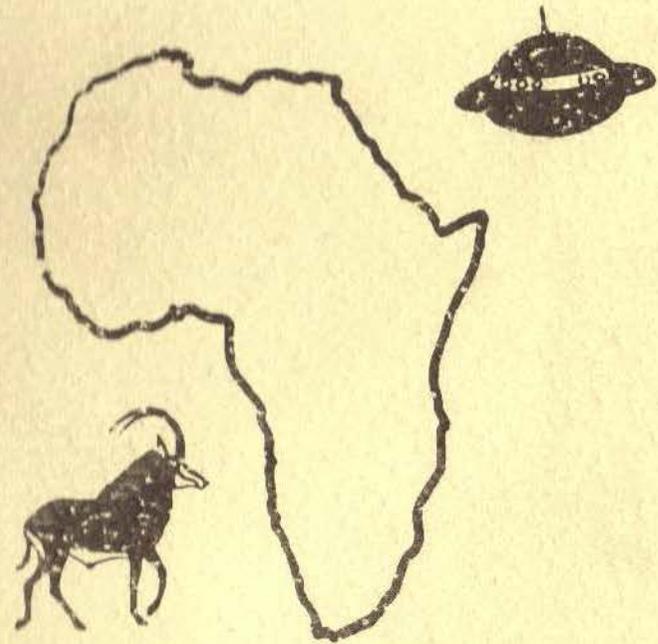


UFO

AFRINEWS



No. 5 JAN. 1992

U F O AFRINEWS N° 5

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PLEASE NOTE: Time in this Newsletter is referred
to as, e.g. 2030 for 8.30 pm and 0120 for 1.20am.

Dates are given as e.g. 07-05-91 which is the
day, the month and the year.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Cynthia Hind

CONVINCING THE PEOPLE

There was a time when I felt my dedication to UFOs lay in convincing the public that UFOs really existed! Whenever I gave a talk at some special function; at a Rotary, Lions or Travel Agents luncheon, this is what I had in mind.

The frustration I felt when I saw the raised eyebrows and the disbelieving smiles on their faces, was almost unbearable! True, I was a lot younger then; much more fervent in my approach and determined that, like Sinatra, they should see it 'my way'.

Sometimes, the dissipated energy, totally wasted on stubborn, 'not-willing-to-listen-to-anyone' people, left me with a throbbing headache and a depression quite contrary to my nature.

I remember well the night I changed my attitude. I had been invited by a religious group to speak to its normally all-male members. On this occasion, wives and girl friends were also allowed to attend. I began at the beginning, explaining what the whole UFO subject was about. I could see a glazed look come over the faces of most of the men, so I cut my talk as short as I could. Then came the cases, those with which I was personally involved; the part that most audiences respond to.

This time, it was different. Apart from the person who had invited me and who had shown some interest, I could tell that they were totally unimpressed. I could actually feel it! It was as though my stories, my words, were hitting a solid brick wall and bouncing right back at me. Some of the women appeared interested but there were too few of them to remedy the situation. I know people don't always believe me when I talk about the 'brick wall', but I can assure you that the barrier that separated us was almost as solid as the now defunct Berlin Wall.

Although I couldn't see it, it was absolutely physical to me. I could feel the headache begin its pounding and I knew, I absolutely knew, that I did not want to go on. I finished my story and that was that! There's no doubt that the audience was surprised but not actually displeased. There was a good tea waiting and the talk was pretty ridiculous, anyway!

Recently this happened to me again. Quite unsuspectingly, it was in the Hall of a well-known private school. But I'm now prepared: when that brick wall starts building up and there's a suspicion of the throbbing in my head, I stop talking and put on a video tape. And that's that! You can take it or leave it, chum.

So now I am more prepared. I choose my platforms carefully. I rarely speak to un-allied groups. If I travel around and sponsor my own talks, I advertise the talk well in advance so that people know what they're getting and a small fee covers the cost of the hall, tea or coffee and my petrol to and fro. It is no longer for free, that's true, but at least I know that those who are going to attend, even if they don't believe in the existence of UFOs, come with open minds and are prepared to listen. And, hopefully, to debate. Good, healthy stuff, that.

And if you think I'm being unreasonable about the whole situation, well, let me put it this way: there are millions of people out there who know the UFO Syndrome has been going on for a long, long time. No one expects them to believe, unequivocally, that UFOs are physical spacecraft from other planets. But anyone, with even half an ounce of sense, must acknowledge that SOMETHING is going on. Be it a psychological aberration or a strange recurring dream; be it an hallucination or a physical reality; be it from outer Space or a parallel Universe, or perhaps even from the depths of our Earth: whatever... surely can no longer be ignored.

Thus my message to those who totally disregard the phenomenon is this: what a cotton-wool world you live in and how glad I am that I don't share it with you!

It reminds me of a friend of mine who said, "I never read the newspapers. Who wants to know what a rotten world we live in?" Which is fine if, like the proverbial ostrich, you want to bury your head in the sand.

Whether it be UFOs or the starving millions in Ethiopia; the refugee problem of the Mozambicans, or the fighting in Somalia -- it's all part of today's living; part of what concerns us here in Africa.

REPORT FROM LANGTON M. : DO WITCHES CAUSE LIGHTS
IN THE SKY?

One of the pastimes of the Zambian/Malawian people is a traditional dance known as Nyau.¹ My workmate, Colin, happens to be one of the dancers.

One Friday night, late in June (1991), about 20:00 hours after the day's work, Colin and his companions were conducting this dance on open ground by the farm beerhall, just outside the compound,² which is situated roughly half a kilometre from the boss's house and barns.

I was tired after work and so I went to bed before 19:30; also, I am not a Nyau dancer. Unfortunately I haven't checked the date. So I did not see all this personally.

Colin told me the following morning that they had seen a very strange light the previous night. He said the light was not round but cigar-shaped and white in colour, moving at a very high speed from south to north.

It was discharging red flames at the rear. Colin said it was roughly 100-150 metres above ground and passed directly overhead, lighting up the area with an almost daylight brilliance.



According to Colin, "they thought we would fear them, but instead we beat the drums even harder and sang even louder."

By "they", Colin meant either ghosts or witches.

The following day, a Sunday, a long-time friend of my family came to church and as I asked after his health, he told me that all was well with him, save for a disturbing 'trick' which had been played on him by witches on his farm compound, about 2½ km south of ours. According to him, "I don't really know what they intended to do to me. The light came from the cemetery side and flooded my room."

His opinion of 'they' was the same as that of Colin. Coincidentally, the cemetery happens to be to the south.

It was only after I told him that our people also saw the same light at the same time, that he seemed to relax.

Back to the Dartmoor³ sighting: Gilbert, who is also not a Nyau dancer, was in his house when he suddenly noticed a greatly increased brilliance within the room. He then heard people shout rather excitedly: "Come see, come see!"

By the time he was outside, the light was a great distance away to the north. Everyone was saying, "The thing has just passed overhead", yet Gilbert lives a good 200-250 metres north-east of the beerhall where Colin and the others were.

That week, Colin went on two weeks' leave. He went to Chinhoyi⁴ to fetch his Grandpa who lives at Kariba, who was to accompany him to Murewa.

Colin says that while at Murewa one day, he mentioned the sighting and his Murewa relatives confirmed it, on that same night. His Grandpa from Kariba also said that the same 'thing' was seen there on that night. In all cases, no sound was heard and the facts agree.

It was after Colin's return from leave and the Murewa/Kariba confirmations that I was reading UFOS AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, and I gave it my special attention and then told Colin that it could have been a UFO that he had seen.

[Although we have written to the author of this report to point out the occurrences of Friday 14th June - featured elsewhere in this issue - and asked if he could verify the date, we have not heard from him again. But we are almost positive that it was the same sighting reported by others. - Ed.]

