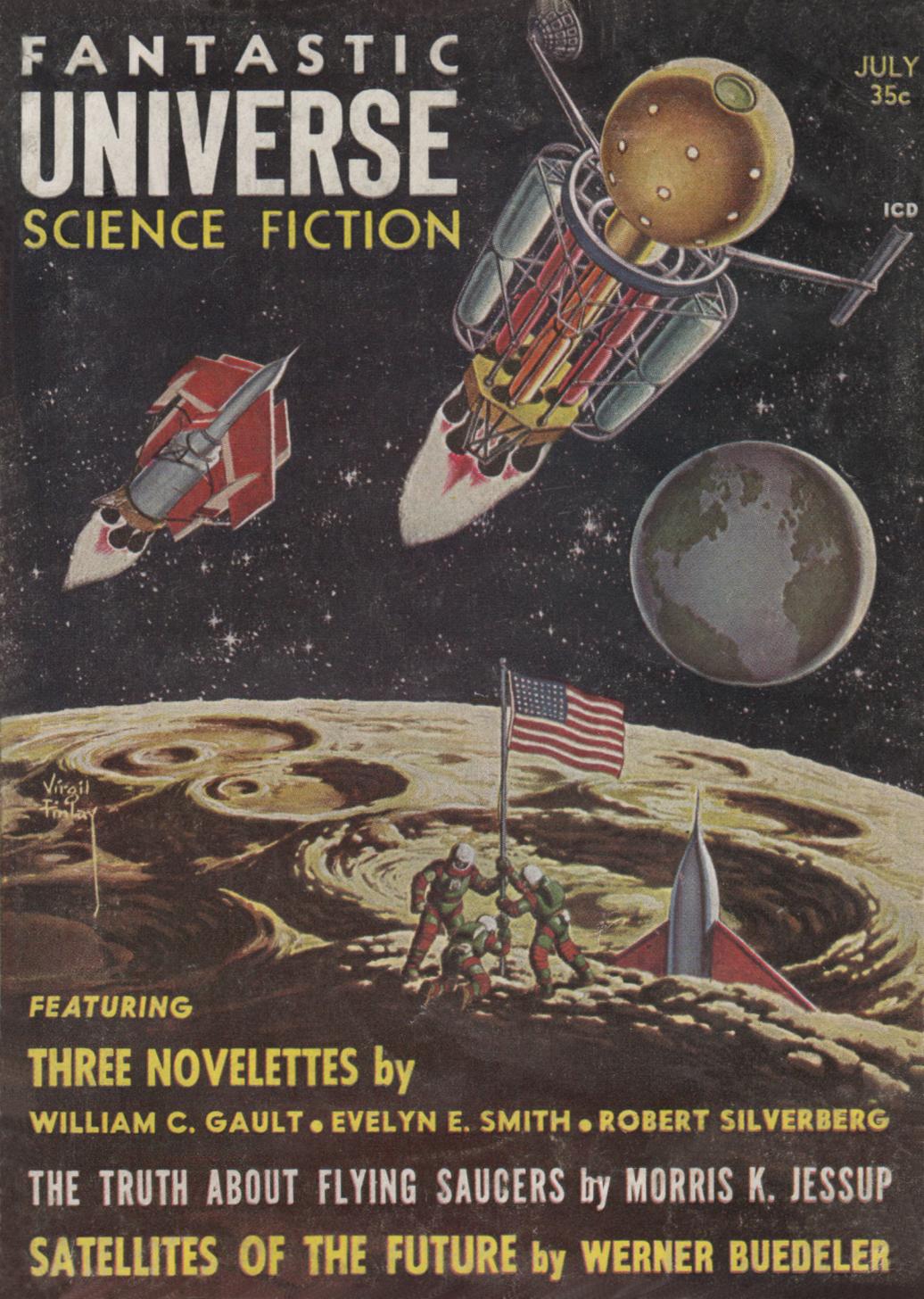


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THE TRUTH ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS by MORRIS K. JESSUP

SATELLITES OF THE FUTURE by WERNER BUEDELER

shapes
in
the
sky

by . . . *Civilian
Saucer Intelligence*

If UFO are hallucinations
—what is the explanation
of the frequently reported
dramatic “radiation burns”?

