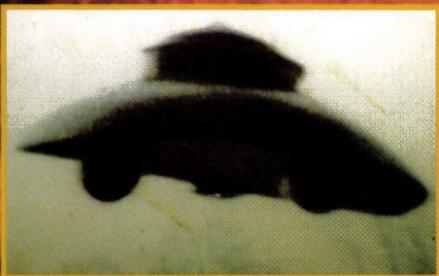
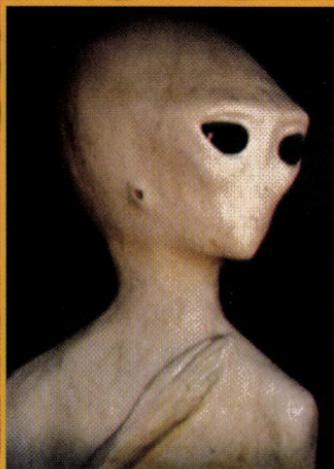


UFOs.

THE SECRET HISTORY



BY MICHAEL HESEMANN



The "Metepec spaceman," filmed by Sara Cuevas on Sept. 16, 1994

similar craft landed in Ruwa, Zimbabwe, 9 time zones east, and was seen by nearly a hundred schoolchildren.

On Wednesday, September 14, 1994, at exactly 9:04 p.m., thousands of citizens of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, were shaken by a loud explosion, followed by a vibration of the windowpanes. Those who rushed out of their houses saw nothing but the cloudy sky. They could not know that the explosion was a supersonic bang, caused by mysterious objects which entered the earth's atmosphere over the south of Africa at that very moment. And in fact, millions who lived under a clear sky saw them that night, from Botswana to Mozambique, the south of Zambia and South Africa and the whole of Zimbabwe. Astronomers originally believed that a meteorite shower had caused the celestial show, but they later learned that the glowing objects were parts of a Russian satellite, launched on August 24. But some witnesses, especially in the area around Lake Kariba at Zimbabwe's northern border, claimed in addition to the reentering fragments, they saw conical objects "which changed their course," making them a completely different sky phenomenon.

Whatever it was that entered the Zimbabwean airspace that night, "something" came back. The next morning, September 15, about 10:00 a.m., a group of pupils of the Ariel school at Ruwa, a suburb of Harare, were playing together during the morning break. Suddenly, they saw a cigar-shaped craft hanging low in the sky, just above the bush which was nearly bordering the schoolyard, separated by just a swampy area. It was metallic-looking, reflected the morning sun brightly, and disappeared after just a few seconds behind some tall trees.



Ariel School in Ruwa, Zimbabwe

The children wondered what it might have been. Of course they had heard about UFOs, had seen them in the movies and on Television, so they didn't have a shadow of a doubt that what they had seen was an extraterrestrial spacecraft. It was exciting, yes, but the sighting was too short to make a great deal out of it.

On the following day, Friday, September 16, 1994, Alisa Stevens, who lived at a farmhouse adjacent to the school grounds, woke up early in the morning. She got up and looked out of the window when she saw "a large, glowing thing" hovering just over the chicken coop. She went back to get her husband, but when she looked out of the window again, it had disappeared.

But this was only the beginning of an event, which turned out to be the best documented and best witnessed close encounter of the third kind of all times. It was again 10:00 a.m., time of the morning break, and with the ring of the bell children started to pour out of the little classrooms of the Ariel School.

That morning they were alone on the playground, without the supervision of their 13 teachers, who had a meeting in the conference room of the office of the headmaster, Mr. Colin Mackie. Some of the children suddenly saw a purple light in the sky above the forest, which kept coming and going. And then, a disc appeared, a huge, shiny craft with a flat dome on top, surrounded by yellow lights or portholes and extending tripod landing gear. It came down close to a rock on the other side of the marsh area, between the trees on the edge of the forest. Balls of light or miniature discs appeared and flew around for a short while. The pupils who saw it now



View on the zone in which a UFO landed on Sept. 16, 1994 (with enlargement of the specific area)

started to scream out of surprise and fear. This drew the attention of nearly everyone on the playground, and within seconds the limit of the schoolyard on that side was thronged by about a hundred pupils who all watched the incredible spectacle.

