

FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW



MAY-JUNE, 1955

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Edited by: Derek D. Dempster

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BI-MONTHLY

GOVERNMENT statements on Flying Saucers have always been confusing, and the general concensus of opinion has been that officialdom was just as anxious to know the answer to the riddle as anyone else.

But last month something happened to give rise to the belief that Whitehall did in fact have the U.F.O. answer.

The Air Ministry announced that the results of a five-year probe into Flying Saucers by the Royal Air Force had been submitted to high-ranking officers but that it was never to be revealed to the public for security reasons.

To the question: "Do Flying Saucers exist?" the answer is understood to be NO. No definite denial there. Just an implied denial.

Following the announcement, Major Patrick Wall (Conservative, Haltemprice) asked the Under-Secretary of State for Air, Mr George Ward, whether the Air Ministry inquiry had been completed and whether he proposed to publish a report.

Mr Ward's answer was not really an answer and contradicted his own department.

He said: "Reports of Flying Saucers, as well as other abnormal objects in the sky, are investigated as they come in, but there has been no formal inquiry."

"About 90 per cent of the reports have been found to relate to meteors, balloons, flares and many other objects. The fact that the other ten per cent are unexplained need be attributed to nothing more sinister than lack of data."

So once again the Government have issued confusing statements on the subject. Furthermore, they have stated that 10 per cent of the sightings cannot be accounted for by conventional explanations; yet, until Mr Ward's statement the unexplained sightings amounted to only five per cent!

This still begs the question, and the Government should be asked who selects the 100 per cent and on what basis. With regard to the 10 per cent, there are plenty of people in this country who could supply the Government with the data which they say is not available.

Consider for a moment the R.A.F. pilots who have reported seeing strange objects in the sky; and there are many of them.

If they are lying, they obviously lack integrity and should be dismissed the Service. If they are suffering from hallucinations they are not fit to fly and are therefore unfit for further service.

Yet none of the pilots who have submitted reports have been sacked, which indicates that their statements have been accepted as being true and that they are in a good state of health.

Therefore, the Air Ministry must have a good deal of data upon which to formulate some answer: 1. That Flying Saucers do not exist. 2. That they exist and are secret weapons. 3. That they exist and are interplanetary.

From all the confusion one thing seems to emerge fairly clearly. That Flying Saucers do exist. What is not clear, however, is whether they are in fact secret weapons or interplanetary space-ships.

LET'S talk SPACE

GERMAN PRIEST SAYS: "WE'RE BEING WATCHED"

INHABITANTS from another planet are watching our activities on earth thinks Father Philipp Dessauer, a German theologian living in Munich.

"Information collected on the subject of Flying Saucers seems to point with sufficient certainty to the fact that beings endowed with reason from another planet have been watching our earth for the past eight years" he told theologians, sociologists and laity at a recent conference in Bonn called to discuss the Christian attitude to visitors from other planets.

"From the philosophical point of view," said Father Dessauer, "unknown beings coming from another planet ought to be looked upon as persons, and, from the theological point of view, these persons should be considered God's creatures.

"If it should one day be possible to contact these beings," added the priest, "such an encounter would constitute the most sensational and dramatic event in human history.

"It is the duty of governments to prepare men for the eventuality of such an encounter," he concluded.

SAUCER FOLLOWS ARMY VETERAN'S CAR

AN Army veteran had the biggest fright of his life at the beginning of April when he was travelling by car between Fort Rosebery and Kasama, Northern Rhodesia. He was followed for 25 miles by a Flying Saucer.

Telling the story to the *Ndola Northern News*; Mr. D. G. L. Clarke, a well-built, determined looking man, said: "I have seen some pretty frightful things in my time; I have seen thousands of dead bodies lying in one place—but never have I been so utterly terrified as I was by this Flying Saucer.

"I had just crossed a river on the road—it was 7.30 p.m.—when my boy, Peter, who was sitting in the passenger seat, pointed out a light in front.

"It was rather like a star, about 10 miles away in the sky, and very bright," he said.

"As we went on, it seemed to come nearer at a pretty terrific speed. It changed colour to rosy red, and then to blue, and then to luminous again—and all the time it was coming nearer.

"I stopped the car, turned off the lights, and got out," added Mr. Clarke. "By this time the thing was quite close—probably 500 yards away—and it swerved away to the left. As it went off I could just see a faint oval outline with a bright light shining on top.

I climbed back into the car and went on my way. The thing was far away to my right-hand side, high in the sky. I did not see it cross over the sky.

"Then it twice came towards us and then swerved away again. After the second time I did not see it again for about 10 minutes," went on Mr. Clarke.

"We were approaching a river when we saw it again on the right-hand side. It came down towards us and gradually sunk lower and lower, until it eventually could be seen through the trees. By this time my boy was gibbering with fear, and I thought he was going to have a fit. I was getting pretty scared myself.

"As soon as I got to the river I saw a light on the opposite side, and I thought the thing had landed. This was too much for me, and I turned back as fast as I could. It was the most frightening experience of my life," he concluded.

When he reported the incident to the district commissioner at Kasama he was told that another person had seen a similar object in the sky recently.

THE ASTRONOMER ROYAL SAYS IT AGAIN

THE Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, who has been trying to "bury" Flying Saucers for many years, has said it again.

He told Canadians that reports on Flying Saucers were "bunk."

He was convinced that with the exception of life on our own planet and primitive vegetation

on Mars, no life existed on any of the other planets in the solar system.

As for space travel, Sir Harold said it might take several centuries for man to "satisfy his curiosity" in interplanetary flight:

The odd thing about the Astronomer Royal is that he does not take into account the possibility of life on planets in other solar systems and does not consider the possibility that Flying Saucers travel across the Cosmos to visit this earth.

U.F.O. FORMATES ON SOUTH AMERICAN PLANE

A FLYING SAUCER shaped like a humming top closed in on a Venezuelan airliner flying between Valera and Barquisimeto on February 2 and kept station with it for a few minutes.

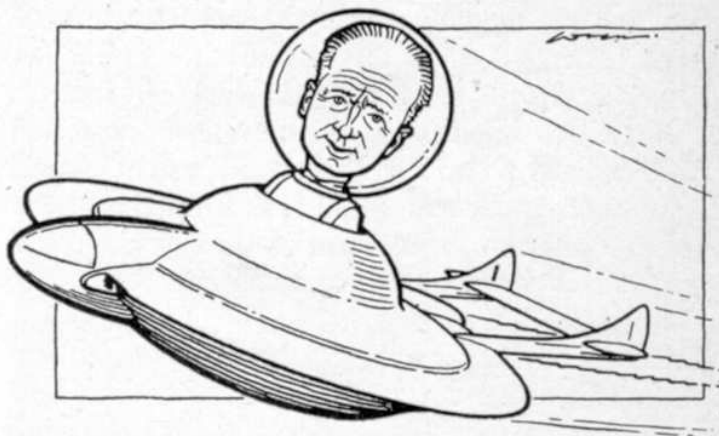
Confirming the story, Linea Aeropostal Venezolana crews told FLYING SAUCER REVIEW that the airliner, piloted by Captain Dario Celis and First Officer P. J. Cortes, was on a scheduled service between the two towns. It was flying at 125 miles per hour at 7,500 feet.

The saucer was sighted by the Captain and the First Officer simultaneously as it closed in on their plane at 11.15 a.m. The two passengers also saw it and watched it as it flew alongside.

Describing it, the Venezuelans said it was shaped like a humming top with a green top, a red middle and a white lower section.

The red centre section emitted bright flashes. There were portholes in the lower part. And as it flew alongside the airliner the object rotated in an anti-clockwise direction.

DE HAVILLAND "SAUCER"



RANGOON was thrown into a state of wild excitement early last April when a "Flying Saucer" left a pattern of vapour trails high over the city.

But the "Saucer" was not a Saucer at all. It was a de Havilland Vampire jet trainer piloted by George Errington, one of the company's test pilots.

The excitement arose because vapour trails seldom occur in that part of the world. It so happened that the conditions on that particular day were just right.

PILOTS EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT

FLAMING METEORITE (24/3/55)

MANY of the Royal Air Force crews who saw the mysterious "flaming object" that crossed Britain at tremendous speed on March 24 are convinced that it was not a meteorite.

A pilot stationed at an airfield near Cambridge said he saw the thing just above the horizon leaving a vapour trail behind it. He was in a Meteor jet fighter at the time.

Another pilot, whose base is in Kent, was also airborne at the time and said later that it appeared to accelerate.

On the ground the reports were wildly confusing, and it was difficult to find out the exact direction in which it appeared to be travelling. Some said North, others South, and many that it streaked towards the West before blowing up. Several reports indicated that it changed direction.

From the eye witness accounts it would appear that the thing was not a meteorite at all, but an unidentified flying object. Meteorites have never been seen to leave vapour trails, nor have they been seen to accelerate.

And there is something else a meteorite has seldom been seen to do: and that is to travel over the tremendous distance this particular object covered and to maintain level flight during that time.

The only evidence that can be accepted to support the Flying Saucer theory here is that provided by the pilots who were airborne at the time.

The reports received from ground observers are, unfortunately, confusing and best left alone. The conclusion to be drawn, therefore, is that the object could have been artificial.

Hundreds of strange stories are reaching FLYING SAUCER REVIEW from all over the world. The one told here is perhaps the strangest. Whether you believe it or not, we think it worth publishing; for it is one which appears to be developing and if true may lead to one of the answers we are seeking about the origin of Flying Saucers. The author is a farmer living in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri, U.S.A., miles from the nearest town. The first news of his experience appeared briefly in the last issue.

A STRANGE TALE FROM MISSOURI

by Buck Nelson

I WAS listening to the radio around 4 p.m. on July 30 last year when a high-pitched noise and what appeared to be a foreign tongue cut across the programme. I listened for a few minutes and then turned the volume down and tried to tune in to get the programme more clearly; but the noise, mixed up with the babble of the unknown language, persisted.

At the same time I heard my pony raising cain outside the house and my dog barking and scratching the door to attract my attention. I went out and what I saw astonished me.

A huge disc-like object, at least 50 feet in diameter, was hovering over the house about 100 or 200 feet up. Then it moved off and dropped below the trees 800 to 1,000 feet from the house and landed. I am pretty sure of that because the grass, which I examined later, showed where it had touched down.

In the meantime I went for my camera, but by the time I returned to the open the disc had climbed away into the low clouds to join two others. I took three snaps, but only one showed any strange craft in the air. Yet every time I took a picture I saw two or more discs in the viewfinder. All three objects seemed to play around the clouds, alternately hovering, turning right and left, and rising and descending sharply.

I had a close enough view to see why they were able to make such sharp turns. The ships, which were of a dark aluminium colour, were built with a revolving centre core which seemed to swivel so that one part always pointed in the direction of travel. The discs themselves never turned.

The most extraordinary and frightening experience during this visit, however, came when I tried to signal the one that had come nearest to me with my flashlight. A bright beam of light, much hotter and brighter than the sun, was thrown onto me, jolting me with a current that threw me to the ground.

Because I suffered from lumbago and neuritis I was afraid to move and get up, and of getting another jolt. I just watched the discs until they disappeared. When I did get up, however, I was amazed to find the pains had gone. They haven't bothered me since. I believe there must be some connection between this and the incidents mentioned in the spring number of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, where American and French jetplane crews experienced intense heat in their cockpits when they approached Saucers.

The pictures I took were sent to the United States Air Force, but they were returned three months later without comment. It seems that the Air Force here do not believe in Saucers, or at least try to tell the public that they don't.

There was no sign of the Saucers again until midday on February 1 this year, when the three returned. One of them circled low over the house and someone spoke to me in plain English over some kind of public address system. I was asked to hold my arm up high to answer "Yes" to any of their questions and to ask any questions by concentrating and thinking clearly anything I wished to ask.

Their first question was: "Are you friendly?" "Yes," I answered, and raised my right arm.

"Can we land on your place and not be molested? It may be necessary to land now and then."

