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The Contact (UK) Directory

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EDITORIAL

Do you sleep peacefully in your beds at night? Perhaps you do, and never know that you have been scrutinized by some other-world entity who departs long before you wake. Unnerving though such a thought might be, it is surely less unnerving than actually waking up to find such an alien visitor in your bedroom, like the case recounted on page 20 supra.

If the foregoing remarks suggest alarmism, then pause before regarding them as such to consider that a fast growing dossier dealing with similar instances is resulting from the systematic data collecting activities of researchers such as David Webb in America interested in humanoid and ufo occupant cases. The significance of this trend can only be guessed at, but the facts speak for themselves.

All the preceding is really an introduction to the fact that CONTACT (UK)'s liaison and collaboration with other ufo organizations, many of them abroad, is slowly laying bare many little known and often astonishing facets of the overall ufo enigma. In other words, through increased co-operation on all fronts, the outlines of the ufo enigma are becoming clearer. One ventures to say that it is largely due to this increasing co-operation that improved comprehension is being attained, for it is a certain fact that the ufo problem is being revealed as one far greater than any single body can hope to unravel single-handedly. CONTACT (UK)'s recent massive exchange of sightings records with Dr Hynek's UFO Centre in Chicago is a case in point, for by participating in the international programme pursued by the Centre, CONTACT (UK) will in turn receive (and had already partially received) additional data submitted to the Centre by other organizations and researchers collaborating in the overall venture. Vast masses of material are thereby being collected and disseminated among numerous co-operating bodies who, individually, could probably never have attained such results individually or independently of one another. Such collaboration is indeed the only way by which real progress will be made in this fascinating yet frustrating topic.

But international co-operation like that just mentioned, while excellent, is far from being the ultimate solution or aid, for national and local co-operation is equally important if, indeed, not more so. Thus, it is most encouraging at this time to find a vastly increased awareness among British ufologists in general of the need for closer co-operation, especially among themselves. The two leading British organizations -- BUFORA and CONTACT (UK) -- have already embarked upon a programme of closer co-operation in many areas of ufology, and NUFON, in the North, which already co-ordinates many smaller local ufo groups there, is already liaising and exchanging strongly with both of them. All this can only be of general benefit, for it enables highly detailed local records to be constantly maintained and for their significance to be evaluated against an overall global ufo pattern of activity. It is, after all, of little use knowing all about ufo activity over say Belgium on Dec 4th. 1975, if its relationship to ufo activity then elsewhere either remains unknown or, as has been largely the case until now, virtually ignored. If increased collaboration ultimately leads to a wider understanding of the ufo problem by a greater number of those engaged in researching it, then, perhaps, we will better comprehend and be better prepared for bedroom invasions by alien entities.

The Editor.

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The editor regrets that, for economic and other reasons, it is not always possible to acknowledge every item of correspondence received by CONTACT (UK) personnel, a fact in no way diminishing our gratitude to those who trouble to communicate with us.

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"CURIOUS AERIAL PHENOMENA IN 1812, 1813, AND 1814"

by

J.B.Delair.

Introduction:

Publications too numerous to mention contain records of unusual aerial phenomena having apparently relationships with that more readily discernible as ufo activity, yet perusal of old publications, records, and serials dealing with science and natural history continue to reveal additional events that, so far as is known, have been overlooked hitherto by ufologists and those interested in the ufo enigma. This article provides details of three such events, and shows how, in at least the third episode, typical ufo behaviour seems often to emerge alongside happenings which, although of apparent aerial origin, are abnormal according to Man's conception of the Universe that is his home.

The three events described below are presented in chronological order.

Case I:

In a letter written by an anonymous correspondent at Buttall's Plantation, in the parish of St. George, Barbados, on May 2nd., 1812, and communicated to the editor of the Philosophical Magazine, vol.40 (July-December 1812), pp.71-76, we read that:- On 1st May, 1812, during the morning, very strange clouds of great size, one brownish, the other bluish in colour, remained stationary over Barbados, while other clouds of conventional appearance passed above them in the usual manner. During the twelve hours or more that these clouds remained stationary, a remarkable silence and a great stillness pervaded the island, and it was so dark that many people went back to bed. Occasionally, however, loud skyblasts were heard and felt at intervals, and the local garrison was put on the alert. For much of this same period, vast masses of ash, or ash-like substance, fell from these clouds, it being so prodigious in places that the branches of some trees split under its weight.

After a period lasting over twelve hours, the clouds slowly drifted away and dissipated.

Case II:

Joseph Steevens was the author of an article called "Account of a Meteor seen in London and other Places on the night of Monday, March 22, 1813" published in the Philosophical Magazine for Jan.-June 1813 (vol.41, pp.346-348), in which he recorded that, at 9.22pm., on that date, an object about half the size of a full Moon suddenly appeared near a thin black cloud. This was initially stationary or nearly so, and then began to proceed in a westerly direction, until lost from view approximately half a minute later. The object was of triangular shape, and projected rays from it in various directions. These rays later turned into globes of light that then commenced to proceed the main triangular object. It was observed from Moorfields and Hackney in London, and from Hounslow in Middlesex.

NB:- There is no doubt that this object, whatever it was, did not fall into that category of celestial objects known as meteors, for no meteor has ever been observed for as long as half a minute. But our nineteenth century ancestors, being unaware of the true nature of meteors in the early 1800's tended to class all such sightings under the heading "meteors". It is, perhaps, worth noting that a large object which moved from North to West in a series of jerky leaps and that progressed along an unundulatory track, before vanishing into a cloud never to re-emerge, on Thursday, November 7th., 1811, was also called a "meteor", by observers at Clapton, London, at 8.55pm.that day (see

Case III:

Sometime between 11.00am and Noon on September 5th., 1814, observers at Agen, France, saw a small cloud suddenly appear, evidently at a great height, in an otherwise perfectly clear sky while a stiff breeze was blowing. The cloud was white in colour, with a greyish central hue, and was altogether a rather sombre-looking object. It was of a remarkably uniform round shape, and appeared to be only a few feet in diameter. It first materialized in the North-western quadrant of the sky, but soon increased its speed and, revolving on its own axis, moved to the South. The increase in speed was accompanied by a continuous thundery noise, likened afterwards by some witnesses to the sound of a carriage passing by, and culminated in a tremendous explosion which was attended by lightning or a flash of light. Instantly afterwards the cloud began to shower down a large quantity of stones, some of considerable size, from two much elongated cord-like features that projected at that moment from the cloud. After the discharge of stones, the cloud, despite the stiff breeze, stopped and remained stationary in the sky until it gradually faded away from sight.

Many of the stones were afterwards collected, and found to resemble others that had previously fallen at l'Aigle, des Landes, and other localities.

