

BRITISH UFO ASSOCIATION
AUTUMN 1963

BUFOA

JOURNAL



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BRITISH UFO ASSOCIATION

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objects: TO CO-ORDINATE INVESTIGATION AND PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PHENOMENA
TO DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE AND FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - often referred to as 'flying saucers' - are mysterious aerial phenomena which do not in any way resemble any known kind of machine or natural phenomena

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SAUCER OVER LEEDS



At 8.45 a.m. on Wednesday, 24th July, 1963 Michael Lee and John Duffy, both of Kentmere Approach, Leeds 14, were on their way to school with a group of friends. As they reached the top of the hill Michael (10) shouted "Look, a flying saucer!" The boys looked to where he pointed and some the above object, drawn here by Michael.

F. Malcolm Bull and Trevor Whitaker of our Halifax Branch sent the following report after investigating the incident:

The boys were walking due north at the time they saw the object, and reported it as moving from right to left (westwards). It was round with a cockpit, metallic in appearance and seemed to have a dull surface. The sky was overcast and the object disappeared and reappeared regularly, as if it were moving amongst the clouds. The object was at an altitude of about 30° and was about one mile away over Roundhay Park Woods. It made a buzzing noise and appeared to be almost twice as big as the boy's fist at arm's length. Michael did not know the nature of the darker marking shown at the forward end of the object in his sketch.

John Duffy, also ten years old, said that the object moved too fast to be an aeroplane, and then it flew off at a high speed and vanished.

Mr Donald Foy, John's uncle, said that the description given by the boys fitted that of two objects seen by him over Leeds six years ago. He had never mentioned these objects to his nephew.

Cigar-shaped ufo at Parkstone, Dorset

On the morning of Sunday, 14th July, 1963 Mr Frank Selwood of Albert Road, Parkstone woke at 3 a.m., and on looking out of his bedroom window he was amazed to see a strange object in the early morning sky. For, hovering over a gasholder at the back of his house was a huge cigar-shaped object "about as big as four terraced houses."

After trying unsuccessfully to wake his wife, Mr Selwood returned to the window to find the object still hovering about 300 feet from the ground. In the middle was an intermittent wavy blue-green light. From the object came a flapping sound, like a broken-down dynamo, and a quiet sort of whistling.

It continued to hover for almost three minutes and then suddenly sprang into life. The motor whined louder and the flashing light became continuous along the object's entire length. It then moved off towards the west at a fantastic speed.

Friends and relatives to whom Mr Selwood spoke about his experience did not believe him, and suggested that he had had a bad dream. But he has talked about the incident so much since that they are now sure that he did see something, and that it was no dream or hallucination.

This sighting was made three days before the news of the Charlton Crater was reported in the newspapers.

THE NIGHT SKY

- in colour

In the night of Thursday, 25th July, 1963 several sightings came in from the Midlands and are reported here with acknowledgements to the Stratford-on-Avon UFO Group.

Observers in the Birmingham area described an object which was seen to turn on a bright light, with which it illuminated the ground, it then glowed bright red, climbed at a fantastic speed and vanished into the night sky. Other reports from Malvern mentioned ten objects.

Mr Dunn and Mr Cope of Bloxwich watched an object which they describe as a 'big beaming searchlight' flashing on and off at a height of 6,000 feet. The colour of the object, which was visible towards the south-west, changed to bluish-white then to red. It stopped on several occasions and then disappeared in a southerly direction, towards Walsall.

At 11.15 p.m. Mr B. Whitehouse reported a bright light which climbed vertically then moved towards Evesham. The object was seen again at midnight and was definitely not a 'plane'.

Mr B. Jordan of Alveston, Stratford-on-Avon, who works at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, wrote:

"Mr James drew my attention to a very bright light which was seen from the Balcony Terrace of the Theatre. The light, which was in a N.E. Direction, was as bright as a car headlamp and had two small rays of light beneath it, and it was much larger than any other star which we could see. This was at 11.20 p.m. A few moments later the intensity of the light dimmed somewhat and, watching very carefully, the object began to move, gaining height and speed as it went over the Theatre in a S.W. Direction, when we noticed it carried a green light on one side and an orange-red light on the other.

