

SKYWATCH SKYWATCH

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'THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE' - VERY INTERESTING BUT HARDLY MYSTERIOUS

That was the conclusion we arrived at after a talk on the enigma of the so-called Bermuda Triangle with Andrei MONIN, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Director of the Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

IN SEARCH OF MIRACLES

"The area between the Bermudas, Florida and Puerto Rico Isle has been labelled the Bermuda Triangle, a place notorious among seamen many years ago and yet it is one of the calmest parts of the ocean in the world", said Andrei Monin. "All the hypotheses put forward to explain the non-existent problem of 'The Bermuda Triangle' can be simply explained by the human weakness for sensationalism. Scientists would be only too glad to discover something eerie there.

"Some might suggest that we're not looking well enough. Or, perhaps, that the Soviet research ships that take part in the multilateral (1976-78) POLYMODE Programme are poorly equipped. But I don't think many would dare to say that.

"Late last year, the AKADEMIK VERNADSKY research ship was the first to sail to the Bermuda Triangle area, where the POLYMODE programme is being performed. The crew explored the locality where the experiments were to have been staged. Vladimir Kushnir, deputy chief of the expedition on the AKADEMIK VERNADSKY, said that the Soviet researchers studied whirlpools in the ocean together with their American colleagues. Information was used during the experiments from American satellites, which made it possible to control the position of the buoy stations scattered in the ocean the whole time.

"Large whirlpools were discovered by the ships of our Institute of Oceanology back in 1970 during the expedition to the Central Atlantic. The whirlpool is an eddy of water some 150-200 km in diameter and with a depth of approximately 1.5 km. The whirlpools travel along the ocean and their eddies raise the cold water from the bottom of the ocean. Such whirlpools, which in fact resemble atmosphere cyclones, naturally carry a colossal amount of energy which has a great influence on the ocean's energy balance, as well as on atmospheric phenomena.

"Later the AKADEMIK VERNADSKY was replaced in the 'Bermuda Triangle' area by a whole armada of Soviet research ships which took part in the POLYMODE programme. This summer and autumn the researchers studied how the whirlpools were formed, using Soviet and American buoy stations equipped with acoustic systems.

"They obtained a host of new and interesting information on the dynamics of oceanic processes. But, unfortunately, nothing mysterious could be found that could explain all sorts of 'disappearances'. There are giant whirlpools, or, as they are also called sometimes, rings, but no miracles".

PRETEXTS FOR SENSATIONS.

"And now some words about these mysteries which became so famous in the works on 'The Bermuda Triangle' by Ivor Sanderson and Charles Berlitz. (Berlitz, who wrote the best sellers - 'The Bermuda Triangle' and 'Without a Trace', having once 'struck gold', goes on with his writings, despite all the scientific experiments).

"On December 6th, 1945, five piston-powered Avenger bombers took off for a training flight from the Fort Lauderdale base in Florida. Lieutenant Charles Taylor, the C.O. of the group, radioed an alarm signal 15 minutes before the planes were due to return, and then all communication with the group ceased. A special plane, carrying a 13-man salvage team, that was immediately sent to investigate what happened, also vanished".

"Two jet tanker planes blew up under strange circumstances in this area in 1963.

"The cruiser Witchcraft vanished in broad daylight and in plain sight of Miami in 1967.

"In 1970 a Soviet AN-22 Antheus transport plane, that was carrying medical equipment and medicines to Peru for the victims of an earthquake, vanished over the ocean.

"Several years ago an Eastern Airlines plane, with 127 passengers aboard that was flying to Miami, vanished from the radar screens for 10 whole minutes. After it landed it was discovered that all the watches aboard the plane were 10 minutes behind those at the airport.

"One could drag out the list of these 'happenings' without end. But according to U.S. official data, in 1975 there were 21 disasters at sea along the U.S. shoreline and only four within the 'triangle'; last year - 28 disasters and only 6 in the 'triangle'".

THE OCEAN - A KALEIDOSCOPE OF UNSOLVED PROBLEMS.