IN OUR two previous articles, we have discussed the Air Force's brush-off of five significant UFO reports from the November, 1957, wave of sightings; and have referred to a dozen or more reports during that period in which electrical effects of one kind or another were reported.

In concluding our discussion of this extraordinary period, we will refer to several cases in which persons were burned—or claimed to have been burned—while watching UFOs.

We have already mentioned the Orogrande, New Mexico incident of November 4 (*F.U.*, May) in which James Stokes received a “sunburn” after watching a “flying egg” make several passes over the highway. That Stokes did, in fact, have some kind of a burn has been reliably verified by veteran Ufologist Coral Lorenzen of Alamo-gordo, who saw the witness—an acquaintance—on the evening of the same day the incident took place.

One may certainly question whether the burn was an unnatural acquisition as claimed, or was merely the result of remaining too long

Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York discuss, in their latest monthly column, written specially for this magazine, the mysterious “sunburn” received by some of the people who’ve come close to a UFO. CSI, a New York research group, publishes a newsletter and holds occasional public meetings on UFO’s.

in the sun; but in spite of the Air Force's remarks to the contrary, the fact is that James Stokes had a burn on the evening of the day he saw the "egg," and that two days later this "sunburn" had disappeared.

At an unspecified time on November 6—the crest of the November wave—a sensational incident took place near Merom, Indiana (30 miles south of Terre Haute, on the Wabash River that bounds Indiana on the west). Rene Gilham, a 33-year-old ironworker, was in one of the buildings on his farm when he noticed an unusual light outdoors. Stepping out he saw that a brightly-luminous object, which he estimated as 40 feet in diameter and 1000 feet up, was hovering overhead. From this object there "beamed out" a light which "bathed his farm with an eerie, penetrating light." Gilham stood staring at this object for about ten minutes, during which time it was temporarily joined by a smaller object. Then the larger object also departed—"went straight up and headed west"; as it did so, the light became more intense, and it emitted "a whirring noise like a high-speed electric motor gaining revolutions." Gilham's wife and children, and his father-in-law in the adjacent house, also saw the UFO, but did not watch it continuously. "The other members of the family verified the fact that the object was so bright that it lighted the entire surroundings."

This light that "beamed out" from the bottom of the object is strongly reminiscent of the object seen the same night at Lake Bas-katong, Quebec (last month's article). But there was a sequel—which introduced a new element: *radiation injury*.

On the day after this incident, Gilham's face began to itch and redden, and that night the "sunburn" was so painful that he went to a doctor the following morning. The physician, Dr. Joseph Dukes, found that Gilham's condition was not a rash such as might be caused by poison ivy or allergy, but a real burn, "similar to the burns that are inflicted on the face and eyes when working near an arc welder without a face mask." Gilham said that he had not been near a welder for three weeks. Two days later, "his condition worsened," and he was taken to Mary Sherman Hospital in nearby Sullivan. Hospital staff members refused to tell reporters anything about the case, and permitted no visitors; more remarkably, they refused to say by whose orders the patient was being held incommunicado. (The *Terre Haute Tribune*, after mentioning this, adds that "military authorities" had been informed about the case.) However, Dr. Dukes said on the 11th that "the swelling about the eyes and reddening of the skin had lessened today," and that he expected Gilham to be released the next day. We do not know whether he was or not; our only sources on

this are the *Sullivan Times*, 11/11, and *Terre Haute Tribune*, 11/12.

It may be interesting to add that on the same evening Gilham saw his UFO, numerous persons in Sullivan watched a glowing orange-red object in the direction of the southwest, at approximately 6:30 p.m. Because of the time and direction, these reports are highly suspect as misidentifications of the setting Venus; however, Merom is also southwest of Sullivan, and several observers described seeing a smaller, red-cast object move away from the larger object and finally disappear to the east. As Gilham had reported a similar description, it is quite possible that the Sullivan reports are corroborations of his sighting at Merom; but since we do not know at what time Gilham saw the Merom object, this possibility remains tentative.

One may legitimately wonder whether we are perhaps dealing with an hysterical personality, and self-inflicted injuries: Ruppelt's findings on the "Florida scoutmaster" story of 1952 (*F.U.*, Jan.) should be borne in mind. But inasmuch as the presence of the UFO was confirmed by other witnesses, Rene Gilham's radiation burn looks a good deal like a genuine one. If it was, the similarity to James Stokes's "sunburn" does much to add credibility to Stokes's story.