"A little later in the evening, at about 11.40 p.m. I attracted Mr James's attention to the light in the same position as it had been before. It was noticeably dimmer and we watched it for about one minute. It was of exactly the same appearance and carried out the same movements as before. There was no sound on either occasion."

A woman in Birmingham reported an object of about the same size as the moon which was emitting a grey vapour.

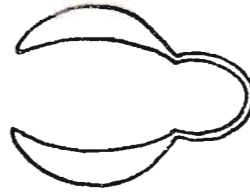
On contacting Preston Air Control, the police were told that the lights could have been those of civil aircraft, since Walsall is on a main air route.

A spokesman for the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern said that an aircraft from the Flying Unit there, fitted with a powerful narrow beam searchlight, had been in the area working in conjunction with equipment at the Establishment.

If the aircraft mentioned by the Royal Radar Establishment were responsible for the object in the above reports, the various interpretations which the observers put on their respective sightings are most interesting.

On the following day an object described as 'satellite-like' was seen to move slowly from south-east to north-west. There were four witnesses to this sighting, which if a satellite must have been in a retrograde orbit.

ORADELL INCIDENT 1962



During September of last year the following series of incidents took place in the vicinity of the Oradell Reservoir and Oradell Avenue Dam, New Jersey, USA

Saturday, 15th September, 1962 at 7.55 p.m. three boys reported having seen a strange oval object set down in the Reservoir. It hovered above the water, submerged for a few minutes, then surfaced, rose vertically and disappeared. A fisherman of the opposite side of the Reservoir reported hearing a splash at about the time the boys said the object submerged.

In the nearby town of Emerson strange tracks (as shown above), measuring 4-feet by 6-feet, were found after witnesses claimed to have seen a ufo land. The USAF sent a representative to the area, and police barricaded the land.

Sunday, 16th September, 1962 two youths from Emerson saw an object near the Reservoir. A few seconds later they heard a noise like the slamming of a car door. The object was described as being domed with portholes along the perimeter. At this point, the parents of the boys were called by the local police and were told that their sons should refrain from speaking about the matter since the Government requested a secrecy policy.

Tuesday, 18th September, 1962 excited by the recent activity over a hundred people flocked to the reservoir in the hope of witnessing the return of the ufo. That night two Westwood policemen reported a fast-moving object, shaped like an inverted cone, and others reported strange beams of light and quickly moving red discs.

Wednesday, 19th September, 1962 twenty people returned to the Reservoir to await the controversial ufo. Nothing was seen on this occasion, although nine witnesses in other parts of the area sighted several aerial objects, one of which was seen to land. There was a rumour that the Oradell police shot at a 14-foot man.

Thursday, 20th September, 1962 four boys spotted a similar craft near the Reservoir. Three jet fighters were seen to intercept the ufo, passing under it. As the jets attempted to make another pass, the object rose silently and disappeared, giving off a vivid white light.

Friday, 21st September, 1962 two formations of six large, vivid white objects were reported. The first was observed by children, and their parents, in the Pulaaski Park, Hackensack, whilst two hundred people on Garret Mountain, East Paterson, played host to a similar display.

On Monday, 24th September, 1962 the Hackensack 'Record' received a letter from a group of Bergenfield boys who claimed to have constructed and flown a model made with a helium balloon with a balsa wood frame and controlled by radio waves received by a small one horsepower motor. This explanation was quite sufficient for the general public, but left doubt in the minds of several hundred witnesses.

Acknowledgements: For material supplied for the two articles on this and the opposite page the Editor expresses his thanks to Edward J. Babcock JR, Director of the New Jersey Association on Aerial Phenomena, New Jersey, USA, and Karl L. Veit, Director of the Deutsche UFO-Studiengemeinschaft, Wiesbaden-Schierstein, Germany.

