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CIVILIAN SAUCER INTELLIGENCE OF NEW YORK

Public Meeting, Jan. 28, 1956  
Steinway Hall, 113 E. 57 St., N.Y.C.

"SAUCER LANDINGS AND LITTLE MEN"

Speaker: Ted Bloecher  
Research Dir. of C.S.I.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Mebane, Secretary-Treasurer, who described briefly the history and present status of C.S.I. of N.Y. There are no "experts" on little men, he went on to say, but Ted Bloecher perhaps qualifies as well as anyone could by virtue of his extensive critical study of several hundred reports of this kind.

Mr. Bloecher introduced his topic by pointing out at once its highly controversial character: while it is generally dismissed by the lay public as a mere joke, even among the better informed there is often a pronounced bias against the idea of "little men." But a case against the alleged saucer occupants on principle alone will not stand up: for, as the audience was reminded, those who have accepted an off-earth hypothesis as providing the most logical explanation to the reported unique appearance and behavior of UFO's must assume some intelligence responsible for their recent presence in the earth's atmosphere. And this presumably means some animate being of one type or another.

Reports from a great many places describing approximately similar incidents have now accumulated to an extent that warrants an airing of the issue. Mr. Bloecher then proceeded to recount numerous examples of alleged sightings of saucer occupants. In 1896 and 1897 there was a series of notable reports of unidentified aerial objects and in several of these cases the observers described seeing human occupants<sup>1/</sup>. The idea of an extraterrestrial source for these "airships" was entirely unthought of in 1896; indeed, numerous people came forth and modestly confessed to knowing the obscure genius who had invented and built the "airship." Of course, none of these claims was ever verified, and quite possibly the reported "passengers" were equally fictitious. Similarly unverifiable and subject to doubt--but strikingly similar to at least one contemporary report--is a story told in Cardiff, Wales in 1909, by a man named Lithbridge. For two months prior to this time unaccountable objects and lights in the sky had been reported in England, Ireland and Wales. Mr. Lithbridge said that on the night of May 18th, in the Caerphilly Mountains, he had seen a large "tube-shaped" object sitting on the grass beside the road. In it were two men wearing "heavy fur overcoats." When they saw Mr. Lithbridge, they spoke excitedly in a foreign language, and sailed away. Newspapermen visited the place and found trampled grass and a scattering of debris.<sup>2/</sup>

Between 1909 and 1947, if there were any reports of landings of unknown objects, they have not come to C.S.I.'s attention. In 1947, when "flying saucers" made their initial appearance, no "little men" were reported, but there were several accounts of alleged landings. Among those that have never been exposed as hoaxes was the St. Maries, Idaho report of July 3, when a Mrs. Walter Johnson and a number of other witnesses saw a group of eight washtub-shaped objects "as large as a 5-room house" speed into view, stop suddenly and settle into the woods. A search of the area failed to uncover any trace of them.<sup>3/</sup> A second interesting case came from Desolation Valley, California; on the night of Sept. 3-4, four campers saw a large grey object pass over with a swishing noise and a rush of warm air. The following morning they found a circular depression in the ground near their camp site, in the area from which the object had been seen to rise.<sup>4/</sup>

It was in 1949 that "little men" made their first appearance in the United States. On August 19 two Death Valley, California prospectors reported seeing a disc crash-land and two little men jump out. The men chased the beings but lost them in the dunes; when they had returned, the disc had disappeared.<sup>5/</sup> This case, as the first of a number of very similar ones, is important if it is not a hoax; the witnesses have not as yet been "exposed."

