

# SOUTH LINGS



U.F.O      STUDY  
GROUP

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1971

Sighting Reports.

Dome-shaped Scunthorpe UFO.The Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 25.11.70. Busman Melvyn Batty... (30), who lives at 56, Teale Street, Scunthorpe, said that he was walking from his home to shops in Frodingham Road last Friday morning when Paul (his son aged 3) pointed to the sky and asked "What's that?".

"I asked him if he meant the sun," said Mr. Batty. "Then I saw something silver in the sky. I thought it might have been a jet plane but then I noticed that it had no wings. It was dome-shaped and was going across the sky faster than an ordinary aeroplane without leaving a trail. It was a perfectly clear sky and ~~I~~ I'm sure I was not mistaken." The object he saw, appeared from the direction of Doncaster in the West and he watched it disappear into the East.

Mr. Batty said that he did not think too much about what he had seen until Sunday when his daughter, Julie (7) told him that she had seen a round ball in the sky.

He asked when she had seen it and Julie said it was on the Friday. Mr. Batty said that Julie had told him it looked like a round ball and it moved around and around in the sky before flying away.

Mr. Batty said that he would have mentioned the sighting earlier but he did not really expect people to believe him.

Neither RAF Manby nor RAF Scampton report having seen anything unusual at that time.

In June, however, an unidentified object that looked like the moon but smaller and moving across the sky was sighted by a number of people.

And last year, Scunthorpe police received four calls in the space of half an hour from people claiming to have seen an oval object about the size of the moon.

June 13th 1971. Letter from a man on Radio 4 PM programme, Wed. July 23rd. 1971.

11pm Sunday June 13th, four red circles, moving from east to west over London. Fully lit. A UFO?

Birthday boys got all lit up.The Scunthorpe Star. Friday, 13.8.71.

A flying saucer in Bottesford? Most people would laugh at the idea. But there was certainly something very strange going on in the early hours of Thursday morning last week.

Four people heard a muffled bang, a bright flash of blue light and sparks drifting over the parkland opposite Bottesford lane.

Two of the men who saw the 'thing' are members of the 50 Missile Regiment in Germany.

And whatever it was scared them so much that they wouldn't leave the house for over half an hour.

John Hoodless, home on leave from Minden in Germany was celebrating his 21st birthday with a couple of friends at his parents home in Bottesford lane.

"It was about two o'clock in the morning" said John.

"Admittedly we'd had a bit to drink but nothing much, when there was a bang, and a big bluish glow around the base of one of the big chestnut trees in the field over the road.

"It was lit up for about ten seconds and must have been 15 to 20 feet in length, then it just vanished."

John doesn't believe in flying saucers, neither does his friend, David French, who came over with him from Germany - but one guest who is not too sure is John Fisher, of West Street.

"It was so weird," he said. "I wanted to go out and have a look, but no-one would come with me.

"There was a crack like a rifle going off, when we saw a blue flash. It went to red and then like green sparks."

Other people at the party, John's sister Rita, and her husband Robert Taylor, both saw the strange lights.

The next day, while children played happily in the field, Robert went to the area where they had seen the lights but could find nothing.

"Around the tree where the light had rested there were a few branches that had been newly snapped off, but there were no burn marks or scorch marks," he said. "If we hadn't all seen it together we might have thought it never happened."

Case of the flying light. Stamford Mercury. 20.8.71.

Stamford police found themselves with an unusual case on their hands this week - the case of the flying light.

They received a report from RAF Wittering on Monday night of an unidentified flying object moving over Stamford.

It was described as an orange and gold - coloured light, without any definite shape or form, in the sky at about 5,000 feet, and moving east to west very slowly.

The station added that they had had more than one report of a sighting from members of the public.

It was first spotted shortly before midnight, but three hours later a police patrolman saw it over the George Hotel, Stamford.

One of the reports was made to RAF Wittering by Mr. P. Hodgson of 29 Cambridge Road, Stamford, who looked at the UFO through a telescope.

It was spotted by his wife as she was putting out milk bottles.

She said later that she got up again in the early morning and she could still see it, although it had moved.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson both gave a similar description of the object, although Mr. Hodgson was able to be more definite about its form.

"Through the telescope it appeared to give the impression of a golf ball - studded with pit marks", said his wife.

"But it was far too low in the sky to be a star."

The Weakest Link. Nigel Watson.

A Ufo report is only as strong as it's weakest link. Unfortunately with such a random phenomena many weak links become apparent. The very fact that even a suitable theory of their whereabouts is not available without even more weak links is all rather unconvincing to the sceptic.

One famous (or infamous) case history, is the Mantell incident, in which on the one hand, the authorities claimed in the final report ~~ing a UFO, which~~ <sup>by Project Saucer,</sup> that Mantell, in his F-51 pursuit plane, was ~~chasing~~ <sup>chasing</sup> a balloon. At a height ~~of 20,000 feet~~ <sup>of 20,000 feet</sup> Mantell ~~blackout~~ <sup>blackout</sup> but due to the lack of oxygen and ~~consequently died.~~ <sup>consequently died.</sup> On the other hand the ufologist may claim that Mantell was chasing a 'flying saucer' and was killed due to his closeness to the saucer's force field.