WAVE OVER AUSTRIA

7

Beginning on 28th July this year there was a marked increase in the number of sightings reported in the Saileralm district of Upper Austria. Several of these have similar characteristics to those published during the 'wave' which took place in France in 1954.

28th July 1963

A spherical object was seen to move along a north-south course, moving at varying speed and with a zig-zag motion. It was visible from midnight until 1.45 a.m. on the 29th July - 105 minutes. Clearly this was no earth satellite.

10th August 1963

Again about midnight a very bright spherical object was observed moving along an easterly path. This was approximately 64 miles away and was observed for 45 minutes.

11th August 1963

The following sequence of sightings lasting for over four and a half hours was reported

- 1) large object seen shortly before midnight to the east of Schwarzkogel
- 2) forty or more discs estimated at 10-30 centimeters diameter seen to come from spheres hovering over the Almkogel district
- 3) 2.45 a.m. three large objects reported in several parts of Austria as they travelled from the south then veered towards the east
- 4) 3.26 a.m. large mothership and several discs seen to hover at about 10,000 feet over Almkogel. The object later flew slowly over the area and was seen to be spherical in shape with large and small holes along the surface
- 5) 4 a.m. an object about ten times the brightness of the moon flew to the north, then turned towards the east
- 6) 4.18 a.m. two small discs seen to enter the mothership which had been hovering in the area. The large object had been seen to send light signals in the direction of the Arzmäuer

Shortly after 4.30 a.m. cloud prevented further observations of the activity.

12th August 1963

A group of seven objects flying in formation from east to west shortly before 11 p.m.

16th, 17th and 23rd August 1963

A similar sighting of a flying object moving from the east towards the south was reported on each of these three dates at 10.34 p.m., 10.30 p.m. and midnight respectively.

24th August 1963

A yellowish ufo was observed for fifty minutes from 9.40 p.m. It was reported as standing still, then falling in a zig-zag manner, like a falling leaf. It was also noticed that the needle of a magnetic compass was deflected about 11° during the sighting.

Curiouser and Curiouser...

The following letter received from Mr J.P.Painter M.M., of Coventry relates a most unusual incident

Sir,

Eleven years ago, in the summer of 1952, I was taking a quiet stroll round after tea, which, as I am a miner, is about five o'clock, and my wandering took me to a neighbouring village where I called at a public house and had two pints of beer. On leaving I continued down the lane to my own home village. The lane was deserted as I strolled along, but I could hear the traffic on the nearby main road.

It was barely nine o'clock and being in no particular hurry I lay reclining on one elbow on a grass verge by the roadside and smoked a cigarette. Eventually I sat up, preparing to resume my stroll, and it was in this position that I first became aware of this most unusual event.

A short way off and coming in my direction I saw, floating in the air, something that I first took to be a soap bubble, about the size of a golf ball. I looked around to see if any children had come along as I had been lying down, but seeing no one about I turned to where I had seen the object, and to my curiosity, though seemingly in motion, it hovered just beyond me, then it carried on. And carried on is the right word! For there was a gentle breeze blowing, but the bubble was not travelling with it, it was going in the opposite direction!

I thought that some speck or something had settled in my eye and the movements of my eye had made me see this bubble, but that it was not so became apparent when I stood up, for this explanation would not fit what I now saw. A number of bubbles were now round me, circling, going up and down and hovering over me. Then came the amazing part, for, supposing that they were satisfied that I was of no further interest, the bubbles drew together and somehow seemed to be drawn into each other, until the resulting bubble had become something I can only describe as a goldfish bowl, dirty inside the glass. Then it was away, but so quickly that it was there, and then it wasn't.



Imagination? In my own mind I cannot accept this, in fact, I turned back after starting off, to see if I could find a possible explanation. I have not yet done so, nor have I had a similar experience. Unfortunately I was alone when this incident took place, and I have regretted this ever since, for I have no one who could confirm that it was not imagination on my part.

