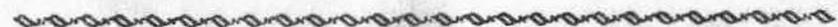


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UFO

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PLEASE NOTE : Time in this Newsletter is referred to
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Cynthia Hind

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.....

I remember bumping into a Professor from the University. I was just off to Brasil, on my way to present a UFO paper in Rio de Janeiro (at the invitation of Irene Granchi of CISNE, Brasil) and to Washington, to speak at a 'Fund for UFO Research' Conference.

I told my friend where I was going, and for what reason.

"It's all very well", he said, "if you do that sort of thing for money. But I don't believe in it!"

I was so taken aback that at the moment I couldn't think of a suitable reply. Of course, in retrospect, I can think of a dozen things to say.

a) I am rarely handed money in cash; it's almost always free accommodation and food and sometimes (bless the Brasilians) an air ticket.

b) In my country, we are allowed foreign currency of Z\$450 (US\$180, UK£90) per year! Unless I'm living with well-off, kind, generous, indulgent family or friends, how do I exist?

c) After all, I am not being invited to speak because of my looks; I present a paper which is of interest to other ufologists (or hopefully so). In other words, all the work I do during the year is a possible contribution to the final solution of what UFOs are.

But then, speaking of money, what does it cost me, personally, for this fascinating hobby of mine? Quite a lot, I can tell you. For 21 years I was a Director of an industrial manufacturing company. I worked hard and, together with my husband, my father and other members of my family, built it up into a top concern.

When the business was sold, I had sufficient money invested to be able to live, but quietly, for the rest of my life.

But that wasn't my way; I had always wanted to be a writer -- another low-income-return profession -- and so now was the time.

My first love was still my interest in Ufology. I decided to write a book and I travelled widely to gather first-hand information. It cost me several thousand dollars which the book has never repaid.

Maybe, if I had been less naïve, more experienced, a better writer, the book might have made a fortune. But I am no Whitley Strieber, or Jacques Vallée, or Budd Hopkins, and Zimbabwe is not the U.S.A.!

I write a lot to make up for the losses incurred by my interest in UFOs. Some books, articles etc. bring in sufficient cash to cover the outlay in writing for non-paying magazines. One small article - nothing to do with UFOs - might bring in US\$300. From UFOs, one rarely earns.

So if Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze, USA, has a UFO experience which (whether hoaxed or not!) he could never, in his wildest dreams, realise would eventually bring him in US\$ 200 000 -- WHY NOT?

And if Dr Bruce Maccabee, who will answer hundreds of questions free, gratis and for nothing, just ONCE happens to make a good bit of money from his contribution to an interesting investigation -- WHY NOT?

I haven't been to the USA in three years. I would like to go again. I haven't been to Britain or Europe in two years, and I would like to go again, particularly as my son and his family now live there.

So, if someone has an interesting UFO case which just might bring in some British money and I can be of assistance, for heaven's sake, count me in!

I am not mercenary, greedy, grabbing, or out for every buck. But for those who do make something out of Ufology, as long as it is not the total raison d'être of their activities --- the best of British luck to them!

*** *** *** *** *** ***

ABDUCTION CASES?

Introduction

I have always been wary of abduction cases where there is no evidence of an actual craft, as the more deeply one becomes involved in UFO investigation, the more the paranormal side of case histories presents itself. It is almost impossible to be involved with UFOs and totally disregard the paranormal, however much of a 'nuts and bolts' person one might be.

On the other hand, I am also loath to ignore evidence which might point to an abduction - with various factors bearing a common denominator in such cases - merely because there is no direct sighting of a craft of sorts.

Weighing up the different factors and bearing in mind that I strongly advocate the reportage of all cases pertaining to anything to do with UFOs, I hereby give you two cases, literally, to judge for yourselves. - Ed.

Janet of Bulawayo (Case 23), November, 1990

Janet recalls a strange dream she had about six years ago.

Prior to this, she had had many vivid dreams of astral travelling to places where she has never been and subsequently, when visiting these places, she has found her dream to be accurate. Recently she dreamed she was in a place with an Indian name in Arizona (USA) and when she checked with a map, she found that there was such a place, although she has never been to the States nor is she familiar with places there, excepting, of course, the very big cities.

The particular dream that she recalled so vividly, was because of an event that took place during the dream.

She dreamt she was in a room which was made of metal: floor, ceiling, walls, were all of metal.

The room was filled with rows of tables laden with medical instruments. She was on one of the tables when the people around her seemed to be doing something to her head -- she has no recollection of their being any different from ordinary human beings, although she did note that they were dressed in one-piece suits of a shiny white or silvery colour. They had put something on her head but she is not sure what it was and there is an impression of them 'operating' on her head.

In the morning, when she awoke, she was immediately aware of a blister the size of a (Zimbabwean) five-cent piece, on the side of her head.



Approximate
size

On examination of her head, there was indeed a mark there, but it was faint.

She realised, soon after the dream, that she was having an adverse reaction to electricity. She had never noticed this before.

When she uses her hair dryer or electric curling tongs, the surge of electricity is unpleasant and her head pains at the spot where the mark is. Also, when there is a thunderstorm, she feels extremely disturbed as any lightning bolt occurs. She has a tingling sensation throughout her body which is most unpleasant.

In 1984, while working in a London office, she was sitting at her desk and moved backwards slightly (she is not sure for what reason she did this) when a string of connected neon-tube lights fell and shattered on her desk.

On another occasion, in her diningroom, a neon light bulb fell and shattered on the table, barely missing her. More recently, in her kitchen, a similar incident occurred, when an ordinary light bulb (with its shade) fell and shattered a few centimetres from where she was standing.

She comments that in every instance she recalls moving away from the spot only seconds before the crash, thus almost miraculously escaping injury.

Apart from the recurring astral travelling dreams, she records only one other psychic experience. This happened shortly before the dream about her head operation. She was walking in the garden of her home in Bulawayo when she saw two -- what she describes as 'fairies' -- among a bed of nasturtiums. She says it was a very brief experience; a matter of two or three seconds.

She feels they were not aware of her; they were very small, about 6cms overall, and dressed in long flowing white dresses, with gossamer wings. As she told me her story, Janet appeared to be embarrassed; her voice dropped and there was no eye contact. I felt she did not really want to talk about her 'fairy' experience and that she was parting with the information reluctantly, perhaps carried away by her conversation with me and my sympathetic treatment of her.

With regard to the dream, I asked her whom she thought 'the people' were and what they wanted of her. She did not know but says she has become increasingly afraid that they are going to come back for her. And yet, she added, if they want her to go with them, she would do so willingly. I could not elicit any further information from her as to who 'they' might be, except that perhaps it had something to do with UFOs.

She said she had had an emotional problem at home and has not found a satisfying relationship although she is very attractive; young, slight in build, with wide blue eyes and blonde hair. She told me she was a 'loner', often preferring her own company. She is not particularly happy in Zimbabwe and would like to return to live in London. She feels that she might go with 'those people' to another planet as she is not all that happy here on Earth.

Janet appeared to be completely genuine, intelligent and puzzled by her strange experiences.

She accepted that she might be psychic and a bit different from other people. My impression was that she was a rather withdrawn person, reluctant to talk at all and certainly not 'telling all'.

She had absolutely no knowledge of abductees and had never heard of Budd Hopkins or his work, nor had she read any UFO books.

Apart from her mother verifying the scar being there after the 'dream', I feel there is little I can do to authenticate her stories.

Janet has promised to record in detail anything further that happens to her in connection with this incident, but I have not heard from her since the beginning of 1989.

***** ***** *****

Bruce of Harare (Case N° 29)

Bruce is 22 years old. He is black and has not been exposed to UFO lore despite his good educational background. At present he is working in government and studying in his spare time at the Harare Polytechnic for an Engineering Diploma. His mother is a qualified nurse.

Bruce was brought to my attention by a friend of Maria Sullivan's, Theresa, who works with him in government and to whom he had reported his experiences. On the basis of these, Theresa lent him a UFO book which he has described as being entitled CLOSE ENCOUNTERS or DIRECT ENCOUNTERS (he cannot remember the exact title, neither can Theresa).

After he had spoken to her about his experiences, she brought him to a meeting at my house and subsequent to this, he arrived one evening with Theresa, to be interviewed.

Neither Theresa nor Bruce were aware of abductions and quite frankly, I'm not sure that this is what happened to Bruce. However, he is extremely puzzled by the occurrences, as I am, and I report them as told to me.

"It happened last year (1989) in November. I came home at about 2100 hours and there was no-one else in the house; it was particularly quiet. I came straight from the fields, had a bath and went to my room. I put out the light and was just about to doze off when I felt funny. I tried to move my feet, my legs and my hands; but I couldn't. I couldn't move my head either, as I wanted to turn towards the door, as I thought someone was there. There was a dense sort of atmosphere, not the usual darkness. There was no sense of light anywhere. I could feel the black encasing me. Then I could hear this sound, like a dynamo turning very rapidly. I can't recall how long it lasted, but it felt like a long time.

At first I thought it was a ghost, although I could see nothing. But then the paralysis went away as quickly as it had come. I felt suddenly completely free, and I could move. I fell asleep immediately. But there was no reason for the paralysis, nor for the strange sound.

