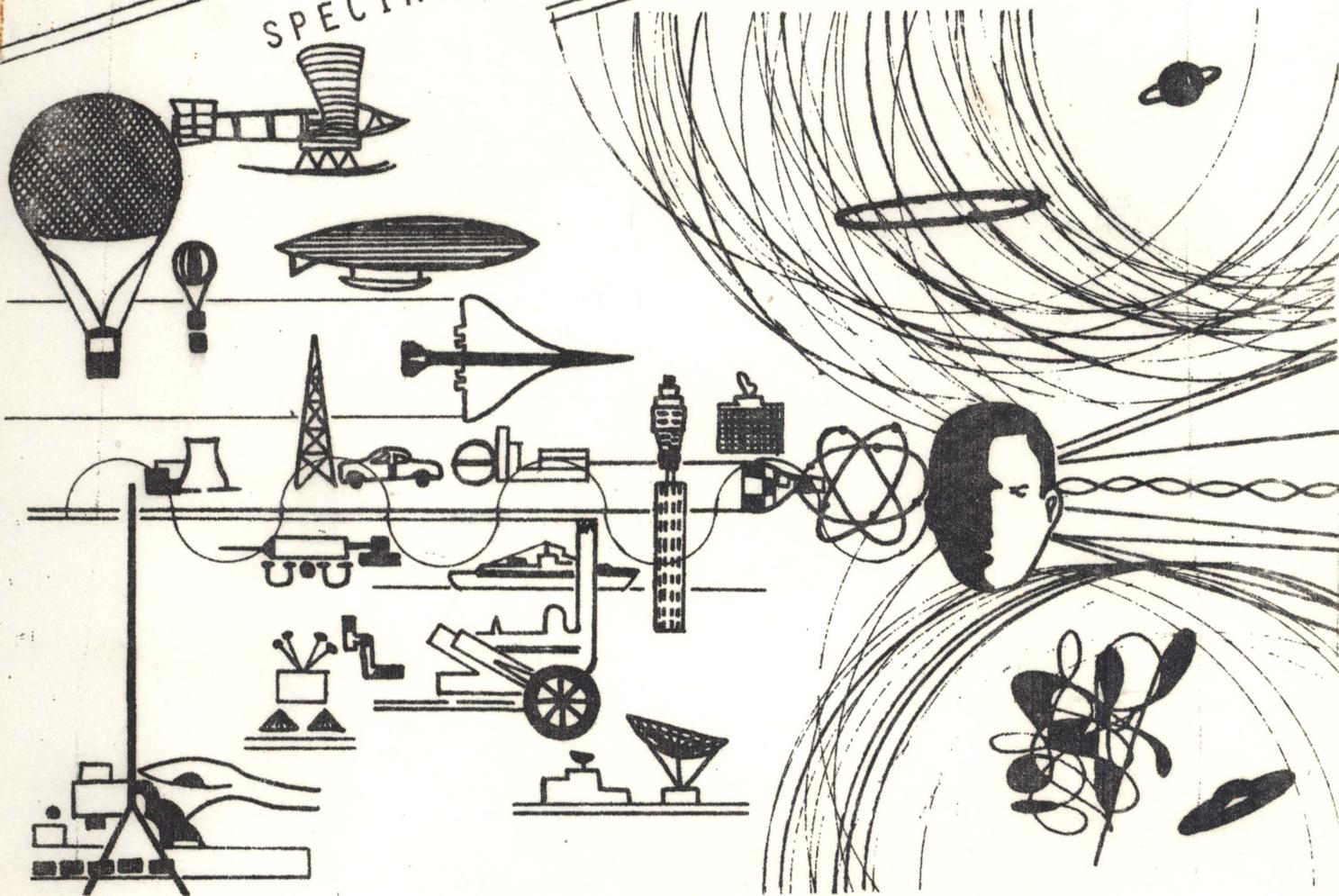


PEGASUS



A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

SPECIAL - ESHER MAY FAIR EDITION



MAY 1976

JOURNAL OF THE
SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

10p

EDITORS

Michael Prewett FBIS
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P E G A S U S

Journal of the Surrey
Investigation Group on
Aerial Phenomena

Special Esher May Fair Issue

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EDITORIAL

May we take the opportunity of welcoming you to this year's May Fair. We sincerely hope that you are enjoying yourself and that your visit has been worthwhile.