Residents of the following places (all in Lotand-Garonne) near Agen either saw the cloud and watched the fall of stones, or heard the rumbling sounds and final detonation --- Montclar, Temple, Castelmoron, Montpezat, Mezin, Condon, St.Macaire, and Basas. According to their respective vantage points, witnesses either thought the sounds very loud and frightening, or as rather faint sounds of unusual character. Many were positively terrified by the events.

(see anonymous correspondent in the Philosophical Magazine & Journal, vol.44, for July-December 1814, p.316; De Saint Amans in Annales de Chimie, tome xcii, Oct., 1814, p.25; and in the Philosophical Magazine & Journal, vol.45, for January-June 1815, pp.23-26).

NB:- The sudden materialization of a perfectly round cloud in a serene sky, of the cloud then manoeuvring as clouds never do, and of then becoming stationary in a stiff breeze before fading away, quite apart from emitting rumbling sounds ending in a violent skyblast, and discharging a shower of stones, leaves no doubt that this "cloud" was not a conventional cloud at all. Indeed, it seems that it much more resembled a species of ufo in its behavioural activities.

Now, as the shower of stones at Agen was directly connected with abnormal, even ufo-like, aerial phenomena, can it be that other similar showers of stones from the skies (as distinct from solitary aerolites and meteors having demonstrable astronomical origins) were actually generated by or in similar "clouds", even though those clouds were not always noticed or remarked upon by contemporary observers? With such a question in mind, it might, perhaps, be useful to more fully investigate this intriguing but little understood aspect of meteorology or, as seems to be the case, peripheral ufology. Certainly it is relevant to note that Bigot de Morogues, in the Journal des Mines, vol.xxxi, p.430, published a most interesting list of similar showers extending over many centuries, not only of stony matter but also of spongy and gelatinous substances and masses of iron (see "Chronological Catalogue of Stones and other large Masses, which are presumed to have fallen on the Earth"). English readers will be encouraged to learn that this catalogue was reprinted in vol.43 of the Philosophical Magazine & Journal, for January-June 1814; pp.448-451. It makes very illuminating reading, as does Marcel de Serres's article

"Observations on the Fall of Stones from the Clouds, or Aerolites", in vol. 44 of the same journal, pp.217-224, 253-260.

The association of some of these falls with unknown aerial bodies, themselves sometimes performing purposeful manoeuvres, not only makes fascinating reading but shows that our general knowledge of the origins and modus operandi of these showers is in almost every case worse than useless. Certainly nearly every attempt to explain these events in rational terms has failed to win universal acceptance, largely, it is suspected, because each explanation is usually more unbelievable than the event it purports to account for. That a great deal of further research is required in this and related fields of abnormal aerial phenomena is beyond question. Here, indeed, is a fertile field for systematic and patient investigation by persons having access to large science libraries and possessing the larger number of spare hours with which such an undertaking will only be accomplished.

"UFO ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN BRITAIN: NOVEMBER 1975 - FEBRUARY 1976",

by

Jenny Randles.

Northern England is a place often neglected in ufo literature. This is not because ufo activity is non-existent there, but simply that ufo investigators are somewhat thin on the ground, so to speak. At the present time, however, there exists an able group of young people in the region who are collectively fighting to rectify this situation. Indeed, the various factions within Irish ufology --- CONTACT (Eire), BUFORA (Northern Ireland), and a new organization called SKYSCAN --- are working towards an integrated co-ordination programme, very much along the general lines adopted by NUFON in Northern England and Scotland.

In late October and early November 1975, this northern Irish group were faced with a sudden "flap" of ufo activity, which, interestingly, postdated a similar upsurge of sightings elsewhere in Britain by a few weeks. In this instance, "flap" is a relative term since the actual activity in no way approached the sizes of the great waves of sighting reports which the world has experienced in the past. In such locally based events as this one, publicity factors have to be taken into account, since these tend to generate reports, whereby it is often difficult to sort out a "chicken and egg" situation --- i.e., which came first, the "flap" or the "publicity"? When an increase in sighting activity is more widespread, the involvement of publicity (which is invariably local in effect) cannot be counted as a major factor.

The Northern Ireland cases in themselves were nothing special. Mostly they only involved lights, having no apparent physical substance. For example, a yellowish oval light was seen on several occasions over the Irish Sea, from coastal positions both in Ireland and Scotland. Instinctively, one tends to feel that such recurrent phenomenon most probably have a natural explanation, although the recurrence of abnormal and bizarre features in ufo reports is, itself, a strong indicator that those features, no matter how unacceptable or unpalatable to orthodoxy, are real, and it thus follows that quite ordinary-looking recurrent events may not necessarily pertain to quite ordinary agencies. Of interest in this particular batch of "ordinary" lights is a case from the seaside town of Dunaghadee, that allegedly involved electromagnetic effects affecting a radio set. This report, dating from November 1st., was unfortunately, never substantiated.

A much more significant wave of reports, perhaps, occurred in December, during the period of the 12th to the 14th. The earliest sign of anything out of the ord-

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inary came when the Manchester UFO Research Association (MUFORA) also found themselves investigating sightings of some merit from this 48 hour period. For example, a lighted tubular-shaped object with a flashing green light on top (fig.1) was observed from various parts of the Potteries northward of Stoke. Subsequently it became apparent throughout NUFON that this was by no means a situation unique to the area covered by MUFORA, as NUFON, in piecing together reports received at the time from all regions of northern England, found that the Midlands UFO Research Organization (MURD) and UFORA Staffordshire also received reports from the same period. Moreover, there were other ufo sightings made about these dates elsewhere in the UK, while foreign ufo organizations recorded contemporary sightings in their countries too. For instance, the APRO Bulletin devotes almost a full issue to a "wave" which occurred exactly in this same short period of time in localized regions of America. NUFON, therefore, is taking this matter further and would dearly like to hear of any other reports, no matter where from, during the period December 12th to 14th., 1975.