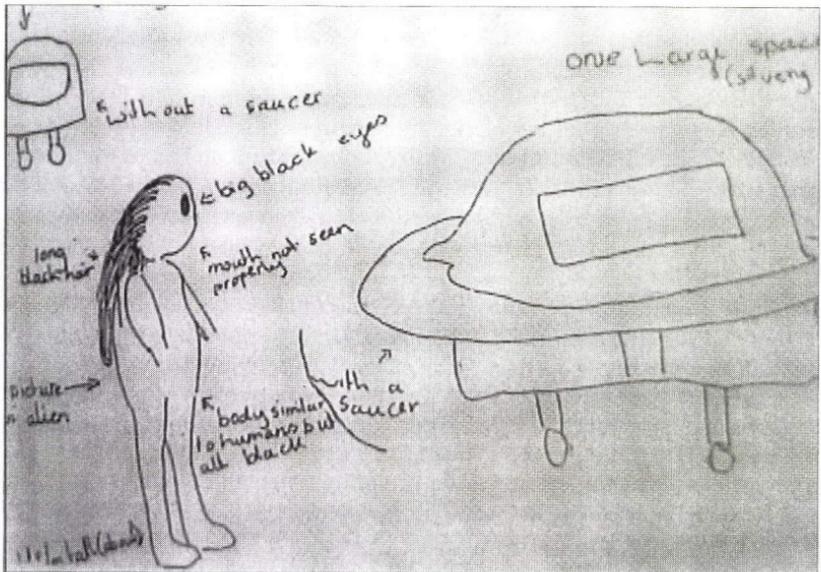
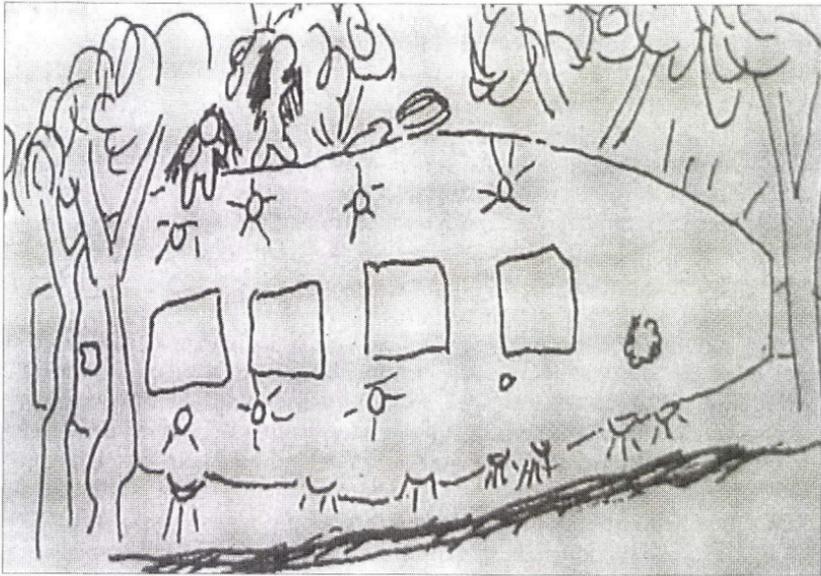
Now all the children who were close by observed something coming out of the disc. First one, then a second, finally a third figure exited the craft from the back of its dome, beings in shiny, tight-fitting black overalls with dark faces, two of them bald, the third with long, black hair, about 4–5 feet tall. They had big black eyes, which some of the young witnesses described as “like a cat’s eyes,” tiny little mouths and small noses. Some of the children could see a metal band around the head. All the younger children were scared and started crying. The entities—some saw only 2 of them, depending on the perspective—jumped down from the top of the saucer and moved slowly and wobbled. Whereas one of them went behind a tree, another one came closer and stared in the direction of the children who all started screaming at once. “Look at its eyes,” one of them shouted, “they are so ugly.” But a few of them were unusually silent. Deep inside themselves they heard a voice, telling them there was nothing to fear. They had just come to warn them that Earth was going to be destroyed by mankind itself . . .