You may be wondering why a seemingly 'crank' organisation as ours has been invited this year. We like to think that it is because the organisers of the May Fair realise that UFOs, or flying saucers, are a valid scientific phenomenon, worthy of full scientific investigation.

SIGAP

Secretarial Address:
20 Loman Road, Mytchett,
CAMBERLEY, Surrey.

It is for this reason that groups like the British UFO Research Association and ourselves exist - to collect and disseminate sighting reports for anyone who may be interested.

CONSULTANTS

J M Adams BSc FRMetS
T C Childerhouse
Rev Dr N Cockburn MA BD
Prof F B Salisbury PhD
R T Toft

Our aim is to investigate all sightings, no matter how bizarre they might be, in the hope that we will eventually get to the bottom of this tantalising mystery. We have special consultants, including an optical physicist, a satellite expert, a theologian and a US university professor, who help us evaluate sighting reports.

We have assembled specially, a selection of articles gleaned from past issues of Pegasus. We hope you find our work interesting and informative.

Interview with Dr Joachim Kuettner

SIGAP INTERVIEW LEADING AMERICAN SCIENTIST

Dr Kuettner became Chairman of the AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) UFO sub-committee in December 1968. As a result of their investigations the 'Journal of Astronautics and Aeronautics' published 'UFO: An Appraisal of the Problem' in 1971.

The AIAA UFO sub-committee became one of the first major bodies to criticise the 'Condon Report' and details of their report are itemised in Allen Hynek's 'The UFO Experience: A Scientific Enquiry' on pages 220 and 221.

Dr Kuettner met Omar Fowler and Graham Raine of SIGAP at a quiet hotel near Bracknell, Berks. Although associated with the ESSA Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colorado, Dr Kuettner has been working at the Bracknell Weather Centre recently.

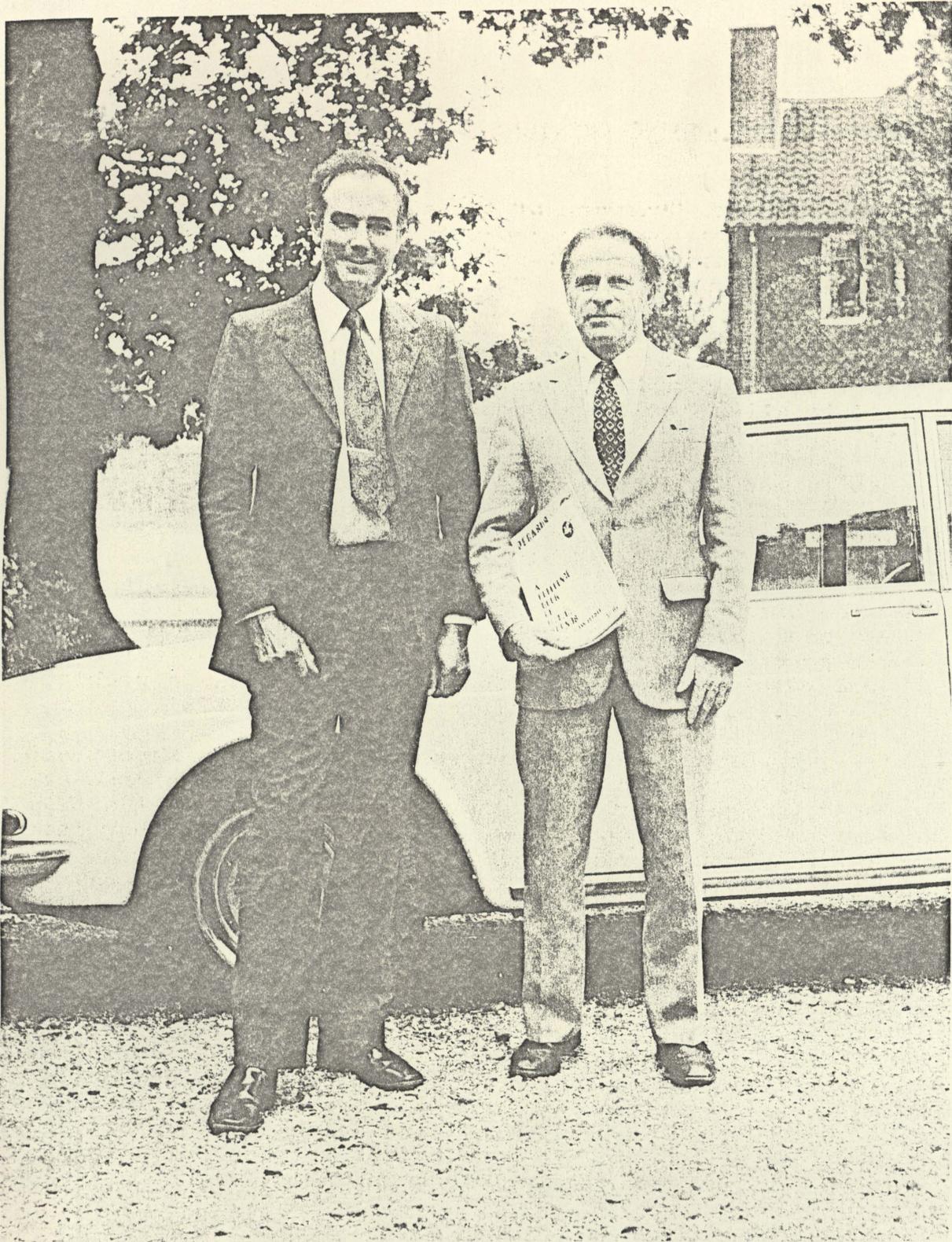
During the discussion the questions naturally turned to the work that had been carried out by the UFO sub-committee to establish if UFO's presented a 'scientific problem'. Dr Kuettner said that much to his surprise, he found that there was a problem to answer and the conclusion of his committee was 'YES'.