I told them they could do so at any time as my ranch is heavily timbered and lies a 25-mile round trip from the nearest town and a long way from my nearest neighbour.

Then I asked: "Will you land and let me see you and talk to you?"

"Yes, sometime!"

"Can I go with you to your home on another planet?"

Again they answered: "Yes, sometime," and added, "There are many others from here on Venus."

"Are Mars and the Moon inhabited?"

"The Moon is not inhabited, but many planets have a colony of their people living on and exploiting it. They are living underground and in bubble houses."

As the ship flew around the house it keeled over enough for me to be able to see through the transparent dome into the cabin. One man was at a control desk lit up with flickering coloured lights, while two others stood up to a circular rail. They were of normal height, but very big-boned, heavily built and muscular.

An odd thing happened on this visit. I had been digging a spring near where the space ship had landed on the previous occasion and had piled a lot of soft yellow slate-like rock—we call it shale—near the hole. The spacemen loaded the lot and took it away with them.

I never saw them do it, but I cannot think of anyone except them wanting to take it away. There is lots of it around here and, as far as I can see, no one on this Earth would bother about that pile. Anyway, they must have taken it. Why? I am having the rock inspected and analysed to see what it might contain.

On March 5 I had them visit me personally in my house. When they arrived they were wearing nothing, but carried their clothing over their arms. After shaking hands they dressed in purplish-blue one-piece overalls with low necks and short sleeves.

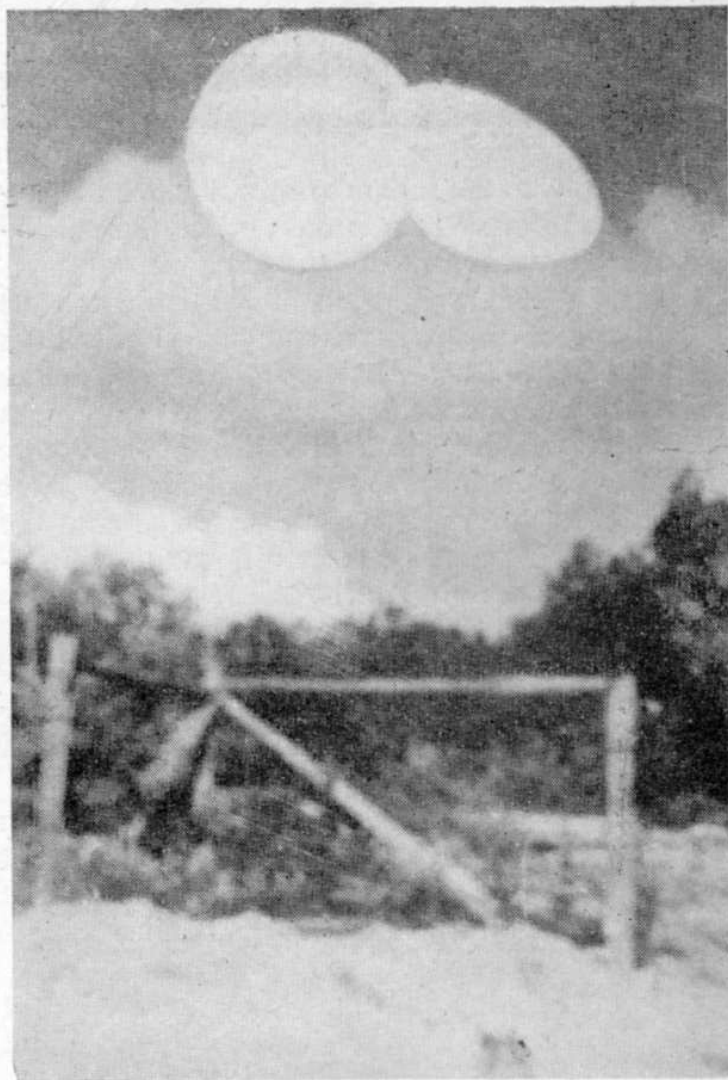
Between this visit and the next, on March 22, two U.F.O. investigators from Chicago called and spent three days with me. During that time they set up three flares in a triangle and a light beam with which they hoped to attract the attention of

the Saucers. They tried on two nights running without success, although we heard a faint noise that may well have been the space ships.

The investigators told me the reason why the Saucer crew had arrived in the nude was to show friendship and to prove to me that I was talking to real men.

The March 22 visit was a brief one at night, when I was told that they had tried to approach the flares and light beam but had been worried by a jet.

I hope to see them often, to travel in space with them and to see Venus and the Moon. I hope to be able to go and return, with the evidence safely printed on the films I will take with me.



Buck Nelson's photograph, reproduced here, is not particularly satisfactory and would hardly convince a sceptic. It is supported, however, by an account printed in the South African "Natal Daily News" on March 1. (See first story overleaf.)

WORLD ROUNDUP

A young farmer in the Marina Beach district, Mr. Jack Barregar, Jnr., has joined the ranks of "Saucer sighters." A sceptic, inclined to scoff at the idea of Flying Saucers, Mr. Barregar cannot explain what he saw.

According to him, he was awakened at about 4.30 a.m. by a strong light, which he presumed at first to be a torch, shining into his face. Getting out of bed, he found that the whole room was bathed in a strong green glow and looking out of the window, he saw a brilliantly-lighted object in the sky.

He awakened his Indian servant and together they went outside and watched the object.

At first it descended slowly and then receded at amazing speed.

Suddenly, to the Indian's terror, it came rushing back, then hovered for a short while. It receded again and disappeared in the distance.

Neither Mr. Barregar nor the Indian could see the shape of the object. It appeared only as a brilliant light. However, it conformed in every respect, both in appearance and behaviour, to an object sighted by Mrs. Noel Spiller, of Ramsgate, Natal, recently. Mrs. Spiller watched the object through a strong pair of binoculars, and she declares that she could discern a spinning movement within the glow of light.

★ ★ ★

A bright, rounded silver object was seen over London on April 19 by Mr. Roger Braban of Portman Square, W.1.

He said: "I was walking up Great Queen Street, Kingsway, when I saw passing over what would have been the Leicester Square district a bright, silver, most certainly rounded object flying North.

"I am no judge of height," he added, "but at the time it struck me that it was flying at about the same altitude as any civil airliner.

"It was moving rapidly and I saw it for just nine seconds. The time was 9.35 a.m.

"The odd thing about it," said Mr. Braban, "was that there was no sound. The street was

fairly quiet and unless the wind was doing very odd things at the height the object appeared to be, there should have been some noise coming from it.

"It was no doubt some solid object," he concluded. "It was in a cloudless sky and shining like highly polished metal."

★ ★ ★

A *flying anchor* was seen in the sky over Wanganui, New Zealand, by five people. In a report to the *Wanganui Chronicle* on January 4 they said the object was brightly lit and was about the size, though not the shape, of a half-crown. It passed slowly over the city and seemed at times to be hovering in the air.

One witness described it as being anchor-shaped and having what looked like a tail. No sound of an aeroplane could be heard, and it was impossible to judge the object's height, but it gave the impression of being very high. It gave off a "bright but ordinary-coloured light."

★ ★ ★

A *propeller spinning at terrific speed*, accompanied by a "dreadful noise," was described by Dr. V. Hajek, a Czechoslovakian engineer, in the *Melbourne Age*, Australia. Dr. Hajek was returning from a motor cycle trip to Adelaide on January 11, with his wife when the event occurred.

"Midway across a small bridge outside Torquay I heard a dreadful noise. I thought the bridge was collapsing, and as I turned my head I saw out of the corner of my eye an object like a large metal propeller rotating at high speed. It was making a noise much louder than a Vickers-Viscount jet. The noise seemed to be super-imposed on a sizzling sound of high pitch.

"A clearer view of the object, which was travelling at a speed between 700 and 800 m.p.h. about a quarter of a mile from me and approximately 300 feet up, showed me that it was elliptical and highly polished. It was slightly blurred because of the rotating motion, but it gave me the impression of a large propeller spinning at terrific speed."

Dr. Hajek estimated the object to have been about 40 feet in diameter. It was in his sight for about 12 seconds. It climbed rapidly, leaving no vapour trail. Mrs. Hajek supported his statement.

[Read Hermann Oberth, p. 12.—Ed.]

A circular object with a glow round it was seen over Bexley Heath on March 11, said Mr. Douglas Clarke in a report to the *Evening News*.

He was in his bedroom when he saw it, he said, and he got out on a ledge to watch it. It came from the north-west and made towards Dartford. Then it turned round and came back, disappearing again towards the river. He judged it to be about 500 feet high.

★ ★ ★

A trail of light like a tail was left by an object observed at Houto, Whangarei, New Zealand, by Mrs. E. Morgan on January 7. It was a dome-shaped object as big as an orange, emitting a dazzling yellow light, Mrs. Morgan told the *Wanganui Chronicle*. It was high in the sky and she watched it intermittently for nearly two hours. The light fluctuated and the object altered height on several occasions.

She called her brother, Mr. W. Boag, who stated that he watched the object for 15 minutes and confirmed what Mrs. Morgan had said. At 3 a.m. the object dropped twice, coming lower each time. And it left a trail of light just like a tail. When daylight came it was higher in the sky.

★ ★ ★

Red rays were emitted by a Flying Saucer sighted over Montmorillon, Vienne, France, on March 25, claim two young men in the Paris edition of the *New York Herald Tribune*. The Saucer was seen shortly after midnight and remained suspended in the sky for several minutes and then took off in a westerly direction at high velocity.

★ ★ ★

A light which penetrated his bedroom was reported by a New Zealand school teacher on January 22. In an interview with the *Dunedin Evening Star* he said he was woken early in the morning by the light, which illuminated his bedroom, and the noise of something which "swished" over his house at a "terrific rate." He went outside and a minute later the object came back over the same route and was gone in a few seconds.

He described what he saw as being of a greenish colour.

At first he thought it might have been a jet plane, but afterwards decided that a jet could not have made such a quick turn. The object, he said, was travelling at a very low altitude.

★ ★ ★

A green spherical object swooped down on a man and woman as they were driving in Somerset in February, they claimed in an interview with the *Somerset County Gazette*.

Mr. Victor Stevens, Washford village grocer, said that a bright green glow took his attention as he was driving past Crowcombe on his way home from Taunton. His wife cried out and, though he was not able to take his eyes off the road because he was driving, he was aware of a green thing which seemed to go down ahead of them—probably in the Bristol Channel.

Mrs. Stevens said the object was egg-shaped rather than circular and gave out a bright apple-green light.

★ ★ ★

A bright oval object hovering silently frightened a woman in Dunedin, New Zealand. She awoke in the early hours of the morning of February 10, she said in a report to the *Dunedin Evening Star*, and saw the object against a background of black sky.

For some seconds she was too frightened to move. Then she jumped from her bed and ran to the window of her room. The object stayed in the sky for about 15 minutes. It was oval in shape and the centre was brilliant, so was the outer "halo." The portion between the centre and the halo was a dull yellow.

It jerked away sideways, after spending a lot of time just bobbing up and down.

★ ★ ★

Early last November 20 objects which appeared to overtake each other, yet kept perfect formation, were seen travelling in a Southerly direction over Teignmouth, Devon.

Reporting the incident, Mrs. V. E. Borkett, who lives in Teignmouth, said the sky was perfectly clear and the objects looked like golden balls.

Witnesses to the sightings were Mrs. Borkett's father-in-law, Mr. A. J. Borkett, and a visitor to Teignmouth, Mrs. Moore.

The incident was reported to the War Office,

WORLD ROUNDUP (continued)

Madame Vivot, wife of an army officer, living at 4 rue de Corcelles, Pesieux, Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, opened her window on the morning of December 31, 1954, at 7.55, reports *Courier Interplanétaire*, and saw an oval shape, the colour of dull grey steel, at a distance of about 400 to 500 yards, which her husband later estimated to be 350 to 500 feet in length.