The sightings in the Greater Manchester area began on Friday, December 12th., with a report from Adlington to the West. At 17.10 hours, three young boys observed a cone-shaped object with a triangular formation of lights. A few miles eastwards, at Swinton, a woman was also watching a peculiar formation of lights at almost the same time. It was found, via subsequent investigations, that these events were possibly attributable to a "Dart Herald" aircraft in-bound at the time to Manchester airport, but no feasible explanation was found for the series of incidents that occurred in the Swinton area precisely one hour later. Certainly these cannot be passed off as aircraft, and they pertain to potentially one of the most important events of 1975 inasmuch as they involve independently located witnesses to what undoubtedly was the same object. The story first came to light through the "Swinton and Pendelbury Journal", since the first two witnesses were a man and wife reporter team employed by that newspaper. They were returning home from work when they sighted three deep-red and blue lights over a line of pin-prick sized white points or holes. These were surrounded by a hazy disc shape. At first, the witnesses thought they were watching a helicopter, and followed the object in their car for several minutes. The object appeared to be low of the horizon. Eventually, their news sense got the better of them and they stopped the car in a lay-by and got out to better observe the object. Picking up the object again they watched it suddenly accelerate, after which it allegedly turned upwards at a right angle to vanish into a cloudless sky within seconds, the lights merging into one and fading from view as it did so. (fig.2)

Another reporter from the same newspaper also saw this object from a different location. She afterwards described very similar motions, and included a period where the object seemed to hover for a while. When the object turned on edge to shoot upwards, she got a clear impression of a cylindrical cone-shaped object, of a dullish blue colour. It also appeared to leave a trail of blue sparks as it shot upwards into the sky. (fig.3)

Following the obvious significance of these reports, the newspaper featured a short appeal by MUFORA inviting any further witnesses to come forward with accounts of their observations. A lady, who had been driving in the area with her children, while on her way home from Bolton, did so. She described how she had followed a series of lights for 4 or 5 minutes, and at one point stopped her car by a golf course as the object hovered at a very low altitude very close by. Getting out of her vehicle, she was astonished at the total lack of sound. She also noted that lights on the object were flashing, randomly, but in an apparent effort to "attract attention". (fig.4)

On the next day, at sunset, the Dutton family all witnessed a similar object fly slowly from West to East and reflect the rays of the setting sun on an apparently metallic or shiny surface. The object, which was cone-shaped, changed colour from reddish to blue as it passed over the Dutton's house. It then hovered for about thirty seconds, changed back to a red colour, and shot away at an "incredible velocity".

Late in January, two more local ufo investigative groups were in action, working together on cases through the MUFON system. On this occasion the area affected was Bolton and environs in southern Lancashire. Both the press and TV afforded massive publicity to one event, which involved two girls who saw a stationary jagged white "star" at 02.00 hours on January 25th. Eventually, after due investigation, the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomenon (DIGAP) concluded this to be in all probability a misinterpretation of a conventional star. It is thus unfortunate that so mundane an object should have received such an undue amount of publicity.

There were doubts also about a report from Shadsworth, near Blackburn, dating from January 30th. DIGAP investigative personnel, together with others from the Rossendale Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomenon (RIGAP) investigated this report, which was made by three young ladies. The doubts revolve around the changes present in their basic story, which came out of two separate interviews. Mainly, these differences concerned shapes and direction of flight, and may simply derive from the admittedly high excitability of the witnesses at the time. (see fig.5). Principally they describe an oval shape in two pieces, with a rectangular section in between, this latter containing two rows of windows, which rotated simultaneously with one another, but separately. Various coloured lights, red, green, blue, yellow, and "silver", were allegedly thrown out by the object. The object itself seems to have followed a circular path and to have departed towards the South.

Probably the most important of these Bolton sightings occurred on January 23rd. This event involved a solitary witness, a sincere 17 years old girl. Returning home from work at 18.05 hours, she saw what at first looked like a car's red rear light in the sky. It suddenly came towards her at tremendous speed and then stopped to hover at low altitude over nearby rooftops. It then resolved into a flat topped object having a deep red and an amber light in the middle at either edge (see fig.6). It remained absolutely silent, but then suddenly started to spin very quickly, canting away at an angle. As it did so, the witness felt a strange "grinding sensation" in her bottom teeth, an effect possibly connected with some high frequency emission. Needless to say, she was very frightened, and ran away to call the police. They accepted her sincerity, as did the investigators of this case. Of relevance is the fact that this witness refused to testify on television, because she felt the interviewer was not treating her experience seriously enough.

Further reports from this area in February included an object seen by two builders on Winter Hill during midmorning, on the 17th. This object was described as an oval with a flattened "mushroom" on top, and allegedly emitted a high pitched humming noise. The case is still under investigation, as also another from the Cairo Mill area of Oldham, where a famous low level sighting was made in October 1972.

MUFORA have also located three persons who, on March 1st. (a date just outside the limits of this report), saw a domed disc, seemingly transparent, and featuring a vertical bar down it. The dome rotated and a high pitched hum was heard by one of the witnesses. Thus it seems that ufo activity continues unabated in this area and that 1976 will be a busy year for local investigators. In further reports, I intend to detail all such important cases investigated by MUFON associates.



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

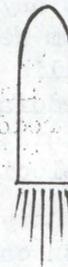


FIG. 3.

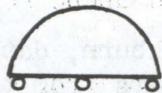


FIG. 4.

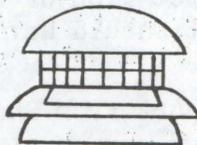


FIG. 5.

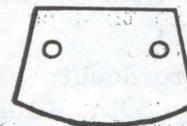


FIG. 6.

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Miss Jenny Randles,  
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Irlam, Greater Manchester,  
M30 6NJ.

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#### SOME IMPORTANT NOTICES.

- 1: The Annual General Meeting for the current year will be held on Saturday, December 4th., in the Tudor Room at Caxton Hall, London. The speakers will include Leonard Cramp, author of two famous books on ufos, and there will be an exhibition and, it is hoped, at least one film of ufos, or of a related astrophysical topic. Full details will be announced later.
- 2: Our heartiest congratulations to our founder president, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, in being elevated to the peerage as the new Earl of Clancarty. Brinsley, who intends to continue his ufo research, now resides at a new address, to which any correspondence should be sent. It is: 6 Lyall Street, Belgravia, London, SW1X 8LJ.
- 3: CONTACT (UK) is jointly producing with NUFON a catalogue of ufo sightings relating to northern England. It will ultimately be available to all members of Contact (UK) and Nufon, and is expected to be published some time in 1977. Any reader possessing details of ufo sightings (any year) from northern England is invited to send them to the reports co-ordinator, Mr Ian Cresswell, 12 Newlands Road, Morecambe, Lancashire. Over 700 sightings have been collected so far, but it is known that many others have probably been overlooked and it is these that we are interested in tracking down. All contributors will be suitably acknowledged in the final catalogue.

A comparable catalogue, dealing with Welsh ufo reports, is also been prepared by CONTACT (UK) in collaboration with the Belgian organization GESAG. Once again, any members possessing relevant information should direct it to the editor, whose address appears at the front of this journal.

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A CHECK-LIST OF BOOKS ABOUT UFOS AND RELATED SUBJECTS

IN CONTACT (UK's) LIBRARY,

by

John Loveridge.

Foreword.