1. Nyau dancing: Traditional dances from Malawi and Zambia, performed with animal masks, eg. Lion, Leopard, Crocodile, etc. Such dances are part of initiation rituals and masks are used to 'frighten people' - presumably the young initiation candidates. [Information from Dr Manungo of the National Archives of Zimbabwe.]
2. Compound: The area where farm labourers have their homes - usually huts, but sometimes brick houses.
3. Dartmoor: The name of the Estate where Colin's sighting occurred.
4. Chinhoyi/Kariba: See map. (page 6)

Lights in the sky are like the crown of kings,
They could be that or a myriad things.
But I like to dream they're ET blokes,
Bringing me knowledge and some hilarious jokes!



TRAVELLING LIGHT WITH UNUSUAL AFTER EFFECTS

Mazowe Dam, 1968

This report comes from George B. who lived in Harare at the time, but is now resident in Morley, Western Australia.

"I cannot be sure of the year, but probably 1968 and it was some time between April and August. I had gone carp fishing with a friend, Keith R. As I recall, we had no fire but used a gas lamp positioned in front of us to cast light on our rod tips, making bite detection easier. We placed a shield of either card or tinfoil at the back of the lamp to prevent the light shining in our eyes and affecting our vision. We were positioned approximately 200 metres from the main Mazowe Road, facing south-east.

I think it was about 22:30 when a bright white light emerged from over the hills on the opposite side of the dam. It was definitely white as I remember thinking it was a car's headlights. Between the two of us, we established that there could be no road where the light first appeared and from that point, we became fascinated with what it could possibly be. It was difficult to gauge its height but in view of the fact that we first thought it was a car in the hills, it could not have been a lot higher than the hills on the far side of the dam. Its height did not vary as it approached directly towards us.

Two things are very clear in my mind at this stage. As the light got closer, an eerie silence seemed to settle on the entire area and nothing could be heard. The light became more orange and then nearly red as it was overhead. Directly above us, it changed direction and in its red form seemed to accelerate and vanished from sight in the direction of the dam wall.

From the time the light appeared to the time it vanished is not easy to ascertain, but it seemed to move slowly so I would guess in the region of 15 seconds.

We were dumbfounded as we both knew we had sat through something very peculiar indeed.

No more than another 15 seconds or so had elapsed when a giant circle of light, maybe 300 metres in diameter, appeared in the centre of the lake. It was as though the water was being lit from underneath, from a central light source. We had no answers for what we had experienced and nervously decided to pack our gear and leave.

I would point out that the size of the original light is not easy to describe other than being consistent with car lights in the distance and maintaining those proportions, but being only one light as opposed to two. It most certainly was not a clearly defined shape and would be best described as glowing strongly."

UNEXPLAINED BALLS OF LIGHT

1990 - St Augustine Mission, Zimbabwe

Nyasha Dhlinyo had an encounter at St Augustine School in 1990, although we are not sure of the exact date. He was moving towards the dormitories round about 1830 hours. He heard a humming sound above the trees. As he turned to look, he saw an object moving above the trees. From his description, it looked like a 'Flying Saucer'. It was silvery and shining. It lit up the area. It brightened the area and then it appeared to hover above him. He fell down because he was afraid, but one wonders if perhaps there was some pressure involved. We do not like to speculate and are interviewing this witness further for more material.

The object then disappeared and Nyasha took to his heels and went to see his friend Grayson Saruwaka. He was shivering and almost in tears. They went together to report the matter to the Principal, Father Prosser, but he was not impressed and did not take the matter seriously.

1991 - Thursday, 14th February - Harare, Zimbabwe

Mrs D.G. came out on her verandah when a bright light in the sky caught her eye. It was a large orange ball. She was facing north and the fireball (or whatever) was travelling from south to north. Mrs G. could see it was the size of a fist, of a deep orange colour, and it appeared to have rays emanating from it.

The light was so bright that it hurt Mrs G's eyes. She could hear no sound, except as she came onto the verandah, she heard a popping sound and feels that somehow, this came from the fireball.

As she watched, the ball of light disintegrated and she could see small black pieces falling from it.

She also saw one round white piece. There was no smell accompanying the unidentified object.

The time was approximately 1930 hours.

1991 - Thursday, 14th March - Lake Kariba area

This report reached me on 28th March and had occurred two weeks previously. S.T. was driving with her mother and step-father towards Binga (on the shore of Lake Kariba) from Harare.

About half an hour before they reached Binga, they suddenly saw some orange lights - no account of the number is given - high up in the sky. This lasted for about five seconds and then all the lights disappeared. All three people witnessed this.

S.T. told me at the time, that she 'willed' the lights to return and to her surprise, there they were, moving towards her and on a level with the car. They were quite large, like street lights, and as they passed by the car swiftly, it reminded S.T. of travelling in a train through a railway station at night.

When S.T. reported this sighting to me, I asked if she would be prepared to fill in a questionnaire and she was more than willing. I said I would post it to her and would appreciate an early reply.

Incredibly, some weeks later and before I had heard from her, I saw a notice of her death in the paper and am still absolutely astounded at the news, although she was not known to me personally.

1991 - Friday, 14th June

Margaret Barnes, Harare: Zimbabwe

At about 2050 hours of that Friday night, Mrs Barnes (83) was standing outside the front door of her cottage in the Blue Kerry complex of residences for Senior Citizens, in the Chisipite/Highlands suburb of the city. It was winter and quite dark but the sky was clear.

Suddenly, Mrs Barnes said, "I saw that the ground all around me was a shimmering blue. Looking up to see what caused this, I saw a round object in the sky of an intensely blue colour, but with some red colour as well, moving fairly fast and quite silently over the trees, away from me. It was moving towards the north-east, having passed over my head - presumably coming from the south - and it was not completely round but rather 'wobbly', like an inflated balloon."

Two things struck Mrs Barnes as strange: first, the shimmering blue radiance lighting up the grass, trees and vegetation all around her; and secondly, the complete absence of sound. The object could be described as almost circular, and there was red mixed with the intense blue as it sped away from her.

"I thought I was seeing things, and my family was not very complimentary when I told them about it", she explained. "But when a friend of my grandson's told him she had seen exactly what I saw, at the same time, some distance away from where I live, then the family believed me."

Asked to describe the apparent size of the blue object, Mrs Barnes said that it appeared to be about the size of the full moon when fairly high in the sky.

"I will never forget that shimmery blue all around", she says.

Richard Lockie, Harare:

Richard Lockie is a bright, inquisitive nine-year old, living on a small farm some distance from Mutare in the Eastern Highlands. But on the night of 14th June he was visiting his grandmother in Alexandra Park, Harare.

Shortly before 21:00 he was coming down the garden, alongside the swimming pool, when he became aware of something very strange.

"Suddenly everything turned shiny blue: the grass, the bushes and flowers and the water in the pool. I looked up and there was this bright blue light, a big light, in the sky over the garden, going away quite fast. When I looked up, it was right above the pool and everything around was all blue and shining. Then, when it went past, there was like red and orange fire from the back, and it disappeared behind some trees."

Richard was so excited he yelled for his grandmother to come out of her cottage and see the light. But when she got to the garden the object had already disappeared.

She questioned him about direction, size and any sound made by the object. His description tallied with that of Mrs Barnes in all the important aspects: the object was bright blue, coming from the south and it passed overhead going in a northerly direction. Richard could only say that it was 'quite big and very bright', but was unable to gauge its size as it appeared to Mrs Barnes : full moon fairly high in the sky. But what startled him was that there was no sound to be heard; the strange blue object flew right over his head without even a whisper.

