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SHOULD 'MEN IN BLACK' REPORTS BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY?

UFO TERMINOLOGY - SOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

BOOK REVIEWS

E D I T O R I A L

The Image is the Message

A revolt appears to be growing against those who want to make the UFO scene 'respectable'. (The leaders of this revolt always put the word 'respectable' in quotes, as it makes it seem so disreputable.) Those who resist the move to respectability deplore that some UFO groups and journals are getting away from the grass-roots of old-time ufology. This is an understandable human reaction when people feel that something they are involved with is moving out of their personal influence. Respectable UFO study means properly organised teams of investigators, committees, sub-committees, and perhaps the most unpalatable of all, the hearing of different viewpoints.

But this much feared respectability is mostly a question of image. "If we project the right image we will get the serious scientific interest we need," say the 'serious investigators'. The image can be projected, we are told, by such simple means as dropping the phrase 'flying saucer', or by getting rid of the crackpot fringe. Well this would help of course, so would improving the quality of UFO journals, especially in their appearance and production. The FSR is a fine journal, but does its layout have to be quite so stodgy? As for getting rid of the crackpots; even if they could be defined with any unanimity, do we really want to get rid of them? They are often very entertaining, and sometimes come up with some valid thoughts. For instance, would the work that is being done on the psychological implications of contact stories have been started had it not been for the continued insistence of some extremists on this topic?

The new image that is needed is not a re-vamped, ultra scientific image for the investigators, but a new image for the phenomenon itself. By this I do not mean a redesigned trendy UFO by Lord Snowdon! The image of the UFO now is of a subject inextricably linked with small cliques of terribly sincere nuts. No matter how scientific they are, how many retired field-m Marshals

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SHOULD 'MEN IN BLACK' REPORTS BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY?

A brief discussion of the problem by John Harney

Introduction

People who witness UFOs and those who attempt to investigate their reports often report strange experiences which appear to have some connection with the UFO mystery. This article is mainly concerned with one aspect of the problem, which is at present being much discussed among ufologists, that is the stories of witnesses or investigators who claim to have been threatened or warned to keep silent about their sightings and/or theories by mysterious visitors and telephone callers. The main questions to be dealt with are:-

1. How serious is the problem?
2. What are the best methods of attempting to discover the cause of such reports?

Brief History of MIB Reports

The first report of the MIB variety in the post-war phase of UFO activity is generally agreed to have been contained in statements made by Harold A. Dahl to Kenneth Arnold during the latter's investigation of the alleged Maury Island sighting of June 21, 1947 (1). According to Dahl, the day after his sighting a man called at his home early in the morning and invited him to breakfast. Dahl said that he was not surprised at this, for men often called on people in his type of work early in the morning for the purpose of buying salvaged logs. The man wore a black suit, was of medium height, and there was nothing unusual about his appearance. He appeared to be about forty years of age. Dahl accepted his invitation and noted that the man drove a 1947 Buick Sedan. The man suggested that Dahl should drive his own car and follow him. On the way downtown Dahl failed to get the license number of the car he was following. The two men went to a cafe and ordered breakfast. As soon as they sat down the man immediately began telling Dahl, in minute and accurate detail, the events of the previous day when he and others had witnessed the UFOs. The man then told Dahl that if he loved his family and didn't want anything to happen to his general welfare, he would not discuss his experience with anyone.

The items underlined in the above account refer to details which recur again and again in more recent MIB reports. The Maury Island case, which is much too involved and complicated to summarise here, is still argued over today, but the U.S. Air Force claims that it was a hoax, devised by Harold Dahl and his colleague, Fred L. Crisman. Ruppelt has described it as "the dirtiest hoax in the UFO history." (2) Dahl and Crisman are said to have confessed to the Air Force investigators.

The fullest account of the Maury Island affair is given in "The Coming of the Saucers", by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer. If any open-minded person reads Arnold's account carefully, he will find it very difficult to believe that Crisman and Dahl were able to arrange all the mysterious incidents described by him. Hoax or not, the whole story contains elements which crop up again and again in later incidents, quite apart from the MIB incident described.