"Approximately 1,500,000 ships ply the globe's seas and oceans today and the SOS is radioed nearly 10,000 times every year. We must not fail to take into account that the intensity of sea and air navigation in 'the Bermuda Triangle' area is much greater than anywhere else. It gets even greater during the Christmas period when private yachts and planes set off for the Bahama Islands. However, the main factor which influences the increase in wrecks in the area should be sought for in the specific hydrometeorological conditions, which are governed by the Gulf Stream and the whirlpools it generates; the fast current takes away pieces of wreckage very swiftly. So much for vanishings without a trace.

"As for the detailed accounts on 'classic' riddles of 'the Bermuda Triangle' they are the result of arbitrary handling of facts and are being spread, apparently, premeditatedly so as to confuse millions of readers. You see, Charles Berlitz, when narrating the amazing landings of the Eastern Airlines plane, conveniently 'forgot' to state the day when it happened and the number of the flight. The two tanker jets did not blow up all of a sudden, but rather collided, because they were flying in very bad weather. As to the distress call from Lieutenant Taylor, who led the 5th Avenger planes, seemingly not a single radio station on earth registered it.

"Here is what Academician Leonid Brekhovskikh, Chairman of the Oceanographic Commission of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has to say on the subject:

"There are people who think that all the wrecks in the 'Bermuda Triangle' area are proof of aliens from outer space having visited our earth. Others, who apparently have a very hazy idea of lasers, suggest that people, ships and planes just 'vaporize' owing to the operation of some sort of an atmospheric laser of global dimensions.

"Still others think that in this area the ocean bed sometimes opens up, the water rushed down in a vortex sucking the ships down and an 'anti-vortex' is generated in the air in which aircraft perish. These people obviously do not know that any such phenomena in the earth's crust would have been immediately recorded by dozens of seismic stations.

"According to the ramified network of seismic stations in various countries, no phenomena occur within this area in the earth's crust which could wreck either a ship or a plane. The allegations that people may be 'killed' by infrasound irradiated by sea waves during strong storms are beyond scientific criticism.

"The people who, in keeping with their work, analyzed all the mishaps painstakingly and conscientiously, arrived at the conclusion that there was no reason to draw upon super-natural forces in order to explain the accidents. There is nothing mysterious in the ocean except, perhaps, its hugeness of which it is very hard to actually conceive. The ocean is a very complex system and there are still too many unsolved problems to study. I'd like to persuade the reader that these problems are very much more interesting than the myths about non-existent mirables".

The Soviet research ship, VIKTOR BUGAYEV, which took part in the POLYMODE experiment, has recently returned from the expedition.

Here is what Ye. Baranov, Candidate of Science (Geography), head of the expedition, said: "The results of the experiment will help build up a mathematical model of the circulation in the ocean and the atmosphere, which is of paramount importance for making long-term weather forecasts. Scientists from the USSR, the USA, Great Britain, Canada and France took part in the experiment.

"A thorough study of the structure of the ocean and the atmosphere, in 'the Bermuda Triangle' area, will help prove that nothing supernatural is happening there. In Canada, journalists asked us to describe our feelings and emotions, because, after all, as they said, we were sailing into a dangerous zone. But throughout the cruise no inexplicable phenomena occurred either in the men's psyche or in the natural environment".

(Submitted by Bryan Hartley)

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Warminster revisited (Recollections of some past visits to Warminster, the British Ufologist's Mecca) by Daniel J. Goring, Essex UFO Study Group.

While on our way home from a holiday in Cornwall one afternoon in mid-October, '77, my friend and I made a detour in order to drive through the famous UFO sighting area of Warminster, Wiltshire, where even today, some thirteen years after the Warminster "Thing" first made the headlines, things continue to happen.

Besides wanting to have a quick look round the town, I also wanted to visit nearby Cradle Hill - a very well-known skywatch point - and take some photographs of the surrounding scenery, for these were required to complement a very interesting humanoid case that I had recently uncovered.

