

No. 10



AUTUMN 1955

FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Edited by

Richard Hughes

JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH FLYING SAUCER BUREAU AND FLYING SAUCER CLUB



WHAT BLAZED OVER BRITAIN?

Special long feature article on the "March 24th Incident"
by Arthur Constance

- ★ TO SEE WHAT'S UP THERE?—Editorial
- ★ SPACE VISITOR IN BRADFORD?—Investigation
- ★ RECENT BRITISH SIGHTINGS—News in brief
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- ★ GIRVAN TALKS TO SAUCERERS—Lecture report

POSTAL *Saucerers*



The following members would like to correspond with others, on 'Saucers' and kindred topics:

Mrs. GLENN SANDERS, 590 W.10th Street, Azusa, Calif., U.S.A.
Particularly interested in exchanging cuttings on saucers and allied phenomena.

GREGORY ROBERTS (age 15), 43 Valley View, Glencoc, Natal, S. Africa.

(Saucers, Astronomy and Photography)
JOHN EARNEY, Jr. (age 17), 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire.

NORMAN T. ARMITAGE, 26 Cubley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.
Wishes to form a Group in his locality: will nearby members please get in touch.

NOTE: This service is restricted to members only (see below) and requests for insertion should be sent to the Editor—on a postcard please—bearing the sender's membership number. It is suggested that Saucerers under 18 years of age include their ages, so that they will be contacted by members of their own age group.



THE 'FLYING SAUCER NEWS' INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AWARD

HOW TO VOTE: Write, on a postcard, the name of the author or researcher whom you consider to have contributed most to F.S. thought or research during 1955.

Name the work (i.e. title of book, or—if referring to a paragraph—or even single sentence—the publication in which the item was published.

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★ We regret that owing to lack of space, the Questions and Answers session with Desmond Leslie announced for this issue has had to be held over.

THE BRITISH F.S. BUREAU and F.S. CLUB

An amalgamation of the leading British Saucer organisations under one Banner—the Club having been founded in 1952 and the Bureau in 1953—amalgamation taking place in April, 1954.

- BUREAU members take part in meetings and various activities, research, etc., at the Bureau's Headquarters in Bristol. Public meetings are held monthly in the City, often with celebrity Guest Speakers. Lectures and talks are also given, on request, in surrounding districts.
- CLUB membership is International and is for all those who cannot attend the Bureau's meetings, but who wish to associate themselves with the Saucer movement.
- ALL members receive the **NEWS** by post, and also a membership card, eligibility for the 'Postal' column, to wear a Club badge and to join—or form—a Local Group.

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Race into Space . . .

Editorial

TO SEE

WHAT'S UP THERE?

During the last week of July, talk of space travel came into its own once again. With the announcements of the commencement of artificial satellite programmes, by both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., man's first real step towards the stars has been taken. A black mark, however, should be awarded to at least one Sunday newspaper for connecting these first steps of ours with "flying saucers." Obviously there is no connection. That is to say, the saucers definitely are not earth-made artificial satellites, which just happened to be there ahead of schedule.

But there may be a connection.

In some quarters it has been noted how soon these announcements were made after the Geneva Conference, which was so friendly and successful—so **unusually** friendly and successful.

One French Saucer Group quite firmly believes that this was because the Powers concerned had all been warned—by extraterrestrials—that they must begin to agree—"or else!"

Whilst not going so far as to say this is more than the remotest possibility (though it is a possibility, no matter how melodramatic-sounding), we still think that the connection could be there, in that the sudden speeding up of space-programmes may have been born of the knowledge that we are being observed by extraterrestrial intelligences, and the desire to know **just exactly what's going on up there!**

We have said before that it may be a possibility that the main contact will not come until we ourselves have "graduated" into space.

The 1956 Mars opposition draws nearer, and is awaited in many quarters with great expectations. Without a doubt, a certain periodic flux in saucer visitations has been found which does indeed seem to have some connection with the Red planet's proximity.

In the meantime, we can only wait and see—and expose all spurious "explainings away" which officialdom endeavours to put over. No longer do sheer lists of sightings seem to impress, and what we have to do now—as indeed we commenced to do with our "Ghost Rockets" article last issue, is to give the lie to these "authoritative" cover-ups.

When you read our special long feature article, by Arthur Constance, in this issue, you will see just how contradictory these "authorities" can be—and just how foolish they can look when their pontifications are analysed!

Did a

SPACE-VISITOR

Land in BRADFORD?

BY JACK IBSON

The night of August 15th saw considerable saucer activity over Yorkshire. A golden ball was reported from Silsden, in the direction Ilkley; a white streak was seen flashing along the water's edge at Morecambe, travelling towards Heysham harbour, and a cigar-shaped object was observed travelling slowly across the sky over Wakefield, which seemed to be fluorescent and illuminated in various colours.

The strangest story, however, concerns the "Thing" that a Bradford lorry driver and his 13 year old son say they saw hopping up Roundhill Street at 4 o'clock the following morning. Our correspondent JACK IBSON interviewed the witnesses and here is his report:

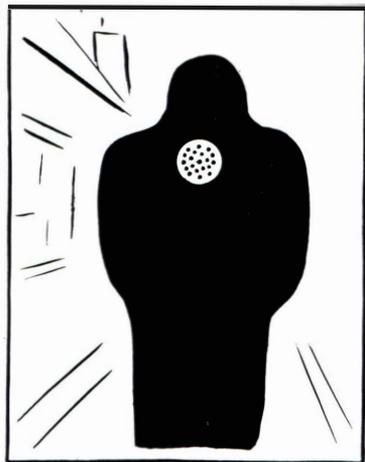
ERNEST SUDDARDS, a matter of fact type, lorry driver, aged about 35, married, with two children, said he himself always **laughed** at unusual news reports such as **Flying Saucers** etc., but this incident had him completely shaken. He and his son had just been to collect the lorry from a garage about a mile away. They were coming down Roundhill Street, and as they were almost a few yards from their home, their blood chilled and their hair almost stood on end—for, approaching them in the glare of the headlights was—the "Thing."

Mr. Suddards described it as being **like a boy, or small human being, 4ft. tall, dressed in skin tight black clothes, arms down by sides and feet together.** It did not walk, but "hopped," or, more correctly **jumped** in jerky movements, both feet together—and seemed dazzled by the headlights.