I have had this paralysis before, ever since I was a child, but it only happened at night. My mother is a nurse and when I told her, she had me medically checked, but nothing was found to account for my experience which started when I was about 6 or 7 years old.

I only told Theresa (about the incident) after I heard the dynamo sound. That really surprised me: it was so striking, so apparent. I couldn't pinpoint it and I only heard it on that one occasion."

Bruce has had several experiences of this nature, where no UFO is involved, but where several incidents occur which tie up with experiences which have been reported by abductees. It is basically for this reason that I am recording his story here.

On another occasion, during late July 1990, he went to bed quite late. He says: "When I awoke next morning, I wasn't feeling very well. I looked at my skin: I tried to wash it as it was burning so much, especially behind my ears and around my face.

"Then I went and took a shower and noticed the same thing on my shoulders and arms: that burning sensation and I thought it very strange. My throat was also sore and my eyes were swollen. I couldn't eat all day. On the Sunday morning I started to feel better but my skin was still irritated... I can't remember how many times I washed to try and cool my skin. I also applied vaseline and lotions but to no avail. The skin had begun to peel by this time, especially around my eyes where it was rather raw."

Bruce explained that he might not have thought a great deal of this incident except that he had this extremely sore throat. Each time he had had a 'strange' experience, his throat was always sore, something he could not account for. It was almost as if he had been shouting a lot, or someone had stuck something down his throat: it had that 'raw' feeling.

A morning when he remembers his sore throat particularly, was the result of a nightmarish experience during the previous night.

"I was sleeping", Bruce recounts, "Then I woke suddenly because something seemed very strange in the room ... I had a sort of feeling. I then raised my head up from the pillow and looked towards the door. There is a garden chair next to the door and there was someone sitting in the chair. Then it started to get up and moved towards me. The paralysis began again and I couldn't move. I tried to get up and run away but I couldn't do anything. The thing came towards me and I had this sensation of being pulled by the hair. It said, 'If you tell anybody, I'll kill you ... I'll finish you off.' I asked it, 'Why?' but it only said, 'Don't tell anyone, especially your mother.'"

Bruce says he then managed to get up; there was a sensation of fighting with the 'thing' but it proved too strong for him and pushed him back into bed. He can recall nothing further except that he awoke the next morning with that very sore throat.

Bruce admits that he was too frightened to look directly at the 'thing' but he remembered "a very white face; a pale face with features that were not human."

"Not like us, definitely," he said, "and it didn't walk normally, it was more like gliding. I also remember that it was very quiet when all this was happening, there was no noise at any time, not the normal noises of the night in Africa."

Bruce admitted that he had several significant experiences. He remembers once waking in the night. He does not know what wakened him. He could see nothing and went back to sleep but in the morning there were footprints in the room.

He says, "The floor of the room had no carpet. The floor is black and the sand outside the room is white. There were footprints starting from the door and going across the room to the wardrobe, despite the room being locked. The footprints were outlined in white sand so they showed up clearly. The curious thing was that the footprints were very small, too small for a normal sized person. Also, they led to the wardrobe and finished there. They did not go any further. I told my mother about this but she could not explain it."

One final remark of Bruce's made me feel that his experiences warranted recording. "After the occurrence of one of these unusual experiences, I woke up and my genitals were sore; quite painful in fact. Next day I noticed a dark scar where the soreness was. I have never been able to explain this. "

Bruce told me subsequently, "I was brought up as an African child", denoting that he was exposed to African culture, folklore and beliefs; and it was only as his education progressed that he became familiar with Western ideas. As an African child, he was always being told, 'Don't do this, it's bad for you and the ghost might come and get you.'

He said, "So my thoughts always made me feel my experiences had to do with ghosts. Now, I no longer think it's a ghost: you do not fight with a ghost and then not recall what happened afterwards."

Well, do you? Although I have discussed UFOs in Bruce's presence, I have not gone into it in any great depth, and I know he had not read MISSING TIME or INTRUDERS by Budd Hopkins.

The people in Zimbabwe rarely have access to UFO books and the Library - certainly in Harare - has little to offer.

To me, the essence of Bruce's story lies in the many factors that normally crop up in abduction cases, even when direct contact with a UFO is not involved. I have underlined the points in question to make them clearer.

So what does one make of Bruce's story? Is it worth pursuing, or do we leave it to the Psychic Research Societies?

In the meantime, we plan to talk to him again and hear if he has any further on-going experiences and perhaps, if possible, to arrange a hypnotic regression session for him -- something he is keen to undergo. Unfortunately, in Zimbabwe hypnosis is illegal unless ordered by one's physician, so at the moment we are holding fire on this. But we will keep readers informed on this case.

REPORT FROM NAMIBIA

(Sent in by Mr and Mrs R M Roéis, Windhoek)

Case 28 (A)

On the 20th April, 1982, between 1345 and 1400 hours, the witness was watering her plants in her garden in Windhoek. The weather was clear, with a slightly hazy sky towards the horizon.

The witness became aware of about 20 lights of different sizes and brightness, moving approx. 30° above the optical horizon.

Later, she observed another 5 lights joining them, the latter shining intermittently. The lights were in a S.Easterly direction from the witness and then moved northwards until obscured from view.

(B)

On the 24th November, 1983, a farmer, a South African Airways pilot, and police, saw an object in the clear morning sky.

Light emanated from the object on its east side as reported by the pilot. The farmer in Aroab saw the object hovering above him and thought he saw something dangling below it.

The object came from the East (about 80 km west of Aroab) at an estimated height of approx. 12 km (SAA pilot report).

Comment : While it is almost impossible to check back as far as 1983, this case sounds suspiciously similar to the French satellite balloons released from Pretoria, South Africa. The aluminium-type top surface of the balloon reflects the sunlight giving off an extremely bright light. There are usually 2-3 appendages which hang below the 40metre diameter balloon which circumnavigates the Earth. It can drop to 8000 ft at night and reach 140 000 ft during the day. Probably because of wind currents in the 25-30° Longitude belt which the balloons travel, releases are generally in May, June and November.

***** ** *****

Ponder on This:

"DREAMLAND": This title refers to an American Air Force Base, somewhere near Las Vegas and known officially as Area 51, where experiments with crashed UFOs are allegedly taking place.

####

CASES OF L I T SThe Booyens Triangle, 1986 (Case N° 22)

On 17th June, 1986, six people (names known to the Editor) were present in the Booyens residential area of Johannesburg, South Africa, when they observed an object moving across the sky. The time was 2110 and the sighting lasted for approximately 15 minutes.

The observation was made by all witnesses who at first thought it was an aircraft as it moved at a steady speed and in a straight line from NNE to S.

The sky was clear and moonless with some very high cirrus cloud, but stars were clearly visible through the thin cloud. The only source of illumination was the street lights.

The light source was larger than a match-head and slightly smaller than the full moon, and initially the witnesses thought it might be a Jumbo jet.

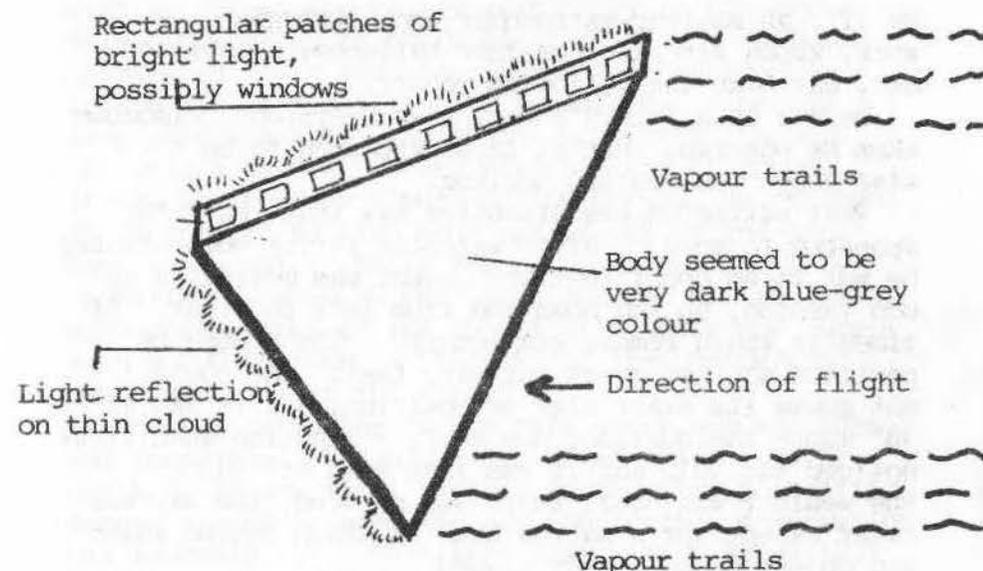
However, they all felt it was travelling slower than a 747, but as the altitude was greater than 10 000 ft (3 000 m) and there was no noise, they ruled this out.

They felt that the object was huge, well over 1 000 ft (300m) across.

They discussed reporting the matter to the newspapers but two of the witnesses did not want to be involved so the idea was abandoned.

They watched the papers for other reports for several days but none appeared and the matter was left at that.

The object they saw looked like this :-

Editor's Comments

Although this report is not in great detail and I cannot identify what was seen at the time, we are including it in this issue as it ties in with the recent Belgian flap of 1990 (March 30/31st) when the Belgian Air Force scrambled two F-16's to investigate an object picked up on radar and seen visually.