The classic MIB case is that involving Albert K. Bender, who closed down his organisation, the International Flying Saucer Bureau, on the orders of "three men in black". The story circulating at the time was to the effect that Bender was studying his collection of UFO data when the solution to the mystery suddenly occurred to him. The MIB visited him, assured him that his guess was correct and warned him not to divulge the secret to anyone else. Bender refused to give reasons for closing the IFSB, but hinted that a government agency was responsible. Bender's case, along with other stories of a similar nature, received great publicity in the UFO world, and Gray Barker wrote

a book on this theme. (3)

In 1963, Bender published his own account of the affair.(4) Far from clearing up the mystery, Bender's story only served to create more confusion, for in it he claimed that the MIB were beings from another planet who were visiting the Earth at that time for the purpose of extracting a substance from sea water to take back to their own planet for use as food. Anyone who discovered too much about their activities was silenced, in order that the aliens could work undisturbed.

Naturally, even the most eager UFO believers found the story unconvincing, and it seems to have been generally assumed that Bender had--possibly through overwork--become the victim of an elaborate delusion, a delusion made worse by his interest in horror stories and occultism.

However, stories of witnesses and investigators being "silenced", either by sinister, black-garbed figures or, more convincingly, by ordinary looking men who purported to be government officials persisted through the years until the vast increase in UFO reports since about 1964 brought with it some quite convincing reports of attempts to intimidate witnesses.

At the present time controversy rages concerning the findings of John Keel, who claims that the MIB are very real and very active. Keel has published a number of articles on the subject(5) and reports which tend to support his claims are available from other sources.(6)

Local Appeal for Information

In the last issue of this Bulletin we appealed for unpublished information concerning reports of visits by the MIB and other odd experiences in connection with UFO sightings and events. This appeal for information was published in the Liverpool Echo(7) and Broadcast on BBC Radio Merseyside. Only three letters were received in response and these were merely requests for information.

However, the possibility that some victims of such experiences may be deluded was mentioned in the Echo and in the radio interview. Nobody likes to think that he is subject to delusions, so to begin with we are at once faced with an obstacle to any serious enquiry into this matter. An obvious question is:- Why did we receive no local reports of the MIB or suchlike, in view of the adequate publicity given to the appeal? Possible answers are:

1. Because there were no such experiences to report.
2. There were such incidents but the victims did not report them (a) because they did not want to be thought of as being deluded, or because they were afraid of possible damaging or undesirable publicity, or (b) because the MIB would not let them!

Needless to say, the first alternative is likely to prove to be the most popular explanation, but it must be pointed out that the technique used locally is very unlikely to be successful, whichever of the alternative answers given above happens to be the truth. The approach favoured by John Keel, that of personally interviewing many UFO witnesses, listening sympathetically to them and gaining their confidence, seems more likely to pay dividends.

The Two Main Attitudes to the Problem

These may be briefly stated thus:-

1. Genuine reports of witnesses being silenced, having photographs confiscated etc., are due to the activities of government security agencies or individuals posing, for some unknown reason, as government agents. All other such reports are hoaxes or delusions.

2. Some of the reports are genuine, but theories about government agents or people impersonating them are inadequate to account for important details given in the reports. The exact nature and purpose of such incidents remain a mystery.

If we now look at a few cases it may help us to chose between these two alternatives or, perhaps, to decide to continue to keep both of them in mind, in view of the lack of conclusive proof one way or the other.

The Wanaque Reservoir Police and the "Air Force Officer"

A very detailed investigation of the UFO sightings and associated incidents in the vicinity of Wanaque Reservoir, New Jersey was made by Lloyd Mallan.(8) Among the chief witnesses were members of the Wanaque Reservoir Police. Mallan found that they seemed reluctant to talk and eventually discovered one of the main reasons for this state of affairs.

After the sighting of a UFO over Wanaque Reservoir on January 11, 1966, Sergeant Ben Thompson, of the Wanaque Reservoir Police, reported the incident to the Government and claimed that they sent an investigator who interviewed the policemen at Lakeland High School. The investigator is said to have insulted them and told them that they were just seeing things. Sergeant Thompson and other policemen who claimed to have been there at the time said that the man was an Air Force officer.

Mallan made exhaustive investigations of this claim and found that Project Blue Book said they had no official report of any incidents at Wanaque as, apparently, they had received no official requests for an investigation. As a result of his investigations, Mallan came to the following conclusion:

"Certainly no Air Force officer gathered the UFO observers into the auditorium of Lakeland Regional High School to deride them about their sighting. Nor was any officer of the Army or Navy responsible for this situation. Such a situation, by the way, is normally outside the province of the FBI."