As librarian for Contact (UK), I, and my associates at Data Research, often receive enquiries concerning books, pamphlets, and serials devoted to ufos or to related phenomena, or requests to provide page numbers to specific passages in these publications quoted but not referenced by other authors. As the latter service is one of the functions of Data Research, it seems sensible to publish a catalogue of all the many ufo books and other literary products held in Contact (UK's) library, in order that all members may know more precisely the range and types of publications available to them for consultation. But, as stressed elsewhere in earlier issues of "Awareness", none of this literature is available on loan, even to the most eminent investigators, although may be perused by any member or reputable ufologist upon prior application. All such applications should be addressed directly to me or to Mr Derek N. Mansell at Data Research's headquarters in Cumnor, Oxfordshire.

Due to the very great amount of items in Contact (UK's) library, this present catalogue confines itself to a list of books. Later catalogues will list regular serials (such as Flying Saucer Review or Stendek) and special issue magazines (such as that devoted to UFOs by "Life" magazine), together with the numerous occasional bulletins, newsletters, and general miscellanea (much of it containing reports of considerable interest) issued down the years by a large number of ufo groups, flying saucer clubs, and space associations.

The books comprising the present catalogue are listed by authors alphabetically, and, where particular authors have published several books, chronologically. Where known, different editions are stated. Hard-cover books are designated thus (H) and limp or soft cover books as (L). Paperback books fall into the latter category.

\* \* \* \* \*

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A SURVEY OF UNEXPLAINED AERIAL PHENOMENA OVER BRITAIN IN 1950,

by

J.B.Delair\* and J.Bonabot\*\*

Introduction:

Although the press and general public expressed great interest in the ufo phenomenon from 1947 onwards (when world-wide attention was initially focussed upon it), it was not until 1950 that the first books dealing with the subject were published (1; 2; and 3). Quite obviously these books were not, so to speak, written overnight and were in fact compiled over the period immediately preceding their acceptance by publishers. Moreover, several months elapsed before actual publication occurred after the texts had been accepted. These early works thus omitted most of what was happening in the world's skies during the Spring and Summer months of 1950, a period that, as later researches have disclosed, saw a veritable blizzard of ufo activity on a global scale.

Other books about ufos published during the mid-1950's (4; 5; 6; and 7), while referring to ufo activity in 1950, usually did so in somewhat cursory fashion as they mainly concentrated upon the then very recent and more spectacular events of 1952 and 1954. Certainly the magnitude and importance of the 1950 ufo record has tended to be overlooked, and, except for some preliminary studies (8; and 9), has been more or less consistently overlooked. This article, as part of a projected series designed to rectify this situation, pays particular attention to the British segment of the 1950 ufo record.

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GENERAL BACKGROUND DETAIL:

The following list, presented chronologically by months, provides some idea of the widespread distribution of ufo activity during 1950, as known from available records. It is important to note, however, that the mere listing of countries by months conveys little idea of the actual intensity of activity over particular areas on specific dates.

January: Spain, USA.

February: Denmark, Canada, USA, Antarctica.

March: Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Abyssinia (Ethiopia), Egypt, Morocco, Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, USA, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina.

April: UK, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Syria, Israel, Libya, Eritrea, Canada, USA (incl. Alaska), Argentina, Australia, New Zealand.

May: UK, France, Italy, Canada, USA.

June: UK, Italy, USA, Brazil, and what was then the Belgian Congo.

July: France, Switzerland, Canada, USA.

August: France, Switzerland, USA, Bermuda.

September: UK, the North Atlantic Ocean, Canada, USA, Australia.

October: UK, Corfu, USA.

November: UK, USA.

December: UK, France, Italy, Morocco, Korea, USA (Alaska).

Despite this activity, few if any of the numerous sightings were apparently ever adequately investigated, or, after their initial reporting by the press and/or radio, ever mentioned in any detail in subsequent publications concerned with ufos, except for a series of sightings centred on Devonshire (10). Certain isolated cases were indeed discussed or mentioned by Scully (1), Keyhoe (2), Leslie and Adamski (4), Wilkins (6), Arnold and Palmer (11), Vallee (12), Guieu (13), Ruppelt (14), Jessup (15), Lore and Deneault (16), and various other popular writers in the ufo field, but it is true to state that the greater majority of the incidents were either ignored in these texts or were actually unknown to these writers.

THE UNITED KINGDOM RECORD:

Recent detailed studies of aerial incidents over Britain during 1950 show that some quite extraordinary things happened in British skies that year, in particular during the months of September to December. The following table lists the known sightings of unexplained aerial objects and phenomena made in Britain during 1950 (the high activity of the months just mentioned being readily discernible), and which the authors, after applying stringent criteria, feel most likely pertain to true unexplained aerial events.

A high percentage of the available primary information relating to these sightings is in the form of contemporary newspaper accounts. These are seldom of the highest reliability, although an adequately large number of separate and independently published reports for the same locality/ies and date/s often provide a composite picture as it were of the overall ufo activity then occurring. A considerable amount of local detail has been pieced together in this way by the systematic

assembly of many old newspaper accounts. Undoubtedly many additional press sources have been missed, whereby it is hoped that this article will stimulate better placed individuals to search local and provincial newspapers in their districts for additional data on this intriguing and apparently important wave of British ufo activity; in this connection the authors would greatly appreciate receiving further material disclosed through such searches.

U.K. Catalogue for 1950.

January:

Exact date unknown. Between Filey (Yorkshire) and Berwick-on-Tweed (Northumberland). A green flame-like object. Nine witnesses. (6: p.136)

February: (no reports known).

March: (no reports known).

April:

Circa 2nd. London. A "saucer". (Le Soir, 2.4.1950).

5th. Whitby (Yorkshire). Two revolving "hoops", one inside the other. Three female witnesses. (6: p.125; Le Libre Belgique, 7.4.1950; UFO Chronicle, no:5, p.4).

Circa 12th. Between Preston and Lancaster (Lancashire). A brilliant bowl-shaped object --- described by Wilkins (6: p.126) as pendulum-shaped. (La Nation Belge, 12.4.1950; 6: p.126).

May:

7th. Llantarnam (Monmouthshire). An object resembling the planet Saturn. (6: p.127).

7th. Over the English Channel (precise locality not stated). A large disc. Observed by a BEA pilot. (6: p.127).

21st. Aston Clinton (Buckinghamshire). A huge red fiery ball, that preceded a tornado (17: p.229).

June:

5th. Unlocalized region of southern England. A "luminous" object. Seen by an RAF "Meteor" pilot. (Reuter wire, 5.6.1950; Le Soir, 7.6.1950).