The object had a distinct triangular shape.

SKY HI!

MARS: The planet has been particularly bright in our skies. Now we will have to wait till 2003 when Mars will be the closest yet -- 35 million miles away.

#####

Unusual LITS in Gweru, 11th August, 1990

(Report by Trevor Thornton)

Mr 'T', an amateur astronomer who, through his work, knows aircraft, weather balloons, satellites, etc, has made the following report.

He was on a friend's farm near Greystone, Zimbabwe, when he observed what at first appeared to be a star above the western horizon.

What attracted his attention was that the 'star' appeared to move. After watching it for some minutes he was in no doubt that the object was moving in an odd fashion, up and down and from left to right. At times it would remain stationary. The change of position was not great but very fast. He could not guess its exact size or position, but it was at 15° above the horizon, due west. The time when first noticed was 1910 and it was last seen at 1940.

The weather was cool, there was no wind, the sky was clear except for a narrow band of cloud behind which the object occasionally dipped.

Mr 'T' then looked through his binoculars and the object still appeared star-like. Still making erratic movements, it slowly went down behind a row of kopjes on the horizon.

Three other members of his family also witnessed the object.

Bophutatswana Airport Light, November 1989 (Case N°25)

[This report comes from an aircraft electronics engineer whose name is known to the Editor]

Mr C.O. reports the sighting of a flying object over the Mmabatho and Mafikeng area of Bophutatswana (southern Africa) on 14th November, 1989.

C.O. works for BOP AIR, the National Carrier, and is based at Mmabatho Airport.

At about 0750 hrs on that day, he noticed that his fellow engineers and workers were staring up at the sky outside the hangar. He joined them and observed a shiny object apparently stationary in the sky. Being interested in the subject of flying objects, he watched for a few minutes and then decided to try to plot its position. He selected a nearby lamp pole and lined the object up, looking through the pole's superstructure with his eye at ground level, and he made a mark on the ground. He returned to the hangar to find some way of making the mark more permanent. While there, he phoned his wife in Mafikeng, some 20 kms away, and got her to take some photographs of the object with their new camera with a 200 mm lens. The best of the photographs was enclosed with the report.

He kept returning to his mark every now and then, and found that the object had moved every time he checked, though still visible in the sky. Soon afterwards, clouds covered the sky and further observation was impossible. There were fairly fast winds that morning, which could account for the movement of the object.

C.O. subsequently heard reports that the flying wing of the Bophutatswana military had sent a helicopter to investigate, but the 'copter could not reach a height above 3 500 m, whilst the object took evasive action and subsequently must have been lost to sight.

Point to Ponder

In an interview between Marie-Therese de Brosses and Prof. Jean-Pierre Petit, Director of the National Science Research Centre of France, reported in the MUFON JOURNAL, when asked why he thought the 'alien' visitors were not contacting us, said, "When two civilisations that are very different culturally and technologically meet, history teaches us that with rare exceptions, the more advanced literally dissolves the other."

#

Unexplained Light Visible in the Vumba (Case N° 31)

This report originally came from Kathy Newman of the Vumba and concerned a neighbour of hers.

The incident occurred on the night of Tuesday, 23rd November, 1990. Philip, the cook of Mrs B.S., was sitting outside his hut with his wife when, at 2230 they saw this very bright object suddenly appear from the south and moving north.

It was so bright that it lit up the ground for quite a way around them. There was a longish flame coming from the rear of the light, which was elliptical in shape -- rather elongated.

It was huge, according to the cook, with a large light underneath, and approximating to the size of the full moon. There was also a light in front of the object, which kept on blinking on and off : the larger underneath light remained on all the time.

No noise accompanied the object and there was no unusual smell. The observation took place over a period of approximately 5 minutes when both Philip and his wife, although extremely frightened, were able to observe it all the time.

**

Ed. Comments : I have not been to the Vumba (near to Mutare) since this report was received, so although I have spoken to both women, I have not been able to talk with Philip and his wife yet. As soon as I have the opportunity to travel there, I will interview them personally.

THE FACE OF MARS?

Located in Cydonia, in Mars' Northern hemisphere, this 'face' is 1500 ft (500 m) high. Ten miles (16 km) SW of the 'face' is a huge pyramid.

##

WATER AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE WITH REGARD TO UFOs

Paul Norman, Vice President of VUFORS in Australia and a colleague of mine, has written recently to say that he is interested in the relationship with UFOs and their need for water, or their use of water. As we have several cases of note in Africa relating to water, I thought it would be timely to do a brief review of these cases.

The first case comes from our investigator in Namibia, R M Roëis.

Case N° 28 (C). Report from Gomaub-South/Hoachanas

On the 26th April, 1985, the witness heard her child crying in its cot and went to see what was wrong. (She was not specific about the time, just that it was during the night).

As she attended to the child, she saw a light sphere - 'full of flickering stars' - fall from the sky and hover over the homestead.

The following morning, the witness' husband, Mr V., found that the farm dam was dry. The size of the dam was 15m in diameter and 2m high.

Mr V. said this was the second time in 5 months that this had occurred, although there is no leakage in the dam. He added that he had lived on this farm since 1932 and in several instances he had seen a 'spooky light' which moves over the land and then goes.

"It's the size of a large motor-bike headlight", he added.

**

Case N° 33: the Empty Water Tank

The witness in this case did not want to be identified although I know him well and can vouch for its authenticity.

The witness lived on a small-holding in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, in Natal, South Africa. He and his wife had a small house on the property where his daughter bred horses. One morning she arrived at breakfast time and asked her father if he would fill the water tank which stood on struts, as it was nearly empty.

The tank was made of corrugated iron and ran into a trough for the horses. There was a ladder up the side which the witness climbed up to ascertain that the tank was full after he had run water into it.

The following morning his daughter turned up again and accused her father of not attending to her request. He protested. The tank was empty, she told him. He could not believe her as he personally noted its fullness the day before. But upon examination of the tank, it was true: there was no water there.

The witness examined the ground below the tank, and also the tank itself to see if there were any visible cracks. The ground was bone dry and there were no discernible leaks. He called in an engineering friend to check the tank out, but this man could find nothing wrong.

About two days later, the witness learned that there had been some UFO activity in the area on the night in question; at least, that strange lights had been seen in the sky.

* *

Case N° 27: Fort Beaufort, Cape, South Africa

This story began on the 26th June, 1972 when Boer de Klerk, a labourer on Bennie Smit's farm in the Fort Beaufort area, spotted a big ball of fire hovering near the farm reservoir. When he called Smit to come and witness 'the ugly thing', Smit fetched his .303 rifle and called the police.

After many shots had been fired with only one hit, the ball disappeared into the undergrowth. Despite the smallness of its size (about $\frac{3}{4}$ m in diameter) it appeared to react to voices and movement, and changed colour when hit.

There was a great deal of fuss and denigration from the media and Smit said, "I'm sick and tired of the whole business, and I'm going to forget about it." But on Saturday, 8th July, two mysterious explosions were heard from the Braeside Farm and at daybreak, Smit discovered that his reservoir had been shattered. The reservoir was 8 m in diameter and made of heavy brick and cement and held thousands of gallons of water.

Coincidence, or some significance with WATER?

Case N° 7

The final case I wish to quote at the moment is the Du Toit's Kloof Case, in the Cape, South Africa. This case appeared in detail in UFO AFRINEWS N°2 and only a brief summary is given here.

The witness, Henry, had driven to the top of Du Toit's Kloof to test his wife's car battery when he was approached by a man requesting water. He drove the man to a nearby stream and filled an oil cannister he had in the car with the water. Subsequently, the man told him to go back to where he had been picked up and beckoned Henry to join him. He took Henry to a disc-shaped craft standing in the shadow and invited Henry to enter. Inside, he indicated to Henry to wait where he was, and then proceeded to take the cannister of water to a man lying on a bench at the other side of the craft. Henry could not ascertain if the man whom he was told had been injured 'on entry into your atmosphere' had been given the water to drink or whether it had been applied to his injuries.

Over the years of my investigation into UFOs, I have come across several dozen cases where water has been involved. Either the craft appears to be sucking up water through tentacle-like structures protruding from beneath the craft, or hovers over a space of water where it is difficult to check if any water has been taken aboard.

As far as I am concerned, I heartily support Paul Norman in his research into this very interesting sidelight of the UFO syndrome and would appreciate any other reports from readers on 'water' cases in Africa.

FURTHER REPORT ON THE ALLEGED BOTSWANA/SOUTH AFRICAN
UFO BORDER CRASH -- Case N° 21 Cynthia Hind

In the report in AFRINEWS N° 3 (June 1990), I made it clear that James van Greunen was the perpetrator of the hoax concerning the above incident. But only as far as the events were concerned. I never denied that something might have happened on the Border and for the purpose of this extension to the earlier investigation, I intend reporting on the further developments, with only passing reference to the fraudulent behaviour of Van Greunen. He, incidentally, appears to have left South Africa and was last reported to have been seen in Cairo with a German girl friend. I had two phone numbers for him and both David Powell and I repeatedly dialled the numbers; but although the phone rang (which showed that it was still paid up), no-one replied. An interesting side-light to this was discovered by David: on a page of alleged 'hieroglyphic writing' which Van Greunen said was discovered inside the crashed UFO, two telephone numbers appeared. One of these is a Pretoria number which David has repeatedly dialled; on one occasion, the line was engaged, but when he dialled again shortly afterwards, the phone rang without reply. I have now picked up a second telephone number on the same sheet of paper (it is a London number) and am trying to track this down. Whatever results with regard to the crashed UFO, I'm quite sure that Van Greunen will be involved somewhere along the line.