Mallan also observed: "When it comes right down to the hard facts, the only official UFO investigators are those under the supervision of the Air Force Project Blue Book."

None of the Reservoir Police officers could remember the name of the Air Force officer they alleged had spoken to them at the high school. Also, Major Harold O'Connell, Base UFO Investigator at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, observed to Mallan: "Those Wanaque police officers must be pretty poor cops if they didn't get the name of the investigator who was interviewing them. Or especially ask for his I.D. Card--which is an absolute identification of his military service."

It seems that in this case all the evidence suggests that no official investigator actually interviewed the police officers. Amateur investigators from the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena had visited the area, but they could not be held responsible for the incident. For amateurs there is obviously no future in going about the country insulting policemen!

It is interesting to note that Mallan does not seem to have been able to obtain any details of the alleged encounter between the policemen and the Air Force officer. In view of the officers' emotional reactions to this event, one would expect a somewhat fuller report from them.

Karl Veich and the Man in Black

Karl Veich, West German representative of the International UFO Bureau, had been working on a UFO report which he considered to be important. He was planning to post it next day to the IUF0B, when the phone rang. A voice told him: "Mr Veich, it would be unwise of you to mail that report." Veich asked who was calling and the voice said: "A voice of caution and wisdom that tells you now--do not mail that report! Nothing but harm will come of it."

Veich posted the report the next day. Shortly after noon a dark-complexioned man, 30 to 35 years old, entered his shop (Veich is a chemist.) and ordered a bottle of aspirin. The man then asked Veich why he had posted the report after he had been told not to. The man refused to identify himself and left the shop. Veich ran to the front of his shop and saw a black car speeding away. A strange feature of the car was that the windows were almost

totally black. As any ufologist who has not already read this report will have guessed, Veich's UFO report never reached its destination.

Different Aspects of the Problem in the U.S.A.

Although stories about the harrassment of UFO witnesses and investigators have come from various countries ever since 1947, they have been particularly persistent in the U.S.A. Such stories often sounded very convincing. Witnesses claimed to have been visited by men purporting to be FBI agents, or dressed in Air Force uniform. These men confiscated UFO photographs and warned witnesses to keep quiet about their sightings. Naturally, many of the UFO groups took these reports seriously and complained bitterly to the Air Force.

In January 1967, however, ufologists got quite a shock when Colonel George Freeman, the Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book, revealed that the U.S. Air Force was just as annoyed about the mystery men as the ufologists were. (9) Colonel Freeman cited several cases. A man bearing credentials from the North American Air Defence saw Mr Rex Heflin, who had taken a series of UFO pictures in California in 1965, and demanded the originals. The photographs were never returned and NORAD denied any knowledge of the incident. In February, 1960, Mr Joe Perry, of Grand Blanc, Michigan, took a similar set of pictures and was visited by two men posing as FBI agents who confiscated his photographs. Colonel Freeman denied that these incidents were connected with the Air Force UFO investigation and was quoted as saying: "We haven't been able to find out anything about these men. We would sure like to catch one."

On the other hand, investigators have recently brought to light many incidents of a more unlikely character. These include stories of visits from mysterious "men in black", who are said to drive about in black cars which are very old models but are nevertheless said to look brand new. These cars either have false licence plates or none at all, yet are completely successful in evading the police. The MIB are also said to drive up to witnesses' homes at night and take flash pictures of their houses with the aid of cumbersome-looking cameras mounted on tripods. In other words, most of the reported actions of the MIB appear~~ed~~ to be completely nonsensical.

One of the contributing factors to the present confusion about this problem is the very conservative approach to the UFO mystery by many of the more influential American enthusiasts. Such a statement will seem incredible to anyone with little knowledge of the subject, but it is this conservatism which has probably led to the loss of many interesting reports and has succeeded in distorting the true picture of the world-wide UFO mystery through the years.

Published accounts of the work of Project Blue Book have made it plain that reports of UFO occupants were either thrown into the nearest waste paper basket or placed in a file marked "C.P." (Crackpot). The more serious UFO organisations tended to adopt a somewhat similar policy with the result that the more bizarre aspects of the mystery were for long neglected or left to groups which were notorious for their lack of competence and objectivity. However, it seems that the situation has recently improved, although one suspects that the amount of weight which investigators give to each report depends overmuch on how far the report fits in with their theories. It appears that some ufologists, many of them comparatively new to the subject, have now almost completely discarded the popular approach of collecting data to support a particular theory, (e.g. UFOs are spaceships from other planets; UFOs are occult phenomena; otherwise inexplicable UFO reports are hoaxes and delusions, etc.). The present fashion seems to be a recognition of the fact that the UFO phenomena are extremely complex and have apparently endless ramifications.