7th. A wood near Newport (Shropshire). A Saturn-shaped object, that possibly landed. Observed by an engineer. (Reuter wire, 7.6.1950; Le Soir, 7.6.1950).

July: (no reports known).

August: (no reports known).

September:

19th. Blackheath (Kent). Eighteen silvery spheres, followed after a short interval by two more. The passage of these objects occupied three minutes. (6: p.132).

27th. Unlocalized areas of the U.K. Several "Blue Moons or Suns" (6: p.133).

October:

12th. Barnwood, near Gloucester (Gloucestershire). Four huge blazing lights. Seen by a single witness. (6: p.12; 11: p.123)

12th. Churchdown Hill, near Gloucester (Gloucestershire). Two huge blazing lights. (6: p.12).

Circa 16th. Trequite, near Bodmin (Cornwall). A blue oval object. Watched by Mrs N.M.Bray. (Western Evening Herald, 18.10.1950).

17th. Various unlocalized areas of the U.K. Several "Blue Moons and Suns" and "violet glows" in the sky. (6: p.133).

30th. Preston, near Paignton (Devonshire). A cigar-shaped object, attended by two silvery discs. Seen by A.W.Bearne and others. (Torquay Herald Express, 31.10.1950; 10, pp.5-12; 13: pp.32-33).

**NB:** On the same date, and approximately at the same time (i.e., 23.00 hours), the same or similar objects, appearing sometimes singly and sometimes in pairs, were observed from the following Devonshire localities:- Paignton; near the railway station and harbour at Torquay; Teignmouth; Exeter; Cullompton; Sidmouth-Junction; Lympstone; Countess-Wear; between Patteson's Cross and Ottery St. Mary; Woolacombe (where a luminous object approached from offshore Lundy Island); near Chagford; West Hoe near Plymouth; and from HMS "Defiance" anchored in Devonport harbour. Similar observations were made from Saltash (Cornwall), and from Bittern near Southampton (Hampshire). (Torquay Herald Express, 1.11.1950; ibid., 9.11.1950; ibid., 11.11.1950; Exeter Express & Echo, 5.11.1950; Sunday Dispatch, 5.11.1950; 10: pp.11-15).

30th. Devonport (Devonshire): 22.50 hours. Two brilliant blue lights. (11: p. 121).

30th. Torre, near Torquay (Devonshire). Three "stars" seen "tumbling over one another", by H. Warren. (Torquay Herald Express, 1.11.1950; 10: p.12).

31st. Unlocalized areas on Dartmoor (Devonshire). Several blue-green discs, seen by a number of witnesses. (6: pp.97, 132).

#### November:

1st. Bexleyheath (Kent). A globular light. Seen by H.T. Wilkins. (6: p.11; 11: p.175).

**NB:** Arnold and Palmer (11: p.123) date this event as November 2nd., 1950.

1st. Unlocalized areas of the Herts./Bucks. border. An orange ball of light. (Daily Telegraph, 2.11.1950; 6: p.11).

5th. Heathrow (London) Airport (Middlesex). An elongated or spherical object — said to have been cigarette-shaped by Wilkins (6: p.132). Seen by many persons. (6: p.132; 11: p.123).

7th. Three miles north of Lambourn (Berkshire). Three vertical lines of light, each spaced about a finger's width from one another at arm's length. Unpublished original report.

12th. Barrow-in-Furness (Lancashire). A huge cigar-shaped object. Seen by two witnesses. (6: p.132; 11: p.134).

12th. Didsbury, near Manchester (Lancashire). A circular object. (6: p.132; 11: p.134).

14th. Between Link Hill and Hopehouse Farm, Benenden (Kent). A blue sphere, or an object of circular configuration. Watched by D.H. Carey. (Sunday Dispatch, 19.11.1950; UFO Chronicle, no:5, p.4; 10: p.16).

22nd. Yeovil (Somerset). A red sphere with blue flames issuing from its perimeter. Seen by Mr. and Mrs. L. Nicholson. (Sunday Dispatch, 26.11.1950; UFO Chronicle, no:5, p.4; 10: pp.16-17).

#### December:

2nd. Chard (Somerset). A white peardrop-shaped object (seen also from Perry Street, three miles to the south, as a "tailed star"). (Sunday Dispatch, 3.12.1950; Le Soir, 4.12.1950; 10: pp.17-18).

2nd. North Petherton, near Bridgewater (Somerset). A "snake-like" object, leaving a creamy tail, was seen about the same time as the Perry Street object just listed. Observed by several persons. (Reuter wire, 3.12.1950; Sunday

Dispatch, 3.12.1950; Le Soir, 4.12.1950; 10: p.18).

**NB:** Interestingly, no reference to this incident appeared in the article "Serpents and UFOs" by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman, published in vol.18, no:3, of Flying Saucer Review (May-June 1972), pp.18-20.

2nd. Exeter (Devonshire). An object described as a "flying tadpole". Seen by C.H.Wilson, about the same time as the above mentioned Chard object (i.e., 16.00 hours). (10: p.19)

2nd. Amersham (Buckinghamshire). A brilliant "starlike" object trailing smoke. Seen by several observers about the same time as the above listed Exeter sighting (Sunday Dispatch, 3.12.1950; 10: p.18).

2nd. Bovington (Hertfordshire). A brilliant moving "light". Seen by several people about the same time as the Exeter object just listed. (Sunday Dispatch, 3.12.1950; 10: p.18).

2nd. Towyn, near Rhyl (Flint). A yellow object emitting sparks. Watched by several observers. (Sunday Dispatch, 3.12.1950; Le Soir, 4.12.1950; 10: p.18; 11: p.121).

**NB:** Very likely this was the same object (described as being cigar-shaped --- Reuter wire, 3.12.1950; Le Soir, 4.12.1950) seen from Rhyl the same afternoon.

2nd. Penzance (Cornwall). A long black object. Watched by many people during the afternoon. (11, p.121).

2nd. Crowsanwra, 3 miles from Land's End (Cornwall). An egg-shaped object. Seen by three observers. (Torquay Herald Express, 28.12.1950; 10: p.19).

2nd. Looe (Cornwall). A blue "sausage-shaped object". (11: p.121).

2nd. Exmouth (Devonshire). Several "blue-green saucers" (6: p.132; 18: p.138). These objects were sighted during the late evening.

2nd. Fields at Nethway Farm, Kingswear (Devonshire). A brilliant light emitting sparks, which suddenly dematerialized. Seen by two witnesses at 06.00 hours. (Torquay Herald Express, 13.12.1950; UFO Chronicle, no:5, p.4; 10: p.19).

**NB:** This case is erroneously dated December 13th. in the UFO Chronicle (loc. cit.).

7th. Unlocalized districts (Cumberland). Several balls of light. Observed by several witnesses. (11: p.121).