Most revealing feature, which shone distinctly in the headlamps was a **circular silver disc, perforated with holes, and situated on the chest, just below the throat.** The "thing" moved forwards another few yards, then turned abruptly right into a passage, below Mr. Suddards' home. He and his son sat in the cab of the lorry, stunned and unable to move, for some time, and

Mr. Suddards remarked to me that he would not have gone up that passage for a thousand pounds.

Eventually, they went home, and Mrs. Suddards confirmed to me that they had been shaky, pale and looked as though they had seen a ghost. They were fully half an hour in recovering and deciding what to do.



The "Thing"

The police arrived a few minutes after being telephoned, and questioned both Mr. Suddards and his boy separately, and since both gave the details with great clarity the Officer decided there "must be something in it" and organised a search of the neighbourhood. However, nothing at all was found. Mr. Suddards told me how he was derided and laughed at by his workmates the next day: "But they can say what they like—I did see it!" he affirmed. He didn't report it to the local newspaper, but they came to see him after seeing the Police report.

NOT OF EARTH

The only evaluation, to my mind, can be that Mr. Suddards was telling the truth, and that the details were correct. Animal? I don't think so—not moving in jumps—there being no loose Kangaroos in the area!—and in any case what animal has a silver perforated disc on its chest? Boy? It could have been—but what child would be out at that time in the morning **with hands and feet tied?**

Moving in jumps is very tiring—I tried it. No: we have to recognise that it was some strange form of humanity—but not, apparently, of this world. The perforated disc could have been a breathing aid—and moving in jumps may be quite common on some other planet—with perhaps less gravity than ours.

SEQUEL

The matter may well have rested there, but a little while later, I had a phone call from Mr. Suddards, who told me he had met a Mr. Joseph Wood in the "local," and Mr. Wood, after being told of Mr. Suddards' experience, then recounted having seen a strange thing in a field about three or four days after the report of the "Thing." I called to see Mr. Wood, and found him to be an unimaginative type; warehouseman, aged about 30—not familiar with saucers or space theories.

He was walking along a short-cut, near Bowling Park, at about 11.30 p.m. on August 19th, when he saw, reflect-



ing a nearby street lamp, a bright ("like chromium plating") silver bullet shape, stood upright behind a small hillock. The height was about 12ft—though the base was not visible—and the diameter about 4 or 5 feet.

From it was coming a high-pitched buzzing—like a radio set out of order. Mr. Wood said he went cold, and shivers ran up his spine. He hurried away as fast as he could, but passed again on his return journey (he'd been visiting a friend) at about midnight, he saw the object was still there. A horse approached it but suddenly started back and raced away.

The area in question is within half a mile of Roundhill Street, where the Suddards' "Thing" was seen.

* * *

FOOTNOTE: The latest rumour about landings has been one put over by Dorothy Kilgallen, well known American columnist. She stated that, on a recent visit to Britain she learned that a saucer had crashed in this country, and from the wreckage British officials had deduced that it had been manned by beings about 4ft. tall.

Of course, no confirmation whatsoever can be obtained concerning this report, from any source, but it is interesting to note that the similarity in height ties up—and the description by the Suddards also bears a startling resemblance to the creatures described by Marius Dewilde, who claimed to have encountered two strange beings in France last year. (See "F. S. News" No. 7)



Recent BRITISH SIGHTINGS

LEEDS

Three mysterious objects, **two of silver colour and one of amber*** were seen to shoot across the sky over Leeds on July 24th. They were seen by Mr. J. Atha, of Leith Street, who said that they were at about 5000ft—and about one twentieth the size of a jet aircraft which had just passed over.

First he saw the two silver objects, which were pear-shaped, and travelling side by side. They turned to one side and glinted in the sun. Then a similar shaped amber-coloured object came into view. It spiralled round the two others and went back over them in the reverse direction, and was travelling at a phenomenal speed.

The objects then went off in opposite directions, not leaving any vapour trails, after being in view for about four minutes.

LASHAM

On July 26th, during the British National Gliding Championships at Lasham aerodrome, in Hampshire, a boomerang shaped object was seen hovering above Mr. Philip Wills' sailplane for about half a minute, before making off at speed. One witness said it seemed to be about 40ft wide, and seemed to drop steadily as it went away. A report was phoned to the Air Ministry, who promised to investigate. They thought it unlikely that it was a shadow, but, said one newspaper, a Meteorologist suggested that it might have been . . . eye strain. (Your editor has often-times gazed steadily at model gliders—stop-watch in hand—for eight, ten, twenty minutes, with eyes streaming, concentrating on the speck in the blue—but this never produced flying boomerangs, saucers or anything else but sore eyes!)

It is worthy of note, here, that Kenneth Arnold described the leading craft in the formation he saw in 1947 as being boomerang shaped. (See "The Coming of the Saucers" by Arnold and Palmer—in which there is a photo of a model of this craft.) It was the skipping **motion** ("as a saucer would, if skimmed across a pond") which gave rise to the expression—not the shape! Does this surprise you? It did us.

* These seem to have been similar to the U.F.O's seen by astronomer H. P. Wilkins, whilst on an air journey over the U.S.A. (See "Mysteries of Time & Space"—Fdk. Muller Ltd.)

GLOUCESTER

Reports flowed into the "Gloucester Echo" offices on August 17th, as the many people who witnessed, at 8.50 p.m. the previous evening, an unusual sky phenomena, told of their experiences.

It was ovoid, or cigar-shaped, and variously described as "shining brightly and leaving sparks behind," "pale green in the centre and silver on the edges," "very bright, with an orange light in the centre" and "green and brilliant yellow." One witness also said that it had blue lights in front. It passed over silently, much faster than any jet plane, in a north-westerly direction.

SHROPSHIRE

On August 15th Mr. G. M. Betley, a Shropshire postmaster, claims to have seen a saucer, with dome and three under-carriage spheres. At first the object had an extremely bright, mirror-like finish, and remained absolutely stationary for three minutes. After a jet plane approached the area, the object began to move away, its brightness diminishing, and taking on a leaden colour, though still having a bright rim and a bright knob which could have been the dome.