An extremely brilliant beam of light, like a very bright neon light, was at one end. From the other came a shower of sparks and a slight crackling sound, like escaping steam. The shower of sparks was extinguished, followed immediately by a swift swirl of white smoke. Then the beam of light began revolving rapidly round the shape which slowly rose into the air.

Mme. Vivot called in witnesses and telephoned her husband. All saw, with the naked eye, the beam revolving around the shape.

During the next ten minutes M. Vivot watched through his binoculars. He telephoned the Neuchâtel observatory. Observation balloons were mentioned, the final words being: "You're not going to tell us it was a Flying Saucer!"

At last the beam stopped and M. Vivot, through his binoculars, saw a jet of white smoke come from both ends of the shape and it disappeared into space. At 8.30 a.m. the shape was still visible. The farther away it went the brighter its light became. A terrific force emanated from this shape, which affected Mme. Vivot for over three days.

M. and Mme. Vivot went by car to the place where they presumed the shape had landed (in the region of Chantemerle-sur-Corcelles, Neuchâtel). They searched for some time but found nothing. They spoke of the incident to their friends but were laughed at. They did not believe in Flying Saucers prior to this sighting, and had never read a book on the subject.

★ ★ ★

A luminous mass shaped "like a throwing fish net" was seen by the caretaker of a gypsum mine in New Caledonia, in the Pacific at the end of January. It remained motionless for 20 minutes and made off at a terrific speed, the man reported.

About the same time two of the crew of a coastal trader reported seeing a "large circular object remaining motionless and then disappearing at terrific speed."

A woman saw a "huge yellow illuminated ball" in the sky seaward from Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia. It hung for about 20 minutes "continually inflating and deflating before it disappeared."

Another report was received from a woman who said she saw a huge sausage-shaped object which remained stationary for at least half-an-hour before disappearing.

These sightings were reported in a number of New Zealand newspapers.

★ ★ ★

An atom-like flash about 400 miles west of the Irish coast was reported in the *Evening News* on February 23 and *The Times* on February 24. Mr. J. Fuller and Mr. John Thomas, third officer and navigator of a Pan-American clipper, both saw the flash.

Mr. Fuller said: "We were flying at 21,000 feet. We both saw a mysterious explosion. We were too high for it to have been caused by a ship. It was definitely not lightning, and the sun had not yet risen."

"I saw an atom bomb exploded at Las Vegas and it looked very much the same."

★ ★ ★

A dazzling light and terrific explosion were witnessed by several people at Greymouth, New Zealand, on February 6. Observers at widely separated points gave similar descriptions of the object in the sky in reports to the *Southland Daily News*, Invercargill, New Zealand. It was said to be cigar-shaped, bright silver in appearance and travelling at a speed too great to estimate. It appeared to be losing altitude as it moved inland from the West Coast.

Two observers claimed that the object was in two parts, with the leading part considerably larger than the other. The whole thing emitted a dazzling light.

Just after the object was being observed from four different places, an explosion was heard and felt over an area of several hundred square miles. It was as violent as a clap of thunder, and there was a pronounced tremble of the earth.

(Continued on page 29)

EXPLOSION OVER NORTH LONDON

Wide publicity was given to the explosion which occurred in the Hampstead Heath area in the early hours of March 16. The blast was heard over three miles away in Hornsey and neighbouring districts. The area was searched for four hours by police from Hampstead, Holloway and Camden Town and by keepers from Kenwood (surrounded on three sides by the Heath). There was a later search in daylight, but nothing was discovered on either occasion to account for the explosion. Neither the R.A.F. nor the Meteorological Office had any aircraft in the area at the time of the explosion. Here are some eye-witness accounts collected by R. R. RUSSELL:

A RAILWAY signalman, Mr. Joseph Bradley, who was on duty at the Gospel Oak box, which is near to the Heath at the foot of Parliament Hill Fields, said there was a red flash and an explosion which caused the signal box to shake and rattle for several moments; it appeared to come from the Heath. Mr. R. Sale, who lives in Well Walk, said there was an orange-red flash in the sky followed by a loud bang, which came from the direction of the Heath.

Mrs. F. Louis, of 14 East Heath Road, Vale of Health, saw the explosion through her bedroom window, which is on the first floor and faces directly across the Vale of Health towards Kenwood. She was awake and sitting up in bed, when she saw through the thin curtain material covering the window a distinct orange-red flash which appeared to come from the middle-distance. She pointed out the place, which appeared to be between Parliament Hill and the Vale of Health, near Kenwood.

She said the noise reminded her of an explosion made by a landmine during the war. But she had the impression of two objects colliding and something coming down. The blast blew over a bird-cage.

The area between Mrs. Louis and the signal box at Gospel Oak is just under a mile. But the district at Gospel Oak lies beneath the level of the Heath, and the view of the Heath is blocked by Parliament Hill. So it seems possible that the blast occurred in the air, and that the force was felt strongly at both points, normally separated by

the bulk of the Hill, at ground level. The chief keeper, who lives on the opposite side of Kenwood, next to "Kenwood House," heard nothing; neither did the rest of the staff nearby. The grounds and the Wood itself could have muffled the sound if, as seems probable, it was mainly directed towards the East Heath area.

An explosion of this magnitude occurring on the ground would have left tangible evidence in the form of a crater, or stripped bark and broken branches on the trees. In only one spot is there even a suggestion of this—that is, the lake crossed by a viaduct, occupying the centre of the Vale of Health area. This was very carefully examined by the police and keepers. There are signs of recently stripped bark and broken branches, but these could have been caused by squirrels. Anything falling could have dropped into one of the ponds on the Heath.

This is not the first time explosions of this nature have been heard. At about the same time people on the South Coast of Britain heard a very loud bang which many thought was a jet plane blowing up. Investigations showed, however, that neither the R.A.F. nor the Fleet Air Arm were missing any aircraft, and every civilian aeroplane clocked out of British airports reached their destinations. Aircraft flight planned into Britain from the Continent also touched down safely.

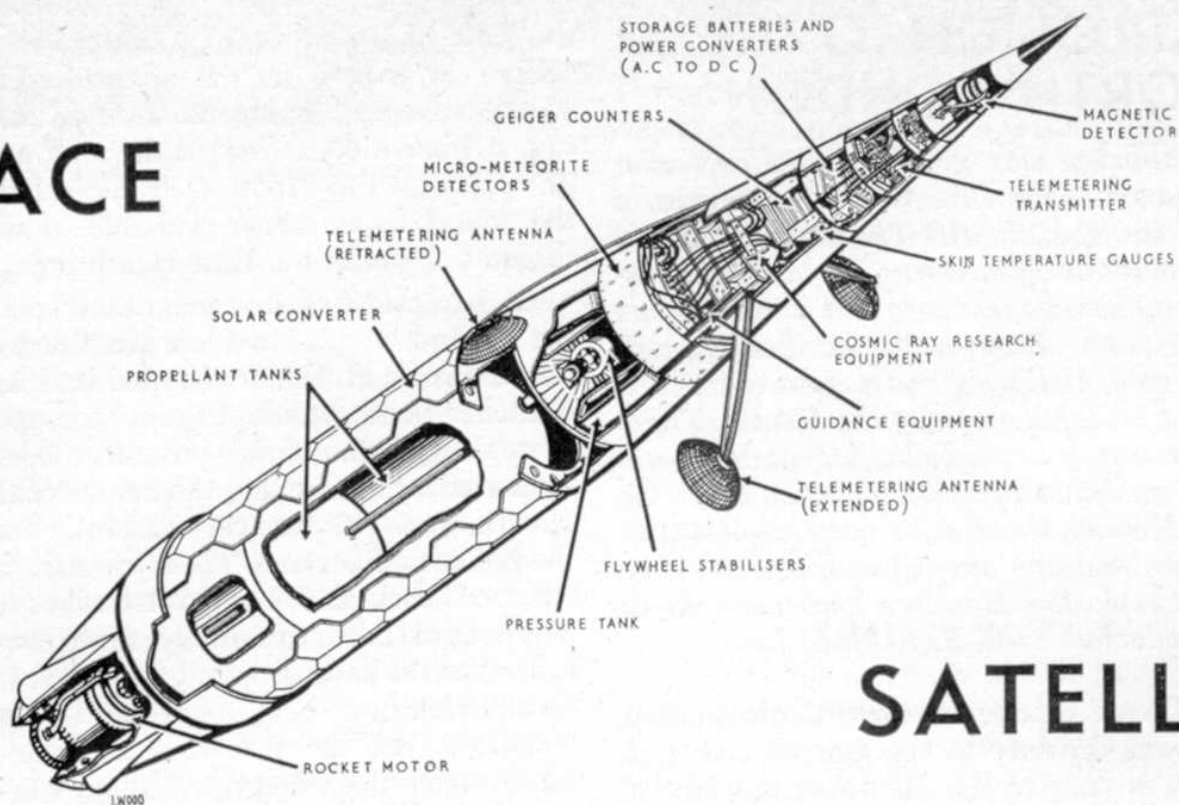
In other parts of the world mysterious explosion have been heard and in many cases they have been seen. Early this year New Zealanders saw a barrel shaped object hurtling through the air at tremendous speed towards a range of mountains. A violent explosion followed a few minutes later. What it was has not yet been disclosed, for the area in which it is supposed to have crashed is very wild and almost unexplored.

On January 11 people at Palos Grandes near Caracas, Venezuela, saw an intensely blue light high in the sky and simultaneously heard a loud bang.

Whether these explosions are in fact connected with flying saucers we have not been able to ascertain. The reports seem to indicate that they are, although the "experts" would prefer to attribute them to electrical and other natural phenomena.

(Any theories readers may have on mystery explosions will be welcomed by "Flying Saucer Review."—Ed.)

SPACE



SATELLITE

A SPACE bound satellite equipped with automatic cameras which, in its regular motion round the globe, will secure wide area photographs of the earth's surface, is being actively planned by the United States, says Kenneth W. Gatland, a founder member of the British Interplanetary Society, in the April issue of the *Royal Air Force Flying Review*.

Although exact details of the project are secret, work begins this year and will involve expenditure on a scale that resulted in the first atomic bomb.

The primary object of the satellite, says Gatland, will be to satisfy the needs of the physicists who are anxious to study solar and cosmic radiations which have a great value to nuclear physics and will help to answer fundamental questions about the universe which are likely to be a pre-requisite to man's future adventuring in space.

The main reason for planning a satellite is that present day rockets are extremely expensive and in return provide comparatively scant data on the atmosphere.

The American Viking rocket, for example, costs £143,000, spends about five minutes in the observation area and can be used only once.

If a rocket could be made to circle the earth

beyond the appreciable atmosphere, says Gatland, the recording time available to its research instruments could be extended to hours, weeks or even months.

One of the projects envisaged is the M.O.U.S.E. project which derives its name from the initial letters of Minimum Orbital Unmanned Satellite Earth.

It has fairly modest objectives and aims to establish an instrumented rocket in a temporary orbit at a distance of 200 miles; an altitude at which the atmosphere, though highly tenuous, will still be sufficient to exert an influence on the rocket and will eventually cause it to descend, to be burnt by air friction at some 60 miles altitude.

However, before this occurs, it is estimated that MOUSE will have made over 200 circuits of the earth over a period of 12 days during which it will have transmitted vital information on conditions existing at the very frontiers of space.

The step beyond MOUSE would be a rocket which remained in permanent or semi-permanent orbit.

Such a satellite—circling the globe once every 107 minutes—would be fitted out like a miniature cosmic ray laboratory. Everything in it would work automatically, power being obtained by converting solar radiation into electricity.

IGOR SIKORSKI SAYS: "SPACE FLIGHT IN 25 YEARS"

MAN will be flying in space beyond the earth's atmosphere within 25 years, said Igor Sikorski, the Russian-born American helicopter pioneer, in London recently.

The immediate destination would not be the moon or some other planet, but he foresaw the construction of a machine designed to travel above the atmosphere where it would be free from air resistance.

He feared that the first of these craft would be military cargo vessels of some sort and not civilian space liners as the cost of operation would be prohibitive to commercial enterprises.