11th. London (County of London). A cigar-shaped object followed by a discoidal object. Seen during the afternoon. (France Presse, 11.12.1950; Le Libre Belgique, 11.12.1950; Le Soir, 11.12.1950).

Many of the following sightings probably relate to genuine ufos, although in no instance has their date of occurrence been recorded, while some lack critical details, and the original eyewitnesses (who might otherwise be reinterviewed) cannot now be traced.

i) Between June 26th., and August 20th. Cowes, Isle of Wight (Hampshire). A shining light. One percipient. (6: p.130).

ii) Between September 19th., and December 12th. Ramsey (Isle of Man). A cigar-like object. (6: p.132).

iii) Between the same dates. Bridlington (Yorkshire). Three "saucers". (6: p.132).

iv) Between the same dates. Peterhead (Aberdeenshire). A shining oval object. (6: p.132).

v) Between the same dates. Selsea Bill (Sussex). A blue disc. (6: p.132).

vi) Between the same dates. Near Coventry (Warwickshire). An oval object. Seen at 16.10 hours by two eyewitnesses. (6: p.132).

vii) Between the same dates. Solway Firth (between Cumberland and Dumfries-shire). A blue globe. Seen at 16.00 hours. (This object briefly hit the water of the firth and then ascended

again whence it had come. (NICAP magazine, no:4, p.4; Merseyside UFO Bulletin, vol.6, no:2, p.38; 6: p.132).

viii) Between the same dates. Ruspidge, Forest of Dean (Gloucestershire). Several "flashing things" in the sky. Seen at dusk. (6: pp.132-133).

ix) Date unknown. Southampton (Hampshire). A brilliant green sphere. Watched by two witnesses. (Clips, Quotes, and Comments, C3, 1954, pp.4-5).

In addition to the foregoing cases the following events also occurred during 1950.

November 19th. Over the sea off Hunstanton (Norfolk). A skyblast of undetermined origin. (6: p.134).

December 2nd. Over the Bristol Channel: seen from Portishead (Somerset), and from Llandaw, near Cardiff (Glamorganshire). A flash of light in the sky, at approximately 16.05 hours. (Sunday Dispatch, 3.12.1950; 10: p.18)

#### SOME CONSIDERATIONS:

Counting all the reported sightings as separate ufo manifestations (which they probably were not on October 30th.), we have a total of 68 different observations recorded for Britain during 1950. The reliability of these reports is both very uneven and erratic respecting the degree of detail contained in each and the extent to which individual cases were described in print. Using the best criteria, we find that, of these 68 reports, only 13 can be reasonably regarded as pertaining to genuine ufos. Chronologically they are:

April 5th.	Evening.	Whitby (Yorkshire).	3 witnesses.
May 7th.	09.45 hours.	Llantarnam (Monmouthshire).	A saturn-shaped object.
May 7th.	-	Over the English Channel.	Seen by a BEA pilot.
June 5th.	-	South coast of England.	Seen by RAF "Meteor" pilot.
June 7th.	-	Newport (Shropshire).	Seen by an engineer.
Sept. 19th.	-	Blackheath (Kent).	20 silvery spheres in 3 minutes.
Sept./Dec.	-	Bridlington (Yorkshire).	3 motionless discs.
Sept./Dec.	16.00 hours.	Solway Firth (Cumberland/Dumfriesshire)	Object displaying falling and ascending motions.
c.Oct.16th.	20.00 hours.	Trequite (Cornwall).	Seen by Mrs N.H.Bray.
Oct.30th.	23.00 hours.	Paignton (Devonshire).*	Seen by Mr.A.W.Bearne.
Oct.30th.	23.15 hours.	Near Chagford (Devonshire).	Seen by Mr G.Murray.
Oct.30th.	-	Torre (Devonshire).	3 "jumping stars".
Nov.12th.	-	Barrow-in-Furness (Lancashire).	A cigar-shaped object.

\* Also possibly other sightings on this date in this locality.

Although other highly unusual effects, such as the three vertical lines of light seen over an area near Lambourn on November 7th., and the serpentiform object observed from North Petherton on December 2nd., apparently relate to no known natural or artificial phenomena, they are excluded from our 13 possible ufos inasmuch as such cases are descriptively weak and lack many critical details. Nevertheless, their resemblance to similar aerial phenomena observed elsewhere on other occasions is noteworthy, and certainly renders them events of more than passing interest.

If all the 68 events recorded in the foregoing related to genuine ufo events, then Britain experienced a very wide range of ufo behavioural patterns during 1950. In addition to "classic flyovers" of ufos --- in ones, pairs, and larger groups --- the ufos presented themselves in a considerable variety of forms in many instances almost exactly similar to those in genuine ufo cases known from elsewhere. These

18.

have included cigar-shaped, oval, bowl-shaped, hoop-like, discoidal, spherical, Saturn-shaped, pear-drop-shaped, tadpole-like, egg-shaped, sausage-shaped, and serpentiform objects. Many globular lights, blazing or fiery objects, and luminous objects were reported, as were inexplicable sky-flashes, vertical bars of light, and skyblasts or unknown origin. At least one object reportedly landed, and several others descended to very low altitudes. Three objects dematerialized and one did so repeatedly, alternately materializing and rematerializing between these feats. Where noted, ufo noises ranged from soft hums to loud roars, and included hissing noises and whines.

CONCLUSIONS:

The British ufo record for 1950 has been shown to be poorly covered in the literature (newspapers excepted), and to have been part of a much larger global ufo "wave" known for that year. Yet, despite its apparently poor documentation, the record contains several cases of exceptional interest that, in some instances, generally reflect the wider global ufo pattern for that year.

Imperfect though our knowledge is of the British 1950 ufo record, there is little doubt that it could be considerably improved as a result of a systematic search for additional accounts in contemporary provincial newspapers. The known material indicates that all the usual ingredients of a typical ufo "wave" are present for augmentation if only the suspected additional reports can be discovered. Here, indeed, is a fertile field of enquiry for anyone disposed to attempt what, admittedly, is a formidable undertaking.

B i b l i o g r a p h y

In addition to the aforecited newspaper and magazine references, the following books have also provided details of the various cases discussed. They are listed as per the textual references shown in parenthesis.

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"A UFO-PRONE HOUSEHOLD AT WOKING"

by

C.C. Warren\*

Introduction:

For several years now the writer has worked during the summer months at a research establishment at Pirbright, Surrey, and while there last year met a colleague (who requests anonymity and will therefore henceforth be simply referred to as Mrs A) who, after casually discussing the topic of ufos, imparted to me the following interesting information. Mrs A is normally a rather shy person with regard to such matters, and it took considerable persuasion on my part to get her to give an account of her experiences. On some previous occasions she had confided in some of her closest friends, only to be rebuffed and laughed at. Naturally, Mrs A was anxious to avoid repetition of similar embarrassment.