BIRMINGHAM

On August 26th, 15 glowing cigar shaped objects flying in formations of three, were watched for 30 minutes, near Birmingham, by a former Royal Navy Lieutenant, and a number of other witnesses. (Further details currently awaited—Ed.)

LOWESTOFT

The crew of the Lowestoft motor trawler "Grasby" spotted, on Sunday, June 5th, what looked at first like a shilling, shining in the sky. It crossed the sky in five minutes, and must have been about 10,000ft. up. The trawler was heading east-north-east at the time, and was 20 miles off the Dutch coast. There was no vapour trail from the object, despite its obvious altitude.

MERSEYSIDE

On June 27th people in widely separated parts of Merseyside reported seeing strange objects in the sky. And the crew of a Mersey Docks and Harbour Board tug, lying at the Wallasey stage saw what looked like a star, directly overhead. It was stationary for a while, but then began to move at terrific speed. It was circular in shape and transparent, lit up inside and had a red exhaust. "An ordinary aircraft passed close by—I am surprised the pilot did not see something" said Fireman Thomas Douglas.

Continued on back page

What Blazed Over Britain?

A special feature article by
ARTHUR CONSTANCE

Arthur Constance, Canadian-born writer, broadcaster, poet, journalist, has been investigating things inexplicable by conventional science for 30 years, compiling meanwhile a library of 16,000 books and 2 million news cuttings. He was in London on the morning of March 25th this year; saw reports in the morning press of the "Thing" that went over Britain the evening before; returned to Cheltenham and obtained over 180 newspapers from all parts of the country; and settled down to an analytical investigation which lasted for eight weeks. This article is a summary of his 18,000 word report, specially written for "Flying Saucer News."

WHAT was the shape and colour of the Thing itself, apart from its trail?

It is not a characteristic of meteorites that they change their shapes so drastically as to appear quite different objects to different observers. Yet we have the testimony of numbers of competent observers that this shape-changing is a characteristic of the "flying saucers." Read the Press reports of the strange objects which tracked the B.O.A.C. Stratocruiser Centaurus over the Atlantic for 18 minutes on June 30th, 1954. Taking one—"Daily Express" of the day following:

In this account Captain Howard says: "The large black object changed its shape slightly from time to time."

Miss Daphne Webster, a stewardess says: "The one big, black object, roughly roundish, kept changing shape like a jellyfish swimming in the sea." These highly-trained observers are typical of many whose corroborative testimony confirms the shape-changing.

Many of the hundreds of thousands who saw the Thing on March 24th described it as ball-shaped, and brilliantly white. But there were others, equally sincere and competent to use their eyes and describe what they saw.

"A fiery red object with a greenish tail" was the "Daily Mail's" composite description, from eye-witness accounts.

"Bright red and emitting sparks" said an eye-witness in the "Daily Telegraph," adding: "As it disappeared over the horizon it changed to bright green."

"A white-hot mass," said Mr. R. A. Stokes of Birmingham, to a "Birmingham Post" reporter.

"A bright green light," telephoned a motorist to the same paper from Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

"Red, turning blue or green" was the colour-description of the Manchester "Daily Dispatch" reporter.

Did it change from red to green as it went across? According to the "South Wales Argus" a Christchurch resident saw it as "a bright green ball streaking across the sky," while Mrs. Dobson, of Southampton described it to the "Southern Daily Echo" as "a brilliant green light" that "streaked across the sky."

If the Thing travelled in one direction only, from approximately N.E. to somewhere in the S.W., we might feel quite satisfied that it changed from red to green as it went along. But we shall find presently that it also went in the opposite direction—and probably in several other directions.

As to its shape, we must not jump to the conclusion that it was at all times spherical.

I am not referring to those witnesses in various parts who saw it as "pear-shaped," nor even to the account of Miss Brisbane, who (among others) saw the Thing from the Blackpool Promenade, and described it as a ball with a stick at the back. These descriptions, together with that of Mr. Garner, of Widley ("Portsmouth Evening News") who saw it as "oblong," may all be roughly grouped as "ball-shaped."

But other reputable witnesses have more exact and detailed descriptions of it which indicate that its shape—or shapes—had no resemblance to a simple sphere.

"Hundreds of People on Merseyside," said the "Liverpool Daily Post" of March 25th, "saw the object as a cascade of brilliant silver discs."

Of course that description might be explained away by saying that those "hundreds of people" were seeing nothing more than the sparks or what-have-you from the trail of the Thing. But a very competent observer dismisses that explanation by giving us a much more detailed description of those "discs" seen over Merseyside. This observer—and who can question his reliability, for his occupation is surely that of fact-observation?—happens to be none other than a "Liverpool Daily Post" reporter, who saw the discs from St. Hilary's Drive, Wallasey. (See same issue of the "Post.")

Here is his description: "The discs were linked by a zig-zagging trail. The left-hand disc seemed to be over Great Orme's Head. As darkness fell, the trail disappeared and then three of the discs. A fourth disc, by far the most vivid, remained until 7.31 p.m."

Reading this account, we are compelled to note an exactitude of description which must be given full evidential weight.

The "Manchester Guardian's" lengthy and factual report in its issue of March 25th has a few very significant sentences. After saying that "the Staffordshire County Police," (who had had reports coming in from all points between Stoke and West Bromwich of "something coming down in flames") "were fortified by an assurance from an observatory at Birming-

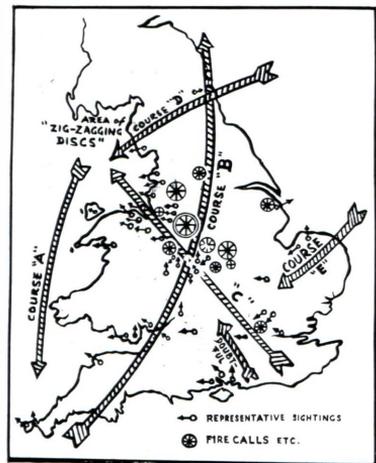
ham that it was only a meteor exploding," the account continues:

No such assurance was to be had in the village of Dyserth, near Prestatyn, where the thing appeared in cinematic splendour—"a rock-like object."