Further contact with GMC of Bulawayo (whom I have now met and who has proved to be of great assistance) has shown that the 'fireball' which was originally reported to have been seen on 07-05-1989, was in fact, seen on 07-05-1988.

The time of sighting was 2345 and it was seen from the Matopos Road at the 29.5 km peg when GMC was travelling in his car. The weather was calm and clear and the object, viewed for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a second, was moving fast eastward at a 10° angle.

It moved vertically below Arcturus, and was brighter than Venus.

It was a greenish colour with a luminous white trail, and after sighting it, GMC saw it vanish above the horizon. There was nothing more of significance during this time.

No part of this report ties in with what Van Greunen had to say, with one exception: I received a letter from Irene Granchi, head of C.I.S.N.E. in Brasil, and a top Brazilian investigator. One of her top investigators, a doctor who was a most reliable and intelligent researcher, had interviewed a Marine sergeant who was now retired from the services and working in his own business. He had been a photographic expert and according to him had flown to South Africa in 1988 to take pictures of a crash on the Botswana border with South Africa.

The sergeant's story was interesting: he maintains that in December 1988 he was sent by the Navy to South Africa where he stayed for four days. He took photographs which were not shown to anyone and the film was handed over to his superiors. The photographs were taken in the Kalahari Desert (misspelled in Brasil as 'Kalawari') - not designated exactly where - but the spot was close to a hamlet of a nomadic cattle-raising people. The area was well treed, but many of the trees had been torn from the ground as though something had fallen from above and destroyed them. He noticed pieces of metal in the ground beside the fallen trees; the metal was blackened as though badly burnt. The crater caused by the fall was deep but not very large; the sergeant estimated it at about 15m in diameter. He also mentioned that a French agent had been shot by the CIA when found trying to survey the place. He says he saw American Marines there with machinery and cranes, cleaning up the area and what was left over looked like a heap of bent metal.

Upon examining his evidence, there is a question of dates. If he was flown to South Africa in December '88, he could not be reporting on an event which happened in May '89!

AND, how come the Brazilian Navy is involved in an incident on the S.Africa/Botswana border?

If the Brazilian sergeant is telling the truth, then perhaps we have to look at an All-Nations Committee (not just an MJ-12) on the investigation of UFOs.

The Brazilian investigator feels that the Marine sergeant has no axe to grind regarding this report; he has not obtained any publicity for his business (he remains anonymous) and there is no money involved. However, it does strike me as rather strange that anyone - even an International Investigation Committee - would call on a Brazilian naval photographer to take pictures 8000 km away from the country concerned, unless a) there were no qualified photographers in S.Africa - which is absurd - or b) if it was on the Botswana side of the border, then of course they might not allow the South Africans into their country.

I also find it difficult to accept nomadic tribes-people with cattle in this area, as Nomads don't drive animals along with them on their treks but kill game as they require food.

And why, for heaven's sake, would the CIA shoot a French agent when this was bound to be witnessed and noted by other nationals?

On the other hand, if the Brazilian sergeant is telling the truth, then maybe this is the event that did happen on the Border. Maybe Van Greunen based his whole imaginative saga on an event that actually took place. But the crashing of a UFO? A more likely explanation would be space debris from a foreign satellite, or the remains of a secret weapon that South Africa was anxious to retrieve -- and someone else got there first!

Subsequently, other factors from the earlier report have come to light :

Bill Nell, whom I mentioned in AFRINEWS 3 is obviously Bill Knell of New York, head of a UFO group there and in possession of some photographs of alleged Aliens, certainly not taken in South Africa.

On a published letter in the JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION, a section of the USAF (presumably) has replied to an enquiry from Mr Harry Harris, a Manchester solicitor and well-known UFO investigator. It says :

"Our contacts advise that the object in question was not brought down by South African forces, but crashed due to 'advanced composites fatigue.'" A satellite in trouble?

In one of the documents produced by Van Greunen, he mentions several names, some of which are :

D A Fielding	Major	Counter Intelligence
W A Spaulding	Capt.	" "
H J Greef	Capt.	" "
J H Van Greunen	Capt.	" "
R J Shickerling	Capt.	Air Force Pilot

Major Fielding was a very great friend of Elizabeth Klarer, the South African woman who had a UFO experience in 1957. He died about three years ago. W A Spaulding, I suspect, has been borrowed from Bill Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch. H J Greef is Van Greunen's pilot friend who might initially have spilled the beans.

R J Shickerling is an ex-SAAF pilot who had a UFO experience in Botswana, for whose Air Force he now flies.

I don't recognize the other names but I feel that they were picked out of a hat as well. They are well-known South African names, like Smith, Wilson, Jones and so forth.

I doubt that we will ever know the truth about what happened on the South African border but I cannot help feeling that whatever it was, it certainly was not a spacecraft with two fighting aliens inside!

* * * * *

On page 7, item (c) of AFRINEWS N° 3 we referred to a strange, hieroglyphic type of writing which Van Greunen had alleged was found inside the crashed craft.

He actually produced two pages referring to this writing, with an interpretation (his, obviously) and some actual sentences. Most people seemed to accept this as authentic. A colleague of mine, Irene Granchi - already referred to above - had come across similar writings and sent me several pages produced by various people. Maria Sullivan, our Asst. Editor, who worked for some time for a Professor of Linguistics at Wits University in Johannesburg, South Africa, volunteered to do a study of the writing allegedly found inside the craft.

This is her report.

... ..

The 'CREM ALPHABET FROM RETICULI'

--- Fact, Fiction or Fantasy?

To be given a sheet of incomprehensible symbols purporting to be an alphabet from the star system Reticuli, and to be asked whether I think this is a genuine alphabet of a 'real' language, is a daunting experience. How can one begin to analyze a totally unknown set of shapes, said to be characters of an extraterrestrial dialect copied from originals allegedly seen aboard an alien craft shot down in southern Africa?

For this - as you may have already guessed - is yet another twist in the tangled plot of the incredible Van Greunen Saga, alias the Saucer-that-didn't-get-away and was shot down by a South African Air Force laser cannon over Botswana in May, 1989.

The strange symbols, together with a key to their sounds in English and (I quote) 'various deciphered phrases as seen and translated on board Alien craft' by a person signing himself Captain James Van Greunen, SAAF Intelligence, Pretoria, and dated 10th August (or 8th October) 1989, represent an astounding feat of inventiveness .

This 'alphabet' of a 'dialect' [Note: not the main language of Reticuli but one of its dialects] consists of 132 characters, each representing a 3-letter sound in English, e.g. AKA, REF, YIE, TUI, NEK, CHU, MON, etc.

In the 'deciphered and translated' parts as set out by Van Greunen, there is a sequence of three long sentences where not one single symbol is repeated! This factor, more than anything else, made me very suspicious about the genuineness of such a language, whether of earthly or unearthly origin.

The Dutch philologist, Professor Marius Valkhoff, late of Witwatersrand University in South Africa (with whom I worked), used to stress that there are several important points to look for when analyzing an unknown written language. Three of them are CONSISTENCY, LOGIC, and especially REPEAT PATTERN.

Written language in particular - whether primitive or advanced - is a complex end-product and obeys fairly strict rules. Whether it is read from left to right or right to left, downwards or upwards, the same signs or very similar signs, should give the same, or similar sounds. Even in pictorial languages such as some Oriental tongues or Egyptian hieroglyphics, there is consistency and a repeat pattern: the signs signify sounds and the same sign will signify the same sound, or word -- so that one can begin to recognise some of them after some study.

One could say that it is essential to check for this repetitive pattern. I have seen some very ancient writing, sent to Irene Granchi of Brasil by one of her contacts. Though it looked totally indecipherable at first, I picked out a very large number of instances where one or other symbol was repeated, e.g.

⚡, ʔ, 8, 15, etc.

In fact, in one line of writing containing 25 characters, the symbol  featured six times; and it was used with great frequency throughout the 36 lines of closely-written text that I studied. The page was photocopied from a book on Acupuncture by a Japanese author and dealt with ancient tongues and their origins, such as Hebrew, Sanskrit, Celtic, Miyoji, Filipino and Tamiara. Some characters were based on facial expressions, some on bird tracks, tree branches, etc.

A, the first letter of our alphabet, started life as the head of an ox,  i.e. ALP. It evolved into its present form when alphabets became more and more simplified as we became more civilized.

The best example is perhaps that of Egyptian hieroglyphs which were cumbersome and time consuming, and were eventually superseded by the much simpler demotic characters.

As civilizations advance, written language tends to become simpler, e.g. the American rendering of English words like 'labour', 'Plough', etc. as 'labor', 'Plow', etc.

Whatever the language, word-characters are repeated, especially the link words such as prepositions, pronouns and conjunctions ... certainly this is the case in advanced languages.