Several hundred miles to the northeast, that same night, an incident even more remarkable than Gilham's took place. Although no

burns were inflicted upon the observer, it should be included because of the radioactivity alleged to have been detected. At about 11:30 p.m. (EST), Olden Moore, a 28-year-old plasterer, was driving home from Painesville, in northeastern Ohio, and was just west of Montville when he saw a bright object in the southern sky moving from right to left, or eastward, ahead of him. He thought at first it was a bright meteor.

"It stopped when it got to the center of my side of the windshield, and then it split into two pieces. One part went straight upward. The part that remained seemed brighter than ever and kept getting bigger. When it got to be about the size of a sheet of paper (8½ x 11"), I pulled the car into a side road and got out. It seemed to be headed straight at the car. I had no idea what it was. The color changed, as it approached, from bright white to a green haze, and then to blue-green as it stopped about 200 feet above the field. I didn't hear any sound until it started to settle slowly to the ground. Then I noticed a whirring sound, something like an electric meter, only a little deeper." The object landed about 500 feet away.

"I stood by the car watching the thing for some 15 minutes before I decided to walk toward it." He found it to be a circular affair, shaped like a covered dish about 50 feet in diameter and 15 feet high, surmounted by a sharp steeple-like

cone extending its overall height to 20-30 feet. Around it was a blue-green haze which alternately dimmed and brightened.

"The moonlight made it possible to distinguish the object itself from the haze. When the haze was dim, whatever the thing was made of looked the same as those mirrored sun-glasses—the kind where the outside of the glasses look like mirrors, and you can't see the wearer's eyes. I didn't see any windows. Up until Wednesday night I figured, as most people do, that flying saucer sighters belonged in the booby hatch. Now, I do not doubt them at all." (Lake County *Republican Herald*, 11/12.)

The Chardon (O.) *Geauga Record* (11/21) gives some more details.

Moore said he had approached only about halfway to the saucer, then "stopped and thought about getting witnesses, and returned to the car." Finding no one on the road, he drove five miles to his home and returned with his wife, but of course the object had departed. Next morning Geauga County Sheriff Louis Robusky was notified and an investigation was begun. Lake County Civilian Defense director Kenneth Locke searched the landing area and found six "footprints" that "came from nowhere and went nowhere." He described a sort of heel print, and some little holes in the ground, "like golf shoes would make. But nobody around there has golf

shoes." (Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, 11/8.)

According to the Cleveland *Press* (11/8), near the spiked "footprints" were found two holes in the ground three feet deep. "They were not like post holes, an observer said: they were perfect." One assumes from this that they were about six inches in diameter but had smooth walls, as if earth samples had been removed with a cylindrical core borer. However, this thought-provoking piece of evidence is not mentioned by our other sources.

Locke returned to headquarters and got a Geiger counter. "When we returned, we got a reading of about 150 microontgens (presumably *per hour*, above the normal background of about 15—*auths.*) in the center of an area about 50 feet in diameter, tapering to 20 or 30 microontgens at the perimeter." A few hours later, "the meter showed only 20-25 microontgens in the center and no reading at all in the perimeter. This indicated that the activity was not caused by minerals in the ground. We concluded that something must have been here."

These radioactivity measurements, *if* they can be taken at face value, imply something startling. According to the Cleveland *Press* (11/8), the first reading was taken at 3 p.m. the next day (about 15 hours after the object's departure) and the second was taken only two hours later, by which time the activ-

ity had decayed from 150 to 20-25 microroentgens per hour. This implies a half-life of only 42 minutes—a very “hot” isotope indeed. Since a 15-hour time lapse would represent nearly twenty-two 42-minute half-lives, the original radiation level must have been about 600 roentgens per hour! (The lethal dose for man is approximately 500 roentgens.) And this refers only to the radioactivity left by the saucer on the *ground* where it rested—not to the radiation emitted by the UFO itself. Knowing something of the frequent inaccuracy of newspaper data, we would like not to assign too much weight to this deduction; but it seems possible that it was just as well for Olden Moore that he approached the UFO no closer than he did.