*** **

Yolanda Craig, Mazvikadei Dam: Zimbabwe

But it was not only in Harare that the blue light was visible. Yolanda Craig writes about her sighting while holidaying at a Dam, some 80 kilometres to the northwest of the city :-

"This weekend (14th-16th June) I went with a friend and her parents and sister to Mazvikadei Dam where we stayed in one of the lodges.

After dinner, sometime between 20:30 and 21:00 hours, all of us went to play tennis on a court brightly lit up.

After about half an hour, we saw this object like a fireball running parallel to the ground and the high tennis court rail. It was about twice the size of a tennis ball and a very bright blue light like electricity. It had a small yellow flame as a tail. It travelled silently for about 15 metres and then, without descending, it just died out with a small yellow flame.

The whole family and I saw this, and it was impossible for us all to imagine the same thing. We have ruled out the possibility of it being a firework as if it was a firework, it would have been impossible for anyone to set it off to go straight because at the end of the tennis court there is a steep hill and they would have had to be parallel to let it off.

There were also no capsules left, or burnt paper or plastic or anything like that. Besides, there were also no young people up there at that time, and it was a pretty weird firework if it was one.

If this had been a meteorite or comet, how could it have come down in such a parallel line? Could you please shed some light on this strange sighting, as I am really curious to know what this was."

*** **

Comment:

We telephoned the Meteorology Office in Harare to assist with identification but they were unaware of the incident. We also spoke to Geof Calvert of Bulawayo, who reports to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and he too had not heard of these sightings.



Is there a chance that I will see
A UFO as big as a tree?
Or perhaps, with luck, or as maybe,
A UFO will follow me ...?
And whip me off for a scrumptious meal,
So I can tell if they are real!

NEW CASES:Nº 34 Golf-ball Light in Windhoek Namibia

This is an interesting report, although one cannot specifically state that it is anything from outer Space or a parallel Universe. However, it is the policy of UFO AFRINEWS to bring to our readers' attention unexplained lights and objects which appear to people in Africa.

In this instance a yellow ball of light, about the size of a ping-pong ball, appeared to people in their backyard in Windhoek, Namibia. It then disappeared before their eyes.

The next day (which produced very good weather), no clouds or overcast, at about 23:00 hours, a flash lit up the house of these same witnesses. They could hear their dog howling outside and let him in, but were shocked to find him smeared with blood all over his body. The following day they found that he had crashed through a rusty fence. In their consternation at the state of the dog, they left the front door open and attended to the wounds of the dog. Meanwhile, a light ball, blue-white in colour, entered the room and travelled along the walls, from room to room. It moved slowly, hovering over each electric or electronic gadget (eg. radio, fridge, torch, heater, etc.) as though intelligently inspecting it. Other metal objects were totally ignored.

The strange thing though, is that only the wife and the dog could see this light ball, while the husband saw nothing. In fact, the husband reprimanded his wife for standing in the various rooms, staring and not helping him with the dog, who was restless and jumpy and appeared to be aware of the light. When the light reached the fridge, it popped and was immediately gone.

Roland Roeis comments that people he has spoken to, who claim clairvoyance, have told him that such spheres travel along geomagnetic or Ley lines.

CASES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTEDReport from John Flanagan of Bulawayo Zimbabwe

"I feel that because I was brought up living close to Nature, I certainly had a much clearer, keener sense of perception than most city raised children.

At the time of the sighting I was 6½ years old. I was living with my parents on our farm in Chivhu. My grandmother had passed away that day and we were outside waiting for relatives to arrive.

Our farmhouse was built high up on a kopje, with a fabulous view of the far-reaching bushveld and a distant range of seemingly blue mountains. It was late afternoon and two farm workers were the first to bring the objects to our notice. I can't now recall the exact number, but there were perhaps five or six objects shaped like two saucers put together. They were silver-grey in colour. They hovered, seeming to spin, at a distance from us where they could be clearly observed, but not close enough for us to note further specific details. It was almost as though they were putting on a show for us; retreating towards the distant mountains at a fantastic speed, then returning to hover near to us. We all watched in awe, until eventually they sped away and disappeared instantly as if they weren't there in the first place.

It is really uncanny how that weird experience seems to be etched on my mind, and I feel that perhaps it has left me a somewhat more enlightened human in this world. I know that my father reported the incident and as a result the sighting was published in the then RHODESIA HERALD.

Our farm was known as 'Honey Dew' and was situated in the Chivhu (Enkeldoorn) district. The day was the 7th July, 1954. Besides myself there were other family members: my parents, some relatives, farm workers, etc.

The only other person, from that group, with whom I am still in touch is my mother, who is now 83. She still recalls the sighting vividly and her recall is the same as mine, although she said it was 17:00 hours when it happened. In discussing it with her, we felt we were too astounded to notice anything other than I have reported to you. There was no brightness emitted from the objects; they were a clear silver-grey. At the time, there was great commotion about the objects and quite a bit of talk about it afterwards. We all felt that it was nothing from this Earth, but that it was some sort of Intelligence.

I should think that they were about 4 kms away from us (this is not just a guess on my part; there was a hill exactly 4.8 kms away from us and the objects were closer than the hill to us). The height above the ground was approximately 300 feet (the height of the Monomatapa Hotel in Harare) and the size of the objects was about the size of the bottom circular section of the Centenary Fountain in the Bulawayo Park, perhaps a little smaller.

I also know that in our area there was no vast expanse of water, but the Umnzati river [possibly the Inyatsitsi river is meant -Ed] is a bit further back. There were no electricity pylons nearby.

With me, my mother also recalled that the objects made no turns. They retreated at an unbelievable speed towards the distant range of mountains, and then came back directly -- no turns were made. This happened a few times, as though they reached a far spot and decided to come back again -- it was incredible: they hovered, but they did not turn as one would expect an aircraft to do. I feel that the experience gave me a different perspective on life, and I must say I tended to hope that I would have another sighting, but so far, nothing has happened!

There were nine witnesses that day [names held by Ed], apart from myself."

.....

[Regretably, since this report was given to me, John Flanagan died tragically. Ed.]

Continuing Investigations on Cases Reported
in previous issues:

Case N° 13: Update on Buckmasters Farm Case Zimbabwe

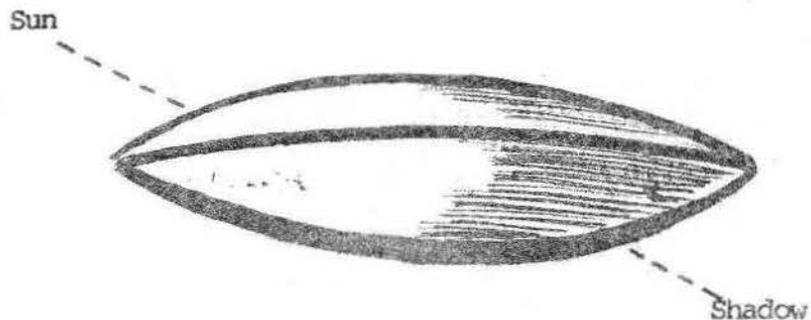
This case was first reported in UFO AFRINEWS N° 3, where the witness had observed an object in the shape 'of two shallow elliptical dishes, one inverted on the other'. It also had 'a greyish metallic hue, brighter on the western side, darker on the eastern.' The size was comparative to 'a soup plate.'

At one point it seemed to stop and hover, still silent, no lights. There was a second witness to the sighting, but when the original witness pointed this out, 'the driver of the vehicle gasped in horrified awe, got back into his car and drove off rapidly.'

The object was hovering, stationary, then made a 90° turn and moved off in the general direction of Chinhoyi.

The above was the gist of the report made by Mr T.P.F. The event occurred in May, 1951.