This wasn't my first visit to Warminster, however, and the last time I was here was on 21st June, 1975. On this occasion I was accompanied by two other ufologists, one of whom called upon that famous Warminster resident (and author of a number of books on the town's UFO phenomenon), Arthur Shuttlewood, to see if he would come up later on to Star (or Starr) Hill, another famous UFO sighting point, for a Saturday night skywatch. The good news came back that Arthur would be there, but for one reason or another he never did arrive. Still this disappointment didn't spoil our evening, for there were simply crowds of people coming and going the whole time at Star Hill, everyone congregating outside the famous barn that lies at the base of the hill. (This barn is a notorious focal point for many of the weird happenings in this area, which includes such notables as the "Invisible Walker", and, more recently, the 'Serpent'. The "Invisible Walker" produces heavy footsteps that disturb the gravel, and when in the field disturbs the crops growing there by pushing them aside as it makes its way through. Nothing of this mysterious entity is ever seen, though. The 'Serpent' produces a peculiar swishing sound as it slithers over the ground. (Needless to say, there is no real explanation for these oddities). As the evening drew on, various individuals told of strange happenings that had occurred in and around the town, and generally brought about an air of excitement that persisted the whole evening. Despite a few false alarms, though, nothing that could honestly be called a genuine UFO was seen, but everyone went away more than happy to have taken part, many vowing to return as soon as possible!

To return to the present: I found that even with the aid of an O.S. map, finding Cradle Hill was still 'hit and miss', and we must have passed the small access road - Elm Hill - off the A350 and at the north end of the town - twice in our car before we finally located it. Even then our troubles weren't over, for an "Out of Bounds" road sign had us wondering if cars were still allowed up to the top; but at length we decided to ignore this and 'kept right on to the end of the road' (as far as the steel gate, anyway, which is where everyone parks their cars).

The scenery from Cradle Hill on this late, sunny autumn afternoon was really beautiful, as it was undoubtedly from that other skywatch point already mentioned - Star Hill. However, a visit to this place was out of the question, for after a two-year interval I had no recollection of the correct road to take, and we had no map of the required area. It was at a time like this that I wished we had a Ufologist's skywatch map of the Warminster area. I say "Ufologist's" for some skywatch points, like Star Hill and Heaven's Gate, are ufologists' names and not map names. (Star Hill is so named, I believe, because of the star-shaped posts that have been placed on the slopes of the hill by the British Army, the posts being demarcation signs indicating artillery shell-free areas. One man, I learnt, was so intrigued with these posts, that he sawed one through and took it home for analysis!)

Although we had only seen a little of Warminster, we were very glad we came, and although my friend was in no way a ufologist, he felt that the place had a certain 'lure' about it, a lure that would be bringing myself back fairly soon.

1. I know I'm not the only one to have had trouble with Warminster's Skywatch points; David Prockter, past editor of the now defunct magazine UFO NEWS, relates in issue 7 Dec.'74, p.18 the trouble he and a few friends had trying to find the elusive Star Hill.

Daniel J.Goring, Editor, Essex UFO Study Group Journal. Head Office:
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JUPITER - PLANET OR STAR?

A Soviet scientist has produced more evidence to back the theory that Jupiter is a star rather than a planet. The hypothesis is that Jupiter is either in the process of formation or a dying one. Professor Nikolai Kozyrev of the Leningrad Pulkovo Observatory told a scientific meeting in Leningrad that the nucleus of Jupiter has a temperature of 196,000°C, possibly caused by Nuclear reactions. As was recently shown, Jupiter radiates more heat than it receives from the sun. Professor Kozyrev, who first advanced the theory of Volcanic activity on the Moon, constructed a mathematical model of Jupiters hot and gaseous nucleus. The results obtained appear to agree with results obtained from astro-physical observations and also with the dimensions of Jupiters heat stream details of which were recorded by the American Pioneer-10 and Pioneer-11 probes.

(Reprinted from Novosti Press Agency, Press Release No.7932 13th March, 1978, 3, Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW).

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ASTEROID ARTEK

Scientists at the Crimean astrophysical observatory have discovered a new asteroid which revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit between orbits of Mars and Jupiter. It looks like a star of the 16th Magnitude and has a diameter of approximately 10 km. The Cincinnati International Planetary Centre reports that the asteroid has been registered as Artek (the name of the first pioneer camp in the Soviet Union) and is now on the catalogue of small planets with the number 1,956.

(Reprinted from Novosti Press Agency Press release No.7917 14th February 1978, address as above).

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UFOs. SKYWATCHING AND SCIENCE

Peter A Hill, MWSOM, FSS.

Branch Secretary, Edinburgh Branch British UFO Research Association.

