

Ancient Astronauts Modern Mysteries

THE STRANGLING SPACEMEN

Hundreds of times in the past 25 years strange objects have descended from the sky, their hatches have silently opened, and astonished witnesses have found themselves confronted by ufonauts—the pilots of flying saucers. Descriptions of these ufonauts have varied from little men a few inches tall to towering giants. But one type has turned up more often than any other. These “creatures” are of normal height—5 to 6 feet tall—and resemble normal earthlings except that their facial features are quite angular. Often witnesses think they are of oriental extraction because of their elongated eyes, high cheekbones, and dark complexions.

One of the most ignored aspects of these largely overlooked contact cases is probably one of the most important. *These strange beings have trouble breathing.*

They seem to be gasping for air when they speak, as if they were suffering from asthma. Their faces even turn red from the effort. When they move, they stagger uncertainly, almost as if they were drunk. They have trouble putting one foot in front of the other. Their eyes don't seem to focus. Sometimes they look right through, or right past, the witness. Or one eye seems out of synchronization with the other. When they talk, the words come out in clipped phrases between gasps, as if they were reciting something they had memorized.

In short, these mysterious visitors show all the symptoms of a well-known medical ailment called aeroembolism, “the air bends.”

GENERAL MARSHALL'S STATEMENT

In 1955, Dr. Rolf Alexander, a prominent British ufologist, had a remarkable conversation with his old friend Gen. George C. Marshall (U.S. Army Chief of Staff during WW II). According to Dr. Alexander, Marshall told him, “Visitors from outer space are trying to work out a method of breathing and staying alive in our atmosphere before landing and establishing contact.”

Apparently the general was privy to detailed secret reports containing information of such a bizarre nature that even when this same sort of information became available to ufologists in the 1960s they chose to ignore it.

When a British contactee named Arthur Bryant described his first encounter with UFO pilots in 1965 he said, “When I first saw them their breathing was labored, but after some minutes this seemed to wear off.”

This labored breathing is, in fact, a common factor in many contact cases and in many “Men In Black” episodes as well.

FROM SECRET FILES

During my UFO investigations around the country I have collected many interesting stories which I have never published, usually because the witnesses refused to let me use their names in print. But here are some documented accounts from my personal files.

“They had an odd manner of speaking . . . as though they would inhale, then speak until they had expelled all their breath, then inhale again and begin to speak again.” From a deputy police officer's description of his encounter with three mysterious men in black suits in 1968.

“He seemed to wheeze . . . like a man with asthma. He appeared to have difficulty breathing . . . One of his eyes appeared to have a cast, like a glass eye. His eyes did not seem to move in unison.” Testimony of a family in Cape May, N.J., describing a mysterious visitor who appeared shortly after they had experienced some unusual UFO sightings in 1966.

In 1967, a young family man from Belpre, Ohio, witnessed some interesting sightings. Shortly afterwards he had a brief encounter with two black-garbed oriental-looking men. He said they appeared confused or drunk and seemed to have difficulty walking.

In the spring of 1968 an “Indian” in black clothes appeared in the middle of the night on a college campus in Minnesota following a series of UFO sightings. He behaved in a drunken fashion. Witnesses were interviewed by Jerome Clark, a well-known American ufologist.

A “drunken Chinaman” staggered into a newspaper office in New York State

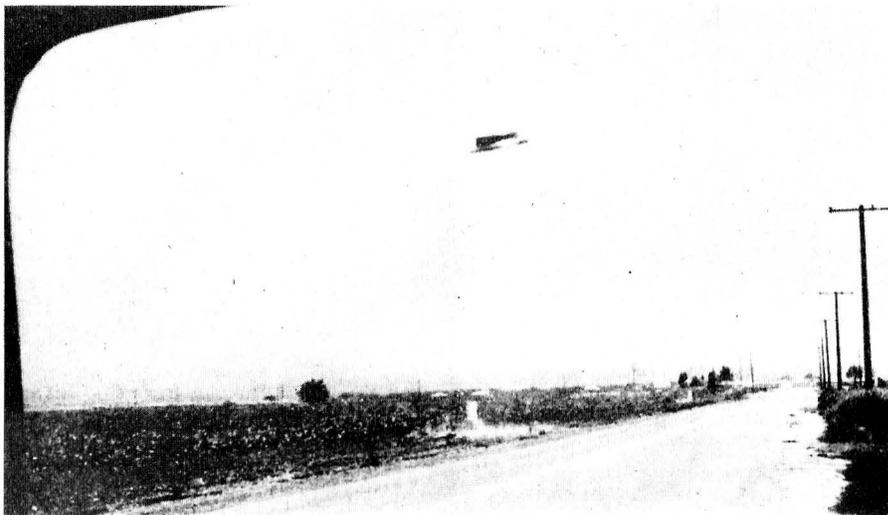
while a reporter was typing up a local UFO report in 1969. He was dressed in a black suit. After much wheezing, he managed to say, “Don't print that story.” He then staggered out, bumping into furniture. The reporter followed him immediately but the street outside was completely deserted.

In the fall of 1969, an astonished motorist in Massachusetts found the road blocked by a large flying saucer. A red-faced man with “popping eyes” came up to his car and asked the witness to drive him into the nearest town. The man wore a short black coat and “very shiny green trousers made out of some material I have never seen before.” As soon as the man got into the car the object on the road lifted silently into the air and vanished. The witness tried to talk to his passenger but the “man” seemed to have great difficulty breathing. When asked where he was from, he replied, “You wouldn't understand.” The driver was thinking of going straight to the local police station as soon as he let the man out. But when the stranger got out of the car on the town's main street he wheezed, “Nobody is going to believe you, so don't bother.” He appeared to stagger uncertainly as he moved away.