This reply contradicted the findings of the Condon Report and although the latter had found explanations for 95% of the UFO reports investigated by them, they made the mistake of ASSUMING that the remaining 5% could also be explained if further information could be found. The Condon Committee had been made up of open minded people but, at the same time people without any experience in the study of UFO's.

The findings of the Condon Committee caused many problems. Condon was a well known scientist and a man of stature in his field. As a result of this his report will only be neutralised by an investigation by scientists of greater repute. Dr Condon had been one of the few men to stand up to McCarthy during the great 'witch hunting' days and as a result, had gained quite a reputation. This in turn had made it very difficult in seeking grants for UFO research and in gaining scientific support in the USA. Too many scientists were reluctant to jeopardise their reputations by committing themselves on UFO's.

Dr Kuettner then gave his opinion on the difficulties associated with the investigation of UFO's.

There was the question of the investigation of physical evidence, if there had ever been any evidence, where was it? One could try and analyse the problem in a theoretical way and try and form a hypothesis, but it appeared that the right path to take, would be the detailed study of statistical research, this was the way to go.



Omar Fowler, Chairman of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is on the left of the picture. Standing next to him is Dr Joachim Kuettner, Chairman of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) UFO sub-committee

At this stage in the conversation we discussed SIGAP's plans for returning to UFO witnesses after a period of two years and questioning them again about their experiences: what would their answers reveal, had they seen more? Were they still as distinct in their recollections or had they been put away? Dr Kuettner thought that the idea was a good one and could reveal some very interesting facts about witness behaviour. He had his own comments to make on the difficulty of accepting the evidence of a single witness. He had experienced the difficulty of describing a UFO. He had seen one while flying at night in an aircraft en route from Denver and still remembers the amazement at seeing a strange light pass by close to the aircraft. The sudden shock had made him incapable of reacting with a proper assessment of the situation, the aircraft had swerved to miss the lights and in the darkness, there a distinct problem of orientation.

On the subject of UFO watches Dr Kuettner had a number of comments to make. What instruments could you take on a UFO watch? For instance, a magnetometer was useless unless there was a close encounter and cameras were always inadequate. In short, direct skywatching had not yielded anything important, we must concentrate on statistical analysis.

Finally, we discussed the study of UFO's in Britain, the apparent lack of interest by government bodies. Were there many groups like SIGAP in the UK and were they all run on a voluntary basis? What happens to the reports? Did we know of Hynek's aim to form a major centre for UFO investigation, with a field investigation team and computer back up? There were so many questions to be asked about UFO's and so few answers ...

O F FOWLER

Chairman
SIGAP

(1974 Vol 5 No 4)

HAWK BALLOON OR UFO

Synopsis of SIGAP Investigations into Sightings in the Chilworth Area during July 1967

OMAR FOWLER

The following investigation is one of the first to have been carried out by SIGAP. The report by Squadron Leader Shipwright was publicised extensively by the local press and an article by him appeared in the Flying Saucer Review.