The practice of skywatching is one of the most controversial amongst scientific ufologists. Its opponents proclaim that the chance of seeing an unidentified object in this way is so low that one is wasting time. This is true so far as the probability of seeing a UFO is concerned. The statistical chance of seeing one on any one night is so remote as to be virtually nil.

However, this is entirely overlooking the valid objectives of skywatching and thereby throwing out the baby with the bath water. The watching of the heavens was discredited by the publicity seekers and the sincere but neo-religious frings who like to take themselves into the desert hunting UFOs like a boy going fishing.

Let us begin with the objectives of the sky watch, for one should always be clear on one's objectives prior to planning any activity. In my view these are as follows:

- (a) familiarity with the normal in the sky by day and night
- (b) practice at objective recording of events
- (c) discussion of the best ways of organising a group in a disciplined manner.

Let us discuss these points one at a time.

Before one can positively affirm that one has seen something abnormal, it is essential to be thoroughly conversant with the normal. There are enough cases of misidentified meteors, stars, planets and balloons to demonstrate that. But how many of us can tell a meteor from a comet, a planet from a star or a balloon from a sun-dog? It is therefore imperative that the ufologist knows the night sky, is able to identify the principle constellations and planets and becomes familiar with all types of aircraft at night. At the same time, one can practice estimating speed, height, direction, size and other parameters.

Artificial satellites can be predicted and looked for, allowing positive identification and such activities as photography can be tried and perfected. As the objective is familiarity with the normal, and UFOs appear at any time, sky watching should be carried out at all times of the day and night and at all times of the year. During the day, photography of aircraft can be practised and different types of cloud and their normal heights studied.

The second objective is no less important than the first. Organisation is all-important to disciplined observation. Each member of the team should have a defined role to play for a specific time. This should not be longer than 60 minutes as concentration declines rapidly. A duty rota should therefore be set up in advance and no-one be permitted to wander aimlessly. Duties to be assigned include:

- (a) watching North, South, East and West
- (b) keeping a log of events both by tape and paper
- (c) photography
- (d) co-ordinator.

A suitable number for a skywatch team is twelve: four watching; two logging; one photographing; one co-ordinating and four resting. A rota might look as in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. SAMPLE ROTA OF SKYWATCH DUTIES.

KEY: N = watch North; S = watch South; E = watch East; W = watch West.
L1 = log tape; L2 = log paper; P = photography; C = co-ordinator; R = rest

SKYWATCH TO BE HELD AT CO-ORDINATE X on MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 1977 from 14.00 GMT.

PERSON	14.00	14.30	15.00	15.30	16.00	16.30	17.00	17.30
1	N	R	S	E	R	W	L1	R
2	S	R	E	W	R	N	L2	R
3	E	R	W	N	R	S	E	R
4	W	N	R	S	E	R	W	N
5	L1	S	R	L2	N	R	N	S
6	L2	E	R	L1	S	R	S	E
7	R	W	N	R	W	E	R	W
8	R	L1	L1	R	L1	L1	R	L1
9	R	L2	L2	R	L2	L2	R	L2
10	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	P
11	C	R	C	C	R	C	C	R
12	R	C	P	R	C	P	R	C

Those watching should be comfortable and warm, lying on lilos with adequate clothing. Binoculars should be provided. The purpose of duplicating the log is to corroborate the evidence; it also guards against any breakdown of the recorder. The photography has been indicated in Figure 1 as allocated to two members only. These should be the most expert in this field. Similarly, only two co-ordinators are shown to maintain as regular a practice as possible. The role of the co-ordinator is to see that all the team are performing their assigned function in the best way, that transfer of duties takes place in a proper fashion at the correct time and that the whole exercise is treated seriously. Without this role the danger is always that the session becomes merely a social event. It should, however, be conducted with scientific rigour. The co-ordinator should be given power to dismiss from the session any members disrupting the discipline. He should also ensure that no alcohol be taken during the session and none should be allowed for twelve hours prior to the event. The rest area should be provided with comfortable seating or beds, reading material and hot coffee or other refreshment.

The session should end at the pre-arranged time and the logs be independently written into a common format and compared by the two co-ordinators. This should be made available to all those taking part to study and followed by an evaluation. This should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the event and any procedural changes desirable for the future.