I wrote to Stanley Worthington, who has a garage in the village and whose factual description was given in the "Manchester Guardian." Mr. Worthington (whose account was confirmed by others in the village, including Mr. George Oakley, who was driving home when he saw the Thing) was kind enough to reply, giving me a very detailed description, together with a carefully-drawn "map" or "chart" of the Thing's progress: actually a sketch which he said he made at the time of the occurrence. (See page 11)

Mr. Worthington, a particularly careful eye-witness, described the shape of the Thing as "rock-like." Which term, if it means anything, implies a rugged object with a more irregular outline than that of a simple sphere.

A clergyman of Bourneville, near Birmingham, the Rev. A. Stanley Beatty, wrote me twice regarding what he had seen, and I am absolutely convinced that his observation was unbiased and exact, and his testimony completely reliable. He writes dis-



passionately and without comment.

In his first letter, dated April 12th, he says :

With reference to your letter in the "Birmingham Post" asking for information from those who had seen the unusual object in the sky on March 24th, I write to say that shortly before 7 o'clock that evening I saw what looked like a large air-liner all lighted up flying in the western sky. It was flying horizontally and gradually losing height as it disappeared behind trees.

In his second letter, dated April 16th, he says :

I will endeavour to answer your questions. I estimate the size of the object, if measured against a foot rule held at arm's length, as one inch. Its shape reminded me of a Constellation air-liner, rather cigar-like in appearance. It was in the western sky and from here appeared to be travelling in a northerly direction. It is difficult to estimate the length of the time it was under observation by me, but I should say for not more than about seven or eight seconds.

According to the "Swindon Evening Advertiser" "the mysterious blazing object which zig-zagged across Britain last evening was watched by a Swindon shopkeeper, Miss Edith Goldsmith, from the window of her home at Westlecott Manor Lodge. In the habit of watching the sunset from her window, Miss Goldsmith was looking westwards at about 7 p.m. when she saw 'a most extraordinary light.'"

There are several mysterious features in Miss Goldsmith's account—which is quite obviously an honest and exact one.

To her, the object did not appear to be moving. She was of course looking due westward. Was the object apparently motionless **because it was moving due westward?** She says: "It looked almost like a red cloud. It seemed to be dispersing and went thin in the middle as if it were going to break. Then it went down. It was about the length of two planes, far away on the sunset line."

She thought it a most extraordinary light as she saw it and did

not have the "meteor" explanation until the next morning, in the papers. She had been an appreciative observer of sunsets, no doubt, most of her life, and not likely to see an ordinary sunset cloud as "a most extraordinary light" or be otherwise than exactly truthful in her description.

Curious confirmation of the Rev. Beaty's description—"like a large air-liner all lighted up" was that of the coxswain of Criccieth lifeboat. According to the "Liverpool Daily Post," this lifeboat was searching for a ship reported to be in distress in Cardigan Bay at the time of the Thing's passing over Britain. The coxswain said that he had seen "a Comet airliner showing green navigation lights."

Was there any such airliner over Cardigan Bay or within sight of Birmingham at that moment?

There were others to confirm the Rev. Beaty's report—accounts of something shaped like an airliner—but which could not have been an airliner. For instance, the sighting of Mr. A. N. E. Hughes, of Conway Valley, given in the "Manchester Daily Dispatch":

"It was cigar-shaped, and had what I can only describe as a war-head. There was a reddish glow at the back, and it left a silvery metallic trail."

Perhaps Squadron-Leader T. Storer, Commanding 610 Squadron, R.A.F. Hooton, had as good a view as any. Flying at 20,000 feet, he at first thought it was an aircraft coming down in flames. (Again "Liverpool Daily Post.") If it was a meteorite, he said he "had never seen one like it." He had never seen one "disintegrate so low. Bright red and green lights were coming from it as it fell."

Numbers of observers described it as "large." And in the newspaper reports of March 25th, we have phrases like this: "A large object" (used by scores of observers). "Woman in Swindon sees big meteorite." ("Swindon Evening Advertiser.") "Hundreds of people saw the meteorite clearly," said the "Lancashire Evening Post" of March 25th. "It was described as a large ball of fire, with a long tail behind it."

Examining large numbers of news-cuttings and letters from correspondents in all parts of the country has convinced me that the "Thing" changed shape and colour in its transit.

Many weeks of plotting its several courses has also convinced me that it is quite impossible to plot **one single course** to cover all the conflicting evidence. Glance at the rough map on page 9 and you will see what I mean.

The tiny arrows scattered over it do NOT refer to directions in which the Thing travelled. Let that be absolutely clear. They indicate the **direction in which observers saw the UFO from the particular place indicated**. I say "observers," for in nearly all cases the little arrow represents a number of sightings from that spot—the Thing being seen in the **direction indicated**. Now for the large arrows. These show the actual course travelled by the UFO, as indicated by certain authorities or lines of evidence.

Course A: "News Chronicle:" Folks along the West Coast of England and Wales saw a blazing object which appeared to travel from north to south, falling gradually."

Course B: "Daily Mail:" Course shown on an actual map, in issue dated March 25th—south to north.

Course C: A third course strongly indicated by numbers of news reports, including some specific-

ally stating that it went out in the Isle of Man direction.

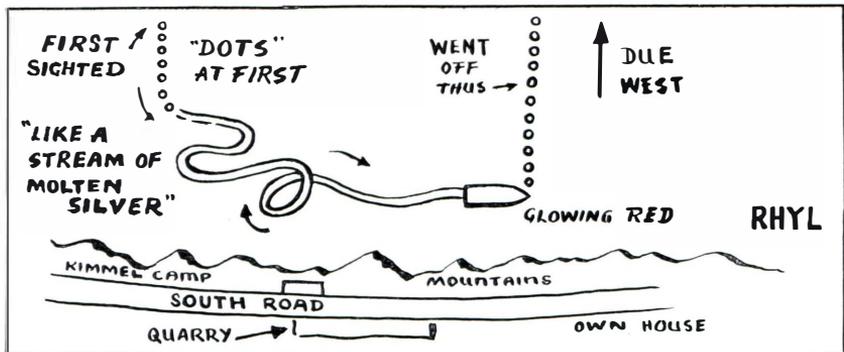
Course D: Another course, not to be confused with Course A (which originates over Scotland), indicated by reports along the line, and some which specify the Thing as **first being sighted over Newcastle-on-Tyne**.