The point I want to make is that repetition is an essential part of all the (terrestrial) languages I am familiar with or have researched for this article. And the fact that such a pattern is missing from the so-called Reticuli Dialect Alphabet found in the alleged alien craft should make us seriously doubt its authenticity. In fact, in the document labelled 'The Crem Alphabet' by Van Greunen, there is no consistency, no logic that one can see, and no repeat pattern. *

* See 'Correction' footnote on page 28

After failing to find these points, I wondered how the person who did the 'translation' could not only have deciphered this most impenetrable alphabet, but even translated the most abstract concepts -- all in the space of some days, possibly weeks, but no longer; the document is dated August, or October, 1989; that is, soon after the supposed crash of the UFO in Botswana.

Examples of inconsistencies :- KOG is shown as  but KOB is , POK is  and KE = . Here we seem to find  being the sound of K, perhaps... but then where is it in KOG and KOB?

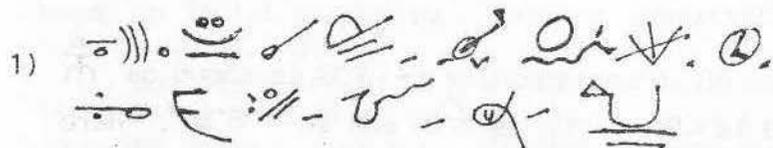
What about KIER, which looks like this  ? And especially KRIK, with its double-K sound  ? TEM is  but TSO =  and TUI = . In fact, the sound BES is so complicated that the mind boggles :  !! So many strokes for one single letter, when a similar character-sound, BÖT, is shown as  !!

There are many more examples, e.g. NOS = , but EIOS =  and XIS is , all seemingly with the sound of S, but with nothing similar in any of them; and even if this alleged Dialect of Reticulum (sic) is a pictorial language, the way the characters have no tie-in with others of the same or very similar sound, makes it far more difficult to try to decipher or make some sense of.

The CREM language (REM = ) would probably defeat the decipherer of the Rosetta Stone. I am intrigued as to how this man - or any man for that matter - could, in such a short time, translate whole abstract ideas from a few characters. He is either a genius --- or an Alien!

My opinion about the 'deciphered and translated' sentences claimed by Van Greunen to have been taken from script found in the alien craft, is that they come straight out of a C-class Space Opera scripted by an avid reader of Sci-Fi, or viewer of TV, aged about 12!

Here are three fine examples :-

1) 

"EXODUS TO EARTH CONFIRMED, COMPLETE OVERTHROW OF HUMAN RACE AND INIAHALATION(sic) OF ALL LEADERS IN POWER."

2) 

"DISSAPATION(sic) OF ALL WATER FROM SEAS AND RIVERS TO BE EXECUTED AS APPROVED (sic) BY LEADER AKRON [or HERON]." Could this be a misspelling for Elizabeth Klarer's Akon'?

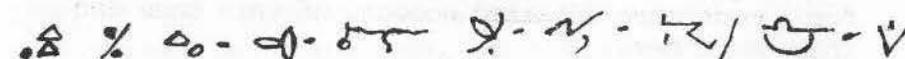
3) 

"TOTAL ENSLAVEMENT OF RACE KNOWN AS HUMANS AND EVENTUALL (sic) SECURED EXTINGTION (sic) OF ENTIRE POPPULACE (sic)."

Godzilla couldn't have put it better!!

Correction: Note that the last letter (character) in message 2) and the fourth-last in message 3) are very similar, but do not tally in the translation.

My favourite phrase is :-


SAL NJA PIE AI FLU ? LAM DUM CHU KU

"SECURE AND COMPUTE SYSTEMS ELEVATION WATER OF INITIATIONS."

!!!

I would think that if the characters were copied from somewhere, it was not from an 'extraterrestrial' language. After all, a civilization that can span the unimaginable distances between Earth and the Reticuli System, must surely have evolved a less cumbersome and time-consuming way of writing. Evolution in language leads to simplification, not the contrary.

I can only dismiss this so-called alphabet of an extraterrestrial dialect - and especially the 'deciphered and translated' sentences given above - as a complete fabrication in line with the others that have made the Van Greunen Saga one of the most impudently successful confidence tricks in recent ufological history.

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MORE LIGHT ON THE MOUNT KILIMANJARO CASE

In AFRINEWS N° 1 (July 1988), page 5, there is mention of an interesting case which took place in Kenya on Feb. 19th, 1951. It is certainly not a new case and the witnesses would now be 40 years older, but at least some should now be only in their early seventies and others even younger. The case was never properly resolved as one of the crucial witnesses seemed to have disappeared, so we wonder if anyone in the Durban area can throw any light on this case.

We are grateful to Richard Heiden of Milwaukee, USA, for a much more detailed account of this case and include it here.

Nine men and two women who saw a mystery object flying near Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanganyika (now Tanzania), signed an affidavit giving a very clear report. They saw the mystery object for 17 minutes from their plane and described it as bullet-nosed and metallic. Radio operator Dennis Merrifield (34) was the first to see it and to draw the pilot's attention to the object. The pilot was Capt. J Bicknell (30). The morning was clear and cloudless, with good visibility.

Bicknell says, "I timed the object for 17 minutes while the Lodestar held its course. Twice it rose vertically to a final height of 40 000 ft (12 500 m), then it moved east towards the coast at a terrific speed."

One passenger, Capt. H B Fussell, a Newport, Monmouthshire sports dealer who had a pair of powerful binoculars, said, "Through the glasses the object appeared bullet-shaped. The colour was whitish-silver with three vertical black bands down the side. For ten minutes it remained stationary, then it suddenly rose vertically by 5 000 ft. Again it became stationary, then a minute later it rose again and moved laterally away at a great speed, probably 400 mph."

When confronted with the theory that it might have been a balloon, Capt. Fussell denied this emphatically. "How could a balloon hover motionless and move at 400 mph in the same weather conditions? The object was definitely metallic," he said.

Also aboard was a radio officer from the American freighter ROBIN MOWBRAY. He said, "I couldn't swear to it but through the binoculars I thought I could identify a row of circular windows."

Charles J Vernon, purser of the ROBIN MOWBRAY and also an American, said "The object must have been immense, two or three times the size of the largest passenger plane."

Several attempts were made to take photographs of the object. Capt. Fussell took a picture with his miniature camera, but Overstreet, the radio officer, shot 30 ft of colour film with a telescopic lens on his cine camera.

Capt. Bicknell said, "I later learnt that Overstreet was on his way to the United States to show [the film] to the authorities there. The name of the vessel on which he was travelling was mentioned to me at the time, and the date of his expected arrival. In spite of repeated requests from me for further news, I have always drawn a complete blank as to the whereabouts of Mr Overstreet and his colour film."

At some later date, both Bicknell and Merrifield stated that they felt the object was an aircraft of some sort. Merrifield felt that it was a machine, 500 years ahead of its time. [Familiar words - Ed.]

The NATAL MERCURY in Durban, South Africa, published both a story about the sighting and, it is believed, a photograph purporting to be the UFO. This was obtained from Ray Overstreet, who had taken the cine film of the object. Stories abound that Overstreet disappeared, or at least that he could not be traced. However, James Moseley, a reporter, says there is no mystery to the case. "The film exists; it was examined by the (US) Air Force. It was found to be little more than a bouncing bit of light and was returned."

This does not disprove what Bicknell, Merrifield and all the others saw, but it does not prove it either.

There must be people in the Durban area, in their sixties or seventies, who might remember this incident. Better still, there might be people (ex-Kenyans) who know the whereabouts of either Bicknell, Merrifield or, most important of all, Ray Overstreet.

This story has appeared, over the years, all over the world, but nowhere as close to home as in AFRINEWS and some readers might be able to help.

NEW CASES :Case 26: The Vanishing Cylinder at Hangklip

(Investigated by Pam Puxley, Cape Town, South Africa)

Mr C D Gaussen (65), a retired man of Glencairn, Cape, liked nothing better than to walk along the beach enjoying the bracing sea air. He had been, in his own words, "walking along that beach for 8 years" and looking out over the bay to the mountains some 40 kms away, and never during all that time had he seen anything unusual.

Until that clear, beautiful afternoon of August 22nd, 1990 when, looking as usual towards the mountains across the bay, he became aware of a strange 'something' on top of one of the small mountains immediately next to Hangklip. The 'thing' appeared to be a large cylindrical tank, of a dark colour, and because of the exceptionally clear atmosphere he could see it in detail, even 40 kms away, and it certainly looked to be of some considerable size.

Mr Gaussen watched the object as he walked down the beach towards the railway crossing; it did not seem to be moving. Just then, he met a couple coming in the opposite direction. He asked them if they were familiar with the appearance of the mountains in the distance, and when they said they were, he pointed out the dark cylinder standing out clearly against the mountain background. The couple were very surprised, saying they had lived in the area for years and had never seen anything peculiar on the mountains.