Time should be recorded by 24 hour clock, having obtained a radio check before commencing. BST or GMT should be used and recorded as such for subsequent reference. Any unidentified objects should be reported on the national standard form to BUFORA and also published in the local press, seeking other witnesses. If the skywatch is treated in this manner, it will cease to be a subject for public ridicule and become one of the best pieces of publicity for the science of ufology.

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GROUP AND GENERAL NEWS

If you enjoyed the TV programme "Alternative 3", shown on ITV on June 20th, last year, you're sure to like the paperback book based on the programme. It is published by Sphere books, price 95p. The title: Alternative 3.

Members wishing details of the forthcoming FUFOR UFO Conference in Crewe, in June, should send a SAE to the Editor for location/time, etc. when available. Also, if you are interested in attending Cons. in Sheffield and Scunthorpe, watch out for details in the next SKYWATCH.

MAPIT recently heard from a new (to us) UFO organisation. The group in question is called "Commission Luxembourgeoise D'Etudes UFOlogiques" or CLEU for short. They publish a fine magazine and this takes SKYWATCH's foreign distribution to 19 countries!

On the American TV and Film scene, space and UFO's seem to be the order of the day: CBS TV have a "War of the Worlds" series up their sleeves; NBC TV have a new series at the pilot stage called "Future Lab". As for films, watch out for 20th Century Fox's "Survival Run" starring George Peppard; a Star Wars rip off called "Star Pilot"; an Italian film called "Star Crash" and "End of the World", which has yet to find a British Distributor. Funny how the word "Star" has become so popular. Next I suppose we will see "Carry on Encounter".

MAPIT member in Italy, Lorenzo Massai tells us a UFO film called "Eyes from the Stars" is doing well.

We had quite a lengthy article in the Stockport Express on March 16th, which was entitled, "A Space Creature Spied as the Children Played". Mention was given to the film, "Close Encounters".

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PAPER ----- CLIPPINGS

"WEEKLY NEWS" 25th March, 1978: Two Canadians claim to have photographs of a UFO which scared them at a lake in La Verndryke Park, 200 miles north west of Montreal. The men, Jacques Lavoie and Richard Huot were camping when they saw a bright object appear in the sky. They ran off in terror, but returned shortly afterwards and took photographs as it hovered over a lake.

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"EVENING PRESS" (EIRE) 16th February 1978: A new American TV series will probe the mysteries and the hoax's surrounding UFOs. And the show's producer, Jack Webb, expects controversy to rage around it. "Sure, there's going to be plenty of flack over it", he says. "There are millions of Americans who believe that UFOs do exist, while others think its all ridiculous. But the most important thing is this: 30 per cent of all UFO sightings reported can't be logically explained. In other words, the government can't unequivocally prove these reports are negative". Webb's new show, Project UFO, which begins on Sunday on NCB will be based on more than 13,000 documents in the UFO investigation files of the national archives. "I'm going to use actual cases to focus on the UFO sightings. Naturally I will employ dramatic licence in each of the episodes to heighten the effect. I did exactly the same thing when I put out my Dragnet series years ago. In that situation I also used actual files and then dramatised them". Names and places will be changed to avoid law suits. William Jordan and Caskey Swain will have the leads in Project UFO. Jordan will portray an Air Force Major, while Swain will make his TV debut as an Air Force Sergeant. Webb himself straddles the fence on the UFO issue. "I really don't know if UFO's exist or not", he says. "I want to remain objective over the issue. Until I actually see physical evidence of a UFO, I have to remain undecided about them. But I want to point out that some very influential and important people have reported UFO sightings. They just can't be dismissed out of hand". In his series, Webb will focus on a UFO sighting each week as reported in the government files. "One week I'll tell the story of a UFO hoax", he says. Always a stickler for facts and accuracy, Webb has hired Col. William Coleman as his producer. Coleman, now retired, headed the Air Force's UFO probe, known as Project Blue Book, for 9 years.

(Thanks go to MAPIT Member Steven Gilbourne for the above clip. Let us hope that either Leslie Halliwell or the BBC buy this series for British TV).

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LATEST REPORT ON UFOs BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

From "NOSTRA" - Paris, France - 25th May, 1977 - Special Report.