Once Mrs A learned of my own interest in ufos, she spoke more freely, gradually at first, and thereafter more fully after I had gained her confidence. Initially, I took preliminary notes when we talked at Pirbright, but afterwards conducted a thorough interview at her home, the details of which confirmed those first divulged at our place of employment. The precise address of Mrs A's house (on file at Contact (UK)'s headquarters) is withheld at her request, even though it can be revealed that it is located in the Kingfield area of Woking, Surrey. It is referred to below merely as "Kingfield".

While at Kingfield I was able to gather further information from Mrs A, and also interviewed her son, whom I shall refer to as Master B. My interview with him was conducted separately, during which time he produced drawings of what he reportedly observed. Generally speaking, these (see figs.1 to 5) confirm what Mrs A told me separately.

Four distinct instances involving ufos or ufonauts seem to have been experienced by this family, the last, dating from March 1974, also being witnessed by a third member -- the grandmother -- independently. I shall hereafter allude to the grandmother simply as GM. GM's experiences were so disturbing to her that she has so far refused to be interviewed, only confiding in her daughter (Mrs A) who has supplied the details presented below. It is my intention to secure an interview with the grandmother at the earliest possible opportunity, and to thereafter relay more complete details respecting her experiences through a future issue of this journal.

The four ufo oriented events mentioned above are given below in chronological order.

Case 1:

September 1960 (exact date unremembered): time approximately 18.00 hours. When Mrs A was 11 years old she was looking out of her bedroom window, when she spotted 3 silvery-grey objects hovering at about 70° in a NW direction. These were watched for 5 to 10 seconds before they accelerated away in a "u" motion (see fig.1). The objects dispersed in a typical formation manoeuvre, first one moving off, then the second, and finally the last. All three completely vanished within about 1 second.

Case 2:

November 1967 (exact date unremembered): time 03.00 hours. Mrs A was awakened by an oscillating hissing noise, which came from a bright white ufo hovering at about

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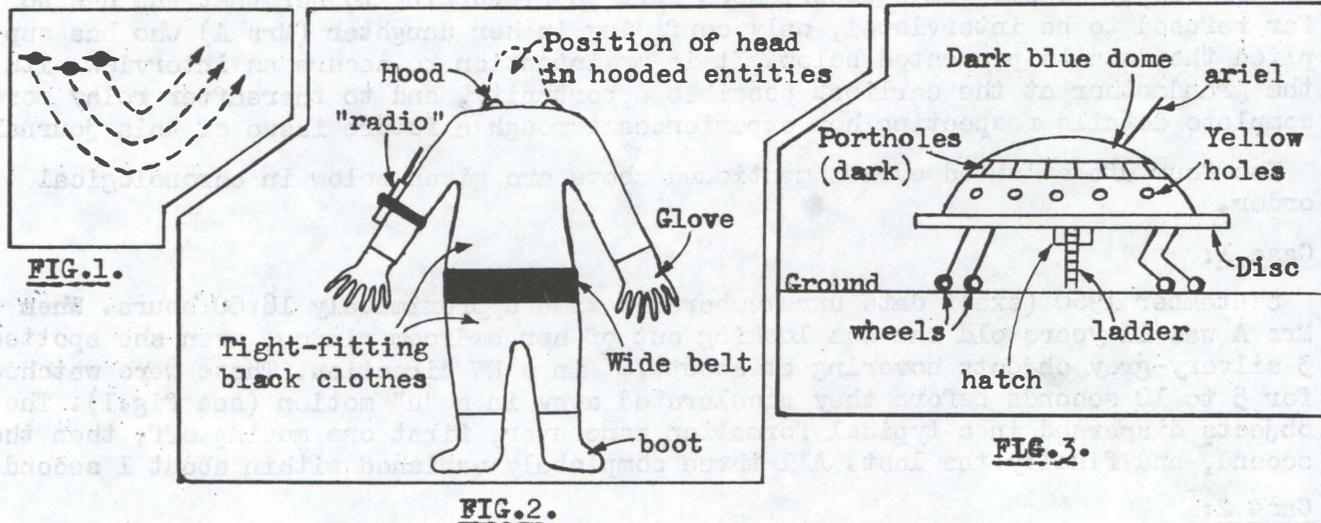
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30° to 40°. The subject estimated the diameter of the object to be about 14 inches at arm's length. During the two minutes the object remained visible, the lights in the bedroom oscillated in brightness. Mrs A felt no fear, although generally speaking she is a rather nervous person. After two minutes the ufo just "vanished".

### Case 3:

September 1973 (exact date unremembered): time 03.00 hours. Master B, then just over 4 years old, was awakened by an oscillating sound (centred about middle C), consisting of a slowly rising and falling hum. He sat up in bed and was shocked to see a "man" standing at the end of his bed without a head. "He" was wearing tight-fitting black clothing on an average sized body. Outstanding were "his" large hands -- apparently in gloves flush with the rest of his clothing. The hands terminated in 6 fingers, rather large ones at that. What appeared to be a black belt encircled the "man's" waist, which Master B described as being "elastic" because he watched the entity "breathing" -- the belt expanding and contracting with each breath. The "man's" boots were also flush with his clothing, and on "his" right arm was another black band, tucked into which was a device that Master B thought might have been a radio (a black box with an aerial attachment). Behind where the head should have been there was a lowered hood (as found on duffel-coats). This entity was observed for only a few seconds, after which it "vanished into thin air". Fig.2 is based upon the sketch produced by Master B of what he had seen.

Although petrified, Master B saw, after the entity's sudden departure, that his bedroom door was ajar. It is normally closed. Through the opening, he spotted another 6 "men" with their hoods up (he could not see their faces). After they had moved away, Master B rushed to the window to try and locate the sound's source, and saw, on his family's lawn, a domed ufo (see fig.3) and one of the hooded "men" ascending a ladder. The droning or humming noise stopped at this point, when also Mrs A woke up. Master B ran to his mother, when the oscillating hissing noise began again and then faded, presumably due to the ufo's departure -- an event not observed by Mrs A or her son. Mrs A quickly checked her garden as soon as it was light, but found no traces or marks upon the ground or lawn.