While the timid venture into outer space may take place within 25 years, he added, travel to the moon may be possible by the end of the century.

Igor Sikorski came to Britain to receive the 1955 James Watt Medal of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

BRITAIN TO BUILD TEST ROCKETS

THE Ministry of Supply is to make rockets capable of reaching altitudes of 60 miles available to British scientists who want to study the upper atmosphere.

The rockets will be equipped with radio transmitters capable of telemetering information to ground stations.

Initial tests with smaller rockets designed to reach heights of 60,000 and 90,000 feet are expected to be made at the guided missile range at Aberporth, near Cardigan, Wales. The larger rockets intended for the 60 mile climb will be launched from more suitable sites.

The impetus for this new burst of activity is provided by the International Geophysical Year which opens in July, 1957. This £30 million project, in which 30 nations, including Russia, will take part, is the greatest international scientific effort in history.

It will aim to discover more about the influences of the sun in our daily life.

U.S. SATELLITE 800 MILES UP?

PERSISTENT reports that the United States had launched the world's first artificial satellite have been reaching **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** for many months.

Now the American magazine *Popular Mechanics* says that the launching is reported to have taken place "months ago, possibly at the Banana Ridge rocket range in Florida."

"The man-made object is said to be some 800 miles out in space, unless it has spiralled back into the atmosphere in the last few weeks," added the paper, which suggested that it might be orbiting the earth thirteen times a day.

It also suggested that the satellite might be a rocket that was expected to return to earth but "kept on going."

RUSSIA PLANS SATELLITE

A STANDING commission has been established under the Astronomical Council of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. to study the problems of cosmic space.

Members of the commission include some of Russia's most distinguished scientists, notably the renowned physicist, Peter Kapitza, who worked in the Rutherford laboratories at Cambridge University for many years.

According to A. G. Karpenko, the scientific secretary of the commission, one of the immediate tasks is to organise the construction of an automatically operated cosmic research laboratory: an artificial satellite presumably similar to the American one outlined on the opposite page.

With it, says Karpenko, biologists will be able to study conditions of weightlessness and astrophysicists the ultra violet and X-ray spectra of the sun and stars.

Radio physicists will have an opportunity of studying the ionosphere, adds Karpenko, with a view to determining the best ways of establishing radio communication with cosmic ships of the future.

In addition the satellite will help to improve weather forecasting.

THEY COME

FROM

OUTER SPACE

by Professor Hermann Oberth

FOR centuries strange luminous objects have been observed in the sky. The earliest mention is found in the Latin of Pliny who called them "Shining Shields." Up to the second World War about 50 reports were available. Then the phenomena became more frequent; the Allies thought they were a German secret weapon, and the Germans thought they were a weapon of the Allies. From 1947 onwards eye-witness reports have been increasing by leaps and bounds; according to Air Marshal Lord Dowding there were already more than 10,000 reports in 1953.

The phenomena are usually described as discs, sometimes as balls or ellipsoids. Occasionally reports say that several of the discs appear to bunch together, the largest in the centre, the smallest at the ends, so that a cigar-shaped body is formed, which flies away at great speed. It has also been observed that occasionally a cigar stops and breaks up into single discs.

Illuminating Power

In the sunlight, which appears to be stronger than the illuminating power of the discs themselves, the discs seem to have a metallic gleam. By night they appear dark orange or cherry-red. When hovering they do not glow very much, but as more driving power is needed the brightness increases and appears to be yellow, then greenish-yellow, then green like a copper flame and, at highest speeds, a blinding white. Sometimes they seem suddenly to light up or blot out.

Reports claim that the speed of U.F.O.s can be enormous; up to 40 ft./sec. have been measured on radar. The reliability of these reports has

been questioned; and I agree that it would be foolish to form any conclusions from just one or two reports, without waiting for further confirmation. On the other hand, I do not think that radar sets would be part of the equipment of U.S. Fleet Air Arm planes if they were not reliable.

Landings Not Proved

So far there has been no proof of landings by Flying Saucers, and all such reports should be carefully considered. Stories like that of George Adamski have not yet been authentically corroborated; and many reports of alleged meetings with occupants of Flying Saucers have since been proved false.

We should also be critical of photographic evidence. It is quite possible to fake background; to mount a picture of an U.F.O. (Unidentified Flying Object) on to a landscape background showing a human figure.

But, although a photograph could be faked, it does not necessarily follow that *is* faked. When the Edison gramophone was shown for the first time before the Paris Academy, one member angrily declared that the engineer was a ventriloquist and a swindler. Certainly a ventriloquist could have produced the voice, but in fact it was a machine which made the sounds!

In 1952 a retired American, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, published the book *Flying Saucers From Outer Space*. Keyhoe is a journalist and he used a colloquial style, broken up with dialogue, to make his book light and readable. But, unfortunately, in using this style he failed to make clear the

distinction between objective observation and his subjective opinion.

The U.S. Navy, which he occasionally mentions, refused to recognise him and dismissed the official who had confirmed the authenticity of his material with an officially stamped letter. However, I do not believe that Keyhoe invented all these reports.

It seems much more likely that he managed to get the addresses of people who had reported U.F.O.s, and that he went to them privately and questioned them. As he went to them in a friendly, informal way he probably learned more than a stranger and an official would have done. The official was dismissed *only because he had no authority* to give Keyhoe these addresses and such a confirmation, not because his facts were untrue.

Explanation of U.F.O. reports

Various official explanations have been given for reports of U.F.O.s. Here are some of them:

(a) *Unsubstantiated rumour*, or uncorroborated report, as in the case of George Adamski.

(b) *Hoaxes*, as in the case of the French farmer who let loose paper balloons filled with hot air. Later he said he had only wanted the name of his home town to get into the papers.

(c) *Hallucinations or mistakes*, like the gleaming dots that were seen in the beam of a searchlight. They obviously did not like being caught in the beam; and when a second searchlight was directed on to them they were recognised as the light-coloured breasts of wild geese.

Reflections have also been suggested, but I cannot accept this explanation. I cannot believe that an experienced pilot is unable to distinguish between a light on the ground, reflected in the glass of his cockpit, and a luminous object flying above him.

Mirages also seem to me to be an invalid explanation. They are very rare in our latitudes—I doubt if one of you has ever seen one. And often U.F.O.s appear under conditions in which a mirage is impossible on the evidence of the weather charts. Apart from that, mirages don't look like flying discs, but like static pictures such as lakes, palms and castles.

Other Objects Mistaken for U.F.O.s

(a) *Weather balloons*.

(b) *Aircraft*. Occasionally low flying aeroplanes which reflected the light have been reported as U.F.O.s. So also have meteors and the fire tails of rockets.

And I think that a German machine, the V7, and various modifications have been responsible for many U.F.O. reports. At the end of the war we developed first in Prague, then in Vienna, the V7 helicopter—this could easily have been mistaken for a Flying Saucer. Instead of having rotor blades like an ordinary helicopter, the V7 had rotating tubes which released an "exhaust" of flame. As the tubes rotated the helicopter appeared to have a circle of flame round it, and at a distance it looked like a shining disc.

When it hovered the flame was dark-red and dim. At higher speeds the disc appeared lighter and the flame looked yellowish, then white. At its highest speed 4,000 ft./sec. to 4,600 ft./sec. the V7 tipped over and flew on its side. A significant feature is that it was extremely noisy in flight, and produced a thick trail in the stratosphere.

The V7 certainly does not explain U.F.O. reports before the end of the war.

This behaviour corresponds with many reports of U.F.O.s. There have been a number of sightings of objects which change colour as they increase speed, and leave condensation trails. (See page 6 for reports of "propeller blades" and "terrible noises."—Ed.)

Russia has now obtained the plans and a model of the V7, and has built some models of her own which could account for some U.F.O. reports. France is also building a similar machine.

Professor Hermann Oberth is the man whose pre-war rocket inventions led to the development of the V1 and the V2 on which he worked at the German experimental establishment at Peenemünde.

Grey haired and 57 years of age, he takes a keen interest in Flying Saucers which he believes are "Vikings of another planetary system."

The nearest fixed star from which they could come is four and a half light years away. The fastest conceivable rocket space ship would take a century over the trip and would have to be 30 miles long and four miles wide with its own growing plants to provide oxygen.

The interesting thing is that cigar-shaped objects approaching these dimensions and fitting the proportions given have been reported on many occasions at extremely high altitude with disc-shaped craft flying to and from them.

America denies flying a V7-type machine, but a number of American reports of U.F.O.s correspond with descriptions of V7s.

Air Technical Intelligence Commission, the American official department for U.F.O. reports, had collected 3,200 reports up to 1952 (after this time their work became secret). Of this number just over 50 per cent. could be explained by the things I have mentioned—wild geese, hoaxes, weather balloons, the V7, etc. A further 40 per cent., though not identified, were so similar to the first group that they, too, were probably hallucinations or terrestrial objects.

But just over 9 per cent. remained unanswered by any of the above explanations.

The Unexplained Nine Per Cent

The Swedish physicist Prof. Benedicks suggested that this small percentage was due to ball lightning, but his theory postulates characteristics of ball lightning most of which are quite contrary to observations of its normal behaviour, duration and size. Naturally anyone in attempting to explain such phenomena is entitled to make such assumptions as he feels necessary. But in that case it is really up to him to prove that his assumptions are justified. In the absence of such proof I do not personally accept these assumptions.

My own explanation of the unsolved percentage of U.F.O.s is that they are machines built in some place other than Russia and countries on the Earth. (This is my personal opinion; it is not made in any official capacity.) Just as mankind is preparing for space travel, there may well be beings on other planets who have already discovered a means of doing so.

I do not, in fact, think that Russia is building any U.F.O.s at all; on the contrary, I believe they originate exclusively from outside the Earth, for these reasons:

(a) Observations suggest that Flying Saucers are able to suppress the force of gravity, and I do not think that anyone on Earth has yet found the means to do so.

(b) If they were a Russian secret weapon, it is hardly likely that the risk would be taken of allowing one to be shot down and captured by the Americans. The possession of such machines would make it possible for the Russians to build gigantic telescopes in the universe which would

magnify a millionfold. Placed at a height of 26,400 miles above the centre of the Earth, they would take exactly one day to circle the Earth once. They could bring the Earth's surface as near as some 40 miles and entirely replace reconnaissance flights over large American towns and armament centres.

(c) Not one single crash or crash-landing of U.F.O.s has so far been officially reported. This would be the first time in history a new machine had such a record. At Peenemünde in 1942 only one rocket out of 4 flew as desired, and even in 1944 only 80 per cent. of all V2s reached their objective. Twenty per cent. did not ignite, or exploded on the way or did not follow the desired route.

The safe working of the U.F.O.s—in conjunction with the long history of reports—seem to suggest a very old invention which has long since disposed of its teething troubles.

Having weighed all the pros and cons, I find the explanation of flying discs from outer space the most likely one. I call this the "Uraniden" hypothesis, because from our viewpoint the hypothetical beings appear to come from the sky (Greek—"Uranos").

Objections

There seems to me to be so far only two worthwhile objections to this theory.

(a) It is true that within our solar system perhaps only Mars, apart from Earth, supports life as we know it.

But it has been said that if Mars had highly intelligent inhabitants, there would not be desert over two-thirds of its surface. This need not necessarily be true. Perhaps these deserts could be more valuable than pasture land. A hundred years ago when a farmer came to town for the first time he said he would like to know what the townspeople lived on, as he had not seen a heap of manure in front of a single house!

On the other hand, our solar system is not the only one in the universe. The Milky Way alone has 50,000 suns like ours, and 40 per cent. of these, according to latest astrophysical information, are surrounded by planets, as our sun is. And there are 500,000,000 Milky Way systems!

The problem here is the length of time it would take the Uraniden to travel from one Milky Way system to another. But modern physics claim that Time is a relative conception, so that it could be

possible for a space-ship to dash for centuries through space without its passengers becoming noticeably older!