How Serious is the Problem?

Critics will say that in publishing this article we are falling into the trap of being sidetracked from the main UFO problem by apparently giving credence to reports which are merely the results of hoaxes, paranoid delusions, exaggerations and plain lies. It is true that the problem of assessing the reliability of the reports is a formidable one, in view of the lack of physical evidence and the unpredictability of the reported phenomena. In the field of psychical research, Hansell (10) has described in detail how highly intelligent people, with scientific training and experience, can be fooled by faulty memory, cheating and trickery in experiments, wishful thinking and other factors which make psychic experiences and experiments seem more impressive than they really are. As many of the alleged MIB experiences seem to involve phenomena of the kind familiar to psychic researchers, Hansell's criticisms could no doubt profitably be borne in mind when investigating such reports.

Whatever the cause of MIB and similar reports, they should be studied seriously along with all the other phenomena associated with UFOs.

How Should the Problem be Tackled?

The reports by John Keel concerning the MIB and other strange occurrences have attracted a good deal of criticism and, in some quarters, amusement. Flying Saucer Review reports that there is said to be a group of scientists interested in UFOs who burst into fits of uncontrollable laughter whenever they see a John Keel document. It also seems that some of the criticisms have been couched in terms more appropriate to the wilder extremes of politics than to scientific enquiry. There is only one way to deal with the startling claims of John Keel and others who have written in similar vein and the Editor of Flying Saucer Review has summed it up neatly thus:- (11)

"If chair-borne critics, writers, UFO-buffs or laughing scientists are urged to say Mr Keel is wrong, then it is incumbent upon them to get out and about and to thoroughly investigate his claims. If they do not do this they will find themselves on insecure ground."

When enquiring into such reports it should of course be realised that some of them can be quite easily explained. On the one hand, there are people who become mentally ill and suffer from delusions; on the other hand, there is evidence that in some countries government agencies do interfere with amateur UFO investigations.

Conclusions

The foregoing article is just a brief summary of the "associated phenomena" situation, with particular reference to MIB reports. We have not probed deeply into the subject but the following conclusions may be tentatively stated:

1. Some of the reports are worthy of serious investigation.
2. Investigation work already carried out should be checked by other investigators, where possible.
3. Attempts should be made to find rational explanations for individual reports.
4. Newcomers to the subject should be warned of the possible psychological dangers in becoming involved with this aspect of the subject.

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UFO TERMINOLOGY

Some Comments and Suggestions

by Jacques Bonabot

I welcomed the comments written by Mr Allen H.Greenfield, of Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., concerning the term "Alternate Realities" (Merseyside UFO Bulletin, Vol.1, No.4).

I believe it is very important to compose a list of terms with exact definitions. Such a task can only be accomplished by the exchange of suggestions and with the analysis of each definition with regard to the scientific, biological and psychological knowledge which we possess at the present time.

For example, I have been searching since the beginning of 1966 for a good term which has as its definition: "Study of all phenomena or incidents which occur in the atmosphere or outer space, are of extraterrestrial nature and are connected with the study of so-called Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), or "Flying Saucers".

Yes, I know the term "Ufology", but is this exact? It is only the abbreviation UFO with the suffix -ology (or study).

I was very happy to find in the Modern American Dictionary, which was prepared by the American College Dictionary, the term "flying saucer". Here is the definition I found in that book, which is published by Dell Publishing Co. Inc., 750 Third Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. (page 193): "Any of various disk-shaped planes or missiles allegedly seen flying at high speeds and altitudes."

From another source, in UFO Guide 1947-67 (Rainbow Press), the Editor gives the same definition with the addition of "...often with extreme changes in speed and direction, and generally assumed to be from outer space." But, in this version the words "...planes or missiles..." are omitted, giving to the term its full "extraterrestrial" nature. According to the UFO Guide 1947-67 this second definition comes from the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, unabridged version (New York, 1966, page 549).

I have devised the following definition for the term "Alternate Reality": Description of a phenomenon, or incident, in words or ideas depending on the powers of observation and expression of a witness, his knowledge of physics and other scientific subjects and his knowledge of the world in general.