The next appearance of "little men" took place in the pages of Variety magazine in October of the same year, when Frank Scully began his now notorious tale of crashed discs and three-foot occupants. By the time his book appeared late in 1950,<sup>6/</sup> the story was already well-known: Scully's informant, one Silas Newton, had given a sensational address to the University of Denver students on March 8, 1950, whose reverberations were heard for some time. The numerous and obvious scientific absurdities of the story (some of which have been ably exposed by Menzel<sup>7/</sup>) caused it to be discredited from the first by most of the serious readers, but the most telling blow was not delivered until September, 1952, when J. P. Cahn, writing for TRUE magazine, punctured this story once and for all by exposing the shady character of Newton and his collaborator, "Dr." Gebauer.<sup>8/</sup> However, more recent developments have prompted the C.S.I. Research Section to speculate on the possibility that some genuine occurrence (possibly the Death Valley case) may have been responsible for the Scully-Newton-Gebauer hoax.

Immediately after the press carried Newton's Denver U. speech across the nation and the world, a horde of "little men" witnesses broke forth. Ray Dimmick, a dynamite salesman, said that he had seen a crashed saucer outside Mexico City in December, 1949, and described its diminutive pilots; his story was retracted the following day.<sup>9/</sup> George Koehler (who had arranged Newton's talk) had already told a tale of two crashed discs on the New Mexican border, which carried crews of two small men apiece. Soon afterward, Koehler's story was exposed as a hoax.<sup>10/</sup>

But then a more sober report appeared; it didn't mention "little men", but involved a low-flying object which hovered over a car. Dr. Craig Hunter reported that the incident took place on March 15, 1950, near Clearfield, Pennsylvania. Not reported in any of the news accounts in the papers was the fact that the object allegedly discharged a flare which exploded near Hunter, but without harming him. At the moment the flare was discharged, he maintained in an interview with Wm. C. Baggs of the Miami Daily News,<sup>11/</sup> he distinctly saw "images of human character" through one of the six ports in the object.

Among other reports that year of saucer landings or near-landings were two "scorch" cases from Texas: on April 8, near Amarillo, David Lightfoot was reportedly covered with an irritant spray upon touching a small disc-shaped object,<sup>12/</sup> and on April 20, in Lufkin, a lowflying disc, after flying around the car of Jack Robertson, released sparks which burned his face severely.<sup>13/</sup>

On July 2, 1950, a couple who had been fishing in Steep Rock Lake, Ontario reported seeing a disc on the water, with a crew of little "robot-like" men busy on top of it, apparently taking on water through a hose.<sup>14/</sup> The fact that this extraordinary story was originally published in the house organ of the witness's employers seems strong evidence in favor of its authenticity: a hoaxer would surely be expected to seek a wider and more gullible audience than his fellow employees, who would be in the best position to spot the flaws in a fraudulent yarn.

Another report of a "landing" of absolutely unique character was made on September 26, 1950, by four policemen in Philadelphia, who saw with amazement a six-foot gelatinous purple sphere settle into a field and then proceed to dissolve into nothingness before their eyes.<sup>15/</sup> This "saucer", if it may be called such, suggests something organic, rather than mechanical.

1951 brought only one report of a saucer occupant: in December, in Red Springs, N.C., Sam Coley and his two children reported a low-hovering disc with a "human" occupant inside. When Coley was interviewed by the State Defense Director and the local police chief, the latter at least "lost his skepticism."<sup>16/</sup>

In the spring of 1952 occurred the well-known Linke observation in East Germany. A former mayor of an east German town, Herr Linke had never heard of saucers before his report, which described two aluminum-clad occupants of a vessel described as a huge "warming-pan without a handle."<sup>17/</sup>