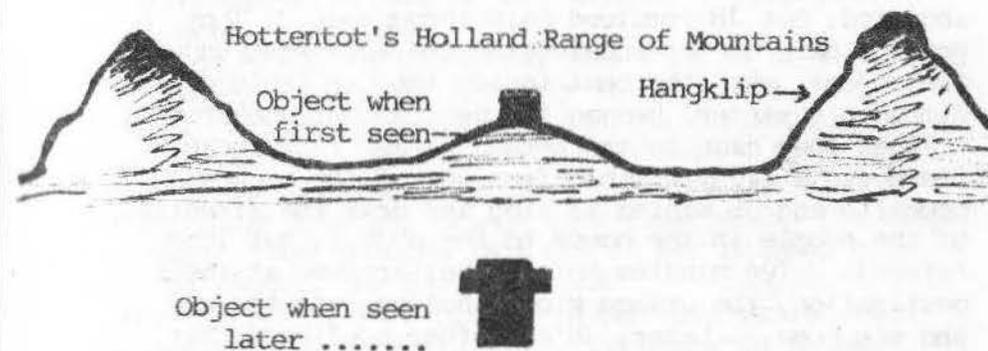
While they were watching the strange structure and discussing it - about five minutes after meeting - the object suddenly started moving, became more elongated and developed something like 'lugs' or 'ears' on the sides. To their astonishment, it moved up and suddenly vanished over the mountain, presumably down the other side.

From appearing very dark while it stood still, the object seemed to become lighter in colour when it started moving.

Mr Gaussen said, "It moved up the mountainside, then developed these sort of 'ears' on the sides, and while we all watched this, it suddenly... whoops... disappeared very quickly."

He had first thought it might have been a shadow projected by the sun, or a cavern projecting a shadow, but this did not fit in with what he and the other witnesses saw.

"I've been walking up and down that beach for 8 years, and often looked across the bay at the mountains, but never have I seen anything unusual like I saw that day."

Case 30: JB and the intriguing tie-up with the 'Hoax'

On the night of July 26, 1975, JB and her business associate Tony were driving from Harare to a motel where they lived, outside Rusape. They stopped in Marondera for cigarettes and cold drinks, when JB became aware of a strange, unpleasant smell.

About 5 minutes after leaving Marondera, JB spotted what she thought at first was a large orange moon among the trees on the roadside. She was soon aware of her error when she saw the real moon through the back window of her car.

Some 20 minutes later, still followed by the orange 'ball of light', they arrived at the first garage in Macheke (when approaching from Harare). The garage lights were on, an unusual occurrence during the War of Independence in Zimbabwe.

JB wanted to stop but Tony was nervous and refused to do so. At this stage JB could see that the object was egg-shaped with the top cut off. It appeared to be descending. She was excited but Tony grew increasingly nervous and started an asthma attack.

The object was low enough for JB to see that it was wider than the road, about 20 metres in diameter. There were no openings or marks. JB was leaning out of the window in order to see clearly, when she became aware of the smell again (She described it as similar to the smell of Durban Harbour: a composite of oil, tar, seaweed, decomposing matter, etc.). Tony, now extremely agitated, thought they were going to be abducted, but JB remained calm throughout. Tony pressed hard on the accelerator and they shot under the object, when the heat inside the car (this during Zimbabwe's winter) became intense, almost unbearable.

When they came to the second garage in Macheke, there was a light visible from one of the houses opposite and JB wanted to stop and draw the attention of the people in the house to the object, but Tony refused. Ten minutes before they arrived at their destination, the orange globe shot up into the sky and was gone. Later, JB's brother confirmed that there had been reports of 'something in the sky' over Harare.

Ed. comments : This sighting is particularly interesting because it took place on the same night as the experience of John Clark, the Macheke man who claimed to have been thrown on the ground and paralysed by a terrifically bright light above his garden (See UFOs AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, p 109 ff).

Clark's house and garden were opposite to the second garage in Macheke, only a short distance from where JB and Tony passed under the object. However, there is a discrepancy in time: Clark saw the light at 1930 in the evening, whereas JB and Tony did not pass the house until 2115 - 2130 that night. Clark was knocked unconscious by the light and did not come to until well after midnight.

It is relevant to note that Clark's experience was labelled a hoax by most people as well as this Editor. This was mainly due to his drinking problem and questions about the stability of his character volunteered by people in Macheke.

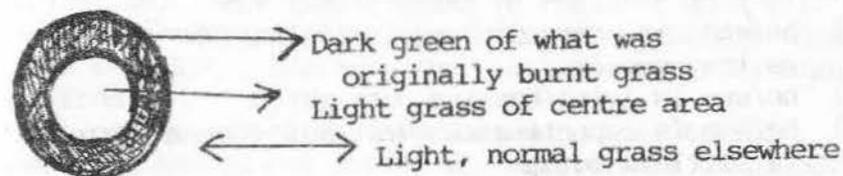
Case 32 : The Circle in the Grass

This incident occurred sometime in December, 1988 and although we tried, we were unable to pinpoint the exact date.

Mr and Mrs B. of Cleveland Park were in their living room (lounge) of their property in Cleveland Park, Harare. It was after supper and the curtains were drawn as it was already dark. Mr B was sitting with his back to the window and Mrs B, facing the window, suddenly saw a bright orange glow from behind the closed curtains. She pointed this out to her husband but when he looked, the glow had gone.

The following morning, their gardener called them to come and see a circle which had appeared on the lawn. It seemed as though the circle was etched in burnt grass. The outside diameter was approximately 2m 10cm (7 ft) and the inside diameter was 90cm (3ft).

The circle looked like this :



Unfortunately, I did not receive this report until a year later, but went immediately on the 21st December '89 to examine the circle which was still evident. The burnt grass of the circle was then a bright green, whilst the inside of the circle was a much paler colour.

We took several samples, one from within the circle, one in the actual circle itself and two control samples from outside the circle at varying degrees away from it. These samples were taken to Mr Fenner of the Chemistry and Soil Research Institute under the Ministry of Land, Agriculture & Rural Settlements and he produced the following analysis :-

1. Soil from Circle itself pH analysis: 6,1
2. Soil from inside circle, pH analysis: 6,6
3. Control Sample a) pH analysis: 6,6

All soil wetted up readily. 0,5 of pH is significant.

I have not been able to establish how this difference of 0,5 pH could have occurred, and what might have fallen there to cause the change in structure of the soil, but I am awaiting a further report from a geologist friend.

HOW TO BECOME AN INVESTIGATOR - Part II

Questioning of Witnesses :

Obviously, the most important aspect of a UFO report is the witness/es to the event. One has to try and establish, at one time or another, whether:

- a) he/she, in your opinion, is telling the truth as they see it;
- b) he/she is lying/hoaxing outright;
- c) he/she is reporting an event but exaggerating (a little/a lot)
- d) he/she is such a good witness that there is little doubt in your mind that they are reporting what they, and everyone else, have seen.

On the whole, being able to categorise the story of the witness as above comes only with experience. Don't be discouraged if you make mistakes; after all, that's part of learning.

There are many famous UFO people: professors, University lecturers, pilots, policemen -- men and women of excellent ability, who never interview a witness. Paul Norman, Vice President of VUFORS (Victoria UFO Research Society in Australia) first introduced me to the word 'Armchair' Professors! His interpretation was essentially derogatory: people who made positive identifications of UFO sightings and denigrated witnesses, without ever leaving their offices.

In some instances I concur with Paul on this issue: in the Rosmead Tennis-Court Case, a Professor from WITS University said the damage to the court had been caused by a whirlwind. When confronted with the burnt trees (two facing the court), he quickly changed to 'lightning' (on a warm, cloudless day?).

I do realize that not everyone can go into the field to research. The field investigators bring in the evidence and the character assessment to the best of their ability; but it is the 'armchair' experts who mostly interpret the evidence.

Still, for those of us who are not experts, the initial learning of UFOlogy must lie in 'field investigation'. At first I was totally sceptical of everything I heard. They were not necessarily dishonest people, it was all misinterpretation or fanciful imagination. But then I began to realise, when evidence upon evidence piled up, that the encounters themselves were REAL, wherever the craft and entities might come from.

My early attempts to interview were all 'by the book'. I handed out forms, all beautifully compiled, but missed the essentials: the emotionalism of the encounter; the impassioned questioning by the witness of 'what is it?' and 'where are they from?', and the final analysis, 'why me?' Neither I nor the forms had the answers!

It didn't take long for me to abandon them almost totally, although I still use them initially when a witness and case are out of town. I always enclose a s.a.e. (an incentive for a reply!) and this does give me the basic story of the case while still fresh in the mind of the witness. But, unless the sighting is easily identifiable, I follow up by visiting the person/people involved, as soon as possible.

I use the first session as 'confidence-gaining' and then introduce the tape recorder. I never have only one meeting unless of course, the subject is easily identifiable, e.g. meteorites, bolides, special balloons, debris, etc. Sometimes it was inconvenient to go back to some remote part of Africa and quite a bit of time would elapse; but I had already obtained the physical essentials which were the important issues to remember immediately. The fact that months elapsed before the next interview was often beneficial. The witness had time to think, to evaluate, to add small significant details which had not occurred to him/her initially. In other instances it gave them time to treat me with more confidence; to tell me things that were too strange to report in the first instance.

In the case of Danie Van Graan, he showed me - on my third visit to the small, insignificant village where he lived - the piece of glass he had picked up on site after the craft took off: still warm to the touch and with bits of grass and sand embedded in it, where the heat from the craft had melted the sand and left this unusual evidence.