Course E: Yet another course indicated by many reports, some of which give competent observers as seeing the UFO come in from the direction shown, over Norfolk.

Doubtful Course: I mark this on the map, as the sightings seem quite distinct from Course E—but I am willing to dismiss them as having no separate existence from Course E. Five courses should be enough to prove that the Thing was no "meteor."

Was it an earth-plane, or experimental device?

Do you seriously believe that our authorities would release a secret plane experimental device of any kind over **Britain's cities and towns**, with the knowledge that such a thing would create near-panic in numbers of them? Britain has her own testing grounds for such devices. I need not name them. The folk around such testing-grounds see flying objects which fly over their areas, and are not alarmed by them. This incident was very different. "News Chronicle:" "A Ministry of Supply spokesman con-



What they saw from Dyserth, N. Wales
(From a sketch by Mr. Stanley Worthington)

firmed: "It is most unlikely that we would test a guided missile at that time." In another edition of the same paper: "An Air Ministry official said: 'The object reported to have been seen was not an aircraft. Nothing is overdue.'"

"Daily Mail": "One report—that it was a guided missile shot from the rocket missile experimental station on the Welsh coast at Aberporth—was denied by officials there."

Another R.A.F. official (same paper) said: "We think it could have an unusual weather trick: a meteor."

"Daily Telegraph": "At the Ministry of Civil Aviation Air Control H.Q. at Preston, reports kept plotters busy for a long time after 7.15 p.m."

Was the Air Force a silly kitten chasing its own tail?

Were experienced pilots chasing our own experimental aircraft, and experienced officials trying to find out what it was?

"Daily Herald": "An Air Ministry spokesman said: 'There is no explanation we can offer for the reports other than that the thing may have been a weather phenomenon or a meteor—but we do not really know.'"

Does that read like a deliberate lie, or a genuine statement? Why should officials lie? Why should they conceal the simple fact that an experimental device was in the air—if it was? That would have given no enlightenment or help to a potential enemy. The simple statement: "It was an experimental device," or "It has a simple explanation, but we cannot give it." If enemy spies were photographing or tracking the thing, they would do it with or without our official denials. The attitude of our officials has no explanation but this: **that they did not know what the Thing was—could not explain it themselves.** And that their policy immediately became, "Keep people from panic—let them think it was a meteor. If they think it was from another world they will start applying science-fiction concepts to it and panic—as happened with the Orson Welles Radio play in U.S.A.

Such science-fictional fears have driven populations to near-panic on several occasions in recent years—

particularly at Indianapolis on July 12th, 1952. (Full account in Major Keyhoe's "Flying Saucers From Outer Space.") After that visitation by aeriforms which were plainly and provably not of this world the U.S.A. Air Force clamped down. Police, airport and newspapers were swamped by excited calls. Immediately following the incident interviews with U.S.A. Airmen were prohibited. Keyhoe's factual account shows that at Indianapolis there was no faintest possibility of the object being an earth-craft. The enemy was not Russia, nor any other nation. The enemy was "possible panic."

All governments and their military agencies recognize the UFO—the "unidentified flying object." Each knows its own secret project developments regarding aircraft and rockets, and knows that UFO's are none of them.

Luminous objects appeared in large numbers over Korea. If they were experimental, or controlled either by the Russians or the Americans, or any of the opposing forces, **why were they never used as weapons or for any other military purpose?** The American magazine "Life" exhaustively evaluated the UFO's over Korea—and similar things, the "foo fighters" over Germany and Japan of World War II. "Life" decided against them being earth devices of any kind—found them inexplicable.

Government investigations have found them equally inexplicable.

UFO's have appeared over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. where military and civilian aircraft are restricted.

They have appeared regularly over lanes of commercial air-lines, sometimes causing disaster. Such recklessness would be inexcusable, impossible, regarding our own aircraft or devices.

The "Newsletter" of the Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects for March 4th, 1955, gives its entire issue (8 closely-typed pages) to evidence that the UFO's cannot be earth-craft of any kind.

Earth-craft scream at high speeds. The "Thing" was silent along most of its course. But at certain places crashes were heard.

Not anything like the sharp percussions heard when high-speed earth craft break the sound barrier. Sounds most comparable to those which have been heard again and again in peculiar association with what we call "flying saucers."

In U.S.A. they have named these sounds "sky quakes."

At Hemel Hempstead, police, fire-engines, ambulances were rushed in from all directions—they thought a plane had crashed. So at Rushden, Leicester, and half-a-dozen other places. Such sounds were localized—they were only heard in a comparatively few places. And they were quite unlike sound barrier percussions.

Note the "wheels" on our map. These represent some of the areas where numbers of wheeled things, such as fire-brigades, ambulances and cars dashed to and fro ineffectively as the result of mysterious explosions. They also represent the thousands of telephone dials spun in something approaching panic, in calls to newspaper offices, police stations and air-ports, by masses of people whom the authorities found it necessary to reassure in the news-reports and in the broadcasts which were immediately given. No need for alarm—it was only a meteor. **One newspaper completely scrapped the rather too truthful account it printed in its earlier edition, and gave a completely rewritten "only a meteor" one in another edition printed the same night.**

It is quite impossible to cover the places from which the Thing was observed—some of which are indicated by the tiny arrows on our map—by plotting a course less than 3,000 miles in length. For any such course must allow the "Thing" to enter and leave Britain's skies at the places shown and give it the extra distance to turn and come back again each time as it would need to do again and again to cover all the sightings.

The Thing could not have been seen at a distance of hundreds of miles. My authority? Professor Lovell, head of Jodrell Bank Experimental Research Station. ("Manchester Evening News," 25/3/55.) His actual words as reported after 200 miles high had been suggested: "Bunkum! It would not

be visible at that height." Look at the map and realise the significance of this. In the same paper he is quoted as saying that **it was less than 50 miles high.** That official statement plainly demands the five courses given on my map.

Even a radar-controlled rocket could not start exactly on one stretch of coast-line and stop short exactly at another—the Thing was seen to swoop away far beyond the coast-line in each of its places of exit—and a wide sweep must be allowed for each turn. The Thing was over Britain for ten minutes and 3,000 miles in ten minutes is 18,000 miles an hour.