The findings of the investigation have not previously been published, so we decided that it was about time that SIGAP's point of view was heard. We leave the conclusion to you, the reader.

The two reports that we are concerned with are the sightings by Sq Ldr Shipwright on Tuesday 27 June 1967 and Mr David Clarke on Saturday 1 July 1967.

In the report by Sq Ldr Shipwright, he describes how he and his wife were walking along a path at Newlands Corner at 12.30 pm and they observed that in a field the other side of Albury Church (1 mile away) a snow white object that looked like a balloon or parachute was moving rapidly up and down a meadow North to South. This went on for about ten minutes, then the object suddenly stopped close to a hedge and trees at the top of the meadow and started moving very slowly West to East. It moved slowly along the hedge, measuring and investigating, it didn't seem to quite know what it was doing. It passed a small group of cows that did not take any notice, and then continued towards an avenue of high trees. When the object arrived at a high hedge and the trees it paused for half a minute, as though it was not quite sure, then quite steadily and firmly, it rose up above the trees and then ran along the top of the trees, down the other side and into the next meadow, where the object continued its quiet progress as though trying to find out information. There was a very slight breeze at the time SSW. It was in view for about an hour and was last seen approaching an avenue of trees approximately 300 yards from Albury Park.

Sq Ldr Shipwright added that he could not be sure, but he had the impression that there was a slight deflation in the top left hand side of it with a billowing movement. It was about twice the size of a cow and had the appearance of a white egg with the shell taken off. He also thought he noticed at one end a black thing on the end of it. It was not moving fast, he could have driven down to the field, run across the grass and caught it up. He then continued and stated that he analysed its movements all the time and it could not have been a balloon or parachute, it was definitely unidentified. It seemed as if it was investigating, observing and measuring, all its movements were deliberate, nothing was haphazard. He then added that this was on the Tuesday at mid-day, two days after the Saturday sighting of an object by a Mr B Knowles described as a 'shimmering football' over Guildford. (This was subsequently proved to be an aircraft landing at London Airport). Sq Ldr Shipwright then went on to surmise that the object had taken two days to travel three miles and was not seen by anybody. Its movements he said were contrary to anything that could be known to happen, it was contrary to the wind and the laws of gravity. He thought of going to look at the field, because he wondered if it left anything. He then mentioned the fact that he did not know anything about the 'shimmering football' sighting over Guildford until he opened his paper on the Friday and he then said to his wife that is what we saw last Tuesday. His wife suggested that at first they thought it was a balloon, but it could have been a saucer shape.

The David Clarke Sighting at Chilworth July 1 1967

Dick Beet and I met David Clarke at his home, situated a mile and a half from Guildford. Mr Clarke, an Art Teacher, took us to the scene of the sighting which had been described as a silver sphere.

The site was close to the junction of Halfpenny Lane and White Lane. The sphere had been seen locking ENE and apart from a bobbing motion it had not moved. He did not stop and watch it disappear, but continued with his walk. At this point we saw a man in a nearby house, we approached him and questioned him about any UFO activity in the area and had he seen anything. He went on to explain that at the point where the sphere had been seen by Mr Clarke, there was a large country house with gardens and they used what was known as a 'Hawk Balloon'. He described the balloon, but in order to check the information we proceeded to the house in the distance called 'Whiteways' and called upon one of the three gardeners, his statement was as follows: "It was on Wednesday 28 June that the duty gardener that evening saw somebody running away from the gardens. The Hawk Balloon that was in use had been cut loose, it had shot up into the air. The balloons are approximately 14' diameter and are made from white rubber, sometimes they are affected by the sun and go flat. They are held by nylon cord and a dummy hawk is suspended underneath to scare away the birds. They are filled with hydrogen through a fairly long nozzle, this is then doubled up and tied in several knots to ensure that it does not leak. The nylon cord that holds the hawk is 25 to 30 feet long.

The balloons are constantly in use and one of theirs had been cut loose about a year before also. They are also used by a number of other large houses in the area and we did not check with one other to enquire if one had been lost, but it had not. As the time was 10 pm we discontinued our search.

The 'Whiteways' house is situated a mile and a half to the NW of the field where Sq Ldr Shipwright had seen the white egg object. The other house known to operate a Hawk Balloon is approximately half a mile from the field.