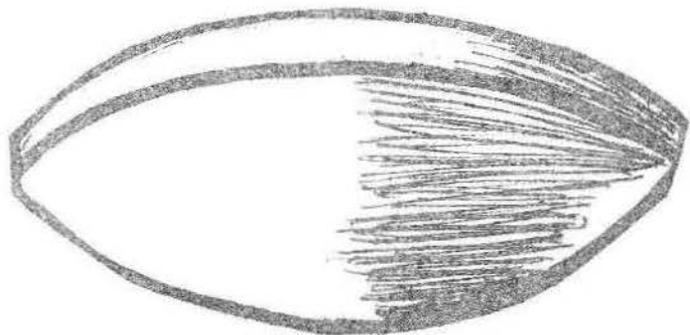
Subsequent to this, I have been in touch with T.P.F. and he has now given me drawings of the object as he perceived it.



Nº 1.

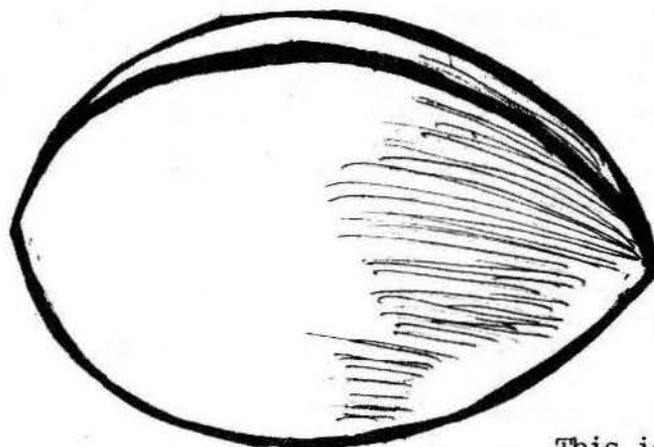
Colour: Silvery grey metallic. Dull sheen on upper surface.

Nº 1. First sighting at an angle (azimuth) low on the horizon. No dome, no portholes. Shape comparable to a discus. Did not wobble; just even, smooth flight from position 1 to 3. Hovered for 3-4 minutes, then flew off at right angles to original flight path.



Nº 2.

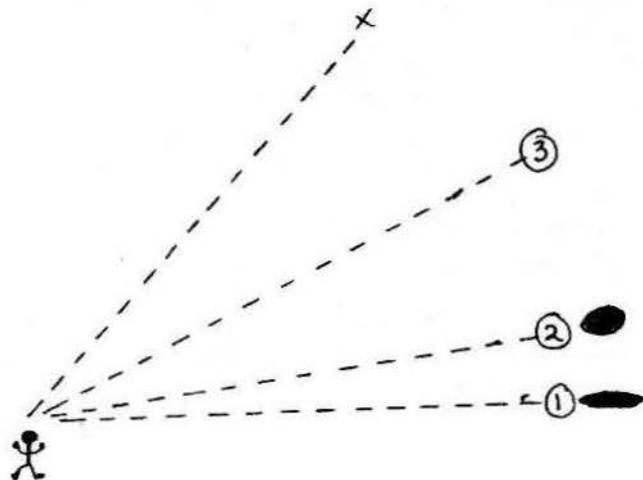
2. At a higher angle, approx. 5 - 6 minutes later.



This is its shape while hovering perfectly still and noiseless. No lights visible.

Nº 3.

3. At a higher elevation: about 80°, almost round; it is plainly a complete sphere, circular in shape, only elongated due to angle of sighting.



Case N° 28(C): UFO AFRINEWS 4 Namibia

Our Namibian correspondent, R.M.Rois, has been in contact with the daughter of Mr V., the witness mentioned in this case. Mr V. himself died in 1987, two years after the phenomenon was reported in the newspapers. The girl, whose name is Hanneltjie, is married and lives in Mariental, and is not connected with the farm where the incident occurred. At that time, she was 12 years old, which makes her about 18-19 years old now.

Hanneltjie says: "It was about midnight. I was feeling very feverish. I and my mother got up and I had to drink some medicine. It was then that we saw the strange phenomenon. It was a round ball, bigger than the headlight of a motor-bike. It appeared as if the ball had several little stars that seemed to blink. It was not a blue-white colour but it glittered like the stars do. The next day was a Monday and that afternoon at about 1400 hours, one of my father's farmhands who was guarding the sheep, arrived at the homestead and said that a red ball had 'drunk' [the water from] the Lower Dam [or reservoir].

"My mother described the light as blinking, but it appeared [to me] like little stars that grow light and then darken.

The ball of light that I saw arrived from the south and then went north. It seemed to me like a ball with a thousand little stars in it.

The weather was definitely dry, the wind still; and there were no clouds. It was a very quiet happening, there was no sound. It was one of those nights when our dogs were at their most quiet. But the man guarding the cattle said that the sheep refused to come close to the camp where he had seen the red light ball....."

I have always maintained that no case should be validated when only one investigation has been made.

In my experience, the more one probes or discusses the case with witnesses, the more material comes to light and the more accurate one's final report will be!

In the first reports received of this case, it said that Mrs V. had heard her child crying in its cot -- and one was under the impression that the 'child' was a small baby who could not give any evidence. But the child was not 'in her cot' as previously stated; she was 12 years old and remembers the event quite vividly.

The other interesting fact is that another witness has appeared on the scene: the farmhand who was guarding the sheep. It was he who saw the ball of light 'drinking' the water. Previously we had only heard that one witness, Mr V., had found his dam dry.

You may recall that in Case N° 27 (Page 18, UFO AFRINEWS 4), 12 days after the first sighting of a ball of light on his farm, Bennie Smit's 8-metre diameter dam was shattered and he lost all the water therein. What I did not mention in this previous report (as the matter is fully covered in UFOS-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS) was that Smit admitted he had heard the object shortly before the explosion. He associated the UFO with a 'whirring sound' he heard which had occurred on two or three occasions. Before the dam exploded, Smit heard the whirring sound, with the object passing over his roof at a low level and moving in the direction of the Fordyce bush (the point of its original appearance).

Smit said, "I didn't go outside to look. What's the use, no-one wanted to believe me."

There seems to be some controversy as to the colour of the light: Hanneltjie reports that it was not 'blue-white', but glittered like stars do. She is not definite about the colour and we will check this out. But a major witness here is the sheep-guard and obviously, he is the one we must speak to.

Hopefully, Roéis will try and track this witness down and a further report will appear in a later issue.

I can only reiterate that water appears to have a great deal of significance in this case, as in those quoted in AFRINEWS N° 4. I know that Paul Norman and Judy McGee of VUFORS in Victoria, Australia, are continuing their investigations into the significance of water in UFO cases, and I want them to know that we here in Africa are fully supportive of their work.

Whatever the 'Balls of Light' are, there must be some intelligence behind them for them to act the way they do; and if they were identified as Ball Lightning, or plasma, or whatever, how could they possibly absorb the full contents of a dam of water?

Surely this is one of the more arresting anomalies of UFO research?

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

HELP!

i) Could anyone let us know the approx. size of the bottom circular section of the Centenary Fountain in Bulawayo Park? (See page 15)

ii) Is there anyone out there (apart from those already reported) who saw the ball of light on June 14th, 1991 at approx. 2100 hours? Please write to us!

iii) I am looking for reports on people who are able to stay under water for long periods of time. [Ed.]

iv) Does anyone know or heard of a Mrs. Souffring, circa 1940-1950's? (The name might be incorrectly spelt?)

v) Any reader who knows SOLOMON KATIVU (previously employed as a domestic somewhere in Marlborough) please contact Cynthia Hind (phone 701515)

THE ENGINEER AND THE ALIEN. Case N° 7 South Africa

One of the nicest things that happened to me during a recent 2 month visit to Great Britain, was meeting with 'Henry' on Sunday 1st September, 1991; the instrumental engineer in the above case. [This has been reported in AFRINEWS Nos 2 and 3] Henry now resides permanently in Spain, but he was visiting his mother in Portsmouth, England. Luckily for me I was close enough to take a train ride from Bournemouth to have lunch with him in a charming little pub in that pleasant naval town.