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* (11/8) reported some odd circumstances which, as presented, seem significantly confirmatory of Moore's story:

“Mrs. Mildred Wenzel, whose auto had been parked outside all night about half a mile from where Moore said he saw the thing, was driving to Chardon to talk to Sheriff Robusky about strange pockmarks she had discovered in its roof and windshield. When she drove by the field and saw the sheriff and Locke working with the Geiger counter, she stopped to find out what was going on. When he heard her story, Locke ran the counter over her car. It measured 35-40 roentgens.” (This is proba-

bly *micro*roentgens—*auths.*) Mrs. Wenzel said she did not see the object, but “there was something funny going on last night; I couldn't get any of the TV stations on my set. They were all blurred. I finally turned it off and went to bed.”

But the Moore sighting, remarkable enough in itself, also had a remarkable sequel. According to his wife, Moore told her on the evening of November 14 that he was going away. “When I asked him where, he said he wouldn't tell me. I was so mad I asked him what I was supposed to do if one of the children died, or something.” On the morning of the 16th he returned. His wife bruted it about the neighborhood that he had been to Washington. Questioned about this by the *Geauga Record* (11/21), he “would not comment, claiming he is sworn to secrecy. He did disclose the times he left and returned, saying ‘I guess they can't do any more than throw me in jail for telling you that.’ Of his wife he said, ‘Sometimes she talks too much.’ He reported he was authorized to say only that he had talked to ‘high officials.’ He added, ‘I will say this, though; most of the people I talked to seemed to think these objects are not made by man.’” (One wonders how much of a “secret” remains after these artless disclosures!)

As with a “contact” claim, we are now confronted with allegations so far-reaching that we can hardly

accept them without knowing more than we do about the claimant's reputation for reliability, and we cannot help wondering whether the whole thing might not be a publicity-seeker's deliberate mystification. At present, the story of Olden Moore must be adjudged *either* a very significant case or a well-carried-out hoax; we do not know which it is.

On November 10, four days after Olden Moore's reported encounter with a UFO, a similar incident occurred just twelve miles north of Montville, Ohio in the town of Madison, on Lake Erie. It was a cold night, and at 1:25 a.m. (EST), young Mrs. Leita Kuhn had gone out to build a fire in her garage to keep her Doberman pinschers warm. "When I came out, I saw a huge object in the air behind my garage, about 100 feet up. It was 35 to 40 feet across—as big as a house—shaped like an acorn—and very bright. About halfway up there looked as if there might be windows around it, but the light was so bright I really couldn't say for sure. At the bottom it looked like some sort of exhaust. It looked like a large heat lamp in the air. I was not more than 100 feet from it." Almost hypnotized by this weird sight, she watched it, according to her account, for half an hour. "I did not feel any heat from it, but for some reason I was not aware of being cold, though all I had on was a very light sweater

with the sleeves rolled up. I did not notice any odor nor did I hear any noise. But while I was watching it, my hand seemed to be going up in front of my face for no reason at all, and my head kept going down. Finally I went in the house to get someone else to see it, and when I came out it was gone."

Mrs. Kuhn's neighbors laughed when they heard the story, which did not become public at the time. But "a few days later, a body rash and some failing in her vision were noticed," and she went to a doctor. "He said that my eyes look as though they had radiation burns, and that I must have had a great shock for this rash on my arms and legs to draw blood," she said later. Finally, on the 25th, the incident became known to Civil Defense director Kenneth Locke—the same man involved in the investigation of Olden Moore's reported sighting. Mrs. Kuhn's report appeared in the Painesville (O.) *Telegraph* of 11/27.

However, before we take it as proven that Mrs. Kuhn must have received a dose of radiation from the UFO, two points should be noted. There was apparently no skin burn on her face (as in the otherwise similar Gilham case); and no mention is made of nausea, invariably the first symptom of typical radiation sickness. On the 29th, a blood count was run at Geneva Memorial Hospital: it showed no evidence of the white-cell damage characteristic of radia-

tion sickness. (Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, 12/1.)

We must conclude, then, that whatever caused Mrs. Kuhn's rash, it was not radiation; and any eye injury, it would seem, must have been due to the brightness of the light. However, there may be something here that is unfamiliar to us.