(Pegasus Vol 4 No 5)

THE VIKING MISSION - A SEARCH FOR LIFE ON MARS

by Professor Carl Sagan, Director,
Laboratory for Planetary Studies, Cornell University

This summer, if all goes well, an epochal event in human history will take place - the first search on the surface of another planet for extra-terrestrial life. Two unmanned intelligent machines named Viking will land on the Red Planet and proceed to search for life. Their activities will be monitored from Earth. New information can be transmitted to the Viking Landers, their memories and instructions can be reprogrammed. They will be like hands and eyes, ears and noses and mouths, set down on Mars and connected back to us here on Earth via a radio link tens of millions of miles long.

The bulk of the Viking lander is shaped like a stubby triangle, with projections both up and down. Extending downwards, there are three legs which will take some of the strain of the landing impact; extending upwards, a variety of scientific instruments, power sources and antennae.

Viking has seismometers to listen for the rumble of marsquakes; if any are found we will have acquired information of vital importance for understanding the internal structure of the planet and its evolution. Does Mars have a crust, a mantle and a core like the Earth? Is it geologically active, as its numerous immense volcanoes suggest? If we are lucky, there may be a major mars quake during the year-long operational time of the Mars landers. Our knowledge of the deep interior of the planet might then be enormously enhanced.

INSTRUMENTS

Viking has a set of meteorological instruments to determine wind speed, atmospheric pressure and temperature, the sorts of measurements that terrestrial weather stations make on a routine basis.

Beginning this summer we may hear a weather forecast for Mars similar to this. "The midday temperature in Chryse was minus nine degrees C, but the pre-dawn temperature in Cydonia was : .1 minus 133 degrees C. Skies are expected to be clear tomorrow in Cydonia but gusts of up to 140 miles per hour can be expected in Chryse."

Viking is equipped with a sample arm which will extend out to some previously selected spot as much as three metres from the lander, and in a very jerky and loud manner, will gobble up a handful of Martian surface sand and dust. It will then swivel about its axis, so that the soil sample can be dropped into a set of hoppers on the top of the lander, which lead to a variety of scientific experiments.

One experiment will examine the inorganic chemistry of the Martian surface material. The current guess is that the surface

of Mars is a mixture of volcanic rock and clays, all stained red by a rusty desert 'varnish'.

Another experiment will look at the organic chemistry of Mars, to determine whether the Martian surface material contains molecules produced by living organisms or molecules which, in the early history of the Earth, led to the origin of life. Some organic molecules fall on Mars in meteorites. The same meteorites on Earth clearly contain organic molecules produced in their cometary or planetary - asteroidal - parent bodies. It is also possible that small quantities of simple organic molecules are made by ultraviolet sunlight.

LITTLE MARTIANS

There are three experiments to search for Martian microbiology. In one, a Martian soil sample is dropped into an aqueous mixture of organic molecules which it is hoped, the little Martians will like to eat. The carbon in this food is radioactively labelled with the isotope carbon-14, which we know from spectroscopic studies is not abundant on Mars any more than it is on Earth.

If Martian microbes do find our food tasty and release carbon dioxide in metabolising the food, the radioactive carbon dioxide will be detected by a Geiger counter behind a baffle and the rate of generation of radioactive CO₂ radioed back to Earth. But there is no guarantee that this experiment will work. We know that the Martian microbes might find our little gifts of food unpalatable and meanwhile be placidly munching on the zirconium paint on the exterior of the spacecraft.

Another experiment involves dropping an unlabelled aqueous nutrient medium on a soil sample, and then monitoring the uptake, or output of simple gases. The third experiment is to expose a dry soil sample to radioactively labelled CO₂. Ordinary non-radioactive CO₂ is the principle constituent of the Martian atmosphere. There is a light source which can be made to shine on on the soil sample. Afterwards, the soil sample is heated to a high temperature, and it is determined whether any labelled carbon comes off the fried soil. If so, the existence of Martian organisms able to fix CO₂ from the Martian atmosphere - as green plants fix CO₂ from the terrestrial atmosphere - will have been demonstrated.

There is one other experiment which might possibly bear on life on Mars, the lander cameras. They will be able to see about as well as a human being on Mars, but further into the infrared and with better depth perception. They will examine the nearby rocks, the distant sand dunes, the clouds, the moons of Mars, other celestial objects and whatever else there is around the landing sites that we do not know enough about to describe today. The camera will also examine the Martian soil in the trenches which the arm has dug. If there are Martian macrobes ranging in size from ants to giraffes, the lander cameras have a fair chance of seeing them.