Henry was a surprise! He looked years younger than I had envisaged and he was most forthcoming about his experience. Although I am often accused of being too great a talker, in this instance and certainly when I am interviewing, I am also a good listener. I was amazed by the things that Henry remembered which I had not recorded before. When I expressed my surprise he said, "You are sympathetic and that makes all the difference. You are not ridiculing me and I feel I can talk freely. And the more I talk, the more I remember."

We had a long discussion about the actual event. He told me, "If I had my time over and knowing what I know now, I don't think I would have mentioned this to anyone." Sound familiar?

He also said, "Sometimes I think it is all a dream" although he is careful to remind me that he had physically driven his wife's car up to du Toit's Kloof that night, and that he had examined the ground the following day when he found marks on the stones where the craft had stood.

Henry had read all I had written about his case and agreed with almost everything. However, he said there were one or two points he would like to discuss further.

He was worried about the interpretation of 'beige' as being the colour of the laboratory coats the man and his colleagues were wearing. "It was more of a cream colour, a sort of off-white."

You may recall that the stranger had come up to Henry and asked for water and Henry had agreed to take him up a steep road leading over the side of the mountain, to a small stream which ran there, clean and clear. The cannister they used had been an oil can in Henry's car which they had washed out with sand and water. Henry added, "I cannot say that the cannister was 100% clean when we finally filled it with water, but the stranger said, "It's all right now", so I accepted what he said."

It had also puzzled me how Henry had turned his car around on that narrow road. In a previous report (UFO AFRINEWS N°2) I had said that I did not drive up the road as I had a Mazda 626, a rather wide-bodied car and I could see from where I was standing below that I would never have been able to turn the car around on that very narrow road. It would have meant going to the end of the road - wherever that was! - before I could turn. Now, I put this to Henry and he admitted that he had to make several turns, four or five, before he could turn around to go back to where they had come from.

When Henry asked the stranger where he wanted to be dropped, he indicated to the left-hand side of the road, opposite to where Henry had been sitting in the car when he first approached. Henry said, "It was very dark there beneath the peak, which totally obscured the moon behind it. I drove cautiously as the ground was fairly rough. But the moment I got into the shadows, I could see something there and as I drove nearer, rather slowly, I could tell it was a craft of sorts with lights around it. I could also see the entrance as this was well lit up. It was fairly high off the ground."

The stranger asked Henry to accompany him and Henry said that although he felt rather apprehensive, some compulsion made him get out of the car and go with the man. There were about 7 or 8 rungs up into the craft and the way up was very narrow. He remembers holding onto cold metal railings as he went inside.

Inside the Craft

When they went inside, the stranger asked Henry to wait there while he took the water to his injured colleague. He had mentioned the injured man before and Henry had offered to go and fetch his local GP (doctor) in the village. But the stranger refused assistance. Now Henry offered again and the refusal was repeated. Henry said he suggested fetching the doctor on several occasions but each time the stranger rejected the offer. "It's all right", he said. When he asked how the man had been injured, the stranger replied, "on entry into your atmosphere, when one of the windows cracked." Henry says he looked around the ship but could see no damage anywhere.

He did notice that the windows, about 90 cm (3 ft) by 60 cm (2 ft) in size, were square with rounded corners. The seating went right around the craft except for where the doorway was. It seemed as though they were double seats, about 90 cm (3 ft) wide, with a 60cm (2 ft) back to them, and then above this were the windows. He felt sure that the windows were covered with glass. He also reiterated that he could see no lights anywhere and yet the craft inside was extremely well lit. The covering material on the seats looked like leather, and was of a grey colour, but he could not be sure of this.

The floor was metallic; a very hard surface, with small raised nodules which formed a pattern. He could not recall the pattern, but remembered that the surface was slippery to his shoes.

The stranger had responded to Henry's question as to where they came from by pointing to one of the windows through which the stars were visible and saying, "We come from there." He was never more explicit than that.

However, I was able to establish from Henry that the stranger faced east when he said this, towards the sign across the road. [The sign gives the height of the road above sea level: 820 m. -Ed]

It was either just before Christmas 1951, or between Christmas and New Year (1952).

Propulsion

When Henry asked what the levers in the centre of the craft were for, the stranger explained that they worked the pumps which were sunk below the level of the floor. But he also added that they did not use the pumps; they used the power produced by the pumps to get the machine going. Henry said again that he found this very confusing.

It seemed to Henry that this power was produced by gyroscopes, using a liquid which might be mercury. The stranger actually said, "The liquid we use is not available on your planet."

[While at the BUFORA (British) Conference in Sheffield, held in mid-August 1991, I was approached by someone from the USA who said that at his University they were working on gyroscopes as a method of gravity repulsion. Unfortunately, due to the large crowds there, I was unable to speak to everyone and did not obtain his name and address. If he should read this, I would appreciate it if he could contact me.]

Professor Stephen Salter of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Edinburgh university is working on this also, and I would appreciate any further information on this matter.]

I still feel that, despite the age of the report, this is one of the most important cases in Ufology, basically because Henry was such an excellent observer and witness, and because of his very high qualifications. I am determined to pursue this matter as long as I can and perhaps I will be able to come up with something that will prove a real boon to all UFO investigators. If anyone would like to suggest another path for me to follow in this particular case, I would appreciate hearing from them.

***** *****

A VINTAGE CASE, West Africa

While on an exploration trip in 1895 in Niger/Gabon, West Africa, writer Mary Kingsley had an uncanny experience when she went out at night, alone, to bathe and canoe on the waters of Lake Ncovi, between the Ogowe and Rembwe rivers.

In her book TRAVELS IN WEST AFRICA (London, Virago Press, 1982, from an early 20th century edition), she writes:-

"... I saw a strange thing happen. Down through the forest on the lake bank opposite came a violet ball the size of a small orange. When it reached the sand beach it hovered along it, to and fro, close to the ground. In a few minutes another ball of similar coloured light came towards it from behind one of the islets, and the two wavered to and fro over the beach, sometimes circling round each other. I made off towards them in the canoe, thinking - as I still do - they were some brand new kind of luminous insect.

When I got on to their beach, one of them went off into the bushes and the other away over the water. I followed in the canoe, for the water here is very deep and, when I almost thought I had got it, it went down into the water and I could see it glowing as it sank until it vanished in the depths."

When Mrs Kingsley later asked the people of that remote region what the strange thing could have been, they explained it as an "Aku" - a devil.

One might tend to dismiss this as an insect, except for the underwater dive described so graphically. Mary Kingsley was a trained observer and not given to flights of fancy.

[I am indebted to R Coltman of S.Chelmsford, MA, for the above excerpt from Mary Kingsley's book.

-Ed]

UFO FLASHBACKS.....

(Quoted from FSR*, Vol. 2 N° 5, Sept/Oct, 1956)

RHODESIA (Now Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Flying Saucer Hovers over Ndola. A round, silvery object was seen in the sky north of Ndola early on the morning of July 3, by Mr L Walker, a railway employee.

"It hovered in one place for about 4 minutes, moved slightly, then all of a sudden began to fade and within seconds had disappeared", said Mr Walker.

Other railway workers who saw the strange object said it was a flying saucer. The Met Office said it could not have been a balloon as the daily balloons were sent up at 05:30 am, and would have disappeared by 8 o'clock.

Messrs Harry S Hopkins and Co's employees also saw the object.