Since a skyhook research balloon is concrete, a flying saucer on the other side of the fence is random, and its weak links are soon picked out by authorities and organisations, and playing on them makes any objective study of them almost impossible for any respectable scientist who wants to preserve his reputation.

Yet another weak link is the ufologist himself. In psychical research many psychic happenings have been distorted. One case which took in many people was that of Borley Rectory. The Rectory was noted to be the most haunted house in England before World War 11, this was the subject of many articles and books by a well known psychical researcher Harry Price. The manifestations at the Rectory included stone throwing, apparitions of a nun and even a coach. However years later after Price's death an investigation by members of the Psychical Research Society revealed beyond doubt, that Price was guilty of misrepresentation of the facts of the case and that he himself was responsible for the stone throwing!

Whether or not any ufologists are guilty of such crimes I don't know, but certainly the documentation and serious study of ufo incidents should hopefully cut out some of the weak links along with the acknowledgement of the phenomenon by the scientific community.

Bibliography: The Truth about Flying Saucers by Aime Michel.

Book of Life part 31 article on (the human mind) The unquiet spirits.

The New Report On Flying Saucers article on the fanciful world of saucer books by Frederik Pohl.

The Word On The Moon. Bible Society News. Spring 1971.

Scriptures are now available to anyone who chances to visit the right spot on the moon.

The beginning was made by Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell in February when he left a fireproof packet containing the first versere of the book of Genesis in sixteen different languages - Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian, German, Japanese, Arabic, Ben-gali, Portuguese, Urdu, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Swahili, and Welsh. The first ten languages in the list cover more than 50% of the world's population. The material was prepared under the name of the United Bible Societies.

## UFOs and Space. Nigel Watson.

As the extraterrestrial hypothesis of the origin of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) has been bandied around by ufologists for many years, it is always interesting to note reports of UFOs by the crew of orbiting space craft, although like the following report they must be approached with caution.

The following extract is from 'Flying Saucers Are Hostile' by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour, pages 85 to 86:

"UFOs have also attacked Russian space vehicles. The world was amazed on October 12, 1964, when the large soviet spacecraft Voskhod 1, with its three-man crew, came back to earth in Central Asia after only sixteen orbits and only twentyfour hours aloft. The Soviet press had boldly proclaimed that Voskhod 1 would be ~~engaged~~ engaged in 'prolonged spaceflight'. What then had brought about an abrupt end to the flight of the Russian space vehicle?

The official word from Moscow was enigmatic, to say the least. The cosmonauts were quoted as having said they "had seen many interesting things and wanted to investigate them more fully."

What "interesting things" does a cosmonaut see? Sun, moon, stars, the surface of the earth - things which must by now be rather routine aerial sights. The whole statement carries with it the aura of having been officially prepared; it is as innocuous as possible and thereby serves as a cloak for the truth.

What may have been the 'truth' was printed in an account in a German newspaper. The author, S.R. Oilinger, claimed that his Moscow sources told him that Voskhod 1 "was repeatedly overtaken by extremely fast-flying discs which struck the craft violent, shattering blows with their magnetic fields...."

Oilinger also said that the early UFO books written by Major Donald E. Keyhoe have been recommended to Soviet cosmonauts as "interesting material for study" and suggested as being useful for "comparative study" in connection with the flight of Voskhod 1.

On March 18, 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Alexei Leonov stepped from Voskhod 1 to become the first man from earth to 'walk' in space. Then, for several hours, the Soviet spaceship lost all contact with the Soviet control stations. The downed ship was found in deep snow near Perm, eight-hundred-seventy-three miles northwest of the area where the astronauts had been scheduled to land. The world press carried stories of the Voskhod 1 coming down enveloped in flames, its outside antennae burnt off, its two man crew barely escaping with their lives.

A carefully controlled press conference was held by the astronauts on March 27. They persistently avoided questions asking them to confirm the report that they had been harassed by an unidentified spacecraft. They did admit sighting 'an unmanned satellite' about half a mile from their spacecraft at 5.12am on March 19. The astronauts also admitted that they had not been able to identify the object and that it had seemingly appeared shortly before they lost contact with the control stations.

Two important questions were left unanswered: Had the Soviet cosmonauts come down in a hurry to escape the UFO after it had broken their contact with the control stations? Or had the UFO knocked them out of orbit and forced them to land?"

The Soviet view of the above extract is as follows:

"The allegations that Voskhod 1 was attacked is utterly false. That ship fully carried out its mission and then returned to Earth. There was no scientific point in leaving it up any longer, though naturally the crew would have liked a longer stay.

It is ludicrous - even pitiful - for the writers to think that there is not-hing 'interesting' to see in space (apart of course from 'hostile flying saucers'). The paintings of Alexei Leonov have helped to show the world the wonders of Earth, stars and Moon, seen from outside the atmosphere.

The allegations about Leonov's trip are also absurd. His ship was never out of touch with ground stations - except when its orbit took it to the other side of the globe - and landed according to schedule. As for the 'enveloped with flames' remark, all spaceships are enveloped with flames, engendered by the heat of re-entry. This is caused by atmospheric friction, not saucer attack! "

Earthquakes. Research by two Queensland University scientists, led to the discovery that volcanic eruptions are preceded by changes in the earth's magnetic field in the neighbourhood of the volcano. This could lead to a breakthrough in predicting earthquakes.