On my second visit he remembered the 8-headed cabbages which grew beside the fence where the craft had stood, and a dozen other details he'd never thought to report before. But more important than ever, his own thoughts on the issue, i.e. Why did they not try to contact him, or exchange an artifact of some sort. Were they Russians? Why were the two horses grazing there not affected? [UFO AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, pp.1-20] -- all these were part of an overall assessment.

When I have gained my witness's confidence by showing I am there to listen to their stories without disbelief, or incredulity, I am already half-way there. Apart from establishing name, place, date, time and description in my introduction, I let them talk.

"Tell me what happened", I say, "and if you're not sure, say so! But don't be embarrassed to tell me anything." After all, I'm a mother of children of both sexes: I'm a grandmother and pretty open-minded about most things.

So when recently the first black African abductee (that I know of) came my way and he was hesitant about the position of a scar he could not identify, I reassured him, adding years to my adulthood. I was suddenly so old that he need have no fear of me as a woman. (A bit divorced from my tactics when I'm dealing with younger, good-looking Ufologists like Jerome Clark, Hilary Evans, Richard Hall, Richard Haines, John Spencer et al. Then, my goodness, the years rapidly dissipate!)

Occasionally, I throw in a question or two, bearing in mind my 17 years of training with MUFON. And these are the type of data you should work with:-

- a) If paralyzed, was it partial or total?
Could you still see what was going on?
- b) If there was a bright light, how large or how small - in comparison with the moon or a star?
- c) If your witness heard a sound, have them describe it without suggesting what it might be like:
 - i) humming like bees? (Danie Van Graan)
 - ii) like the sound of a dynamo? (Bruce case in this issue)
 - iii) a beeping sound?
 - iv) an explosive sound?
 - v) a whistling sound? (See Case 3 in UFO AFRINEWS N° 1)

d) Very often, a smell accompanies the sighting:

- i) ozone
- ii) sulphur
- iii) other, e.g. a witness described the accompanying smell like that of 'Durban harbour.' I actually wrote to the Port Captain of Durban to get his definition and he was kind enough to reply: A rather oily, unsavory smell!

e) Then, one has to go into after-effects.
Physical after-effects would include:

- i) bloodshot and sore eyes;
double vision (Danie Van Graan)
- ii) unaccountable body scars (Bruce)
- iii) difficulty with breathing
- iv) vomiting
- v) sunburn
- vi) peeling skin (Bruce case, this issue)
- vii) weight loss/gain
- viii) speech defects, i.e. slurring, stuttering, inability to form words (Caroline Case, AFRINEWS N° 1)

f) After-effects: Psychological

- i) Disorientation, eg you are in your bedroom and then suddenly inside a craft (Janet of Durban);
- ii) Loss of Time
- iii) You recognize the place, but the background has changed, eg. Frances and Peter travelling to Durban, South African from Harare, Zimbabwe. They knew where they were but instead of dry, sparsely bushed terrain, there seemed to be swampland and water.

- iv) You are left with special powers, i.e. paranormal attributes, e.g. Caroline (AFRINEWS 1) had blue sparks emanating from the window sill where she was sitting; Jan Oberholzer (Case 19, AFRINEWS 3) saw in his mind's eye how the pulley on the mining machine should work.

There are many more categories and sections that questions can be divided into, too numerous for me to include here. However, this is merely a start and you will learn, hopefully, as you go along. All my information is now being fed into a computer but it will take many months to complete the data.

On the other hand, it is THERE and I will willingly assist wherever and whoever I can, provided they are genuine investigators.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED

- UFOLOGY by James McCampbell.
INTRUDERS by Budd Hopkins. Price £3.40
Obtainable from Arcturus Book Services,
Box 831383, Stone Mountain, CA 30083-0023,
U.S.A.
- PHENOMENON by John Spencer & Hilary Evans. Price £4.
Obtainable from Spacelink Books, 115 Holly-
bush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2QY, U.K.
- MUFON INVESTIGATORS MANUAL. Price US\$15.
Obtainable from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road,
Seguin, TX, U.S.A.
(Available to MUFON members only)

BOOKS FOR GENERAL READING

- THE TWELVE PLANETS SPEAK¹ by Carl Van Vlieden. R20
UFO REPORT 1991 by Timothy Good - paperback £11
ALTERNATIVE 3 by Watkins & Miles US\$9.95
OUT THERE by Howard Blum US\$19.95
DIMENSIONS by Jacques Vallée £4.45

¹ Obtainable from: Jocelyn Marnoch, 39 Rockhaven Rd,
Cowies Hill, Pinetown 3601, South Africa

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From V D Musinsky, USSR

I am very proud you have overcome all problems. You handled the case in the Kalahari very professionally and you did much more than I expected. By the way, a lot of Russians are jealous that we publish a leaflet on our information, but at the same time they don't do anything.

After receiving your letter I said to myself, it is only the crazy people who can push UFOlogy into the future. Long live crazy specialists!

I am ready to send you UFO information in English. I could send you UFO articles in Russian but don't know if you can have those translated. If you have difficulty, then I will use the translation in future.

Thank you for the address you sent. I used it immediately. I hope you received our Bulletins. Next issue will be the Autumn one (Sept/Oct).

I would like to advise that you translate only information concerning Russia. I don't think you are interested in what we publish from the Western press.

Do you need addresses of any Western magazines? If yes, let me know.

Best wishes.

[This letter has been shortened]

From Stevens Ndlovu, Battalion Battle School, Nyanga, Zimb.

I have read with interest your book about the UFOs and MUFON. I have wondered if the stories are true? I have obtained your address through my friend Mr T B Muleya.

Please may I know if such stories as huge people with tiny heads really landed in the USSR and why didn't the Soviet satellite intercept them?

The Bulawayo paper reported in its August 26, 1990 edition that an unknown rock landed somewhere in Masvingo, was that true? What is your organization doing to find a solution to this issue?

I find it hard to believe. Please help me understand if one day our earth will be raided by those giants as we don't know what they are after.

Yours, eager to know more,

STEVENS SIPHO NDLOVU

(The Editor has sent Mr Ndlovu cuttings about the Voronezh sightings in the USSR)

The unknown rock is a meteorite, the size of a fist, which landed 5 metres from a rural farmer in Masvingo Province. It was black on the outside and the inside was like rough grey cement (iron sulphide) in which was embedded a 'shiny substance' or crystals (lepidolite). The farmer had a terrible fright when the meteorite landed with two loud explosions - passing through the sound barrier - and called in the police. Subsequently, the meteorite was broken open with a badza (hoe).

Peter Lowenstein, a geologist attached to the British Embassy in Harare, dates the meteorite as being approx. 4,5 billion years old. - Ed.

From Mrs W. of Gweru, Zimbabwe:

We used to live in Shurugwi until about 14 years ago. My husband and I, on returning very late one night from a dance in Gweru, saw a very bright light in the sky just to the right of the road as we approached the hills known as 'The Poort'. We turned up the Gwenora Road hoping to get closer, but after travelling about a mile, the light faded. We did not see any object, only a bright light.

Many months later we mentioned the light to some friends who had been at the dance as well, but used their own car. They said they had seen the bright light but had not mentioned this to anyone as they thought the thing would be laughed off, especially as we were returning from a dance!

I mentioned this event to a man named Fred Hawker, a Canadian working for Timbert. He said that he, his wife and many of their workers saw many, many lights from their situation to the left of where we saw the light. In fact they had all seen events on such a regular basis that they hardly took any notice. I might add that their front view would be looking towards Somabula. (This is an area in the middle of Zimbabwe where there is supposed to be a magnetic fault. Tungsten ore is present as well as other ores.

Mining was formerly extensively done in this area).

I was also told by a Mrs Jay Gous that many years ago, when her husband worked in what was then known as Tribal Trust Lands*, between Shurugwi, the Zvi-shavane and the Mashava areas, many of the African people out there saw strange things on almost a daily basis. When questioned closely, these people reported things far beyond the activities of the Air Force, eg. landing and taking-off of vehicles that were not helicopters, but in their own words, 'Makiwa Aircraft', i.e. 'white men's things in the air', unexplainable to our knowledge. I think you will find this area of our country full of stories like this.

Perhaps what we saw were fireballs or meteorites of great brilliance, but who knows?

From David Powell, Pretoria, South Africa:

... Thank you for UFO AFRINEWS N° 3 which arrived safely. I must congratulate you and Maria both for style and content. I like the new cover and the whole production is very satisfying. I'm sure it will be well received in UFO circles (as well as the general readership) especially as it represents an area which has long been silent in the UFO field. It is only thanks to your sterling efforts that these Southern African cases have come to world attention...

With regard to the contents, I especially enjoyed Hilary Evans' 'State of the Phenomenon' letter, and also Prier Wintle's review of John Keel's DISNEYLAND OF THE GODS.

[* Tribal Trust Lands: In colonial times, 41% of the total area of Zimbabwe was set aside for occupation by various African tribes according to their ethnic groups. This was done to protect the tribes against land exploitation by whites, and to preserve the ethnic relationships of the various tribes. - Ed]

I must say that as interesting as it always is to gain a glimpse of Evans' ideas on the subject, I found it shallow and rather disappointing. True, he did make some valid points - such as the danger of trying to fit the entire framework of UFO lore into a single and simple explanation. The UFO data is extraordinarily complex. It seems likely that the ultimate explanation will also be complex. But that does not mean that after 40 years of research it is not possible to discern the wood from the trees.