(b) The second objection which has been made is that the passengers of Flying Saucers do not appear to emerge and say "Good-day" to us. My answer to that is that they probably don't think it is worth bothering to do so!

These then are my conclusions on Flying Saucers. But you must remember that a scientist works in a special way. First he collects observations. Then he sets up a hypothesis. He says if we assume this and this is so and so, then this would

explain the phenomena under discussion. Whether a hypothesis is really true can naturally be determined only by further research. Other scientists may certainly set up other hypotheses as explanations of the phenomena, which *they* feel more probable.

These conclusions of mine are based on present reported observations. But tomorrow my opinion may be changed by some new report. I can only say: based on what I know today, I believe the Uraniden hypothesis to be the most probable answer to the unexplained percentage of U.F.O. reports.

SAUCERS IN ITALY

by Ernesto Thayaht

WHEN something unusual happens in the sky it is generally considered an astronomical phenomenon; and Pressmen and public turn to the observatories for explanations.

This has happened and is still happening all over the world in connection with the sightings of Flying Saucers, but nobody has yet told the public that this strange problem is essentially spacial, or meteorological, or perhaps aeronautical, but NOT astronomical.

The objects observed are too near the surface of the earth to be classified as astronomical. This mistake in classification has unfortunately warped the whole outlook on the question of unidentified flying objects, and it is urgently necessary to clear up this misunderstanding.

Most astronomers have never seen an U.F.O., probably because their work is principally indoors, analysing spectra and photographs of stars, planets, nebulae, comets, etc.; calculating radiations, distances, etc.

These scientists all specialise in certain sectors of research on astronomical objects, which are

known to be located in defined positions in the heavens, previously determined by mathematical measurements.

The direct observation of space immediately surrounding our little planet (300 miles or so up) is not particularly interesting to astronomers, except for the appearance of meteors, and these are generally left to the study of amateurs; shooting stars are only useful indirectly because their colouring reveals the presence of certain gases at given altitudes. Photographs of meteors are rare,

The author of this article is the founder and director of the Centro Indipendente Raccolta Notizie Osservazioni Spaziali—C.I.R.N.O.S.—the only Flying Saucer investigation organisation in Italy. The agency has been operating since October and in that time has investigated more than 120 sighting reports throughout Italy and the Italian islands.

because these minute celestial bodies, which penetrate our atmosphere, are too rapid and unpredictable to be followed by any kind of optical instrument, except perhaps binoculars. The fast-moving, silent, luminous Flying Saucers are often mistaken for meteors, and these for Flying Saucers, hence still more confusion results.

Thus, astronomers in general hold an agnostic point of view and they don't believe it possible that "machines" of any kind coming from outer space can reach the earth.

Clear Statements

To be frank about the U.F.O. problem, these well-known scientists should have made a clear statement. They should have said: "We are not competent on this phenomenon; we specialise in the study of objects at enormous distances, which have relatively *slow* movements, allowing observations with our slow-moving colossal telescopes. *We cannot give explanations about a subject we have never considered before*; nor can we define the nature of objects which speed silently through the earth's atmosphere faster than jet-fighters!"

But this frank and clarifying statement of the astronomers is still to come! To them the U.F.O. problem is unexpected and disquieting; it does not fit into the well-established theories which are considered beyond discussion; and so they declare that Flying Saucers don't exist.

However, it is well to remember that the basic theories of astronomy have passed through many stages of complete transformation and each time the exploded theories have been hard to kill, stubbornly upheld by their believers against all new ideas.

Negative Officials

This negative point of view of the official scientists has naturally influenced the general public opinion and very few people today hold an unbiased attitude in Italy. The U.F.O.s and the hypothetical "Martians" are just a novelty to joke about, but hardly worth discussing any more.

In October and November, 1954, the sightings of U.F.O.s were very numerous all over Italy, Sicily and Sardinia; the newspapers were full of articles discussing this "collective psychosis" (as it was called!) but the facts were not taken into serious consideration by a single observatory. People were told that they were having visions;

what they saw were meteorological balloons, mock-suns, auroral condensations, ball lightning, reflections on clouds of ice-crystals, guided missiles, experimental aircraft, etc., and there was talk of secret bases.

It was then that C.I.R.N.O.S. (Centro Indipendente Raccolta Notizie Osservazioni Spaziali—Independent Centre for the Collection of News on Spacial Observations) started, with the intention of making a statistical study of the phenomena. But many people who *did* see U.F.O.s and *could* testify on sightings of importance, preferred to say nothing than risk ridicule. Of course, the misunderstanding deepened through their silence and the few who did have the courage to report their sightings passed for notoriety-seekers, liars or victims of hallucinations.

In December, 1954, as soon as sightings of U.F.O.s became rare, interest began to wane and the newspapers dropped the subject, which, at present in Italy, seems to be closed.

During October, November and the beginning of December, 1954, C.I.R.N.O.S. collected news of 118 sightings in 83 different places in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia; special questionnaires were issued to gather technical information.

At present C.I.R.N.O.S. is organising private voluntary observers and collaborators in various parts of the country to be ready should a new cycle of sightings of U.F.O.s take place in Italy.

SWISS INVESTIGATION AGENCY

MORE and more Saucer investigation agencies are being established throughout the world as a result of increasing public interest in unidentified flying objects.

One of the liveliest on the European Continent along with C.I.R.N.O.S. is the Association Mondialiste Interplanetaire which publishes the *Courier Interplanetaire*.

A Swiss organisation formed recently by Professeur Alfred Nahon, who has been actively interested in aerial phenomena for a number of years, the Association's aims correspond in most ways with those of similar organisations throughout the world.

Where it differs to some extent, however, is in that it is combining an active campaign against nuclear weapons with its Saucer investigations.

DR. CARL JUNG

on

Unidentified Flying Objects

Dr. Jung, world famous Swiss psychologist, was asked what he thought of Flying Saucers by the Association Mondial Interplanetaire. Here is his answer, reproduced from the Association's Journal "Courier Interplanetaire," FLYING SAUCER REVIEW'S Swiss equivalent.

IN the course of years, I have gathered together a considerable mass of observations, included in which are reports by two eye witnesses known to me personally (I have never seen anything!). I have also read books on the question. However, I can only say for certain: these things are not a mere rumour: something has been seen.

A purely psychological explanation is ruled out by the fact that a large number of observations indicate a natural phenomenon, even a physical one (explainable in part as reflections or temperature inversions). The American Air Force (despite its contradictory statements), as well as the Canadian, consider the observations to be real and have set up special Bureaux to compile reports. However, the "disks" (that is, the objects themselves) *do not behave in accordance with physical laws* but as though without weight, *and they show signs of intelligent guidance, by quasi-human pilots*, for their accelerations are such that no normal human could survive.

What astonishes me most is that the American Air Force, despite all the information in its possession and its so-called fear of creating panic, seems to work systematically to do that very thing (witness the Orson Welles radio play at New Jersey) since it has never yet published an authentic and certain account of the facts, only occasionally allowing information to be dragged out of it by journalists.

This being so, it is impossible for the uninitiated to form an adequate picture of what is happening. Despite my own eight years' compilation of all that has come to hand, I must admit that I am no more advanced than at the beginning: I still do not know what these Flying Saucers are. Observations read so strangely that one might be tempted—if one wished to deny the reality of the facts reported—to compare them to parapsychological phenomena.

Because of the general uncertainty as to foundations, it would be useless to speculate. We must await what the future brings. So-called "scientific" explanations, such as the theory of reflections by Dr. Menzel, are not possible without abstracting, for convenience' sake, any reports which fail to fit in.

If these "bodies" are of extra-terrestrial origin, as is affirmed, perhaps planetary (from Mars or Venus) one must not forget observations which speak of "Saucers" springing from earth or sea. One must also take into consideration numerous reports of thunderbolts, or of rare, stationary fireballs (not to be confused with Saint Elmo's fire). In such isolated cases thunderbolts can attain to considerable dimensions, moving slowly from one cloud to another in the form of a sphere of lightning-like brilliance, and of the apparent thickness of a half-moon, or again making a passage for themselves through a forest about 13 feet wide and 220 yards long, splitting all the trees which lie in their path. They are silent

as the Saucers, or may disappear in a clap of thunder. Perhaps these round thunderbolts, being isolated charges of electricity (so-called necklace of pearl lightning) are the origin of those formations of Saucers, photographed several times. Often electrical phenomena have been reported in conjunction with Saucer sightings.

If, despite this not yet explained possibility, the extra-terrestrial origin of the phenomena should be confirmed, this would prove the existence of an intelligent interplanetary relationship. What such a fact might mean for humanity cannot be predicted. But it would put us, without doubt, in the extremely precarious position of primitive communities today in conflict with the superior culture of the whites: the rudder would be removed from our grasp, and we should lose our pleasant dreams.

Naturally, it would be chiefly our science and our technique which would have to be consigned to the dust-heap. What such a catastrophe would mean on the moral plane we can in some sort judge by the ruin of primitive cultures of which we are witnesses. *That the construction of these machines proves a scientific technique, and one immensely superior to ours, admits of no two*

opinions. Just as the Pax Britannica put an end to the disputes between the tribes of Africa, so our world could unroll its Iron Curtain and use it as scrap iron, with all the millions of tons of guns, warships and munitions. This would not be very serious. But we would have been "discovered" and colonised—sufficient reason for universal panic!

If we wish to avoid such a catastrophe, the authorities in possession of important information should not hesitate to enlighten the public as soon and as completely as possible and should, above all, stop these ridiculous antics of mysteries and vague allusions.

So, after all, there is nothing out-of-the-way in the statements of ancient documents that all sorts of signs and miracles appear in the skies, or that people look to the skies for a marvellous intervention coming to the aid of human incapacity. Our present day observations of Saucers coincide—*mutatis mutandis*—with the many reports going back into antiquity, though not in such astonishing frequency as in these times. But the possibility of the destruction of a whole continent, which is today in the hands of politicians, has never existed previously.

"MADE ON EARTH" TAG NOT ON SAUCERS

by the Editor

THERE has been a good deal of speculation about the origin of Flying Saucers and there appears to be a growing tendency to regard them as secret weapons of the United States, Canada or the U.S.S.R. This belief is without doubt erroneous as I will endeavour to point out.

Let's go back to 1931. No further, in spite of the fact that strange objects have been seen throughout the ages.

In that year aviation had hardly reached adolescence. Britain, America, France and the U.S.S.R. were looking ahead to the type of air transport and fighting machine we have today. But none had advanced much further than build-

ing sporting planes, fighters that did not exceed a top speed of about 170 miles an hour and airliners with cruising speeds in the region of 100 m.p.h.

Completely metal aircraft had been built, but the vast majority of aeroplanes flying at the time were constructed of wood covered by fabric. Yet in that year Francis Chichester saw two cigar-shaped objects over the Tasman Sea as he was approaching Australia on the second leg of his epic flight from New Zealand to Britain. It was in fact, the first solo flight ever to be made between the two countries.

During the second World War bombers and

fighters of both sides were often buzzed by objects that mystified their crews. Both sides thought they were enemy secret weapons.

That they were not German was proved to the satisfaction of the Allied Powers when they walked into Germany to dismantle the war factories. That they were not Russian was also established, since there was a fairly cordial relationship between East and West at the time of Germany's collapse.

Professor Klein, who worked on V2s at Peenemünde, has stated that the Germans designed a Flying Saucer type aircraft during the war and that the plans and scale model had been taken over by the U.S.S.R.

But if the machine had been built by the Russians, would it explain the "Foo Fighters" of World War II and the formation of silvery discs seen by Kenneth Arnold darting about the mountains of Washington State in 1947?