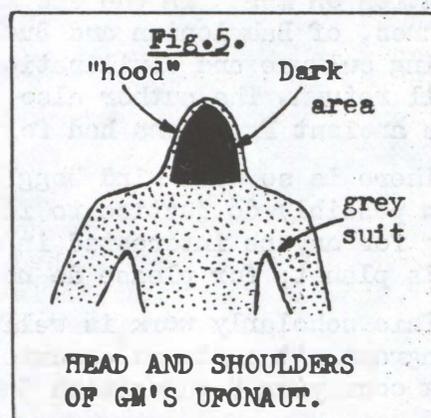
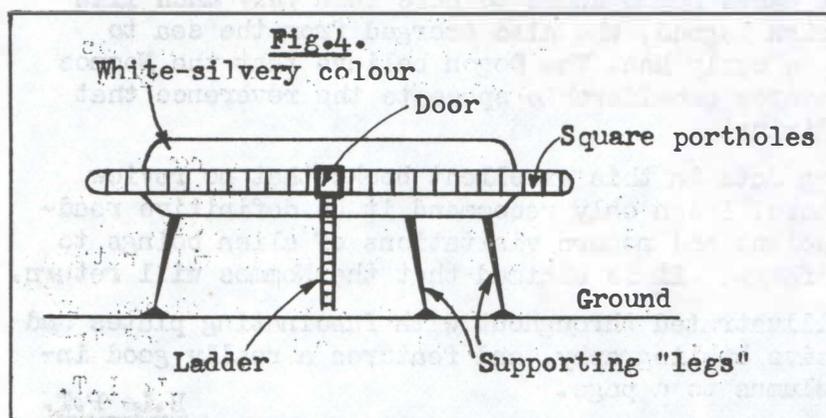
### Case 4:

March 1974 (exact date unremembered): time 02.45 - 03.00 hours. Mrs A and Master B both awakened by a deafening clicking noise, described by them as like that in a computer room at top volume. This noise persisted throughout the entire en-

counter. Mrs A and Master B observed from their bedroom a ufo hovering just above their lawn (see fig.4), although both were unable to leave their beds, being apparently "paralyzed" as they lay there. Neither, however, was afraid.

In another room, GM was also awakened by the clicking noise, saw the ufo on or just above the lawn through her bedroom window, and observed landing legs and a ladder. GM decided to investigate further, but had no sooner reached the top of the landing when she saw several ufonauts wandering about the living room. Except for one, dressed in white clothing, and whom she took to be a "doctor", all the entities wore grey suits and their heads were covered by hoods so that she could not see their faces. Each carried a little box with "flashing lights", with which they appeared to be studying objects in the room. GM then saw them "vanish into thin air" without warning. (see fig.5)

Meanwhile, Mrs A and Master B were still observing the upper part of the ufo from their room. At one stage during these observations, a car approaching along a nearby road was seemingly instrumental in making the ufo "fade away". After the car had gone, the ufo rematerialized and remained in view of the two witnesses for a few more seconds before vanishing for good.



#### A final Note:

Being at the time of writing unable to interview GM personally makes Case 4 a little tentative. The consistency of the descriptions of the entities in cases 3 and 4, however, is noteworthy, and lends support to the conclusion that both sets of observations are not only valid but reliable. It should be noted that figs.4 and 5 above are based on Mrs A's descriptions of what GM told her. My hoped for eventual interview with GM may amend and/or augment these.

#### BOOK REVIEWS,

by

Brinsley Le Poer Trench and J.B.Delair.

"The Sirius Mystery", by Robert K.G.Temple.  
(Sidgwick & Jackson: £6.95p.)

The author is a young American who spent seven years researching the material for this fascinating and erudite book, which runs to no less than 290 pages.

In the West African republic of Mali lives the Dogon tribe, who, for centuries, have known that Sirius (the "Dog Star") has a dwarf companion star, known to astronomers as Sirius B. It is invisible to the naked eye. The Dogon, moreover, know that Sirius B is not only very small starwise but that it consists of some superheavy metal. Astronomers have only known this since 1926, whereas

the Dogon have been aware of this fact for hundreds of years. They also know that it circles Sirius A in an elliptical orbit and takes 50 years to do so. Astronomers discovered these facts only in comparatively recent times.

The Dogon also have a tradition that Earth was visited by amphibious beings from a watery planet circling round yet another star, Sirius C, ages ago. They firmly believe in the existence of this third star. Some present-day astronomers suspect the existence of Sirius C but this has not been scientifically established.

The author offers some evidence that the Dogon people may originally have come from the Mediterranean region, possibly a Greek location. In this connection Mr Temple introduces the saga of Jason and the Argonauts; and, as you will recall, there were 50 argonauts. He cites examples of what an important number 50 was to the ancients. This is linked up with the Dogon knowledge of Sirius B orbiting Sirius A in 50 years.

The Dogon refer to the amphibious people from Sirius C's watery planet as the Nommos. Nommo himself was a great culture-hero to the Dogons, who set-up civilization on Earth in the distant past. Nommo seems to have been very much like Oannes, of Babylonian and Sumerian legend, who also emerged from the sea to bring culture and civilization to early Man. The Dogon believe that the Nommos will return. The author also devotes considerable space to the reverence that the ancient Egyptians had for Sirius.

There is so much mind boggling data in this excellent book, that no review can possibly do justice to it here. I can only recommend it as definitive reading for anyone interested in ancient and modern visitations of alien beings to this planet; for please do not forget, it is claimed that the Nommos will return.

This scholarly work is well illustrated throughout with fascinating plates and diagrams, it contains an extensive bibliography, and features a really good index occupying 8 pages with 3 columns to a page.

B.Le P.T.

"À La Recherche des Ovni".

(Bibliothèque Marabout, Verviers, Belgium).

Compiled under the joint direction of Jacques Scornaux and Christiane Piens, this highly interesting and well documented volume is essentially a statement of the current position of the well known Belgian organization SOBEPS with regard to ufos. As such it is most important.

Although published in Belgian, it is worth while reading by all those able to comprehend that language, as the book contains several notable "firsts", in its 252 pages. For example, it exposes the oft-cited claim that a metallic cube said to have fallen during 1885 in Austria is preserved at Salzburg Museum as erroneous, and that the much discussed jar-batteries from ancient Babylon, and now preserved in Bagdad Museum, are probably not what some have claimed after all. The celebrated Marjorie Fish star map, based upon Betty Hill's testimony, also comes in for close scrutiny and some doubts are expressed about its accuracy. This volume also contains numerous other items of the highest interest, and is embellished throughout by many excellent photographs and drawings.

Overall, this is a most comprehensive and important addition to the literature, well worth the effort of acquiring by those able to read Belgian. Indeed, it is to be hoped that an English language edition will appear shortly. The Belgian edition contains a selected bibliography, that could have been better, and a really first-class index. It can be obtained from the publishers at 65 rue de Limbourg - B.4800, Verviers, Belgium.

J.B.D.

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