"Single-stage rockets, such as the Viking, have already reached 5,000 miles an hour," says Robert P. Haviland, in charge of Project Hermes. ("The Complete Book of Outer Space": Sidgwick and Jackson, 1953.)

Of course, one can believe the Thing was an experimental device if one ignores the known characteristics of such devices, as produced to date; the scientific data regarding alloys used, etc., in relation to speed; and the utter improbability that the authorities concerned would send such a device, at such a speed, to and fro across Britain, to create curiosity, alarm and a jamming of public services in numbers of cities and towns. The number of calls for information and aid probably has had no parallel in our history.

But the speed was quite obviously much greater than 18,000 miles an hour across many areas. It varied. In some areas it was slow. In some the Thing obviously hovered. All this has to be accounted for in taking the average speed. And we have the plain evidence of hundreds of observers that the Thing flashed over the horizon at fantastic speeds. Carefully analysing some of the reports gives the Thing the speed of a "meteor"—in the region of 30 miles—not a minute, but—a second. There is abundant evidence of this fantastic speed—at dozens of places—and we must note (in relation to the "earth-craft" or "radar-rocket" theory) that it amounts to 108,000 miles an hour.

We find people quite ready to believe that UFO's have been explained away as drifting balloons, or flashes of light on clouds, or mirages, or gleams on airmen's wing-tips, or curious cloud-formations. Anything. It is amazing how credulous conventional scientists can become in such connections. One would imagine that a scientist would not cheat in regard to the examination of data regarding anything, even "flying saucers." But the term—a most unfortunate one in its effect on the acceptance of proven facts regarding them—is quite enough to damn everything connected with it, to the conventional scientist. No data could possibly be **looked at**, much less **examined**. Any old explanation is good enough to get rid of the extra-terrestrial one!

Serious students of UFO's are well aware that drifting balloons have often been taken for "flying saucers." And so with all the other possible explanations, they are weighed and applied to all sky phenomena, and the term UFO is only accepted when other explanations have failed.

In the case of this Thing which went over Britain on March 24th 1955, we can quickly dismiss some of the usual "explanations" of the sceptics.

It was most certainly neither a drifting balloon, a wing-tip gleam, a curiously-formed cloud, a mirage, a glowing cigarette-end: nor even a collection of strips of paper thrown into the air by a practical joker, nor even Aunt Fanny's dustbin lid.

Nor would any hardened sceptic have the courage to write to a national paper and explain to the hundreds of thousands who saw the Thing that they were all suffering from mass-hallucination.

Perhaps we all dreamed it? Or perhaps all the witnesses, in scores of cities and towns across the length and breadth of Britain were suddenly caught in an immoral epidemic, so that they imagined, exaggerated, and even lied to their hearts' content. Or perhaps the newspapers were in collusion, and made it all up.

There are of course the official or semi-official explanations. The "Bristol Evening Post" published a letter (17/5/55) from Alan F. Collins,

F.R.A.S., F.B.I.S., in which he thanked many readers for reports of the "fireball." He wrote:

"From the figures received, it appears that the object became visible over Land's End at about 300 miles height,"—pace Professor Lovell—"and travelled northward, finally exploding at about 25 miles height somewhere over the Irish Sea." He adds that it was the size of a cricket ball. It seems by this that Mr. Collins course would roughly agree with that of the "Daily Mail"—Course B. Or perhaps run up the coast more to the left, quite contrary to Course A and its hundreds of observers who saw the Thing go south.

I must leave Mr. Collins to argue it out with the British Astronomical Association. This authority naturally has the last word on the subject, in its "Circular" No. 361, date April 4:

THE FIREBALL OF 1955

March 24

It was seen from places up to 500 miles apart, and its magnitude appears to have been in the neighbourhood of 10, corresponding to a meteoroid a few centimetres in diameter. The fireball exploded, and ended its career over southern Ireland.

Complete agreement again, you see—not with Mr. Collins or the "Daily Mail" this time, but (to some extent) with another impeccable Authority: the Jödrell Bank Experimental Station*.

I am very sorry that I have not given this Station's authoritative course on my map. My reason is that, according to letters from Dr. J. G. Davies, of that Station, the "meteor" did not cross over England or Wales at any time. In a letter dated 30th March, to one of my correspondents, Dr. Davies says:

The meteorite was over S.W. Ireland, and the trail seen in this country was from 20 to 50 miles above the earth. It may have reached the ground near Tralee.

* If we conveniently forget that Professor Lovell described a suggested observation distance of 200 as "Bunkum."

But in a letter to me dated 12th May, Dr. Davies says:

At 40km. height it exploded and the fragments continued on their N.W. course, falling into the Atlantic a few miles W. of Valentia, Ireland.

He adds that it might have been as large as a football.

Reference to any map will show you that a North-west course finishing at Valencia Island cannot pass over any part of England or Wales: the Thing comes in, according to this course, from the north of France, via the English Channel, just touching the tip of the south-west coast of Ireland, which you can hardly term "over Britain." Notice, also, that Mr. Collins gives the height of the Thing as 300 miles over Land's End, when, according to Dr. Davies, it was rapidly nearing the sea: only a few miles above it.

"The Journal of the British Astronomical Association" must have another last word. (All authorities like to have one.) My research for eight weeks—or for 30 years, for that matter—is but a wisp of gossamer in the scales, when balanced against the colossal weight of these authorities. And the Journal says (Issue April 1955):

After the mass of nonsense that has been produced during the past few years, one might have imagined that the subject of Flying Saucers had been exhausted.

This is in a two-inch "review" dismissing three F.S. books with contemptuous ridicule.

When I went to the Air Ministry regarding this March 24th UFO, I was received with courtesy, and told that it had been dismissed as a meteor **because the meteorological authorities said so.** I got the official R.A.F. report's direction of the Thing, as given by the West Malling pilots who chased it. It was from South to North. I asked if it were possible for any plane or experimental device to travel at 30,000 miles an hour? I was told (what I already knew) that no metal known to science could stand a speed of even 10,000 miles an hour—it would fuse.