Concerning the term "Binding Force", from Wilbert Smith's theory, I consulted many scientific sources. My conclusion after

this is that "Binding Force" is the same term as "Cohesion Force."

Cohesion force is the interaction force existing in the molecular structure of gaseous, liquid or solid bodies. This force, electromagnetic in nature, decreases from the inner parts of a mass to its superficial parts. Variation of the cohesion force occurs only with temperature and/or pressure variations.

So (I think) an atomic explosion or any change in the geophysical field of the earth could bring a change in the total cohesion, or binding, force result (or vector) of a body.

The term ufology, as I have written above, is inadequate for use in scientific language. I know two terms which are used for ufology in some publications and discussions:

(a) Clineologie (in the Italian publication CLYPEUS) from clineus - shield, this derived from old Roman UFO reports of glowing or flaming flying shields, and ologie - study.

(b) Aéroformologie (from a French ufologist) from aéro and form and ologie - study.

I have tried to devise a term etymologically. For this I used the terms terra, objetum and extra, with the suffix ology, for study. I arrived at the word "exterobjectology". But such a term is too "sophisticated" for conversational use.

(Jacques Bonabot is Director of the Groupement pour l'Etude des Sciences d'Avant-Garde, 17 Rosendael 17, Bruges, Belgium).

B O O K R E V I E W S

Warnings from Flying Friends by Arthur Shuttlewood. Portway Press, Warminster, Wiltshire. 26/-

"UFOs not Bourgeois Journalist Fabrications", "Young Drug-Takers Groped and Grovelled", "'Earth Time is Desperately Short' Warning", "Anatomy of a Holocaust--and 'Dying Fish'"-- these are some of the exciting chapter headings in the second UFO book to come from the inimitable pen of Mr Arthur Shuttlewood. The book contains photographs of UFOs and poems by Pauline Roberts and Veronica Cadby: the author writes in his foreword: "We hope you will like the poetry and not consider it totally irrelevant."

I suppose that this work falls into the category which the more esoteric ufologists call "New-Age" literature. Much of the book is devoted to recording the views of various people who have communicated with Mr Shuttlewood since he became well-known for his investigations of the Warminster "Thing." It seems that most of these people are sincerely convinced that the world as we know it is likely to come to an end in the near future and this event will be followed by the dawning of a new "Golden Age" of spiritual enlightenment and enhanced awareness of man's relationship with the universe.

This is the general sort of idea behind most of the messages quoted but they are, inevitably, heavily embroidered with pseudo-scientific speculations, apocalyptic visions and vague verbiage. Although most of the visionaries appear to be basically sincere, it is obvious that some of them, apparently lacking a sense of humour, fall easy victims to the leg-pullers.

One of these elaborate jokes is quoted in detail and Mr Shuttlewood gently indicates, to the perceptive reader, that he appreciates the jest--I think. I must point out here that he will probably get letters from his more obtuse readers earnestly requesting further details. It seems that Mr Shuttlewood was approached by "a charming Norfolk man with honest blue eyes, humble approach, disarming candour and integrity sparking his personality." This gentleman reported that a philological expert to whom he sent a tape of the Venusian language and a sample of Venusian script went into raptures over them.

The philological expert came to some hilarious conclusions, such as: "Sound production is diphasic: this means that the two lungs are accurately out of phase with one another, thus enabling the creature to speak for a long time without taking breath.." and

"The script: this is quite uncharacteristic of anything found on Earth except possibly the Sacred Boggah Script of the Abluti Indians of Paraguay..." and "From an application of Reinmann Phoneme analysis techniques--first stage, naturally--it can be concluded with fair certainty that the creatures in question possess a large hand, possibly with all thumbs..." I feel sure that many of us know beings who have these characteristics and whose terrestrial origin is not in doubt!