An aerial survey of the Northern Rhodesia Copperbelt was made by a UFO on August 9th. Bright and flickering, it sped through the darkness that evening and was sighted above Ndola, Kitwe, Chingola and Bancroft.

In fact, it completed what might well have been an aerial survey of the Northern Rhodesia Copperbelt. Men were brought out into the dark from the warmth of Copperbelt bars, laughing at the joke their pals were pulling. But their smiles left their faces as soon as they cast their eyes skywards and saw the mystery object, first hovering and then darting away.

All the old alibis have been tested. There were no flights scheduled over that irregular route. It was not a meteorological balloon and even if it had been, it would never show up in the dark.

* FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Box 162, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5DZ, England. Annual Subscription: £18.00.

The Rhodesia Sunday Mail commented: 'They can pooh-pooh flying saucers to their hearts' content. They can laugh at those stories of lights flashing in the sky just around sundowner time. But without the faintest shadow of a doubt, there was a mystery object in the sky of Northern Rhodesia this week.'

SOUTH AFRICAWoman takes photo of Flying Saucer:

Mrs Elizabeth Klarer, of Johannesburg, photographed a Saucer in the foothills of the Drakensberg, Natal, on Tuesday, July 24th.

"I took the picture on the farm 'Whytelease' at Rosetta, Natal", she said. "The farm belongs to my brother-in-law, Major D C Flower, who has also seen one of these objects."

Mrs Klarer said that it was difficult to judge how far away the saucer was.

"I went up to a kopje (hill) to take pictures of the homestead. I saw a vivid flash in the sky over the wattle plantation, about 100 yards away, followed by another, which became an object in the sky. I tried to focus it in my viewfinder. It was difficult, but fortunately it slowed down and hovered, then made several weaving detours overhead. I took several photographs, but only two turned out really clearly. They were the last two, when the saucer was comparatively near me. Then it streaked away upwards and was lost to view."

Mrs Klarer added that there was no sound of any engines and no smell. "But it was surrounded by a sort of shimmering heat haze."

She said that the object was a dull metallic grey, until it was lighted up by the sun. Then it shone with a silvery colour.

[This is the original report of Elizabeth Klarer's sighting, which eventually developed into the saga told in her best-seller BEYOND THE LIGHT BARRIER.]

ALMOST FINAL REPORT ON THE BOTSWANA/SOUTH
AFRICAN ALLEGED UFO CRASH

Case N° 21

Perhaps some readers will have become inured to this case; it has now been reported and commented on in UFO AFRINEWS Nos 3 and 4, and now again in N° 5. But whatever James van Greunen* planned, and whatever happened, it will show future hoaxsters what NOT to do in trying to perpetrate an imaginary UFO event.

We still have no concrete evidence of the timing of this story; it could have been in 1988 or 1989, but we do know that it aroused world-wide interest and that alone is interesting. Are UFO investigators then too gullible, too ready to believe anything a little out of the ordinary, too starved for top news, that they latch onto anything presented to them? Or do we, in fact, have something very strange here: a man hoaxing an event which did not happen as he said it happened, but happened in an entirely different context. It is for this reason that for the moment, we are keeping Case N° 21 ALIVE.

But to bring you up to date: Recently, I received a rather angry and aggressive letter from someone in South Africa who claimed to be a good friend of James van Greunen and who intended reporting me to a highly placed UFO personage for 'irresponsible... and an unprofessional piece of journalism.'

Well, I always knew that I would probably never make it to THE TIMES or THE WASHINGTON POST, but at least I thought I could get by. According to this person, it seems not so!

* Note: There is some confusion in the spelling of this name, according to different writers:

J J Hurtak	-	Van Gruenan
Tony Dodd	-	Van Gruenen
Walt Andrus	-	Van Grunen
Michael Hesemann	-	Van Greunen
Abridged Birth Cert.	-	Van Greunen

I must say, despite this man's misplaced loyalty to James van Greunen, I admire him for his defence of the said James and he is the sort of friend I would like to have behind me; a pretty solid citizen should I dare a hoax of the magnitude that James carried out. But sadly, I have to tell this friend of James' that he has been misled, hoodwinked and really, quite badly done by.

He also accuses me of having 'incomplete information and wild speculation.' I cannot help feeling if anyone should be angry, it should be me. Although admittedly I have never met James van Greunen, I have read nearly everything he wrote and frankly, if I were James, I would work with a dictionary beside me. We all have our failings; I know I talk too much, but with James, it is his spelling! I often lie awake and wonder where he went to school and try to remember to avoid that school for my children or grandchildren.

But one thing about James: he was a good reader, because to make up this wonderful story of his, he must have borrowed from a great number of ufologists; I certainly recognize quite a bit of the material.

It is not my nature nor policy to be rude and aggressive to people. In fact, going through my previous reports on van Greunen, I quote the following statements I made about him, all of them true and none of them unduly offensive.

And I quote :

From UFO AFRINEWS N° 3

"Van Greunen had been flown out of South Africa to Europe in the mistaken belief that his story was true...."

"Van Greunen purchased US\$544 worth of books which he paid for with an American cheque. Needless to say, the cheque came back marked 'Account Closed'."

"One last confirmation of Van Greunen's fraudulent and totally irresponsible behaviour."

"I think James van Greunen is in a great deal of trouble."

UFO AFRINEWS N° 4

"James van Greunen was the perpetrator of a hoax..."

"The fraudulent behaviour of James van Greunen..."

"Maybe Van Greunen based his whole imaginative saga on an event that actually took place..."

I don't feel that these remarks of mine, all based on inconsistencies, fraudulent documents, a bounced cheque, money illegally collected, etc. can elicit the remarks against me made in the letter from van Greunen's friend... Remarks such as: "Your character attack on Mr James van Greunen in which you call him 'fraud' and his story a 'hoax': His story may or may not turn out to be right, but Mrs Hind, your attempt to discredit the story by use of ad hominem abusive attack based on incomplete information and your own wild speculation, is an irresponsible and unprofessional piece of journalism."

To say the least, van Greunen's friend appears to be extremely naive. He tells of an incident where van Greunen was to be interviewed on Radio 702 (a South African pop programme) together with Dr J J Hurtak. Because the letter-writer was keen to meet Jim Hurtak, van Greunen arranged to see him at the studio. Van Greunen never turned up! When calling on van Greunen he was told by James that the night before the broadcast he had been visited and threatened by the State Security Police. Later, the friend and van Greunen met up at a Hillbrow (Johannesburg suburb) café. The manager came up to call van Greunen - probably prearranged - and when he came back from the call he said, "They want to know who I'm talking to."

The friend also noticed a man whom he felt to be a security agent, watching from a nearby table.

There is no doubt that van Greunen is clever.

If his friend had been trained as an investigator by MUFON(!) he would certainly have checked out James' story. James lived in a flat (apartment). If he was disturbed in the middle of the night, someone would have known; the security guard on duty or one of his neighbours. The phonecall would immediately have made me doubtful. How did anyone know that James would be having coffee that morning at a casual café? I'm sure the manager would have been co-operative if I had called back later to check. And if not, that alone would have aroused my suspicions.

I think one of the more humorous sides of the van Greunen story was Mrs van Greunen (I'm not going into the semantics of whether he was really married or cohabiting) telling David Powell that James had been executed by the South African Air Force!

TUNNEL VISIONS also reports that anonymous information from South Africa had been received stating that van Greunen had been executed at 13:00 hours on the 27th February 1990 by the military authorities. On contacting his wife, she confirmed this information. The information, she said, had been given to her by the military authorities over the telephone. She did not know who spoke to her.

The whole story is ridiculous! There is no death penalty by execution for revealing military secrets without a long and involved trial; besides which, James was subsequently seen in Cairo with a German girl friend.