Although the month of July, 1952 brought forth more UFO reports than any other month in history, it should be noted that it wasn't until August that many near-landings, and actual landings complete with little men, occurred. The first was from Garden City, Texas on August 4; a ranch-woman named Figma Rogers saw a 15-foot wide "turtle-shaped" device hovering above the ground.<sup>18/</sup> Three days later, James Allen of West Lumberton, N.C., said an 8-foot saucer grazed his chimney and landed in his yard. A "small man about 30 inches tall" emerged, but when Mr. Allen inquired whether he was hurt, he climbed back in and took off.<sup>19/</sup> The famous "Florida scoutmaster" case took place on August 19; the details are too well-known to give here.<sup>20/</sup> In spite of the protagonist's poor reputation for reliability, the testimonies of the three boy scouts seem to give the case a strong bid for legitimacy. On August 25, numerous landings or near-landings took place, including the Pittsburg, Kansas affair, in which a man named Bill Squires saw a low-hovering disc of peculiar design with a "human" pilot visible through one of its windows; this case is included among the Air Force's 12 "good unknowns" in the Project Bluebook Special Report No. 14, released October 25, 1955.<sup>21/</sup> Other near-landings came that day from Maxatawny, Pa. and from Watkins Glen, New York, where an object was reportedly seen to dive into a lake.<sup>22,23/</sup> Two days later, "a big round thing about 30 feet in diameter, with a dome", glowing blue, landed in a field near Wellington, Ohio; the witness approached within ten yards before it took off.<sup>24/</sup> On the 29th, another landing was reported near West Palm Beach, in the same area as the "scoutmaster case." A "coin-shaped" object with lights around the rim, was seen to land in the woods, lighting up the bushes around it.<sup>25/</sup> Both of these cases, not widely known, appear quite credible. This series of American landing reports was climaxed on September 12th with the famous and sensational story of the Flatwoods, West Virginia monster, one of the best investigated landing cases. Several researchers made field trips to Sutton to question the witnesses and examine the landing site, and all came away with a distinct impression that there was a quality of truthfulness about the tale.<sup>26/</sup>

During this same period, there were two reports from Italy: one, a saucer landing supposedly photographed in the Bernina Alps, was soon exposed as fraudulent<sup>27/</sup>, and the other, at Modena sometime later in the fall, seems questionable. Here, it was said that three "masked" figures emerged from a large disc and spoke incomprehensibly, one phrase sounding like "warren firg unch!"<sup>28/</sup>

There were two alleged American "contacts" during 1952 which are described in books; details are omitted since C.S.I. considers these to be works of fiction.<sup>29/</sup>

1953 had only one major report of "little men". On March 20, and again on May 20, according to the story told later, two miners had seen a disc at the junction of the Jordon and Marble Creeks in Butte County, California. On June 20, one of the miners, John Q. Black, again saw the object and its 4-foot occupant at the same spot; the little man, who had been fetching a pail of water, jumped into the craft and took off as soon as he became aware of Black's presence. After the witness made the account known, it was generally expected that the visitation would be repeated again on July 20th; when the reappearance failed to take place, Black was branded a hoaxer, though he stoutly stuck to his original story. In

the light of the witness's good character for reliability, the C.S.I. researchers are of the opinion that the story is genuine.<sup>30/</sup>

Another landing of interest was reported on October 25 of that year, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jimmy Milligan reported that a flat, bullet-shaped object came to rest in a field after almost striking his car. He got out to examine the device and was about to touch it when it suddenly ascended and disappeared from view, making a noise like a sewing machine. The report received little newspaper attention, but the accounts given in local papers appear convincing.<sup>31/</sup>

The year 1954 brought an unprecedented outbreak of reported saucer landings and occupants of all sizes and descriptions. Only a selection of these can be mentioned here. The alleged Peekskill, N.Y. landing of "saucer girls" in February is picturesque, but too scantily documented to evaluate.<sup>32/</sup> Also in February came two questionable stories from the British Isles: an alleged landing (with photographs) of a tall "Martian" in Scotland,<sup>33/</sup> and the Coniston photos of a low-flying saucer taken by Stephen Darbyshire.<sup>34/</sup> C.S.I. feels that neither of these deserves any confidence at the present.

On July 2, a young man from Garson, Ontario, came forth with a tale that had all the earmarks of a psychotic hallucination: a saucer landed and discharged three 13-foot insect-like creatures which made (by telepathy) some horrible unspecified demands. He fainted; when he recovered, they had gone. On investigation it turned out that witness had a propensity for telling tall tales, indicating that the report was entirely unreliable.<sup>35/</sup> This case deserves special mention because of its uniqueness: in all the landing cases that have come to our notice, this is the only one that describes totally non-human saucer beings, and it is the only one that can clearly be accounted for in terms of abnormal psychology.