In concluding our comments on afflictions resulting from nearby observations of UFOs, we refer to two not-very-recent cases in which such effects have been reported. The first, occurring during the wave of sightings in Ohio in August, 1955, was reported directly to veteran UFO investigator Leonard Stringfield, of Cincinnati. Although the observer suffered no direct burns, his eyesight, as in Mrs. Kuhn's case, was impaired severely enough to warrant medical attention.

The incident took place on August 6, 1955. The witness, requesting anonymity because of fear of ridicule, resided in northern Cincinnati and reported the following: at approximately 1 a.m. he was awakened by his dog, which was setting up a commotion outside. Investigating, he discovered a brilliant white oval-shaped object, about 15 feet wide, resting on the ground at the end of his driveway, about 90 feet away. His estimate of the size was based on the width of the driveway. The object remained motionless for about five seconds, during which he watched a distinct pulsation, so severe as to seriously irritate his eyes. Then the

object rose very abruptly and silently toward the northwest and vanished. The following day, his eyes were extremely sore and he had to consult a doctor for relief. (C.R.I.F.O. *Orbit*, 9/2/55, Vol. II, No. 6.)

The second incident occurred even earlier and bears a remarkable similarity to the reports of James Stokes, Rene Gilham and Leita Kuhn. On the night of April 20, 1950, Jack Robertson, a then 28-year-old Lufkin, Texas pharmacist, was driving alone about nine miles west of town when he noticed a round object "about eight feet in diameter" some 200 feet ahead of him. Curious, he stopped his car and got out to get a better look at it. The object drew closer, and "gave off a red glow." He described the bottom of the object as "rounded, like a globe." He said it appeared to be made of aluminum, but that darkness prevented a detailed observation. For about five minutes he watched it as it hovered overhead, not closer than 20 feet away. Then suddenly it took off with a "whooshing roar" and was quickly out of sight. As the object took off, Robertson saw sparks being emitted from a slot in the bottom of the thing, and about five minutes later, he felt a burning sensation on his face. The following day, when he gave his account to the Lufkin *Daily News*, it was noted by the reporters that Robertson's face had a reddish cast resembling a sunburn. "I'm not a drink-

ing man and I hadn't been drinking," he told them.

As far as we are able to tell, there are no other references in our records of similar incidents, although this does not mean that no others exist. It is particularly striking that three such reports of actual burns should be brought forth at the same time—during one of the

most significant sighting waves in the history of flying saucers.

Next month, as a welcomed change of diet, we will introduce to you a guest columnist, Richard Hall of New Orleans, a UFO researcher who has devoted a great deal of time and effort in his pursuit of a factual and logical investigation of this perplexing subject.

PROBLEMS OF SPACE TRAVEL

THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING of the Navy Vanguard satellite has tended to obscure the reality that there is still immensely much to learn before Man can hope to fly into Outer Space with any hope of returning.

The problems are both physical and psychological, perhaps more so the latter, as has been pointed out by Major General Dan C. Ogle, surgeon general of the Air Force, in a recent article in the *Armed Forces Medical Journal*. Particularly important, says General Ogle, is the "break-off phenomenon," the feeling of confusion and helplessness as you approach the limits of this planet's gravitational pull. This is a sensation that is already being reported by pilots and which may become serious when masses of soldiers, eventually, have to be transported by rockets at great heights and speeds.

Another problem, studied by the doctors at the Naval School of Aviation Medicine at Pensacola, Florida, is believed due in part to "confinement in a sealed cabin, traveling in a lonesome void, a by-product of isolated monotony."

"We occasionally hear," General Ogle wrote, "of vague yet disturbing and possibly fatal episodes of fascination or hypnotic reactions resulting from target or instrument concentration. Similar popular explanations are given for the occasional disappearance of skin divers, men in another environment foreign to normal human experience."

A further problem is represented by the weird light conditions. At roughly 75 miles, the scattering of visible light by dust and molecules ceases, and the so-called "twilight of space" is entered. The stars are visible at all times, with the objects in sunlight dazzlingly bright against the blackness of shade. At 75 miles the transfer of sound by the atmosphere also ceases, producing the utter silence of space.

In other words, the future space traveler must be all that the most highly trained aviator is today—and capable of surviving much more.