At that moment, some of the children ran to the headmaster’s office to tell the teachers what had just happened on the playground. But nobody wanted to believe them. One boy ran to the only adult on the playground, Mrs. Alyson Kirkman, a mother who was on voluntary duty at the snack bar on this day. But when the boy told her about the UFO and the aliens, she just said: “Pull my other leg.” She could not believe him, nor was she ready to leave the snack bar with the money in her cash box, nor could she leave her stock of sweets and cookies alone.

After about 3 minutes the creatures went back to the ship, and lights started to flash, before the disc itself disappeared in a burst of light.

Now, after they finished their meeting, the first group of teachers came out, to see what was going on, after more and more children had come into the conference room to tell them about the strange encounter. But when they finally appeared on scene, everything was already over. What remained was excitement for many and trauma for some. Some children suffered from nightmares for the next few weeks or months, in some cases years. One boy underwent a psychological crisis and started bedwetting because his parents did not believe him. Others had dreams of aliens coming into their homes at night to abduct them. Others saw balls, circles and triangles of light in their bedroom. Some children believed the creatures were “tokoloshes,” the gnomes of African mythology.

After the children went home, most of them told their parents about what had happened at school. Some of them informed the press, and when school started again on Monday, it was besieged by the reporters, just as Metepec in Mexico had been during the days before. One class went to the landing site with their teacher, to find dead birds, strange footprints, burning marks, an indentation in the grass and heaps of dead ants.



Two children's sketches of the Ruwa landing

About half a year after the incident, Prof. John E. Mack, psychiatrist of the Harvard Medical School and Pulitzer prize winner, visited the Ariel school and questioned some of the children, to conclude that they certainly had had a real experience which had left a very deep impression upon them.

Since I was very impressed by his report, I visited the school twice in March 1997 and interviewed 44 children, as well as the headmaster and 2 teachers of the school, some parents and also Cynthia Hind, Africa's leading UFO researcher, who carefully investigated the case right after it happened. Although Cynthia could not verify the physical traces, she agrees with John Mack and myself that this is most certainly one of the most significant cases in the history of the UFO phenomenon.

The landings at Metepec and Ruwa were not the only ones. In fact, a series of landings took place between 1993 and 1995 in a country which might have one of the oldest traditions of alien contact: in Israel, in the village of Kadima, east of Netanya.

The UFO wave in Israel began in 1987, 40 years or one biblical generation after the foundation of the country. Three times, on September 28, 1987, May 20, 1988 and April 21, 1989 witnesses saw a strange craft over Shikmona Beach south of Haifa. In the course of the first and second incidents, the bat-shaped object caused a whirlwind and shot a red beam of light onto the beach, to burn its shape into the sand. In the third case the object changed into a pillar of fire and left behind a grayish powder.

On December 6, 1991, the most remarkable military UFO encounter in Israel's history took place. It all started at about 3:00 a.m., when an excited taxi driver called the police to report a UFO sighting just outside of the city of Bet Shean in the Jordan Valley. The officer on duty went outside and saw it with his own eyes: a brilliant light hovered over the industrial zone of his town. Believing it might be a sort of glider carrying terrorists from nearby Jordan to perpetrate an attack, he immediately called his superior, Chief Inspector Yitzhak Mordechai at home, woke him up and implored him to rush over. "I am on the way," Mordechai replied, "in the meantime, call the Army!" The officer did. By the time the chief inspector arrived on the site, the industrial area was crowded with armed men, soldiers of the Army, border guards and police. They all stared at a boomerang-shaped craft which hovered at an altitude of only 450 feet, illuminated by a bright light in the center. Then it started to move. A hundred men jumped into their cars and turned on the motors, to follow the strange craft which slowly flew in an eastern direction. After about half an hour, the convoy of jeeps and police cars reached the border of the kingdom of Jordan, where it stopped, only to fly back to Israel and hover at one spot, again surrounded by the soldiers and policemen, who had meanwhile realized that this invader was definitely not from this world.

At about 5.00 a.m., someone gave the order to shoot. Later, the police blamed the Army for the shooting, whereas the Army claimed it was the police who gave the order. The object however did not answer the fire but just rose up into the sky and disappeared.

On September 26, 1991, at the village Zur Moshe, 2 miles north of Kadima, Eli Cohen woke up at 3:00 a.m., because a bright light shone into his bedroom. He grabbed his rifle, checked every room and found that the power had failed, then went into the garden, and saw a luminous object mov-