Now I have not given you my own theory in this article—that must wait for an allotment of space by your kindly yet over-worked Editor—I have simply stated the facts.

Surely, of all UFO sightings, or multiple-sightings, this March 24th incident is the most factual, the most convincing in proving the non-terrestrial origin of the UFOs, especially when we consider the conflicting "authoritative" statements.

The Thing was seen by tens of thousands, probably hundreds of thousands of people. Dismiss mass-hallucination. It could not have been a meteor because (first) it went in several directions; (second) it changed shape and colour, and some of the shapes were anything but meteor-like; (third) its speed was variable—in some places it hovered; (fourth) the size of the Thing (apart from the trail) was far too great. Dismiss meteor. It could not have been an earth-craft or experimental device. Its speed was far too great. The authorities would not be such fools as to create panic and then try to allay it. Its shapes and colours, its white-hot temperatures at times, its noiselessness in actual flight, apart from the mysterious explosions—all these facts nail down the "earth-craft" or "earth-device" suggestion.

Dismiss earth origin. Dismiss also "flashes on wing-tips," "dust-bin lids," and all the usual "explanations" of the gullible wise-acres.

This incident of March 24th, 1955, is clearly a factual case (proven by many interlocking lines of evidence and the testimony of numerous witnesses) of a non-terrestrial visitation.

It is typical of thousands of cases, but even if we dismissed all others, this one incident provides abundant proof that non-terrestrial intelligences are coming to, or emerging from other dimensions into the atmosphere of this planet, or (perhaps more accurately) the field of human consciousness.



B.F.S.B. Newsletter

30 Melbourne Terrace,
Newtown,
Bristol, 2

October, 1955



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Being at last able to see over the top of the huge pile of letters, mag. envelopes, and matters appertaining to the Bureau, I find that our Editor is waiting for my letter for the Autumn issue, so here we are. I have realised since I took over from Capt. Plunkett just what a colossal task was his in bringing the Bureau to its present strength and standing, in the world of Saucer Investigation, and I doubt whether my efforts will equal his, although I will do my best to forward your interests in this most absorbing subject.

Now let me apologize to those of you who have had to wait for answers to your letters and also for the delay in the distribution of the Summer issue (actually off the presses the last week in July) but as you will no doubt appreciate, the holiday season has been like a brake on the activities of your Committee. However, as things are now getting back to normal (including the weather) I hope delays will be reduced to a minimum.

Before moving on to other matters, I would like to make mention of our Registrar, Mr. T. H. B. James. When I took over, Capt. Plunkett described him to me as "a tower of strength"—and indeed he is, for without his aid the office of Secretary would be a nightmare. Nothing is too much for Mr. James, and when he has completed his Index System, mistakes will be very few and far between.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS. Will members living in countries outside the Sterling Area please send remittances by **International Money Orders**, and not loose stamps of their country. We ask this because it is not possible to cash these stamps in the United Kingdom and as a result we have them left on our hands. International Money Orders can be obtained on application to

the Postal Authorities, and their use would simplify matters at this end.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS. When members change their address, will they please inform H.Q. at once, so that the records may be amended and **please print in block letters** to ensure accuracy.

TECHNICAL REPORT & BULLETINS. No, not another apology!!! This time I am able to tell you that the **Technical Report** is available, and in fact, those of you who have already paid for your copies should by now have received them, and I am sure you will join with me in congratulating our Director of Research, Mr. G. F. N. Knewstubb, on a truly remarkable document.

Further supplies of the **Brazilian Bulletin** (No. 1) are now available—and also **Bulletin No. 2**, but the price of this last one has had to be increased to 9d. plus 1½d postage, because owing to lack of press reports the material in Bulletin No. 2 has been obtained through actual interviews and has necessitated some additional expense.

"INSIDE THE SPACE SHIPS."—By **George Adamski**. We have received a letter from the English publishers of the above book (Messrs. Arco Publications), and they tell us that it will be launched with a lecture tour by the Author, on publication next April, so it seems as if the visit of George Adamski will be taking place then. As we are in personal touch with Mr. Adamski we shall probably hear more about it in the near future.

INVESTIGATION. As you no doubt read in Capt. Plunkett's last Newsletter, it was hoped to be able to give you some information about the Harold Cummings sighting that was being investigated by Mr. George Watts and Mr. Denis Plunkett, but I am afraid that the reports are not yet

completed, so cannot appear in this issue.

TAPE RECORDINGS. The Bureau has a number of tape recordings on saucerial matters, including some from George Adamski, and should any Group or member wish to borrow these they may do so on application to H.Q. There is no charge for the loan of these tapes but borrowers are requested to cover the cost of registered mail in both directions. (**Important: please state make and model of recorder which it is proposed to use**).

Now before I close, I would like to send the greetings of the Bureau to one of its oldest members, Miss

Eleanor Humphreys. Miss Humphreys is 82 but unfortunately she is in hospital with arthritis and has been for 14 years, yet despite she this is very keen and looks forward with interest to the magazine. I am sure all members will join with me in wishing her well and we hope that she will still be with us as a member when the Truth about Saucers is eventually made known.

And now, with Seasonal best wishes to you all,

Yours fraternally,

W. E. NICHOLAS

(Hon. Sec. B.F.S.B.)



BOOK REVIEW

THE CASE FOR THE U.F.O.—

By M. K. Jessup

Citadel Press, New York. \$3.50 *

Reviewed by Derek Cadel

SPACE LIFE EXISTS! That is the final conclusion of this startling book. Jessup's analysis of the phenomena of the U.F.O., where ample observation by credible astronomers verifies the fact that the U.F.O. originates in Space; in fact in the space between the Earth and Moon at the approximate region of the Earth-Sun-Moon gravitational neutral.

His view tends to coincide with that of M. Rene Fouere, who thinks that the Saucers are "Disc Creatures"—although he does not go so far as to agree with the Frenchman's view that Outer Space is their natural habitat—or even with Kenneth Arnold's latest theory that the Flying Saucers are "sky jelly fish."

Jessup furthers his observations by correlating and analysing such events and phenomena as the appearance of Flying Saucers, disappearance of people, ships, planes and their crews, mysterious marks and imprints left in snow, sand and stone by hitherto unrecognisable agencies. Falling live animals, fish, stones, grain and other weird events come in for close scrutiny. He

still further analyses the tremendous amount of observational material compiled during the nineteenth century, and deduces the fact that there is something, or some form of intelligence directing these phenomena.