Of course, it could be assumed that I had napped and dreamed the incident, perhaps I could, had I still been lying down, but I had stood up ready to continue my way, and I could not be dreaming what I saw so plainly. It could be said that I might have tried to catch one of the bubbles, and indeed I thought this myself later, but at the time I was

flabbergasted, it all happened so quickly.



Since that time I have considered these things to myself, by accepting what I saw to be a fact. The bubbles withdrew into each other, so could they not, by withdrawing in a like manner but on a larger scale, assume what people have taken to be Flying Saucers, which at any rate have given cause to speculation, and are we, in our ignorance, taking things too much for granted?

Why, if there should be life other than ours in the universe should we assume that they are trying to contact us? For by believing ourselves to be the superior race on earth we are deluding ourselves into thinking that if there should be living creatures on earth visiting us from other planets they would also know that.

We know that there are various kinds of life in the smallest drop of water, and we are interested in these kinds of life, but it has never been said that any one particular species of life in that drop of water is the ruling class, nor have we tried to get into communication with these forms of life. On similar lines, why should we ignore the probable fact that we may be as interesting to other forms of life as that drop of water is to us?

We are unable to accept the fact that to them we are a kind of creature amongst creatures, and therefore only of passing interest. If I were writing science fiction I could state that they were trying to communicate with me by taking control of my brain, but this was not so. I merely say that I know that I was given a brief examination, having been casually inspected by something, and just as casually dismissed as being something of no importance, as a gang of schoolboys might come across something to temporarily interest them, later passing on their way, dismissing it as being of no further interest.



I have no wish to gain publicity. My only interest being to find out if someone, somewhere has either seen or imagined anything of this nature. Even now I am still curious about the incident.

J.P.Painter

Whilst not agreeing with some of the sentiments expressed by this writer the Editor would like to know of any other occurrences of this type. Readers who have heard of such incidents are asked to write to the Editorial Address giving the place, date and other details of the events, and any references for magazines and books in which such events are cited

SATELLITE TRACKING & UFOs

J. G. ROBERTS

The Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern recently installed two large cameras for use in tracking and plotting the paths of artificial earth satellites. The cameras, each weighing over eight tons, are believed to be the largest of their type in operation in the world. The camera itself consists of a lens, almost 26 inches in diameter, having a focal length of 24 inches, which, operating at f/1, focusses the light on to an extremely fast photographic film capable of recording satellites only one-fifteenth the brightness of the faintest stars visible to the naked eye. From these films the position of artificial satellites can be determined with an accuracy of one second of arc, or the equivalent of one foot in forty miles.

What is the likelihood of these cameras, or similar ones in operation at various satellite-tracking stations around the world, photographing an unidentified flying object? Let us first see how the satellite-tracking camera works.

When an earth satellite is launched its orbit is determined from the various factors at the time of its orbital injection and from observations made during its first orbit at the ground stations, over 400 in all, situated in South and Central America, Japan, Hawaii, India, South Africa, Spain and the Netherlands, as well as in the Soviet Union and the USA. Predictions of future transits of the satellite are then made, using this preliminary data, and sent to tracking stations around where local predictions are then made to enable an observer at that point to calculate at what time and where in the sky the satellite should appear. A satellite-tracking camera is then pointed to that part of the sky in which the satellite should be seen and the shutter is opened, thus providing a permanent record in a form suitable for reduction to computer data. Moreover, a photographic image is of higher accuracy than is a purely visual estimate of the satellite's position.