UFO's in USSR. - UNDERGROUND TEXT OF PROFESSOR ZIGEL (Dr. Felix U.Zigel)

Since 1957, date to which scientists from the USSR have viritably begun to feel an interest to UFOs and their problems, we account no more shilly-shallyings and mysterious revulsions of authorities. Sometimes common lampoons calling us of "humbugs" and of "agents provocateurs", sometimes sarcastic smile, sometimes simple threats.

Now, the thing is lasting for several years, it is the final interdict which threatens all conscientious researchers who, in spite of that, cannot cast this very important problem aside. Because it is a fact which cannot be contested: There is, in the USSR, an official prohibition about all that concern studies and sightings concerning UFOs.

At first, all foregoing publications about that are forbidden. This has always been the case. Before doing analysis, they are systematically accused to be means of insidious propaganda, used by Pentagon, C.I.A. and other Liberty-Radio. Some of those publications are those things, but I am sure that they are a minority. Mistakes, misinterpretations, or even mystifications, are often numerous there, but they bring to the honest and perspicacious analysis some precious sightings which are indispensable. More, it is really to despise Soviet science that to suspect it to be too infantile to find in a report dishonesty or mind of cold war. For ten years, almost every month, a pseudo-scientist guided by authorities, states on wireless or in newspapers: "None at

at all Unidentified Flying Objects have been sighted above Soviet Territory!" Some pilots, astronomers, professors of Universities and Institutes, some cultured witnesses, quite sincere, are far from this opinion. If we must establish an account entirely temporary concerning serious sightings verified and on which no doubt can subsist about mystery of phenomenon, it is unless three hundred UFO sightings cases over Soviet Territory that we should be able to index easily. The least capable newspapers of mystification, the publications which had not humorous inclination, have widely rendered an account of that, in proper time and place. In spite of some promises and statements, no action has been undertaken to carry through study, classification and scientific publishing of those numerous mysterious cases. Pilot and aircrew of the airplane going from VORKOUTA TO OMSK were Categorical: A flying object, circle-shaped, who could not be confused with another aircraft or balloon, has escorted their airplane during the longer part of flight. Natural phenomenon is to be excluded. Of course, those men's report was not registered.

Some like sightings, are very numerous and it is probable that many cases will never be known. In the same kind of statement, we remember the ILIOUCHINE 14 which went from ZAPOROJE to VOLGOGRAD on 29th Dec 1967. Aircrew also sighted presence of a UFO. Motors of aircraft stopped abruptly without visible reasons. And airplanes began side-slip towards the ground while aircrew was caught up in terror. It was only towards 700 meters from the ground that the object suddenly was no more visible and the motors restarted.

Another collective statement and also quite sincere: on 24th Sept. 1962, aircrew and passengers of TU-104 reported that an oval object, then several other like objects turned for a long time around the aircraft. At this time, their statements were registered, which we remember, dwelt on astonishing manoeuvrability and speed of object.

During 1965, in LATVIA, a well-known astronomer, R. VITOLNIEK, sighted through a telescope, a makeup in triangle of four objects sphere-shaped. One of them which was in central position, was perceptibly bigger than the other three. Observer and several colleagues thought that those four spheres were moving off from our planet, because of their progressive reduction of size. IAN MEDERIS, another scientist who was working that evening with Robert Vitolniek, made immediately calculations and consulted his astronomical maps to have certainly that it was neither satellites, nor milliles. A report which did not take appropriate action concerning this matter, of course!

During 1961, 40 kms from MOSCOW, another object was sighted by drivers of locomotives who stated that it was disc-shaped and it seemed "topped by a cup". It followed the goods train for a few minutes towards GOLYSINO. All statements collected one by one dwelt on the fact that the "saucer" seemed to reduce its speed to go with the same speed of the train! After one kilometer of escort locomotive stopped without visible reasons and could not restart only when mysterious object went.

What became of the sightings of Colonel BYKOVSKY and V. TERECHKOVA? Those astronauts are surely not suspicious! Why haven't AKKOUTAROV's statements been taken in account?

In responsible quarters of authorities and official science, nobody seems to take these reports or other into account. Unless blackout became established only against scientists which are quite sincere and the people. That is another question.....