My problem with Hilary Evans is that he still seems lost in a Time warp - or in the thickets of Magonia as Jerome Clark would say. It is all very well to say that UFOs have an undoubted 'psychological' significance, but he clearly sees no meaning yet in the case histories of contactees. As John Keel has pointed out often enough, the key to the whole UFO phenomenon lies with the contactees. It is not enough just simply to shrug off their stories as subjective or psychological. There is also clear evidence of purpose which shines through the majority of their sightings...

[There is much more, all of it highly significant and of great importance, but we don't have enough room. Perhaps Powell will allow me to use it all in future issues. - Ed]

BOOK REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

Prier Wintle

CONFRONTATIONS, A Scientist's Search for Alien Contact
by Jacques Vallée. Ballantine Books, New York, 1990

This is the seventh major book of Vallée's on the subject of UFOs. It is also one of his best, though I think the best of all is still his fifth, MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION*¹ where he first unequivocally stepped out of line and became a star in his own right in the UFO firmament. Nevertheless, you must read this one, whether you are a newcomer to the field or a specialist Ufologist.

CONFRONTATION is written determinedly for both those two classes and never forgets the fact. On one hand it is an account of a great many of his personal investigations, culminating in an extended trip to study injury cases in Brasil. Each case is beautifully and clearly presented with a minimum of words and a maximum of relevance to whatever point he is making at the time and illustrating by means of it. On the other hand, it is an extended and insistent statement of his view of the right way that ufological investigations should be carried out, which he says must be both scientific and properly considerate of witnesses' feelings and right to privacy.

'Nothing to take exception to there', you may be thinking. 'What could be more right and reasonable?' Yet in actual fact, although it is almost certain that practically every serious ufologist will feel himself duty bound now to read everything he ever publishes, it is quite possible that Vallée may have managed to put up more backs among members of the ufological community than any other writer on the subject with the possible exception of the arch-debunker Philip Klass. Not even John A. Keel can contend with him in this though both of them have noted and stressed the similarity between many modern UFO reports and ancient accounts of meetings with fairies or abductions by fairies. But John Keel is a kind of sport, a wild variety of wheat not running true to normal genetic pattern. He has a sense of humour which reveals itself in what he writes even when he's in his most serious and original vein. As a serious, scientific ufologist, you can therefore smile and dismiss him. But Vallée is equal in seriousness and scientific qualifications to any other ufologist in the world. You can't just dismiss him! He can dismiss you; in fact, he spends quite a lot of space in CONFRONTATIONS doing just that. Yet he too talks this esoteric, 'other dimension of consciousness' sort of stuff and denies that UFOs are simply craft from another solar system! Infuriating!

I think if you are already a fairly experienced ufologist then it is essential that you read this book, continually bearing in mind the kind of criticism and hostility that Vallée has met and had to contend with from the UFO world in general. You will realize he is hitting back rather than just gratuitously hitting out. If not, you are likely to find passages like the following examples intolerably superior:

'to avoid the kind of contamination we constantly see when UFO observers are bombarded with leading questions by amateurs' or

'the incident happened within driving distance of my home, but the case was so badly mishandled by some of the local UFO investigators that I waited three years to conduct an independent assessment' or

'while our fellow ufologists are clustering on the sidewalk interviewing movie goers, I think the real questions are elsewhere. My own research takes me up the back stairs where nobody goes'.

Sentences like these occur again and again in Chapter after Chapter as one reads through the book till one really begins to feel there is no escaping the conclusion: there is only one competent investigator in the whole world, and that is Vallée himself. When one hears of a case, the only thing one can conscientiously do is ring him. Above all, one must on no account attempt to look into it oneself and thus run the risk of messing it up for him.

The annoying thing is, of course, that so many of his strictures are absolutely justified and valid. Amateurish unprincipled investigators do abound and they do mess up cases and cause a great deal of distress to witnesses. What is needed, however, is not the abandonment of investigation but a much more general attitude of humility before the subject and respect for the feelings of other human beings, plus sincere willingness to learn better and more scientific investigative techniques.

CONFRONTATIONS as a whole is an extraordinarily perceptive and holistic overview of the entire UFO phenomenon. It is presented in such a way that, in effect, it teaches a scientific and practical - but at the same time holistic - approach to it on the part of the investigator. I don't know of any other book which covers the field in this way as well as this one does. There are of course encyclopaedic works like Hilary Evans' UFOs 1947-1987 and John Spencer's PHENOMENON*² which go into varied aspects in greater detail. They are selections of essays by different authors with no unifying theme save the editor's intention to present a confusing and baffling problem as a confusing and baffling problem. This is the English approach today, to UFOs as to much else in today's baffling world, and it contrasts strongly with the prevailing

USA approach which has come down fairly solidly in favour of the ET spacecraft hypothesis. Vallée perhaps typifies a French approach which remains doggedly certain that a scientific explanation and solution to the whole enigma can be achieved but only when all preconceptions are abandoned and facts are allowed to speak for themselves, however strange whatever they say may appear to be. He rejects the ET hypothesis because the phenomenon is too widespread and has been with us throughout history too long for it to be something extraneous to the Earth. But at the same time he produces multiple witness-attested cases which prove it is a quantifiable physical phenomenon and not simply a product or by-product of the psychology of consciousness, as the fashionable English school would have it be.

Part II of the book, Lessons in Humility, which deals with witnesses and how to deal with them, is a section which I feel every researcher should read twice. Just how can you estimate 1) the credibility of a witness, 2) the validity of what he or she tells you? As Vallée points out, the most intelligent and highly qualified witness may be mistaken or be talking nonsense while the most stupid and inarticulate may be giving you the most vital information. The essential is to go with him or her to the sighting spot.

Then, "one should be equipped with a good sense of humour, a fair dose of scepticism, and a solid background in humility. Once you face the witnesses, once you stand on a lonely road or an empty field or on a mountain top with the wind in your hair and the rain in your eyes, it is not too easy to fool yourself and others with simple conclusions."

Parts III and IV deal with biological effects upon plants and human beings as a result of contact with UFOs.

Vallée regards this as the most promising field available for true scientific research into the subject at present. Medical injuries such as burns, blisters, skin punctures, internal bleeding, lowered haemoglobin or lymphatic count or symptoms which suggest exposure to shortwave radiation or microwaves, can be exhaustively studied and documented with photographs and laboratory reports. There is much less risk of contamination of results by investigator bias or suggestion than there is in the case of abduction reports, which are the preferred field of study of investigators such as Leo Sprinkle and Budd Hopkins.

I think Vallée tends to be over critical of their methods and general approach and one should certainly read their works to gain a balanced viewpoint.*³ It is undeniably true that psychological states, such as those induced in the victims of alleged abductions, are much harder to quantify than objective physical ones and it is quantifiable evidence that Vallée is after. Sceptics have for far too long been able to say 'show us even one piece of a UFO that we can weigh and measure and we'll believe you, but not before.'

There may well be such pieces locked away in Wright Patterson Air Force Base but we can't prove it and the US Government denies it. Medical evidence is not quite the same thing but it is a step in the right direction. When it is well attested medical evidence of very similar injuries occurring in widely separated localities after reports of very similar contacts, it becomes a very long step in the right direction.

Part V of CONFRONTATIONS presents us with some quite staggering evidence of this kind from Brasil. Extraordinary weals and blisters, inflicted on the bodies of fishermen and hunters who were unfortunate enough to be struck by light rays, or particle beam rays from UFOs which allegedly deliberately chased them, have not merely been reported by the victims themselves or their relatives but from the substance of detailed reports drawn up by doctors who examined them.

Two photographs of one such wound appear in the book. The reports went to the Brazilian government which eventually sent a 40-man military team to investigate. It included biologists, physicists, medical doctors and chemists. Significantly, they were under strict orders to observe but not to interfere. The Brazilian Air Force issued confidential orders directing all air traffic away from the area. In that country the government unequivocally knows that UFOs exist! Moreover, despite the fact that even there it tends to remain fairly tight-lipped about it, everyone knows that it knows.

What, then, are UFOs? That, as Vallée says, we still have to elucidate in detail. Two things, however, he can state :-

- 1) "There was a superior technology at work over Colares and all the observers could do was film it and watch it in awe."
- 2) "We are dealing with a yet unrecognized level of consciousness, independent of man but closely linked to the Earth."

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- *1 MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION by Jacques Vallée
Published by And/Or Press, Berkeley, Calif. 1979
- *2 UFOs - 1947-1987 edited by Hilary Evans
Published by Fortean Tomes, London 1987
PHENOMENON edited by John Spencer
Published by Bufora-Futura, London 1988
- *3 INTRUDERS by Budd Hopkins, Sphere Books 1988
MISSING TIME by Budd Hopkins
Published by Richard Marek Pub. New York 1981

CONCLUSION

CROP CIRCLES:

Strange how they strike some farming ground,
Perhaps they're made by Ultra-sound?
But whatever the shape and wherever found,
You can be sure that science will be bound
To say, 'What nonsense! It's merely a hound
Digging up holes on his daily round.'

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