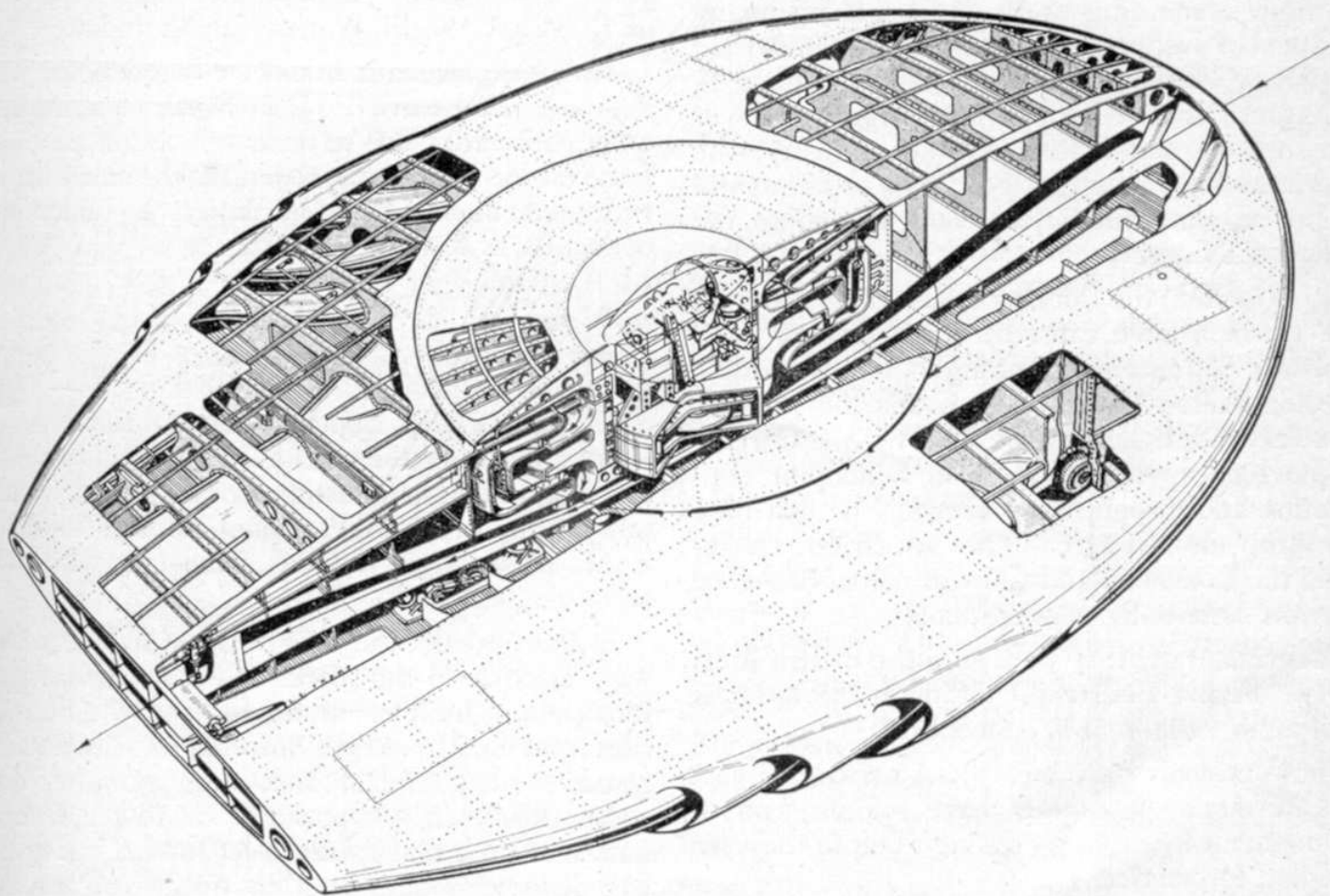
Russia could never have put the number of disc-shaped craft quoted into the air in the two years between taking over the designs and

Arnold's sighting. Nor would she have risked losing the secret by sending such a formation over the United States.

No country in the world could have built anything they could send outside their own territory in so short a time with the full confidence that they would return. Statistics show that however brilliant a design, it inevitably suffers from teething troubles. One could not expect anything else with vehicles of such revolutionary conception.

Furthermore, if Russia had the secret of flying at such speeds, manoeuvring with such ease and conquering man's *Bête Noire*, gravity, would they have bothered to build thousands of MIG 15 fighters, developed long distance jet bombers and experimented with new aerofoil designs?

By the same token if the Americans had the secret, would they have built over 1,000 B 47 Stratojet bombers, thousands of Sabrejet fighters and experimented with their twice the speed of sound rocket-propelled aircraft? Would Britain confine the flights of her experimental aircraft to within her shores?



Leonard Cramp's impression of the A. V. Roe (Canada) Project "Y." Reproduced from "Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer."

The argument that this was done as a blind to the construction of Flying Saucer type aircraft behind the scenes does not hold water; purely on economic grounds.

And there is another facet to the argument. Would the Americans be sending rockets up hundred of miles to seek samples of cosmic radiation and planning a space satellite such as the one described on page 10 if they had vehicles that could effortlessly reach those altitudes? The answer must be in the negative.

Vertical Take Off

One of the major problems confronting aircraft designers, apart from aerodynamic considerations at speeds exceeding that of sound, is the one combining vertical take-off with speed.

The first step towards vertical take-off was achieved when the helicopter was designed. But the helicopter, by virtue of its somewhat cumbersome form, is not a fast aircraft.

In 1942 the first V.T.O. fighter capable of taking off from a standing start and reaching many hundreds of miles an hour was patented in Britain by a New Zealand Air Force officer, James R. Anderson, D.F.C. Although his design was never taken up by the British aircraft industry, the Americans have now produced two experimental fighters of almost identical configuration to the Anderson fighter.

These include the Lockheed XFV-1 and Convair XFY-1 which have caused a great deal of comment in aviation circles throughout the world.

Other United States vertical take off projects include two designed by the Bell Aircraft Corporation which specialises now in helicopter construction and design. They flew for the first time only a few months ago, but are not strictly speaking in the Lockheed and Convair categories since they are essentially convertiplanes.

Experimentally they rank with the British Rolls Royce "Flying Bedstead," although the latter is considerably different in conception.

These projects have cost the Americans a vast sum of money and they have many years of development flying to go through before they are accepted for service.

That the World Powers are fascinated by Flying Saucers and that they are striving to imi-

tate them there is not the slightest doubt, as indicated by the top secret Air Ministry report that has been filed away with strict orders that its contents should never be revealed to the public.

"Fear of scepticism is one of the reasons that induced the air marshals to have the report filed away," said the *Sunday Dispatch*. "They feel that the findings cannot be explained without revealing top secret facts and that without a full explanation there would be a nationwide controversy over the truth of the report."

A. V. Roe (Canada) Ltd. projected and actually started construction of a Flying Saucer shaped aeroplane which was expected to take off vertically and attain a speed of 1,500 m.p.h. But it was abandoned only a few months ago after an expenditure amounting to millions of pounds.

The inference to be drawn from the scrapping of the project is that something new and completely revolutionary has been discovered; something that knocks "Project Y," as the Avro is called, into a cocked hat; something that would make today's high-powered jets as obsolete in ten years' time as the "bamboo and cloth" biplanes of the First World War are to us today.

Today experiments in electro-magnetic propulsion are being carried out in North America and other continents. It is to be assumed that sufficient progress has been made to enable the constructors to by-pass such a thing as Project Y—unless the concept was a complete flop.

Origin a Mystery

To date Flying Saucers seen in the skies of every country of the world are by no means man made, otherwise fantastic sums of money would not be spent on conventional aircraft development. Their origin remains a mystery which we are trying to crack.

In the next decade it is possible that man will have discovered the secret of Flying Saucer propulsion and built examples for himself. But like the atom bomb secrets, information about such projects are bound to leak out, no matter how strict the security measures in force. Human nature is such that it has to let the cat out of the bag at some time or another. So far the only cat to escape is an electro-magnetically propelled one.

WHERE ARE THE BOOK REVIEWS?

by Waveney Girvan

THE status of Flying Saucers as a subject has undergone a considerable change during the last five years. In many ways it has grown more respectable as the evidence has accumulated, but, paradoxically, this has meant that less, and not more, attention has been devoted to the subject in the columns of the serious journals of opinion.

When Gerald Heard's *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* and Frank Scully's *Behind the Flying Saucers* were first published in 1950 and 1951 respectively, they were quite widely noticed in such papers as *The Times Literary Supplement* and the *Spectator*. Most of the reviews, admittedly, were hostile: that is, they were hostile to the whole idea that both these books put forward—the suggestion that the saucers were real and that they were extra-terrestrial. The Astronomer Royal devoted a whole page in demolition of Gerald Heard's book. It was an ill-considered review, full of slipshod writing and careless thinking. Indeed, had the writer of the review turned out such a piece on any other subject the editor of the paper would have been showered with protests from his readers: more probably he would have suppressed the article in the first place. However, in 1950, when this review appeared, the Flying Saucers were thought to be too ridiculous for words and it did not really matter whether the Astronomer Royal thought clearly or wrote well. Such was the scepticism of those days that nine out of ten of the readers of the *Spectator* so thoroughly agreed with the reviewer's premise that anything the Astronomer Royal said in confirmation of this prejudice would probably have been accepted with relief and with acclaim. Added to this willingness to have the Flying Saucers buried as quickly as possible was

the belief that because of the high position held by the Astronomer Royal anything he said must be *ex cathedra*. Ninety-nine out of a hundred readers must have bowed automatically before Sir Oracle whatever he said. The form of the words and the lack of cohesive thought hardly mattered at all. A steam hammer does not bother to argue with the nut it proposes to crush.

In 1953, when *Flying Saucers Have Landed* was first published, the climate of opinion had altered to a marked degree. In three years the evidence had mounted and many more thousands had seen the objects which the Astronomer Royal (who had not seen one) dismissed as hoax or hallucination. The sensational value of the Leslie and Adamski book was, of course, enormous and the book received wide publicity—but hardly any reviews. The *Observer* was a notable exception, for Charles Davy wrote at some length in a fair and thoughtful manner, but nearly all the other notices were either a résumé of the Adamski section or an attack on his honesty. It is certainly true that Desmond Leslie's contribution was almost totally ignored.

Leonard G. Cramp's *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer* was first published in November, 1954, and has not, at the moment of writing, attracted one review in any national newspaper or periodical. The only notice of the book that can be called a review appeared in the *Liverpool Post*. I warned the publisher of my own book, *Flying Saucers and Commonsense*, that while the book would probably receive publicity he must not look for any reviews outside the provincial press.

Before I proceed, I would like to make it quite clear that I am not begging for favourable reviews of Flying Saucer books. The critics are

entitled, and welcome, to say what they like about the matter and to damn either the style or the matter. My purpose is to comment and not to complain. All I am doing is to point out that, in spite of the public interest, these books are being systematically ignored.

Five-fold Increase

The reason certainly is not that the readers of the more serious journals have grown tired of the subject. It is quite easy to prove that during the last five years the topic has increased five-fold in popularity, and the interest is evinced most strongly by the more reflective members of the community. It is not a subject that appeals to those whose horizon is bounded by horses and divorces. Why should the Flying Saucers be taboo as a topic for serious consideration? If the Flying Saucers are such nonsense, why could not the author of *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer*, for instance, be told where and why his reasoning is at fault, his theory of motive power unscientific and his comparison of the Adamski and the Stephen Darbishire photographs invalid?

The answer to these questions is not, I feel sure, that books like *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer* are not worth powder and shot. It is much more likely that it is because they provide such a serious challenge to orthodox thought that people like the Astronomer Royal and the other pundits place discretion above valour and prefer to skulk in their tents. The days when nonsense could be employed to confound sense are over. The public has grown up in this subject during the last five years and demands to be treated as an adult.

Favourable Progress

The editor of a serious journal will undoubtedly have great difficulty in finding a reviewer who is competent to review a book on Flying Saucers. The invincible sceptic will be unable to write sense on the matter, while the believer or the open-minded cannot be allowed, at this stage at least, to say that the author of the book under review has presented an unanswerable case. Although we are progressing favourably, if slowly, the time has certainly not arrived for *The Times* to announce that the Flying Saucer undoubtedly exists and must be coming from outer space. If that time had arrived, then the

need for the sort of books I have mentioned would have passed.