Michael Hesemann, of MAGAZIN FÜR NEUES BEWUFSTSEIN, says that van Greunen finally admitted to him that it had all been a hoax.* In his report, Hesemann says that originally van Greunen repeatedly promised him documents. After all, this was the reason for his flight to Munich, all expenses paid. If anyone has lost financially on this case, it is Michael.

But van Greunen produced only an extra 3 pages of documentation on his 'crashed UFO'.

In the middle of February (1990), reports Hesemann, van Greunen ordered a friend of his to bring 'the documents' to him. This must have been the phone call made to Prier Wintle of Cape Town - from Munich, at Hesemann's expense

Van Greunen phoned Prier to say 'hello' and then, as you may recall (UFO AFRINEWS 3, page 12) he said, "Send me as many documents as you have." Prier was at a loss to understand what van Greunen was getting at, but it is obvious that poor James had run out of people to whom he could turn to for help, and when pressured by Hesemann for further documentation, he turned to one of the last few people he knew who was involved with UFOs. Hesemann was obviously in the room when he phoned; hence the wording of his conversation.

Despite all my revelations, James' friend states categorically: "I am entirely convinced of Mr van Greunen's complete moral integrity and sincerity."

How could he possibly make a statement like that when he had read all my accusations and never checked any of them for himself?

Let me report verbatim what he says :-

"In a number of statements in your two stories you impugn Mr van Greunen's character with information you appear to have wildly interpreted due perhaps to your own suspicions and prejudices. For example, you use the fact that Mr van Greunen failed to carry through with arrangements the two of you had made for you to speak to a group of NORFIN members at [a Johannesburg hotel] as evidence of bad faith." [For heaven's sake, what else?!] **

"You recount in your Newsletter how you tried and tried to reach him by phone, but to no avail." [How was I to know he was busy carrying out his fraud in Munich at that time?]

"You also cite the fact that he wrote a cheque on a closed account, to a friend of yours who runs a bookshop, as evidence of his bad moral character." [Should I have said perhaps that he was as innocent as a lamb?]

"You then weave all of this together with certain inconsistencies in Mr van Greunen's story about the crashed disc to discredit the story as a 'hoax' and to portray Mr van Greunen as a fraudulent, irresponsible person. Mrs Hind, this is EAD JOURNALISM!!! Shame, shame, shame on YOU."

While writing this, I have just had an incredible feeling that perhaps this letter was not written by James' friend at all -- perhaps it is written by James himself.

There are many more paragraphs I could quote, but all on the same theme of "how dare you put poor James van Greunen down; he's a good guy and really, you have no right!"

Well, right or not, I just wanted to have my say!

* In his report on the case history of the 'Kalahari Incident', Michael says:

Confronted with the... evidence, James van Greunen finally admitted that he never was a Captain in the SAAF and had never participated in the Kalahari Incident.

Verbally he admitted that these "were things that I was told. More than that, there's nothing."

Indeed, he named the sources of his information: a real Captain of the SAAF Intelligence and a Professor at the University of South Africa.'

** What this friend seems to have forgotten is that when Prier Wintle mentioned to James that I was annoyed with him about the talk he had arranged in Johannesburg, it was mainly because he had charged R20 [US\$6] per person and between 20 and 30 people turned up at the hotel with tickets. What had happened to the money? James then told Prier that he had not handled the finances; all monies had been paid to this friend who is now so staunchly defending him.

As I was speaking without charge, the fact of money being involved 'with the goods not being delivered' would also discredit me! This was the basis of my concern.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From the Russian Ufology Research Center

Please pass this information along to your readers.

There is a new research entity, dedicated to the study of current Russian ufology. We, the organizers, fluent in Russian and Ukrainian languages, review the latest UFO phenomena-related news items, reports, literature and other materials from the Soviet Union.

The main purpose of Russian Ufology Research Center is to study the current trends in the field of Russian ufology and to acquaint ufologists [in the West] with such.

We also want to call attention of concerned ufologists to the dangerous proliferation of 'tabloid ufology' in the USSR. Efforts of dedicated and serious researchers are greatly harmed by nonsense and hype, surrounding the UFO phenomenon.

We hope to promote serious understanding of the developing Russian ufology.

Our address is:

Russian Ufology Research Center
Coordinator: Paul Stonehill
5700 Etiwanda Avenue, Suite 215,
TARZANA, CA, 91356, U.S.A.

+++++

From Major L.S.
P.O. Luveve,
Bulawayo

First and foremost I would like to congratulate you on the informative stand you are taking in publishing UFO information.

I am eager to know how can I get any latest information concerning UFOs.

+++++

From Langton M.
Dartmoor Estate
P O Box 65, BANKET

I'm a young man of 25 and Zimbabwean by descent. I'm employed on the Dartmoor Farm as a clerk.

I recently borrowed a copy of UFOS-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS from a friend; a book which has greatly aroused my interest, which is my point of writing to you.

I'm highly religious and Catholic which makes me very much concerned about the position of the Earth and its people in the universe. The assumed existence of another race of people on another planet as evidenced by their visitations to us makes me still more concerned. According to this book, the broadcasts to Edwin [Chapter 9: Edwin's story, p.80 ff.] point out only one thing: a harmonious living within mankind -- which is more or less what the Bible is trying to teach us.

Unfortunately, as there is less or no communication at all between these aliens and us, we will not get at their intent of visitations and we will only realise our mistakes too late if ever we are meant to benefit from these visitations.

Before reading your book, my interest was aroused in 1989 by the reported visitation by Spacemen to the Soviet Union. I'm certain you are familiar with this case of October 1989 as it was widely publicized [The Voronezh visitation].

In addition, I would therefore wish to say, as an interested reader of your work, that there are numerous sightings in our mother continent, Africa, [far more] than these which are reported. This is so because the vast majority of us (Africans) is illiterate which leads to highly superstitious and uninformed societies. So when a UFO sighting occurs, the witness(es) panic and run only to tell the closest relatives indoors, rather than stay and observe, because there is nothing like it in their memory.

[Also] usually there is no co-operation between the sophisticated farmer and his unsophisticated labourer, save only where it concerns business, so where the sighting concerns these two, the boss will not care to educate the labourer.

This, I'm certain, accounts for many more sightings remaining unreported, while the Aliens are trying to make contact with the Earthians. Therefore, on a separate piece of paper I would like to give an account of what I have come to think of as a UFO sighting after reading your book.

... I would like to assure you that I am highly interested in this subject and would do all I can to contribute to the UFO Awareness Campaign in African countries.

LANGTON MACHEKWA

[This letter has been answered personally. See also his report on witches and lights in the sky, on page 3]

Extract from a letter from P.Wintle of Cape Town:

"..... I agree that we haven't heard the last of the Botswana/Kalahari UFO crash story. You may remember that I said all along that merely to refute the story as presented was to miss the essential point. In fact, it may simply have been falling into the intended trap. That was why I kept comparing it to the Maury Island case [see the resume of this case at the end of the letter.-Ed] and its aftermath, ie, the callers who knew everything about what witnesses had seen, and who had spoken to whom, and so on.

Maury Island is not just a 'case'. It is part of the UFO mythology.....and so now is the Botswana case, with van Greunen and his documents and even his 'execution' all fitting into the picture. I wanted you to write up each telephone call and new development in the saga as part of the saga itself, not trying to come to a conclusion about it, on facts. Of course, it comes out as a hoax if you do that; that was why the Condon Committee decided the whole UFO subject was a load of hogwash, despite the few remarkable cases they did study, because they also studied mythology cases and failed to perceive their 'other dimension' relevance."

"...With regard to the letter from van Greunen's friend: He himself fits into the mythologic picture so beautifully. One thinks of the old saying, 'one born every minute'. How can he seriously say he will sue you if you use his name, and that he will categorically deny he wrote the letter, and at the same time say that he is writing to Grattan Guinness asking him to take action...!