The interplanetary fever hit Europe with a bang on August 20 when two Norwegian sisters reported an encounter with a spaceman. They were picking berries when a dark-skinned, black-haired man, apparently in high good humor, conversed unintelligibly with the women and then led them to his "saucer," into which he climbed and took off. At first the affair was blamed on an American helicopter pilot, but this explanation soon collapsed. To date, no one has exposed the two sisters as hoaxers.<sup>36/</sup>

Thereafter, France became the preferred landing-field of the saucers. In the months of September and October, over 100 landings, with variously described humanoid pilots, were reported. Many may be suspected of being out-and-out hoaxes, but there are at least a few seemingly coherent cases which may very well have been actual. Unfortunately, C.S.I.'s material on these cases is often too sketchy to warrant drawing any conclusions from them: although hundreds of French newspaper clippings were made available to the Research Section by Jim Moseley, the French reporters usually appeared to be more interested in discussion than investigation. To list even the major cases would take too long. Among the stronger and more detailed cases may be cited the Quarouble report of Sept. 10: at 10:30 p.m. on that day, Marius de Wilde saw a "dark mass" on the railway tracks by his home, and two little helmeted figures "without arms" racing toward it; the object took off after taking aboard these creatures and disappeared at a terrific rate, glowing reddish-orange and leaving a trail of smoke.<sup>37/</sup> On the same evening, M. Antoine Mazaud was returning home from his fields in Mourieras when he saw a smallish man, wearing a helmet, approaching him in the dusk; the "man" approached Mazaud, embraced him, and quickly departed. A moment later the amazed farmer saw an elongated object rise slowly from the field, gaining altitude and momentum as it ascended.<sup>38/</sup> Neither of these two witnesses were aware of each other's experiences at the time.

The reports continued, amidst a background of "ordinary" sightings in unprecedented number. On Sept. 19, Yves David of Poitiers had an experience similar to that of M. Mazaud: this case furnishes us with another sample of extra-terrestrial conversation. M. David heard the phrases; "Oumph...Grobrezakri... Trobobranana!" This being was also wearing a helmet.<sup>39/</sup> On Sept. 24 came a report from Portugal of three tall saucer occupants who were seen picking up twigs and stones.<sup>40/</sup> The next day, at Marcilly-sur-Vienne, in France, five quarry workmen alleged they saw a saucer with a dome land and observed its occupant, who was about 5 feet tall. When they approached, the occupant, who wore an opaque helmet, didn't jump back into the saucer, but simply disappeared from the scene gradually, like the Cheshire cat. When he had completely faded away, the object began ascending in short, jumpy spurts; at about 100 feet, it discharged a cloud into which it disappeared.<sup>41/</sup>

On the 26th came another report of a "little man" with no visible arms, seen by Mme. Leboeuf in Chabeuil. She thought at first it was a "new-type plastic scarecrow," for it appeared to be wrapped in a cellophane bag. When it began to approach her, she fled in fright and hid behind a hedge with her head in her hands. (This ostrich-like reaction impressed the Research Section with its quality of naive genuineness.) A few moments later she saw an object rise swiftly. In her garden, where the device had apparently rested, searchers found a 10-foot circular impression in the ground. The cornstalks within the area had been flattened, and several branches of trees had been broken overhead.<sup>42/</sup>

On Oct. 2nd or 3rd, a "flying soupdish" landed on M. Garreau's farm in Chaleix; two perfectly human occupants got out, spoke in an unknown tongue and patted his dog, re-entered their machine and took off.<sup>43/</sup> On the 4th and 5th of October, literally dozens of landings took place all over France, including several at Vassy<sup>44/</sup>, one at Finistere<sup>45/</sup>, another at Bressuire<sup>46/</sup>, and another near Vron.<sup>47/</sup> On the 12th, a curious object with four wheels was seen by Franzesco Beuc on the farm where he worked on Orchamps-Vennes; nearby was a 5-foot helmeted being who jumped into the device, which rolled along the road for some distance before it gradually ascended.<sup>48/</sup> On October 13 there came an interesting report: M. Laugère, who was employed by a diesel oil store in Montluçon, saw a cylindrical object near the station. Nearby were two hairy creatures, or figures in hairy coats; they jabbered unintelligibly, hopped into the cylinder and took off. M. Laugère thought he heard the words "gasoil."<sup>49/</sup> What makes this case so striking is its great similarity to the Welsh story of 1909.