He deals with the annoying stigma of past civilisations (usually a Wilkins worry!) in revealing the existence of a world-wide civilisation prior to "The Great Flood," and indicates that the **tremendous stoneworks of the prehistoric world were raised by levitating spec ships.**

It has been said that this book is unique in its record of achievement by this piecing together of previously unrelated astronomical, archaeological and meteorological information.

The Case For The U.F.O., at all events, carries you through step by step to the inescapable fact that—in whatever form it may be—space life exists.

* Published as "U.F.O." in London, by Arco Publications Ltd., at 15/-. We hear Mr. Jessup is working on a sequel—"The Expanding Case for the U.F.O."—with material relative to activity on the Moon, and the part played by "Little People" in U.F.O. history. Also in preparation, is Mr. Jessup's "U.F.O. Reporter Annual." He's offering prizes of from \$5 to \$20 for best collections of clippings, reports, articles, etc.—and proposes making them up into a sort of Year Book, which will also include a directory of Saucer clubs and a roster of U.F.O. magazines.—Ed.

GIRVAN talks to Saucerers

In a lecture to the Flying Saucer
Research Society, London, September
24th, 1955.

Reported By JOHN PITT

It gives me great pleasure to be able, for the first time in eighteen months, to give praise to a "Saucerer."

Waveney Girvan, accountant-publisher-author, is the first Saucer lecturer I have heard who knows what to say and how to say it.

In a well-considered survey of Saucery, laced with a puckish and pawky humour, Girvan gave his first lecture to an audience of "will to believers." Hitherto, he said, he had spoken to members of the 84% who represent the "will not to believers."

Of this 16% minority, he stated that it included many well-known personages, M.P.'s and newspaper editors, Service chiefs and scientists. The percentage had increased in the last five years from a mere 2%. The main reasons behind the surprisingly low minority of believers in the existence of saucers were, according to Girvan, fear of ridicule, disinterest, and oftentimes laziness and apathy among news editors. He said that he had never seen evidence, in this country, of Censorship. He had, in fact, found cases where newspaper chiefs had considered it a public duty to report sightings and possible explanations of U.F.O.'s.

Stating that he considered it to be wrong to accept the studied but invalid arguments against the existence of U.F.O.'s by scientific "experts" on the subject, he maintained that young Stephen Darbishire was more properly an expert than the last Astronomer Royal. He summed up his argument by saying that the reliance placed by this country on its "experts" explains why it is in such a mess.

We must be prepared, said Girvan, for a full scale hoax "landing." It had come to his notice that a well laid plan had been evolved for the televising of a saucer-landing on Commercial T.V. This, he asserted, was a

significant proof that "landings" must have been taken seriously, else why should anybody attempt to perpetrate such a hoax?

Of the two young ladies who claimed, in 1954, to have spoken to a Spaceman from a Saucer in Norway, Girvan stated that they were both well-educated and level-headed; furthermore that they were multi-lingual and well able to distinguish English, American, Russian or French. Moreover they were sticking to their story—unlike the Norwegian authorities who have changed their "explanation" no less than three times.

Speaking of Adamski, Girvan stated that he still felt that the much-questioned photography was genuine. In another part of the lecture, he stated that he was apprehensive of the popular Saucerer-assumption that the ability to navigate Saucers indicated that their occupants were more spiritually advanced. Again he rather went out of his way to point out that he personally was not in favour of the

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intrusion of the Occult into the study of Saucers. It therefore comes as no surprise to me that he did not take the opportunity to publish Adamski's "Inside The Spaceships." Girvan explained that there were many reasons why it was not practical. I, however, think that much can be deduced from Girvan's admitted scepticism of the general Adamski "treatment."

Whether there were any all-round sceptics in the audience, I know not, but if there were they might have been interested to hear Waveney Girvan's impressions of those who cannot accept the reality of Saucers. He accuses them of denying the averagely intelligent observer the right to deduce the evidence of his own eyes—arguing, as so often they do, that to "get away" with a sighting report the observer will have to provide such a welter of watertight data concerning speed, direction, height and appearance that to fail to do so on all counts needs render invalid the assertion that they saw a Saucer! Incidentally, Girvan classified sceptics in two categories: (i) Those who have never studied the phenomena, and (ii) Twerps. Since 1950, he maintains that the factual existence of the Saucers is an undeniable fact.

I think that it had to be admitted that Waveney Girvan gave a very interesting and studied lecture. His swift and often witty replies to a variety of questions was a pleasure to hear. So also was the unobtrusive but consistent "plugging" of "Flying Saucer Review."

In summary, I feel that I should say that when I was invited to report this lecture I did not feel that I would be able to remain as unbiassed as might have been one who has never been opposed to Mr. Girvan's two proteges. I am aware that I have probably served Waveney Girvan well in my own way by my policy of "analysing" the Adamski claims. I would like to put it on record that I was pleasantly surprised. If I was correct in my deduction that this lecturer is a 100% business man, I was wrong if I thought that his interest in the subject was so purely financial as "Flying Saucers and Commonsense" had seemed to me to indicate.

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WEST OF ENGLAND

People in North Devon and Cornwall reported seeing a blue and white object, seeming to be the size of a dinner plate, with red flames coming from its tail, on October 18th.

Mevagissey fishermen reported seeing a strange light which illuminated the sky and the coast along a wide area. It made a sizzling noise, and when it struck the water it made a sound as though exploding. One of the fishermen said that it was such a frightening experience that he nearly cut his trawl away to make a bolt for harbour. The time was about 12.30 a.m.

A mysterious flash, believed to be a meteorite, was seen at 10.45 p.m. the previous evening from the flying control tower of the Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose. It seemed to disappear inland in the direction of Redruth.

At the time, however, there was an aircraft operating to the North West of the station and it reported that the object had disappeared into the sea about 20 miles off the northern coast of Cornwall. The object was also seen from various other places including Landkey, R.A.F. Chivenor (both near Barnstaple), Bude, Mousehole and St. Eval. All said it was of great brilliance and lighted up a large area.

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