...But the contents of the letter [re the 'crash'] at least bear out Tony Dodd's assertion in the QUEST article, that rumours were going round in the South African Defence Force circles about the S.African Air Force having downed a UFO.*

* This was not confirmed by David Powell, who had access to some very high-ranking persons in the SAAF.

"I wonder how many of [the writer's] other interviewees have pulled the wool over his eyes? You know the biblical saying about 'many are called but few are chosen.' I am sure that van Greunen is one of the chosen. Everyone who has met him seems to have been charmed by him. He sounds charming on the phone too...I sensed the charm in his voice... like a magician, he weaves spells (spiels). I am sure he was chosen deliberately to disseminate disinformation; he didn't dream it all up himself. Something certainly happened, even if it was only the crash of a secret missile. But I'm not ruling out secret agreements with Aliens either. As far as I am concerned the whole case is still open, even though the inaccuracies and inconsistencies make it impossible to believe in any specific concrete fact at present. I don't even accept van Greunen's 'confession' that he hoaxed the whole thing himself, at face value. It, too, fits into the general picture.

Maury Island:

This incident (reportedly a hoax) has it that Harold Dahl and his 15-year old son were boating just off Maury Island, near Tacoma, Washington, in June 1947. With them were two crewmen and the boy's dog.

A group of 6 doughnut-shaped UFOs suddenly appeared, which Dahl was able to record with his movie camera. One seemed to be in trouble and dropped some slag-type material which killed the dog and injured the boy's arm.

Dahl reported the incident to Fred Crisman, his superior, who visited the area and collected some of the residue. Upon investigation nothing seemed to tie up. The Air Force plane taking samples of the slag to Hamilton AFB crashed and the two pilots were killed.

Later, Dahl and Crisman confessed to a hoax although many ufologists still believe the case was real.

So, the two men were either (a) pressurised into a hoax admission by government agents who knew the 'slag' was actually 'nuclear waste', or (b) they were giving out disinformation and putting out the hoax story to keep the public away from the true facts.

It seems to me that perhaps someone could try to contact Harold Dahl's son, who would be 59 or 60 by now, and verify the story or hoax with him.

FINAL COMMENT

One of the most interesting aspects of being part of the inner circle of UFO expertise (if I am allowed to call it that?) are the numerous contacts, letters, telephone calls and literature that reaches one from all over the world.

Whenever I can, I make a point of travelling in southern Africa, giving talks to various groups, mainly to 'spread the word' about UFOs. If I only had information from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Zaire and so on, I would be limited in the knowledge I could hand out. But because we publish UFO AFRINEWS here in Africa, and many copies are sent to other magazine editors all over the world, I also have access to their publications and thank goodness for that. Thanks to people like VUFORS and UFO ENCOUNTER (Australia), ORBITER, INTERNATIONAL UFO NEWS BULLETIN, MUFON UFO JOURNAL, JUST CAUSE from Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett, INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER from the United States of America; the BUFORA Magazine, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, NORTHERN NEWS by Jenny Randles, all from the United Kingdom; various Brazilian publications from Irene Granchi; from Ruth Gersten in the Argentine, the Uruguayan UFO REPORTER, ARCHIVES FOR UFO RESEARCH in Sweden, PROJECT BECASSINE from France, UFO CONTACT from Denmark, all these and many more, I am able to tell the small groups who attend my talks what exactly is going on in the rest of the world.

True, one should not be too gullible, nor influenced by everything that is reported and which one has not personally examined, but at least I do know what is going on. Fortunately, there are no restrictions on letter writing - as there is in my country on foreign currency for buying publications outside the country - and I am able to query comments, discuss cases and very often, contribute further to what is being written many thousands of miles away.

For instance, Paul Norman of VUFORS in Australia, has been doing a study of why UFO entities seem to set so much store in water. What properties does water have - of which perhaps we are not aware - which is of such value to 'them'? I had never really given the matter much thought until I read his article in the VUFORS magazine. It then came to mind that in many of my cases this extraordinary interest in water had been shown by the aliens asking for water as opposed to minerals, or help, or 'what time is it?' Or taking water from dams and storage tanks without as much as 'by your leave'. As a result, I have given Paul a run-down on some of my own cases where water appears to play a more than minimal part.

Jerome Clark, who is a Consulting Editor for FATE Magazine, and its foremost UFO reporter, was the first writer to give an honest assessment of the alleged Kalahari UFO crash on the Botswana/South African border. As I had been involved in this case - not from its inception but shortly afterwards, I was able to write to FATE and add several further pointers that had come to light.

In the September 1991 issue of the same magazine, John Keel writes about huge holes that appear in the ground with no sign of the soil which has been removed. He also says, 'sometimes [these holes] appear so smooth and so perfect that they appear to have been dug by a large machine of some sort.'

I had a strange case in Rosmead, South Africa, near Middelburg in the Cape, where a similar incident occurred. This case involved an unidentified landing on a new tennis court which ruined the surface. Close to the tennis court, Harold Truter (Headmaster of the local primary school) had been troubled for some time by a large stone which protruded about one third above the ground and which had caused many injuries to the children. He had attempted to remove the stone, but when he started to dig around it, he realised that much more than half of it was below ground and far too heavy a job for him to be able to handle on his own. However, the morning after the object appeared on the court, Truter noticed that the stone had been removed, enormous as it was. The most interesting factor was that the sides of the hole were totally smooth, as though the stone had been lifted out by suction, and not a scrap of the surrounding earth had been disturbed.

My other great source of information comes to me through letters, however much I might complain about the enormous mail which reaches me and has to be answered. On an average I receive 50 letters per week and although I work with a secretary who takes a lot of the workload off my shoulders, it is still a major problem to keep up with my correspondence. In actual fact, of course, I would not be without it! New cases are revealed and investigated; new people are met and interesting matters discussed with them, and many great friends have been made through the mail.

So, my thanks to the many people - it would take pages to name them - who have kept in touch with me through the years. They've certainly taught me a great deal, and even those who have criticised have done so in all good faith and added to my widening horizons on what UFOs may be all about!

LETTERS (continued)

From Gunter Hofer
Harare

In your extension of the La Rochelle [sighting], Case 6 in UFO Afrinews 2, you wrote about a sawmill in Mutare, where one of the motors broke down when a flash of light occurred.

This could be due to a strong current being induced in the wiring motor, causing the solder to melt and damage the motor. Strong electromagnetic impulses can induce a powerful current on wires, or any other metal object acting as an aerial. These strong electromagnetic impulses can be produced by powerful transmitters, nuclear bombs and sometimes by spots on the sun.

For this reason, military equipment, especially sensitive electronic equipment, is shielded by metal casings and earthed, so that the equipment is not damaged in the case of a nuclear war.

This explains why the motors in the sawmill building were not affected, maybe due to the building being made of zinc sheeting (if that was the case), or metal frames and pillars, which could carry the current induced in them to the earth, preventing damage to the motors inside.

NEW BOOKS

THE DEFINITIVE CASEBOOK by John Spencer published by Hamlyn, 1991. Price £14,99

UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL by Kevin Randle & Donald Schmitt published by Avon Books, New York, 1991. Paper-back.

THE WATCHERS by Raymond Fowler published by Bantam Books, New York, 1990. Paper-back.

ALIEN LIAISON by Timothy Good published by Random Century Ltd., 1991. Price £14,99.

UK Distribution: * Lionel Beer, Spacelink Books, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2QY England.

* Excalibur Books, Rivenoak, 1 Hillside Gardens, Bangor, C. Down, BT19 2SJ, Northern Ireland.

USA Distribution: * Arcturus Book Services, Box 831383, Stone Mountain, CA 30083-0023, United States of America.

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