By November, landings in France were on the wane, but they were increasing in Italy. Signora Rosa Dainelli of Bucine reported that on November 1, two small men with enormous moustaches had snatched flowers from her hand and had taken off in a spindle-shaped machine. The witness is considered highly reliable.<sup>50/</sup> On the 4th, the entire village of Monza turned out to throw vegetables at several glowing "little men" in helmets clustered about their vessel on a playground in the village; one villager tried to sic his boxer dog onto the creatures, but the animal got his signals crossed and attacked his master instead.<sup>51/</sup> This case noteworthy because of the number of witnesses involved.

But the most interesting landings were yet to come; during the closing months of November and December, 1954, a series of reports out of Venezuela threw a completely new light on saucer landings and saucer occupants. The first publicized incident took place in Petare, a suburb of Caracas, in the early a.m. of November 28. Two meat delivery men were amazed to see a luminous disc hovering a few feet above the street. They jumped out of their truck to investigate and came upon a grotesque little 4-foot creature with a hairy body and large, glowing eyes. Impulsively, the driver of the truck seized the creature to throw it into his truck, but he found it unexpectedly heavy and strong: it popped out of his

grasp with ease, sending him sprawling. As the creature began to advance on the driver, who was now using a knife, but could make no impression, his companion saw two other dwarfish creatures approaching with dirt in claw-like hands. One jumped into the craft through an open port and flashed a bright light on the truck driver; then the other two bipeds joined the third and the object took off as if "shot from a catapult."<sup>52/</sup> The publication of this story, which aroused panic among the citizens of Petare, brought to light another case: a printer told of seeing a similar craft hovering a few feet above the ground in the Amacuro Delta region about the 3rd or 4th of the month; he, too, had seen dwarfish, furry bipeds with extremely large eyes, collecting "something."<sup>53/</sup>

In the course of the subsequent three weeks, at least four other similar descriptions of alien visitors appeared in Venezuelan newspapers.<sup>54/</sup> (None of these accounts appeared in domestic newspapers.) In two of the other four cases, aggressive hostility was allegedly displayed by the bipeds and in both cases the victims were hospitalized with lacerations and other minor injuries, including severe shock. This would surely be carrying a hoax to an incredible degree; the explanation of fraud, while not completely ruled out, appears to be quite implausible here. In all of these South American cases, we find two new aspects of reported observations of UFO occupants: the first is a consistent series of similar descriptions, heretofore lacking in such cases, and the second is the element of aggression. In all cases the creatures were described as hairy, 3-4 feet high, with long arms and claw-like hands, enlarged heads with a pair of enormous eyes, and wearing what appeared to be something similar to a loin cloth.

Lack of time prevented the speaker from giving details of the next series of saucer-landings, which took place in 1955 in Kentucky and Ohio during the month of August. A most significant feature of these was that the creatures had practically the same physical appearance as the South American ones, with the added feature of a gray-green luminescence. The most widely publicised of these 1955 reports was the sensational Hopkinsville, Kentucky case on August 21st, when a farmhouse full of people was "besieged" all night by more than a dozen green-glowing creatures with enormous eyes, rake-like hands, and the same sort of agility exhibited by the Venezuelan creatures. (The hostilities here were begun by the humans, who deliberately fired a shotgun at one of the extraterrestrials.) So large a number of saucer occupants has never before been seen at one time. Local newspaper accounts give the impression that this story is unlikely to be a hoax.<sup>55/</sup>

Coming immediately on the heels of the Kentucky incident were the obviously similar reports from Cincinnati, which Leonard Stringfield has discussed in detail in Orbit.<sup>56/</sup> At the time the talk was given, five months after these events, no further saucer-landing reports had been received by C.S.I.