When the camera remains stationary the stars appear as trails on the film due to the rotation of the earth, and the satellite also appears as a trail as a result of its motion across the sky. If the shutter is closed at regular intervals during the exposure, small breaks will appear in the satellite's trail which will then enable its velocity relative to the camera to be calculated, together with the exact time at which the satellite passed certain points in the sky. Two or more cameras located some distance apart and all photographing the same object will enable the exact height of the object to be calculated. From this data we can determine the position of the object in space, both at the time it was photographed and, by extrapolation, at any time in the future. The satellite is continually photographed even after an orbit has been determined in order to detect any variations which may have appeared in the orbit. Since these variations are caused chiefly by the tenuous atmosphere through which the satellite is travelling, measurements of them are being used to determine fluctuations of atmospheric density with time.

One major disadvantage of the ufo phenomena is that their positions cannot be predicted. A satellite-tracking camera, such as those at Malvern, can only photograph the comparatively small region of the sky where the artificial satellite is likely to appear, the field of view being quite restricted. It does not simply photograph any part of the sky in the hope of seeing a satellite, but if a ufo does appear in the scheduled area of the sky the camera will photograph, providing that it is bright enough to leave an image on the film. Otherwise, the ufo will remain blissfully unphotographed outside the camera's field of view.

For satellites so faint that they would not show as a trail on the film, the tracking camera is programmed to sweep across the sky at the same speed and in the same direction as the satellite. It was by this method that the lost Syncom I satellite was located recently at a height of over 20,000 miles. In this way the image of the faint satellite is concentrated for an extended period of time on the photographic emulsion, thus producing an identifiable image. The image of the satellite will appear as a fixed point on the film whilst the stars will show up as faint trails. This is one instance in which the photographic method of tracking is superior to purely visual non-photographic methods. The 'image build-up' capability of fast films enables extremely faint objects, invisible to the naked eye or through moderate optical equipment, to be permanently recorded.

Thus, photographing an unidentified flying object utilising this technique is largely a matter of luck. If a ufo happens to pass across the field of view of the camera it will undoubtedly be photographed, whilst outside the field nothing will be recorded. Should a ufo trail be recorded the shape and brightness fluctuations of the object may be determined from an examination of the film, and valuable data can thus be extracted.

We next come to the question of whether we can 'chase' a ufo with an eight-ton satellite-tracking camera. Obviously an observer would have to be in command of the camera to spot the ufo in the first place. If the object is relatively slow-moving and bright it is possible that a skilful operator would be able to pick up the unknown in the field of view, but amateur astronomers who have attempted to observe artificial satellites, such as ECHO I, with medium or large telescopes will have some idea of the problems involved. Fast-moving objects are unlikely to be photographed on account of the length of time taken for the heavy camera to be manoeuvred into position, and also because the image, if the object were picked up in the field of view, would appear on the film as a blurred track, due to the uneven motion of the camera in the hands of an operator vainly trying to follow a blob of light streaking across the sky. From such a track little or no information could be obtained, apart from the fact that something was photographed!

To summarise - it is possible to photograph ufo's with large satellite-tracking cameras, and it is possible that ufo's have been photographed with such equipment, but it is rather a matter of luck and coincidence. It also seems quite impracticable to utilise large tracking cameras for the sole purpose of ufo)hunting, when an observant amateur with simple inexpensive photographic equipment can do the job just as well.

IS SEEING BELIEVING?

asks an ophthalmic optician

There are certain phenomena associated with vision which are of interest to the ufo observer and investigator, since they can cause distortion of what is seen, and may even resemble certain types of ufo's, giving rise to false sighting reports.

Before we consider these it is necessary to know a little about the basic structure of the eye. We may regard it as a hollow ball from which a small

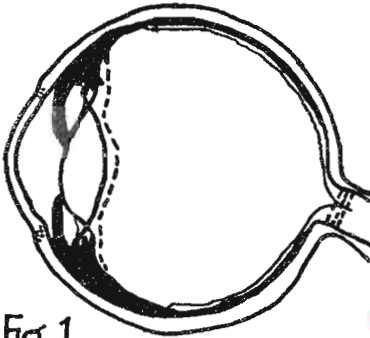


Fig 1

disc has been removed and replaced by a transparent watchglass, the cornea. Behind the cornea lies the iris, the coloured part of the eye, which acts in a way similar to the iris diaphragm of a camera, controlling the amount of light entering the eye by varying the size of the pupil, and behind this is the crystalline lens. The lens is made up of layer upon layer of transparent fibres packed tightly together in a transparent elastic capsule, and can be focussed involuntarily to enable us to see clearly objects at varying distances from the eye.