We do not know what Viking will find. But one thing is sure. Viking represents a new era in planetary exploration.

BANBURY IN RETROSPECT

Richard P Colborne

(Pegasus 1972 V4 N2)

Having finished a large batch of reports from the Banbury area I decided to relax and get up-to-date with what some of the other UFO magazines were saying.

I smiled to myself when I read in one magazine, that shall remain anonymous, that several reports have been received from the Banbury area; and to make matters worse they were predicting that: 'It looks like we are in for another flap.' We are? I sincerely hope not, I haven't got over the last one yet. No, I'm not referring to the 1967 flap either. For the benefit of anyone who was out of the country last year, there was a flap in 1971 that looks like surpassing previous records.

Well, so much for some of the other UFO magazines, they leave me with serious doubts about their investigators and contributors, perhaps they were out of the country too.

Now that we have had four clear years in which to ponder over the 1967 flap, we can start to compare the figures of the more recent spate of sightings; and there are some intriguing parallels. Although only a few of the figures for 1971 are available as yet, it does seem that whoever, or whatever started all the fuss in 1967 has paid us a return visit. The UFO's themselves were as different for the two years, as they were from one another, it is in their behaviour where the similarity lies.

The year of 1967 got off to a slow start but by early summer there was an incling that something was afoot; then, in July and August it happened, at last we had a flap on our hands, but although we didn't know it, the best was yet to come. September was comparatively quiet; then, unsurprisingly after September followed October, but October was going to make July and August just a secondary peak on the ufological graph. October's figures doubled those already in for the rest of the year. If you are wondering what happened to November and December, well like the early part of the year, there wasn't much going on.

We have the same sort of picture for 1971; starting off very slowly, rising to a secondary peak in midsummer then levelling out slightly, only to explode in October.

Surprisingly enough even some of the dates match up. The closing days of October, especially the 26th, 27th and 28th were the most hectic for both 1967 and 1971 and it looks like other dates match up too. Similarities are suggested also, in the times of day, and the days of the week, but these patterns are not peculiar to these two flaps, they are suggested in most statistics on all other UFO and fortean phenomena. There is no getting away from the facts; these allegedly extraterrestrial visitors adhere to a distinctly terrestrial timetable.

Although the figures for 1971 are far from complete and there is still some of the 1967 figures to add, it is pretty safe to say that last year will achieve parity with 1967's 700 plus reports if not leave it way behind.

Oxfordshire (especially Banbury) and adjoining counties featured very high last year, whilst Staffordshire to the north was top of the table in 1967. Also in 1967 Surrey and adjoining counties originated a high number of reports; but alas, SIGAP's immediate area seems to have been avoided last year apart from a couple of reports from the Bagshot locality.

One of the first cases to come to light in Banbury concerns three schoolboys, who, whilst walking home on the 28th September at 1650hrs (BST), saw a cigar shaped object accompanied by four or five smaller objects. Although all of the objects looked metallic and solid two of the boys said that the smaller objects merged to form the cigar before it was lost from sight into the distance.

An interesting feature of the Banbury flap is that most of the good sightings occurred during daylight hours and many of the objects seen were leaving a trail of smoke or vapour behind them. One such object was sighted at 0730hrs on October 26th, the witness was amazed when the stationary orange ball that she had been watching for over a minute, suddenly moved off at a tremendous speed, traversing the sky in a few seconds with a delta shaped tail of smoke.

Just to bring home the point that they were in no mood for abiding by the laws of aerodynamics, another vapour trailing object gave a display for veteran RAF pilot Mr Ruck-Keene, at 1145hrs on October 17th. Like many other reports this object produced a tail that fanned out towards the end before abruptly finishing.

Seen by a large number of witnesses a UFO which belched flames as well as smoke traversed the northern tip of Oxfordshire around noon on October 26th, estimated by another ex-RAF pilot to be travelling at 5,000 mph. This UFO stopped dead in its track, for durations of about five seconds at times and executed a few classic right angle turns as well, just to prove what Meteorological balloons are capable of! An ATV-Midlands camera team filmed this object as it sped through the cloudless blue sky. The film was shown at the 7th March SIGAP meeting when it was viewed with much enthusiasm by members.