I was agog to read Mr Shuttlewood's version of the memorable events of May 27th and 28th, 1967, at Warminster, in view of the fact that Alan Sharp and I were there at the time and had published our version of that weekend (Report on a Visit to Warminster, by John Harney and Alan W. Sharp, Flying Saucer Review, Vol.13, No.5). Disappointingly, he only mentions in passing the controversial skywatch of the night of May 27th-28th, when we saw lightning and he saw the "Thing". He goes into considerable detail, though, about the visit of the "Aenstrian" to his home on the afternoon of May 28th. He was in a bad mood just before the Aenstrian's visit and this was due to lack of sleep and the fact that: "With Bob and Sybil, I shared weariness of libellous comment over the integrity of our team and Warminster witnesses that had gained unmerited headlines in ill-informed magazines published by a certain group of 'armchair' ufologists begrudging our experience." The magazine referred to is possibly MUFORG Bulletin, of which I was editor, in which we had published a rather critical review of Mr Shuttlewood's lecture on the Warminster phenomena delivered at the 1966 BUFORA Northern Conference at Bradford. We learned, indirectly, that Mr Shuttlewood was very annoyed about the article in question, even though the Bulletin had only a very small circulation.

From the depths of my armchair I recommend this book to all connoisseurs of the Warminster phenomena.

New UFO Breakthrough by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour, Award Books, New York/ Tandem Books, London. 3/6.

This paperback explores the more fantastic aspects of our fantastic subject; men in black, strange creatures, holes in the poles, the Shaver Mystery and the Allende Letters.

Although much has recently been written about the Allende Letters, nobody seems to have made any serious attempts to check on the major allegations contained in them. These allegations are to the effect that certain fantastic scientific experiments were carried out by the U.S. Navy in 1943 and 1944 and that one of the ships involved was called "Andrew Furnseth." The experiments were said to have produced all kinds of strange side-effects, such as members of the crews involved becoming invisible or bursting into flames and a ship used in the experiments is said to have suddenly vanished from its dock in Philadelphia, reappeared in Norfolk and then reversed the process. This astounding event is said to have been recorded in the newspapers at the time. However, so far nobody has come forward with any documentary evidence to support these stories and nobody seems to have checked whether or not there ever was a ship named "Andrew Furnseth." The Allende Letters affair certainly appears, at the time of writing, to be nothing more than a hoax, which has caught the imaginations of many people.

Another strange affair which unaccountably caught the public imagination and which keeps cropping up in American UFO literature is the "Shaver Mystery," which began in 1944 when Ray Palmer, then editor of a science fiction magazine called "Amazing Stories", received a letter from a Richard S. Shaver giving details of an ancient language that "should not be lost to the world." Although this appeared to be merely a crackpot letter, Palmer printed it and received an amazing amount of mail requesting further information. Palmer wrote to Shaver and received a 10,000 word manuscript in reply. Using this as a basis, Palmer wrote a 31,000 word story which he entitled "I Remember Lemuria!", and which he published in his March, 1945, issue. The result was that this issue sold 50,000 extra copies and 50,000 letters were received,

from readers, instead of the usual 45 or so, Further stories followed and the Shaver Mystery continued to boost the magazine's circulation for the next four years. Briefly, these stories were about mysterious people living in underground caverns and possessing strange powers. The chief mystery, of course, is why these stories became instantly popular and why did readers evidently take them so seriously and find them so disturbing.

Although it is doubtful that many of the amazing incidents described in this book could stand up to critical examination, they certainly make fascinating reading.

EDITORIAL - The Image is the Message -continued from page 43.
 they can boast, this is the image in the minds of the public today.

Ufologists must be prepared to accept this and just go on as they have been for the past twenty-odd years, making such marginal advances as they can, and in all fairness these have been significant. Or they could take an extremely radical line. Perhaps it might be an idea if UFO groups and journals just closed down and shut up for a few years. The UFOs would still be there (presumably), but there would not be the little chorus of vested interests that accompany each notable sighting. Perhaps then the people we would like to see investigating the problem would begin to do so, and the whole thing could start off again on the right foot. The UFOs would be the concern of the public at large and not the private property of the UFO underground. Maybe then we would begin to get some explanations.

That is, if we really want to!

J A Rimmer

LOCAL UFO REPORTS - None received.

NEW ZEALAND - UFOs alleged to have caused car crash

The following report appeared in the Daily Telegraph on November 13th, 1968:-

AUCKLAND, Tuesday. A magistrate in Napier yesterday dismissed a charge of dangerous driving against John Dow, 19, who claimed his car was chased by a flying saucer. The magistrate said Dow's state of mind caused him to lose control of his car, which crashed into a shop.

Dow said he and a friend had been watching "strange lights" outside Napier for several days and when driving home one night threw themselves from the car while being attacked by the "lights."

M e r s e y s i d e U F O B u l l e t i n

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