Covering almost the whole of the back half of the inside shell of the eye is the retina, the light-sensitive part of the eye, which is analogous to the film in a camera. The retina is made up of over a hundred million cells which are responsible for relaying impressions of light, form and colour to the brain by way of the optic nerve. Between the cornea and the lens is a liquid substance, the aqueous humour, and between the lens and the retina is the gelatinous vitreous humour.

Entoptic Phenomena

These are visual sensations excited in some way within the eye and projected externally by the brain and they may be interpreted as ufo's.

The most common of these is known as *Muscae Volitantes* (flying gnats). These are specks of various shapes and sizes which appear to float about in front of the eye, and can be seen by most people simply by looking at a bright surface, such as the sky. They are caused by irregularities or small particles and groups of cells floating in the vitreous humour. Attempts to follow them with the eye cause them to fly away rapidly.

Small droplets and mucus on the corneal surface, or vacuols in the crystalline lens appear as bright spots surrounded by a dark margin when the mind projects them into space. These are best seen when parallel light is entering the eye, such as would be the case when a distant object is being viewed.

The structure of the crystalline lens produces star-like distortion of small points of light, and sometimes the radial fibres of the lens act as a diffracting grating causing bright objects and lights to appear to be

surrounded by coloured haloes with angular diameters of about 8° . Similar haloes, but of 6° angular diameter, are produced by diffraction within the cornea in an eye suffering from the condition known as Glaucoma.

A common phenomenon of which we should be aware is the entoptic visibility of blood corpuscles. When an evenly illuminated surface, such as the sky, is viewed, several small dancing spots may be seen to shoot up suddenly as if from nowhere, they then describe a circuitous path and disappear. It is thought that these are caused by blood corpuscles passing along the very small blood vessels at the most sensitive part of the retina.

Also associated with this most sensitive part of the retina is the phenomenon known as 'the yellow spot'. When the eye is illuminated from an unusual angle, a bright elliptical or crescent-shaped disc may be seen at the centre of the visual field. It may be very clear indeed, particularly in a blue light such as would be experienced when looking at the night sky, under which circumstances it will appear to be surrounded by a dark blue halo, whilst in a good light the halo will appear bright.

The last phenomenon to which I want to refer is known as 'the blue arcs'. If a spot of light is viewed eccentrically a transitory blue light is seen entoptically. If the right eye is used and fixation is slightly to the right of the light, two bands of blue light appear to arch out from above and below the light source (fig. 2a). If fixation is directed to the left, a single band of blue runs horizontally and downwards (fig. 2b). No matter what the colour of the stimulating light the appearance is always blue. This is best seen when the eye has been in the dark for a few minutes or more. The point marked f.p. in figs 2a and 2b indicates the fixation point at which the eye is directed.