There have been some close range sightings too, Mr and Mrs Alfred Burton encountered an object hovering near the ground only a few hundred yards from the road at 1950hrs the same day. This object had yellow window-like lights around one end and a redish orange pulsating light at the other. After ascending slowly, and then moving a few yards to the right, the object suddenly vanished.

Besides the film taken by ATV there have been several colour photographs taken in the area. Mr Kimberley of Charlton (Oxon.) has kindly supplied a print of some of a number of flaming orange cigar objects, seen in and around the county at 1800hrs on 27th October, and Mr Brian Birchell took three colour prints of a flashing red object at 0230hrs on 19th October.

The wealth of reports from the Banbury area alone during the 1971 flap should inspire ufologists throughout the country and may even prompt some to investigate a few of the many outstanding reports.

FRAME 070

TOP

MARINER 6





FARMER SEES UFO TAKE-OFF FROM FIELD

Ron Toft

Farmer George Graham stood patiently at the edge of the copse, gun in hands, waiting to pick off the marauding foxes as they emerged from their dens for another night of plunder.

Suddenly his attention was riveted to a strange glow about 100 yards distant in the field which opened out in front of him. At first 'I thought it was a neighbour tending to his lorry', said 75-year old Mr Graham, who runs a farm in the village of Woodmansterne, near Banstead, Surrey.

After coming to this conclusion Mr Graham paid no more attention to it and resumed his search for foxes. Then he heard what he can only describe as a loud 'whoosh' and, locking instinctively in the direction of the glow, Mr Graham could just about make out a dark circular shape rising silently into the air. It gathered momentum and, in a matter of seconds, was lost to view in the night sky. Next day Mr Graham found unmistakable evidence in the field that he had not been seeing things, that something out of the ordinary had parked there the night before.

All this took place in the summer of 1968, one night either during the last week of August or the first week in September - Mr Graham cannot remember which. Details of this sighting have not come to light before now simply because Mr Graham did not report the matter to the police or press. He was afraid, as so many witnesses are, of being ridiculed.

I, along with SIGAP Secretary Richard Beet, recently interviewed Mr Graham at his farm. Elaborating further, Mr Graham, of Hilltop Farm, said he had seen the object between 10pm and 1030pm. He was standing at the fringe of a copse which crowns the summit of a small hill. The hill is surrounded on three sides by open grazing land. The field from which the UFO took off is bounded on three sides by a thin belt of trees. On the fourth side is a fence which marks the boundary of Mr Grahams farm. On the other side of this fence is more grasing land, belonging to Mr Graham's neighbour.

Mr Graham said he had been looking for foxes 'quite a little while' prior to seeing the glow, which he described as being dark-blue and 'acetylene-like'. This glow was under the base of the UFO. The UFO took off 'ten to fifteen minutes' after Mr Graham first saw the glow. He added that there was no sign of life or other activity in the vicinity of the craft and there was no noise at any time.

Mr Graham went on to say that when the UFO rose into the sky 'I heard only a rush of air. It went straight up. It didn't go one way or the other. The glow went out after it went up.' The UFO, which was not illuminated in any way, rose slowly at first, increasing its speed as it got higher. Mr Graham could only make out the spherical shape against the background of the night sky. He could not see any details on the craft.

Next morning Mr Graham returned to the field. To his amazement on the ground was a huge key-hole shaped marking. Mr Graham described it as being like 'a big horse-shoe with a heel on it.' He estimated that the length of the marking was about 40 feet and the width 20 feet. The width of the band inside the edges was about 8 inches. Inside this band it was discovered that all the grass, both blades and roots, had been neatly plucked or sucked out of the ground as if, in Mr Graham's words, 'by a giant vacuum cleaner.' No trace of the grass was found.

Mr Graham said the UFO had been 'a good deal higher than a double decker bus.' He had heard the 'whoosh' only after the craft had attained an altitude of about 100 feet. In the field at the same time as the UFO - it covers between 70 and 80 acres - were 20 horses and an equal number of cattle. Apparently they were not distressed in any way. Mr Graham is quite adamant that the UFO was not an aircraft.

The litho photograph shows (top) Ron Toft carefully examining the grass and soil for remaining clues. The clumps of shrubs mark the spots where the manure was dumped - right on the landing site. The bottom view gives a general picture of the site. The reverse photograph shows a Martian crater - see previous article.

(Pegasus 1970 V2 N4)

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