the same lights as before, although Mr. Chard did say that they "weren't so sure" about it being a genuine UFO. A police constable came round and watched it for a while. In an article that appeared in the *Crawley and District Observer* of March 23 he is quoted as saying that he didn't see any lights, and that the object was "either a star or a planet—it was too far away to be anything else." In the article, it said also that the police contacted Gatwick Airport, and that no unidentified blip showed on their radar. But Francis said to me that he had heard that Gatwick radar *did* pick up something. The explanation given in the paper was "Venus," and this is possible, although Francis said that the object dimmed and vanished as in the first sighting.

I questioned Mr. Chard and Francis about the second sighting on April 10, and Francis alone on April 12. One has to consider the possibility of a hoax, but I don't think it likely. They do not seem to be the kind of people who would regard hoaxing as a joke, and Francis (junior) is not a member of the Skinhead/Suedehead/Greaser or Hippy conglomeration. Furthermore, they both seem to have a normal lack of knowledge about UFOs. Mr. Chard said that he was a sceptic before his sighting, not believing the reports in the newspapers. However, they both now seem interested in the subject.

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# The Great "Cross" above the Vatican

Alberto Perego

Translation and annotation by Gordon Creighton.

NOW that we have plenty of opportunity to see the ridiculous conclusions reached by the Condon Commission, I suggest that an opportune moment has come for us to consider what happened in the skies over Rome on Saturday and Sunday, November 6-7, 1954. For the occurrences of those days constitute a mass sighting of the very greatest importance, and yet one which is still totally unknown to many serious and eminent students of our subject, largely perhaps because my own Report on the matter at the time and my three books<sup>1</sup> were published in Italian (all now out of print) and have never been translated into English. And no reports of the phenomena of November 6 and 7 ever appeared in the Italian press.

Until August 1954, whenever I heard of stories of "Flying Saucers" I thought that these machines were secret aircraft developed by the Great Powers, and shared the common opinion of astronomers that any hypothesis as to the possibility of interplanetary aviation was quite absurd.

During August and September 1954 the Italian newspapers carried numerous reports of the massive UFO "visitation" over France, including accounts of many landings. Then, on September 17, a cigar-shaped object appeared and remained stationary for a few minutes over Rome, being seen by thousands of witnesses, and by October the "wave" had spilled over from France into Italy. For the one month of October 1954, the Italian press carried reports of no less than 200

sightings, and some 19 landings, all over or on Italian territory. And on November 11 the United Press said there had been 400 separate Italian UFO reports in the past 80 days.

In Rome itself thousands of eyewitnesses excitedly discussed what they had seen, or besieged the newspapers with their stories. By now, however, the newspapers were beginning to be bored with the whole subject, and finally many eyewitnesses began to think it better not to talk any more of what they had seen.

But the most startling developments were yet to come.

At 1.00 p.m. on October 30, as I was driving in my car past the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, I noticed a crowd of about a hundred people gazing up at the sky. I stopped, and looked up myself, and saw two small white dots moving in a southerly direction. Later I saw them vanish in opposite directions, and then they (or two others) reappeared and began moving northwards. My clear impression was that these objects were some kind of "aircraft," and flying at a height of about 2,000 metres. The phenomenon impressed me deeply, particularly the total absence of any noise from their engines. Was this, then, the "new kind of aircraft?" And, if so, whose were they, and why over Rome? The affair was duly reported in the Rome papers of the following day, October 31.

I come now to the far more spectacular happenings of November 6 and 7, which never received the least mention in the press.

## A PIONEER ITALIAN UFO RESEARCHER

I have been hoping for some years that we might be able one day to devote some space to making known the remarkable role played by the Italian diplomat Dr. Alberto Perego in collecting and publishing so much material about these very important and very numerous Italian sightings and landings of the early 1950s. He has been one of the real pioneers, and it is interesting to note that in more recent years he has been at the Italian Consulate at Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil, and consequently in the best possible position for studying the extraordinary UFO happenings in South America.

Dr. Perego is today the Director of his Italian Centre for Electromagnetic Aviation (CISAER) at Viale Pasteur 46 in Rome.

I recently asked Signor Roberto Pinotti, Secretary of C.U.N., the new centralised Italian organisation for the study of the UFO problem (Centro Unico Nazionale Per Lo Studio Dei Fenomeni Ritenuti Di Natura Extraterrestre, 40100 Bologna, Casella Postale 796) whether he would kindly comment for me on Signor Perego's pioneer role and on the authenticity of the occurrence of the remarkable phenomenon of the "Cross" and the great UFO concentrations over Rome on November 6-7, 1954. He has replied assuring me that the matter is *entirely authentic*.

He adds that he differs from Dr. Perego only in not sharing some of the particular interpretations of UFO events at which the latter has arrived. For example, as his three books show clearly, Dr. Perego is inclined to see great significance in the occurrence of UFO phenomena on certain dates, and he is at pains to link it all with political and military happenings on our planet. He is inclined also to harbour far more idealistic views of the UFO occupants than are many of the rest of us and to be much more ready to accept "contactee" stories. Like many people, he does not seem to be willing to face squarely the solid evidence that exists that many of these beings, whatever they may be, and wherever they may be from, are certainly no friends of our species. He is inclined to believe that the appearances and demonstrations by UFOs are designed to influence the politics of terrestrial governments, and indeed some of our national leaders and politicians may be "contactees."—GORDON CREIGHTON.