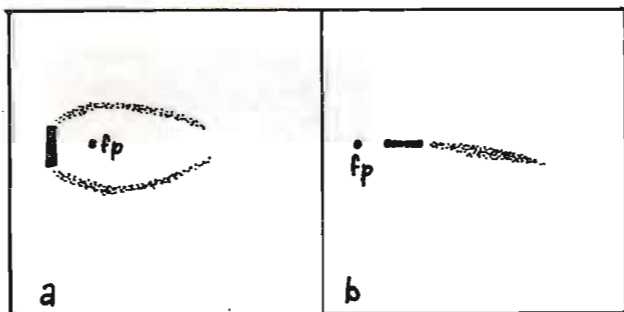


Fig 2

After - Images

When visual activity continues after stimulation of the retina has ceased the effects produced is known as an after-image. These can be positive (i.e. of the same type as the stimulus) or negative (i.e. of the opposite type to the stimulus). While the activity lasts the retina in that area is unable to react to a second stimulus of the same type, but shows an increased sensitivity to a stimulus of the opposite kind, which results in a negative after-image complementary to the original stimulus. Thus, if a white light is observed and the gaze is then directed to a white surface a dark patch (after-image) is seen surrounded by a bright halo. Similar but more complex after-images are seen with coloured stimuli; if, after viewing a green light, for example, a white light falls upon the retina during the period for which the positive after-image lasts, the

resultant sensation in the stimulated area of the retina will be purple, purple being white minus green. A simple example of a negative after-image



can be demonstrated by means of the illustration in fig.3. Look at the spot at the centre of the picture for about 30 seconds, then transfer the gaze to a light card or wall. A negative after-image will then be seen of the same angular size as the original.

FIG 3 Due to these effects in prolonged observation of an object of only ordinary brightness, processes occur which tend to prevent the continuation of the primary sensation. Thus, an object under observation may seem to fade after a time or disappear completely, if the eye is not blinked,

and if fixation is maintained objects in the visual field begin to change until the whole becomes blank.

Spatial Induction

This phenomenon can be demonstrated using both black and white, and also coloured, stimuli. A patch of grey on a white background looks darker than the same patch on a black background, as in fig.4. Two colours of differing hues placed side by side change towards their complementary colours, whilst if a contrast is made with a grey of apparently the same brightness it will appear to become tinged with the complement of the colour in question, being most marked at the edge.

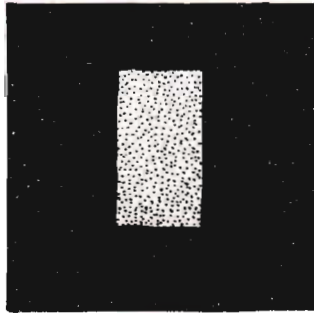
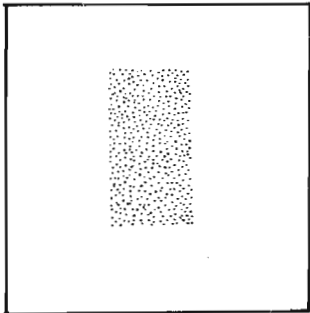


FIG 4

Spatial induction may be responsible for the red cloud observed behind the green light reported by Mrs Spanner (p.6 BUFOA Journal:Summer 1963). It will be noted that in this case the cloud changed its shape on the second night and Mrs Spanner reported that 'her eyes became confused', this would be due to the prolonged fixation of the green light. It is interesting to note that this red cloud was not seen on the third night when the green light was moving and observed through a 'spy glass'.

In a later article I propose to discuss the distortion produced by refractive errors of the eye and also some interesting aspects of Dark Adaptation.

CHARLTON CONFESSION!

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On 26th August 1963 the Press gave great publicity to a 'confession' by Mr John Southern of Wembley, in which he stated that he and some friends were responsible for digging the craters at Charlton and in Scotland. As far as the newspapers were concerned this ended the Charlton incident once and for all and neatly tied it with a label marked ENTIRELY TERRESTRIAL! The truth, however, was far from being so simple, and later Mr Southern wrote the following report and sent it to a popular Sunday paper. The report was not published by the paper but a fee, subsequently returned by Mr Southern, was paid for the article.

"I believe there could be flying saucers. I also believe that space-minded writers on this subject are not fools, though the lesser-minded people may snigger at their beliefs and at their efforts to discover the truth and to try to establish the facts.

"I became interested in the story of the two craters appearing in different parts of the country. I followed the story with great interest and then suddenly, as had often happened before, it was all left in mid-air and dismissed with a big laugh.