When we are inquiring about development of experts reports concerning statements photographs always too quickly disappeared or misappropriated, we are wondering whether it is not better to do it under an alias, to not risk ridicule. Board of inquires are not more existing, are sleeping, or are "temporarily" relieved from their office and competences in waiting orders and credits for research.

We put the question: Why this artificial silence? What must we think about this abrupt and unforeseeable drop in interest concerning research that we should have to carry on, at ALL costs. It will be necessary, consequently, like in 1959, that UFO's fly over rocket-launchers of SVERDLOVSK, be detected on radar-screens, drive militaries crazy, in order that authorities conclude to a threat and come again to a better idea of things.

(Submitted by Bryan Hartley)

SIGHTING SCENE

DATE: 22nd May 1977, a Sunday.
TIMES: 10.00 a.m. or 10.30 a.m.
LOCATION: Congleton Park Road, Congleton, Cheshire.
WITNESS: David Beresford, aged 32, a power press setter.

Mr. Beresford left his home to go to the paper shop for the Sunday Paper. He also had his sons with him. As he approached the Congleton Coal Board site, he just happened to look up between two trees and saw an object. At first he thought it was an aircraft or maybe an airship (Goodyear?) but the longer he looked at it the more convinced he became that it was a UFO. It was moving very slowly. It looked so "unusual" for an object so big to be moving slowly. It was shaped like a fat cigar with what looked like a fin on top. This is what made the witness think it was an airship, but there was nothing on the sides or underneath. The fin which appeared on the top appeared to have "some sort of doorway". The object was not rotating and appeared a very dull reddish orange colour. The witness watched the object travel over the top of some nearby houses, then it stopped and went straight down somehow behind the houses. David did not go and look if the UFO had landed or otherwise; it moved away in a North-Westerly direction. He feels that the object was a UFO. No further witnesses have come forward and although a Sunday - a quiet day normally - it is thought other persons would be out and perhaps going for a newspaper as the witness. Could the object have been the Goodyear Airship? Well, on MAPIT checking at Air Traffic Control no unusual activity was recorded. The colour of the object was Reddish/Orange and was visible for approx. 30-40 seconds. David could not estimate its size other than being "very large".

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DATE: 19th May, a Thursday, 1977.
TIME: Approx. 13.30 hrs.
LOCATION: Rookery Bridge, Sandbach in Cheshire.
WITNESS: Mr. Jack Allen, a British Rail Track man aged 57 years.

The witness was working on the railway lines at the location mentioned; it was a very hot day with clear blue skies except for the odd cloud. The workmen stopped for a drink and the witness sat on his own. Something caused him to look up into the sky and he saw a large passenger plane moving slowly across the sky. His attention was drawn to an object which appeared to be above the passenger plane. This object was very much like a plane but very small. It had small wings with sliced-off ends; it was a greyish black colour and it seemed transparent! Just like an X ray plate photo, the greyish black colour appeared in patches. The witness estimates the size of the "plane" to be quarter the size of the passenger plane. Both objects were travelling from the North-West to a Westerly direction. The "plane" was in view for about two minutes, afterwards it seemed to climb higher and then it was invisible to his sight.

The witness did not say anything to his workmates, he decided to wait until he had seen his evening paper to see if anyone else had reported anything. Soon after Mr. Allen's sighting he developed a skin rash; It was "red, very itchy and felt warm in comparison to the rest of my skin. It lasted about three days, then reappeared a few weeks later then went away". The rash appeared on his forehead, cheeks, arms and fingers (in the webs) "I did not go the doctor but the rash which appeared after the sighting mainly because if I'd said what had happened before it appeared on my arms and face I'd have been laughed at". "I was so scared and considering the fact that I served several years in Burma in the last war and was never plagued by a nervous rash, I can assure you without doubt I know what I saw". Has the rash any connection with the UFO sighting? Perhaps some medical expert could give us his opinion?

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EVENTS IN SPACE.....by Ken Stanley.