The provincial papers are not so hide-bound, probably because they have a smaller circulation than their bigger brothers. The reviews which are appearing in Bristol, Nottingham, Liverpool, etc., indicate, I firmly believe, what London will say tomorrow. The provincial reviewers are not prepared to dismiss the Flying Saucers as nonsense and, even if some of them are not prepared to be converted all along the line, they do, for the most part, write intelligently and fairly of what the book is about.

However impatient believers in Flying Saucers may be—and during these last five years they have had to endure much ridicule and other provocation—they should comfort themselves by noting the remarkable progress that has, in fact, been made. Some new ideas have had to wait for centuries, but I feel quite confident that the majority of those who read this article will live to see the truth acknowledged and proclaimed.

MAN IN THE UNIVERSE

by Dr. C. E. Last

Foreword by W. J. Brown

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WERNER LAURIE

OCCULTISM AND FLYING SAUCERS

by Desmond Judge

FLYING SAUCERS are becoming the centre of a new mystique. Much has been said about them in occult language; there has been talk of etheric planes, of de-materialisation, and of super god-like beings. There have been claims of telepathic contact with the inhabitants of other planets and strange radio signals from Mars. All these things are perhaps facts; I cannot say; I have no personal experience of them.

The significant thing is the development of a strong but artificial link between Flying Saucers and Occultism. I say artificial because there is no obvious reason why one should *have* to consider Occultism at the same time as considering Flying Saucers. They are two entirely different subjects in the same way as music and aeroplanes are two different subjects.

Indeed, this Occult flavour serves only to alienate some to the whole subject of Flying Saucers, making them suspend their reasoning faculty, because of a vague uneasiness and resentment. They suspect Flying Saucers of being just another piece of "spiritualist mumbo-jumbo."

Since 1947, when reported observations of Flying Saucers began to come in from all parts of the world in ever-increasing numbers, there has been a new movement in spiritualist and occult circles. Whereas the spiritual guides and contacts of mediums were once the "passed-over" souls of great people, now they tend to be pilots of Flying Saucers. And, instead of telling us about their "etheric" experiences on higher spiritual planes, clairvoyants now tell us about adventures on Venus and Mars; and give us forecasts of massed landings by Flying Saucers, whose occupants will bring a purer, higher existence to this earth.

I would not like to claim that all these experiences—which are known as subjective experiences—are not true, but they merely confuse the issue for people who are not clairvoyant, and therefore have no means of testing them. Here, I

think we should distinguish between what is objective and what is subjective (roughly thus: the presence of a chair in a room is capable of verification by most normal people—this is an objective fact; but if I were to say I saw a pink elephant sitting in the chair, and most normal people were unable to see it, that would be a subjective experience). Objective facts are verifiable, but subjective facts on the whole are not.¹

Belief in the existence of Flying Saucers does not automatically demand belief in Occultism. In considering evidence for the mass of people, let us leave out Occultism, and concentrate on what can be objectively proved to be reasonable certainty.

What kind of evidence is likely to appeal to John Smith? It is fairly obvious that not all of us are going to see a Flying Saucer—immediately; but have all of us seen the Aurora Borealis? The evidence for the appearance of the Northern Lights consists of eye-witness accounts and photographs, and most of us will accept their existence on the strength of that evidence.

Similar evidence exists for the appearance of Flying Saucers;² and an increasing number of people who have examined the available evidence are now accepting the fact that there are flying objects in the sky, which seems to be too ad-

"Occultism and Flying Saucers" is the first of a series of articles intended to bring different points of view on the subject into focus. Future features in this series will include: "Politics and Flying Saucers," "Economics and Flying Saucers" and "Religion and Flying Saucers."

vanced to have been developed in complete secrecy by any country on earth.

Some go so far as to suggest that these objects may have a source outside of earth, but there is nothing necessarily mysterious about this. Many reports claim that manoeuvres of Flying Saucers in formation indicate intelligence error of the same sort as we find in our own pilots; as if the objects were controlled by beings with an intelligence resembling ours, and with similar limitations.

Where does this evidence come from? There are four main sources: ordinary people with no specialised knowledge, radar operators, astronomers, and experienced fliers.

The largest number of reports comes from the first group and, because these people have no technical knowledge, there is probably a high percentage of misidentification. Nevertheless, many of these reports have a resemblance in detail, and remain unexplained by the stock answers.

Radar Trackings

Radar operators have been trained at Government expense and are highly skilled at their jobs. There have been reports of large metal objects tracked across radar screens. The objects have apparently travelled at speeds up to 20,000 m.p.h., then abruptly halted, and moved on again.

Astronomers have reported observations of disc- and cigar-shaped objects, showing noticeable activity near the moon.

After the first group, the highest number of apparent Flying Saucer reports comes from civil and Service pilots. They are men who are trained to a high degree of proficiency in recognition of every kind of aircraft and of meteorological phenomena. Civil pilots of passenger aircraft are in responsible jobs, and if they were suffering from hallucinations it is unlikely that they would be allowed to keep their positions. Captain Howard, a B.O.A.C. pilot, made an interesting Flying Saucer report, confirmed by his passengers, a few months ago. He received a good deal of publicity at the time, yet he still holds his post and has recently set a new record for the East-to-West Atlantic crossing.

Then we come to the individual accounts of actual meetings with occupants of Flying Saucers. The two best known are the ones by George Adamski and Cedric Allingham; both are interesting but without much value as objective evidence. In neither case was there a close enough reliable witness to give any real

support to the story; so until these meetings begin to occur on a larger and more public scale we can only keep an open mind about them.

Let us, in fact, try to keep an open mind on the whole question of Flying Saucers. We can examine critically all the material evidence available—there is a considerable amount of it, in news items in daily papers, and collected in the books on the subject. We can, and should, also be receptive to new ideas. But let us be on our guard against the lunatic fringe element which is always eager to seize on any new and unexplained phenomena as evidence for its own particular lunacy!

REFERENCES

¹ See "New Frontiers of the Mind," by Dr J. B. Rhine, published by Pelican Books (A206).

² For more details about the values of the photographic evidence see Leonard Cramp's book, "Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer," published by Werner Laurie, where he compares different photographs by the orthographic method.

CEDRIC ALLINGHAM'S FLYING SAUCER FROM MARS

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FREDERICK MULLER

The purpose of this article is to see whether there is anything in the nature of a common thread running through the diverse tapestry of U.F.O. phenomena. The author has studied the subject for a number of years and is particularly well qualified to trace the similarities that occur in the sightings.

COMMON FACTORS IN SAUCER SIGHTINGS

by The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench

THE majority of sighting reports have concerned two main groups: (1) Cylindrical or cigar-shaped objects, and (2) discs or saucer shapes. These two types have each contained more similar features than others. Therefore, they make a good starting-point for analysis.

The cigars themselves may be very long objects of more than 1,000 feet in length. Smaller, more oval-shaped ones have also been frequently seen. These are known as "demi-cigars."

Varying Sizes

The saucers vary considerably in size, ranging from extra large ones of over 100 feet in diameter, down to minute affairs around 8 inches in diameter. Those seen most seem to be about 25 to 50 feet in diameter. In general, their shape tends towards something like an upturned saucer with a domed superstructure. Some sightings have included reports of three spherical objects underneath the saucer, presumably for landing purposes. Most reports indicate that saucers are metallic in appearance.

Here are some examples of cigar sightings in various countries, taken from Press reports:

The *Sunday Dispatch* of July 11, 1954, reported a cigar-shaped rocket flying from a westerly direction over Finland, *leaving a streak of fire behind.*

The *Irish Independent* of September 2, 1954, gave an account of an investigation into various sightings in Australia. One case was that of a cigar-shaped object on the coast of Port Philip Bay. It had whipped over the horizon five minutes after another saucer-shaped object had vanished. The cigar was apparently looped, *leaving puffs of smoke behind it*, before going off at terrific speed.

The *Sunday Dispatch* of September 19, 1954, wrote of a cigar-shaped object flying along a 15-

mile stretch of coast west of Rome. This craft was tracked on Italian Air Force radar screens for 40 minutes and was seen visually by thousands of people. *A trail of luminous smoke poured from one end.*

The French weekly illustrated journal, *France Dimanche*, of October 3, 1954, reported that at Banyuls-sur-Mer, by the Pyrenees, a long object flew at high speed across the sky, *giving out red and green flames.*

The *Sunday Dispatch* of October 3, 1954, recorded a half-cigar over the port at Cany-le-Rouet, France. The observers described it as *leaving a trail of smoke.*

There have been many reports, too, of cigars intensely lit up inside, or with a mysterious glow emanating from them.

The well-known case of two Eastern Air Lines pilots, Captain C. S. Chiles and First Officer J. B. Whitted, is a good example. On July 24, 1948, at 2.45 a.m. their DC-3 was flying in very bright moonlight when suddenly a strange brilliant cigar-shaped object came hurtling towards them. The aircraft and the cigar veered away from each other. The pilots of the DC-3 saw two rows of portholes and *an intense blue glow inside*, which covered the whole length of the 100-ft. weird object. Subsequently it raced off trailing a *red-orange flame.*

Small Saucers

The *Evening News* of October 16, 1954, reported an *incandescent* cigar-shaped object that flew near Modena, Italy at tremendous speed.

The big cigars usually fly at high altitudes; and on several occasions the smaller Flying Saucers have been observed apparently entering and coming out of the cigars. Major Donald Keyhoe,

in his book *Flying Saucers From Outer Space*, mentions several of these instances.

On July 23, 1952, some aircraft-plant workers sighted a cigar at a high altitude over Culver City, California. The strange object stopped and hovered. Two small discs were launched from the starboard side. For a while the discs circled over the area in precise pattern. Then the cigar appeared to take them aboard again.

On September 29, 1952, a large cigar-shaped object was sighted over Denmark with several discs flying below it. October 10, 1952, saw yet another cigar with discs in attendance, over Germany, Norway and Sweden.

October 14, 1952, produced a cigar-shaped object with discs, over Lons and Oleron in France. This last incident, besides being seen visually by hundreds of Frenchmen, was also confirmed on radar at the Mont de Marsan aerodrome.

Cigars

The smaller cigars present something of a problem. It is possible that many reports of these objects being cylindrical or cigar-shaped may be incorrect. A saucer held absolutely flat with its edge facing the eyes will appear at a distance to be cigar-shaped.

Which brings up the Saucers themselves. Several of their characteristics are dissimilar from those of the cigars. Their manoeuvrability and speed appear to be much greater. There are numerous reports of the Saucers changing their colour, rotating or spinning like tops, and making a low humming sound akin to that made by bees.

Major Keyhoe has recorded that in 1950 two round, silvery discs approached Lewisburg, West Virginia, U.S.A. Then, as they started some fast manoeuvres in tight circles, *both Saucers turned orange-red*. When they straightened out again and reduced speed, *the discs resumed their normal silvery appearance*.

The *Sydney Sun* on June 15, 1954, wrote that scores of Sydney, Australia, residents saw strange multi-coloured lights, *changing from white to blue to red*, in the sky over the city soon after 7 p.m. on June 14, 1954.

The *Morning Advertiser* on October 7, 1954, in an article written by a Reuter correspondent, reported a Saucer sighting made by the Vice-President of the Kenya Astronomical Association, Mr. G. Duncan Fletcher. From his Nairobi

Observatory, Mr. Fletcher and some friends had seen an object giving off a bright orange light. Subsequently, *the light brightened to a yellowish colour*.

An attractive feature about the majority of Saucers is that, unlike the screaming jet aeroplanes made on earth, these discs seem either not to make any noise at all, or to sound forth a low musical humming sound.

The *Irish Independent* of September 2, 1954, quoted earlier, wrote also of a woman at Templestowe, an outer suburb of Melbourne, Australia. She heard a humming sound in the early morning and then noticed a saucer-shaped object—"enormous," she called it—hovering over a neighbouring paddock.