TOO MUCH NITROGEN

What ails these strange black-suited people? It would seem that our atmosphere is too much for them. At sea level the Earth's atmosphere is approximately 80 percent nitrogen and 20 percent oxygen. Aeroembolism, also called caisson disease, is caused by bubbles of nitrogen forming in the bloodstream. According to the *Merck Manual*, a reference book for





he released the pictures he was accused of a hoax, was ridiculed and lost his job.) The other was taken by a fireman in England in the 1960s. He snapped a picture of his daughter in a park near an atomic laboratory and when the film was developed there was the image of a tall man in a white spacesuit with a helmet on his head—a man no one had seen at the time the picture was taken.

If these photos are authentic, and there will always be doubts about that, they prove the argument that ufonauts need artificial aids in our atmosphere.

But if sulfur and hydrogen sulfide are important components of their atmosphere, where could they come from? Methane gas seems to be the main portion of Jupiter's atmosphere. But the only place in our solar system known to be rich in hydrogen sulfide is the center of the Earth itself. And if anybody is walking around down there they're under very high pressure. If they came up to the surface abruptly they would get the bends just like a deep-sea diver.

Since 1944, there has been a large group of people who actually believe that flying saucers and ufonauts do come from the center of the Earth. There are even people who claim to have visited the deep caverns populated by these mysterious beings; beings who look very much like us except for the oriental cast to their features.

KING OF THE WORLD

There are countless myths about the Elder race that once populated this planet but were driven underground by some catastrophe. There are people in the Orient who still believe in this underground race ruled by the "King of the World." There are some who say that this race controls human events on the surface, and that various cults take orders from this hidden race, committing political assassinations and other crimes to further the Elders' mysterious ends.

A writer named Richard Shaver gave the Elders a new name in 1944 when he updated the ancient legends. He called them "deros," an acronym for "detrimental robots," and claimed they controlled us through the use of fiendish rays.

According to the dero believers, flying saucers come to us from gigantic holes at the North and South Poles.

But perhaps we should take a new look at the old legends. It does seem to be a fact that a godlike race of superior beings existed alongside early man. Who were they? Where were they from? Where did they go? Did they go underground into the volcanic interior of the Earth leaving only a dim racial memory behind? Are they still there, breathing sulfuric fumes, rising from their dark dominion from time to time to stagger down our streets on unsure feet, eyes rolling, their bodies tortured with aeroembolism? ★ THE END

doctors, "In decompression from greater than atmospheric pressure, localized sharp pains in the abdomen, or about the joints of the extremities ('the bends'), vertigo ('the staggers'), nystagmus (oscillatory movement of the eyeballs), tinnitus (subjective roaring or hissing in the ears). . . may be present."

Apparently these entities are like deep-sea divers who come up too quickly. When they step into our atmosphere their bodies are suddenly attacked by excess nitrogen in their systems and they suffer from vertigo and nystagmus.

In a number of cases, such as the Cape May, N.J., incident, these beings asked for a glass of water so they could take a pill. After swallowing the pill their behavior became more normal.

Noxious gases play a role in many UFO reports. The objects, and sometimes the beings themselves, are often surrounded by the smell of rotten eggs. Chemists identify this as being the odor of hydrogen sulfide. In 1967, I managed to obtain one of the pills used by these beings and chemical analysis proved it to be nothing more than simple sulfur.

In a few cases, the witnesses have been deliberately gassed before the ufonauts made their entrance. The best-known incident of this type is the widely discussed story of Antonio Villas-Boas, the young Brazilian farmer who, in 1957, went aboard a UFO and had a sexual liaison with a blonde, long-fingered female. Before the girl showed up, he said, a nauseating gas that smelled like "burning oilcloth" filled the chamber where he was waiting. It made him ill and he threw up before he adjusted to it. Could he have been exposed to the normal atmosphere of these people?

GODS AND GASES

Scholars are becoming more and more convinced that the gods of ancient civ-

ilizations were actually ufonauts playing strange games. Descriptions of the ancient gods match the modern ufonaut descriptions and this apparent problem with aeroembolism may explain why the gods always chose to settle on mountaintops where the air was thinner and, possibly, the risk of aeroembolism was not as great.

In many parts of the world, people still believe there are gods in the mountains—from the Andes in South America to the Himalayas in Tibet. The Paiute Indians in North America have legends about blond, long-haired, long-fingered gods who lived on sacred plateaus. Indians who wandered into these areas were paralyzed by "metal tubes" wielded by these gods. The Hopi and Navaho think their gods, the *Kachina* people, ride around in luminous aerial objects and reside in the San Francisco mountains (see SAGA, April 1973). When that "fiery cloud" visited Moses it settled atop Mount Sinai, and Moses struggled to the summit to spend 40 days there.

In earlier times the smell of brimstone (sulfur) was associated with the appearances of these strange airborne phantasms and the demons and gods who supposedly accompanied them. So the modern sightings—and smells—are nothing new.

QUESTIONS OF ORIGIN

There are now many reports describing ufonauts seen wearing helmets or breathing apparatus of some kind. These stories cover everything from a simple tube running up the ufonaut's nose to elaborate space helmets attached to tanks worn on the back.

There are at least 2 photographs of helmeted ufonauts. One picture was taken by an engineer named Monguzzi in the mountains of Italy in 1952. (Unfortunately for Mr. Monguzzi, his pictures were too clear. After