A RING AROUND URANUS

Uranus, seventh planet in the solar system, has a ring of satellites like the ring system of Saturn. They were discovered during a ten-minute observation in March. When observationists watched the planet pass through our line of sight to a star, light from the star was cut off by the planet and then by a string of other objects. This indicated that Uranus has other satellites in addition to the five already known. From these sightings astronomers believe that Uranus has a circular belt lying in the equatorial plane. It is thought the mini-satellites are all that remain of a satellite that was smashed to pieces in space at some unknown time in the past. Remnants of a dramatic event in space.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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COMMENTARY: is published by the UFO and Related Unexplained Mysteries group, (UFORUM) in Sheffield. A new publication, well worth a read. Write to: Miss Linda Thompson, 40, Badger Road, Woodhouse, Sheffield 13, South Yorkshire.

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NOTES AND QUOTES

I saw a disk up in the air
A silver disk that wasn't there.
Two more weren't there again today.
Oh, how I wish they'd go away.

Graffiti from a Lavatory Wall, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

The following poem is in memory of Ray Palmer, former editor of "Amazing Stories" and the US magazine "Flying Saucers". Ray died last year and will be remembered and never forgotten in Ufology; remembered for his controversial theories (in particular as regards the Hollow Earth) and never forgotten for the book "The Coming of the Saucers", co-written with Kenneth Arnold (1952 and still available). The poem is written by Allen G. Greenfield, Editor of Ufology Notebook.

AGE OF REASON.

Imagination beyond the stars,
And so an era ends
You're told there's no life on Mars
And you feel you've lost your friends.
And, now, poor Ray's gone from us
No more caves, or holes at poles,
And the newcomers wonder about the fuss,
Having sold their souls for goals.

So here we are, our brave new age,
No need to feel; just think,
And you think it was at such a stage
Atlantis began to sink.
Its lofty towers were no match,
for logicality.
It dropped, like falling through a hatch
and sank beneath the sea.

AHG.

Have you ever spotted the likenesses between the main entrances of the buildings used by ITV's General Hospital and UFO series? They're both the entrance to ATV's Elstree Studios.

A novel comment by Barry Norman, the presenter of BBC 1's Film 78 TV programme, "There is no truth in the rumour that Roman Polanski's next film will be entitled, "Close Encounters of the Third Grade"".

A Question: Why were so many women attracted to H.G.Wells (author of the Sci Fi Classic "War of the Worlds"? Because his skin smelt of Honey!!

What do you think yourself that Flying Saucers are? "My own feeling is that almost every sighting is either a mistake or hoax". Comment by Isaac Asimov in his book "The Planet that Wasn't".

INFINITY

Through swirling mists of cosmic dust,
And the grinding change of the earth's crust;
Through endless time, and infinite space,
Came all that is now upon her face.

The clouds of life forever there
And God's mighty hand, always fair;
Man gazes heavenward, in awe,
A witness to this wondrous law.

The sun above, symbol of life,
A speck of light in the ocean of time.
Gives off its rays and lights the sky,
Taunts man to ask the question, "Why?".

So life is one, never apart,
From the physical world all must depart,
To continue to learn and strive
And so become a master of life.

John W.B.Barklam.

ALL THE EIGHTS

Looking back through the years, one becomes aware that the figure eight is very popular with space/UFO films. As can be seen from the selection below:

- 1928: Fritz Langs film "Woman on the Moon".
- 1938: Orson Welles famour broadcast, a dramatised version of War of the Worlds by H.G.Wells.
- 1968: Stanley Kubricks epic film "2001 - a Space Odyssey".
- 1978: Steven Spielbergs record breaking film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

The only year to let us down is 1953, George Pals "War of the Worlds".

As for one of my favourites, Douglas Trumbells 1971 film "Silent Running" comes near the top of the list. The stars of the film, the Drones called Hughie and Dewey. Readers may remember this film from its Christmas showing on BBC TV.

IDENTITY

Through-waiting stars of cosmic dust,
 And the spinning change of the earth's crust,
 Through endless time, one infinite space,
 Come all that is now upon our face.

The clouds of life forever there
 And God's mighty hand, always fair,
 Man's hands have wrought, in awe,
 A witness to this wonderful law.

The sun, the symbol of life,
 A spark of light in the corner of time,
 Gives us the eye and light to see,
 Tangle man to see the question, "Why?"

So life is one, never apart,
 From the physical world all must depart,
 To return to the not-strive
 And so become a master of life.

John W. B. Kirk