An extraordinary feature of Saucers is their ability, while travelling fast in one direction, to reverse suddenly and go off equally fast in the opposite direction. A well-authenticated case is the famous Washington Airport sighting on the night of July 20, 1952. This was the night Saucers were over the White House, the Capitol, Washington Airport, and were also seen near Andrews Air Force Base. The eight air traffic controllers at Washington Airport were tracking the "blips" of the objects on radarscopes when one suddenly reversed and went off the opposite way.

Fading

A disconcerting habit of the Saucers is their way of suddenly appearing to "fade away." The Washington Airport sightings provided evidence of this, too. When the air traffic controllers directed a pilot towards one of the lighted objects, the "blips" on the radarscope disappeared. Then, a few seconds later, the object reappeared behind the 'plane sent to intercept it!

There have been numerous similar incidents, but a more recent case, widely reported, was that of the B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser flying near Labrador, from New York to London. The pilot, Captain Howard, the crew, and some of the passengers saw a large unidentified object and six smaller ones. The *Times* newspaper reported that they flew parallel to the Stratocruiser for 80 miles, not less than 5 miles away, at 19,000 feet. The aircraft was doing 238 knots at the time. The *Times* wrote: "A jet fighter from the United States Air Force at Goose Bay took off to intercept

(Continued on page 29)

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the objects, but as the fighter approached the objects faded."

One of the effects of these flying objects appears to be to put aeroplanes, motor cars and instruments temporarily out of action.

H. T. Wilkins, in his book *Flying Saucers on the Moon*, wrote that certain U.S. pilots flying over the Burma road to China in 1943 alleged that their 'planes were "buzzed" and circled by a strange "glittering object." They said its speed was very high, that their ignitions were put out of action, their 'planes held gripped and motionless, and that their instrument panels failed to work. After some minutes, the object flew off, when their own motors re-started to function, and also their previously immobilised instruments.

The *Sunday Dispatch* of October 10, 1954, related that a milkman at Le Mans, France, was driving his lorry along a road when suddenly the engine stopped and the headlights went out. As he got out to see what was wrong, a shining red and blue cigar about 3 feet long sped over his vehicle. A few minutes later his engine started and the lights worked again.

To sum up, the chief features of cigars appear

to be that they leave smoke trails, sometimes of a luminous nature. They are usually surrounded by a luminous glow, and often brilliantly lit up inside. Some of the larger cigars appear at times to contain satellite saucers. They usually fly at a high altitude.

A large proportion of Saucer reports indicate that they rotate, hum and change colour. Furthermore, they have the most amazing performance, far beyond anything yet achieved on this earth. While travelling fast in one direction, they can suddenly reverse and go off equally fast in another direction. Most astounding of all, they can do what many of us at times have often wanted to be able to do, that is, make themselves invisible! They have been tracked hundreds of times on radar at speeds in excess of 7,000 m.p.h.

Undoubtedly, however, there may well be many different types of celestial conveyances cavorting around the heavenly regions. That is quite understandable. Here on earth there are numerous makes of aeroplanes. It would be interesting to be permitted to attend the equivalent of the Farnborough Air Show on Mars or Venus!

WORLD ROUNDUP (continued)

A large, peculiarly white object was seen in Dalmore, New Zealand, by a local family on December 31, says a report in the *Dunedin Evening Star*. At four o'clock in the morning a woman living in Dalmore was looking at smoke rising, thinking there was a fire, when she saw the object hovering.

"I won't say that this was a Flying Saucer," she said. But she watched it for about 20 minutes, trying to make up her mind that it was not an hallucination. Then the object began to move quickly away to the north-east so she woke her husband and 18-year-old son. The three of them watched it for about five minutes. It was travelling fast by this time.

"We could see it faintly as it passed behind the clouds and then brightly as it passed a clear space. It gradually became smaller and smaller.

It seemed to be climbing rapidly and finally we lost sight of it in the distance."

* * *

A sparkling, glowing white light was given out by an object seen by three people in Onerahi, near Whangarei, New Zealand, on December 26 last year.

The people claimed to have seen three Flying Saucers, in a report to the *Dunedin Evening Star*; but one was distinctly bigger, brighter and closer than the other two. They watched the Saucers for about three-quarters-of-an-hour. The light in the brilliant disc appeared to go on and off three times as if it were a body revolving on an axis. Now and again the light was dulled by clouds, but it was bright enough to reflect a beam in Whangarei Harbour. It had no tail and did not move very much apart from what appeared to be its revolutions.

The other two discs gave off reddish glows. They were much smaller than the big object, and they moved about more, but kept in the same area.

FROM PHLOGISTON TO FLYING SAUCER

by John Rowland

THOSE people who, with a superior air, look down upon believers in Flying Saucers, throwing contempt on any suggestion that these strange craft may be sent from another world, usually do so on grounds of common sense, saying that it is impossible to see the necessity for such a freakish hypothesis, that there are better and more rational explanations. Generally speaking, it seems that, in the world of science, the simpler explanation is likely to be the most readily accessible, and the most easily accepted. But there are exceptions to this, as to every other rule; and I think that when we consider what it is best to believe on any new subject, we do well to think of hypotheses which once ruled the roost in the scientific world, and see how they have been overthrown and abandoned even by their supporters.

There are many such theories which were once held. There is, for instance, the theory that the earth is flat, that the stars and planets are in a kind of inverted bowl, above the earth's surface, called the firmament. There is what was called the "three-story" picture of the universe—Heaven above, the earth in the middle, and Hell beneath; that, in any literal sense, is no longer believed in by anyone, no matter what their religious beliefs.

But to my mind most interesting of all is the phlogiston theory of combustion, once believed in by many—even by Priestley, discoverer of oxygen, which he continued to call "dephlogisticated air" to the end of his life.

Combustion

Most readers will be well aware of the way in which a chemist now accounts for the phenomena of combustion. Let us take a simple case—say, the burning of a piece of that thin, magnesium ribbon, which makes one of the most popular indoor fireworks. When it burns, if this is done inside a closed vessel, so that the light ash is not carried away by currents of air, it is found that a given weight of magnesium, when burned, pro-

duces a white substance, now usually called magnesium oxide, which is heavier than the magnesium with which the experiment started. The now-accepted explanation is that the magnesium combines with oxygen in the air. If, instead of being burned in air (which is a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen) it be burned in pure oxygen, it burns even more swiftly and brightly, but the weight of ash is the same.

It seems quite simple and straightforward; the explanation appears to us quite obvious and indeed the only possible one.

Dephlogistication

But what was the explanation in the days when the phlogiston theory was generally accepted? It was equally simple, though completely different. It was then said that metals and other things which at a sufficiently high temperature could be made to burn in air gave up a substance, called phlogiston, to the air. The fact that air in which things had been burned was unable to support combustion any longer—a fact we now explain by saying that the oxygen in the air has been abstracted and combined with the burning substance—was then attributed to the fact that the air was saturated with phlogiston, and was unable to take up any more of it. When Priestley discovered oxygen he called it "dephlogisticated air," to indicate that it was air which contained no phlogiston, and which would therefore support combustion more readily than ordinary air, for the phlogiston would be much more eager to get out of the burning substance.

The theory was ingenious and at first sight quite satisfactory. It has now, however, been completely abandoned. And why has it been abandoned? It was, actually, destroyed by one little fact—the fact that the ash—by the theory a sub-

stance from which phlogiston had been abstracted—weighed *more* than the original substance. Once that had been firmly established, the phlogiston theory was well on the way to its death. For a time there were efforts to get around this change in weight. Some believers in the theory said that phlogiston was lighter than air, and its removal would therefore make the residue heavier. But this was no use, since hydrogen, the lightest substance known, does weigh *something*. If we remove hydrogen from a balloon, the envelope of the balloon does not weigh more than the balloon filled with hydrogen; it weighs less.

Now, turn to the recent phenomena of Flying Saucers. There are in this case a number of explanations in the field, the most popular of which appears to be that they are the result of malobservation of some sort, that they are weather balloons or objects of that kind. Mr. Waveney Girvan has recently drawn attention to the widespread reports, in October last year, that Flying Saucers had been seen all over France, and the later report that they were fire-balloons made by a leg-pulling but anonymous miner. At West Malling in Kent there was an extremely fast-moving object, seen by two trained observers in the R.A.F. This was in November, 1953; Mr.

Birch, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, questioned about this incident in the House of Commons a few days later, said that experimental weather balloons had been observed by some members of the R.A.F., but added that "there was nothing peculiar about either of these occurrences."

The phlogiston theory of combustion perished after one small fact had been hammered home, both in the public mind, and in the minds of the scientists who were concerned with investigating the subject. What, if it is correct to say that the present position of theories about Flying Saucers is not unlike the position of theories of combustion, at the time of phlogiston, is the one little fact which may yet disprove Mr. Birch and the Astronomer Royal, and all the other people, eminent and less eminent, who have thrown contempt on the believers in the space-travel hypothesis?

I would suggest it is this. All those who have claimed to have observed these strange circular objects in the sky are agreed on one thing—that *they are capable of tremendous speed*. Would a balloon, of any type ever known to man, move at such high speeds, speeds which would take it out of sight in a few seconds?

REVIEWS

Behind the Flying Saucers

By Frank Scully. (Gollancz, 13s. 6d.)

FRANK SCULLY'S *Behind the Flying Saucers* was first published in England by Gollancz in 1951 at the price of 10s. 6d. Not long afterwards it was remaindered and it has been unobtainable until recently when it was re-issued, by the same publisher, at 13s. 6d. The history of the book represents one of Life's Little Ironies and an example of Time's Revenge. As most "saucerers" will already know the contents of the book, the present reviewer may be excused if he concentrates more upon its adventures than its merits.

It was originally published in the United States in 1950 and quickly became a best-seller there and was translated into several foreign languages.

Frank Scully's book, therefore, was the instrument by which the Flying Saucers were introduced to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world. For this service alone we must be grateful to the author, even if we have to qualify our compliments. In England the book did not succeed, and I think there were two main reasons for the failure. *Behind the Flying Saucers* is written in

Wilkins' *FLYING SAUCERS FROM THE MOON* contains astounding facts and sensational authentic photographs. "All possible information on the subject," *The Star*. Third large printing. 16s. Your bookseller or Peter Owen, 50 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.7.

a racy, American style and while the wise-cracks—they are, by the way, very good ones—certainly helped to enliven the book they also provided the sceptic with much too handy an escape route. But all might still have gone well but for the misfortune of Dr. Urner Liddel's statement, which coincided with publication, that all Saucer sightings were caused by cosmic ray balloons. The explanation was swallowed by a gullible public without a hiccup, and the publisher apparently swallowed it too, for the English edition was allowed to die. But the Flying Saucers have a way of confounding the sceptics and the renewal of interest has brought about a resurrection. It is unfortunate, however, that the new edition should have appeared at a time when there were no national newspapers and the Flying Saucers themselves seemed to have entered into one of their periodical phases of inactivity.

It is reported that Frank Scully is writing a sequel. It is greatly to be hoped that he will clear up the mystery of the Saucer which, he alleged, crashed near Aztec, New Mexico, containing the charred bodies of the "little men from Venus." Has this story a basis in fact or is it an exploded

hoax? The public is entitled to know the answer and it could easily have been told in a foreword to this new edition.

Behind the Flying Saucers has an important place in the history of this fascinating subject, but the reader new to the book should be warned that the stream of events has carried the story a very long way forward during these last five years.

W. G.

Conquest of Space

I LIKED "Destination Moon" far more than I like Paramount's latest "cosmothechnicolor" film "Conquest of Space." It was more exciting, factually more interesting but above all it was not overpowered by the "Schmaltzy" sentiment that runs through "Conquest of Space" from beginning to end.

The technical advice provided by Willy Ley and the settings constructed to Chesley Bonestell's specifications make up for this, however, and give a pretty clear picture of what space travel—this planet's style—will be like when we finally get to that stage. They make the film worth while seeing.

D.D.D.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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