The speaker concluded by directing the audience's attention to the enlargements of news clippings displayed on the wall, in which details of many of the cases were given.

Following Mr. Bloecher's talk there was a brief question and answer period. Perhaps one of the most interesting questions discussed was: "Suppose you were placed in a similar position to that of one of the alleged "little men" observers, and you found yourself confronted with alien creatures from space-craft; exactly what could you do to prove that you were telling the truth?"

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## S U P P L E M E N T

The following notable "landing reports", whose claims to credence are in some cases very strong, were omitted from Mr. Bloecher's talk because of the limited time available, but are briefly noted here. (A large number of reports, principally from France and Italy, remain unmentioned, because of scanty information or apparently dubious character. Mention of many of these will be found in the cited references.)

July 23, 1950: Guyancourt airfield, France. 2 15-foot saucers with windows around edge hover just off ground--2 normal men get out to make repairs, and briefly answer two questions in French before taking off. (J. Guieu, op. cit., pp. 231-232.)

May 21, 1952: near Peoria, Illinois. "Huge" blue-luminous saucer crash-lands, breaking trees and leaving "enormous indenture" in sand--gone by the following day. (Saucerian, Sept., 1954, p. 21.)

Late summer, 1952: saucer allegedly captured by U.S. Government--truth of story uncertain. (James W. Moseley in Saucerian, Jan. 1955, pp. 32-6.)

Oct. 27, 1952: Marignane airport, France. Brief landing of 15-foot-long spindle-shaped craft with 4 lighted windows. (A. Michel, op.cit., 181-90.)

Jan. 4, 1954: Marignane airport, France. Brief landing of luminous sphere; peculiar metallic debris allegedly left behind. (Guieu, op. 134-5.)

Sept. 2, 1954: Coldwater, Kansas. 12-year-old John Swaim sees little man run to hovering saucer on father's farm--small footprints found by investigators. (Saucerian, Spring 1955, pp. 12-13.)

Oct. 9, 1954: Muenster, Germany. Small blue-luminous cigar hovers few feet off ground; 4 3.5-foot midgets with large heads and "rubber clothing" observed for 10 min. (Baltimore News-Post and other newspapers, Oct. 11.)

Oct. 14, 1954: Southend (London), England. Luminous 12-ft. "tank"-like object equipped with "corrugated tube" seen in road. (Saucerian, Spring 1955, pp. 24-5.)

Oct. 21, 1954: Ranton, England. 2 "stern-looking" men with high foreheads, long hair, and transparent helmets seen in low-hovering domed disc. (Flying Saucer News, Winter 1954-5.)

Nov. 7(?), 1954: Nucro, Sardinia. 15-foot "scaly" saucer with glass dome lands briefly. (H. T. Wilkins, Flying Saucers Uncensored, pp. 237-8.)

Nov. 10, 1954: Porto Alegre, Brazil. 2 normal men with long hair emerge from grounded disc and make friendly gestures. (APRO Bulletin, Nov. 1954.)

Nov. 14, 1954: Curitiba, Brazil. 3 luminous-clothed beings examine gravel on railroad track, then take off in oval saucer. (ibid.; both on p. 7.)

Nov. 14, 1954: Isola, Italy. Little men in metal helmets emerge from cigar and steal rabbits from hutches before the owner's eyes. (ibid.)

Aug. 28, 1954: Boston Creek, Ontario. Large discoidal object lands briefly, crushing grass. (Saucerian, Jan. 1955, pp. 25-6.)

Some time in 1950: Bahia Blanca, Argentina. Crashed saucer complete with charred little men allegedly found; many details, drawings, photograph of hovering saucer. (Questionable because of similarity to Scully story.) (APRO Bulletin, Aug. 1955.)