"I had ideas of writing an article on this subject myself and I asked if there were any other craters that had been found and not published, but no one could tell me anything. Anyone to whom I spoke on this subject just laughed and said 'someone has probably dug them for a hoax.' This bothered me, and I could never begin to write an article having the thought at the back of my mind that someone somewhere with a big shovel was sitting back laughing at me, so I decided to do something about it. I got the idea that if I claimed to have dug the craters the real culprits would certainly not let me take the credit for their efforts and they would show themselves. Having the advantage of having written a play 'The Big Hoax' with a similar plot, I took the chance and went through with it. I knew all too well that I would have the Army Bomb Disposal officials to contend with, and also the farmer, Mr Roy Blanchard, not to mention the disappointment and acute embarrassment of the people I was trying to champion, but knowing that it was only temporary I hoped that they would see my point.

"What have I found out? I have established to my own satisfaction that the craters were not made by earthly creatures. I have also learned through letters and telephone conversations quite a lot on this subject from people who would probably not have spoken to me before. So now I can continue my writing with the knowledge that there is certainly more evidence to support the existence of flying saucers than there is against them.

"Two young men from Luton, Geoffrey Thompson and Peter Davis, produced a well written article on this subject for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Pictorial of 11th December 1962, it ended with '... people should help to solve this mystery instead of pretending it doesn't exist,' which is exactly how I feel."

John Southern

Thus BUFOA Journal has published the story the Sunday papers daren't print!

as a matter

.... George Adamski, who is rumoured to have made yet another confession in the American Press, has written his fourth book due to appear next Spring.

.... the small copper dipole needles put into orbit around the earth by the USA are circling at a height of 2000 miles. Photoelectric measures reveal that they have one-twentyfifth the brightness of the night sky.

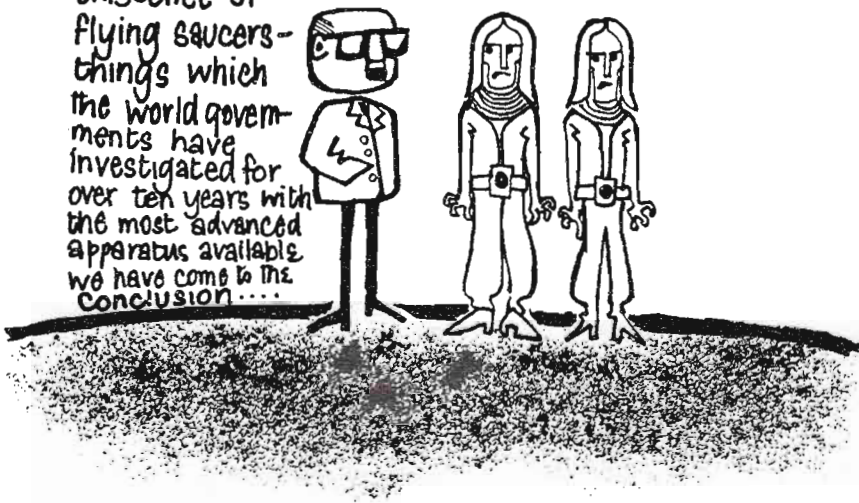
.... we are taught at school that the earth is round, then that it is not really round, but is flattened slightly at the poles. Later we learn that the earth is pear-shaped, and latest studies show that it is, in fact, heart-shaped. One popular American flying saucers magazine has it that our planet is really doughnut-shaped. So where are we? Perhaps it's actually flat!

.... thousands of white objects over a meter in diameter fell on Mexico City on Tuesday, 30th July 1963. Aircraft sent up to investigate reported them as white spheres which released vapour. Eye witnesses described them as being like soap bubbles, vanishing when they touched the ground. The local observatory could give no explanation.

.... on 6th September 1963 a block of ice weighing 11 lbs fell out of a clear sky in the Domodedovo region, near Moscow. The ice, which shattered on landing, was subsequently examined.
Does this suggest another cause of the Charlton crater?

.... clouds of volcanic dust thrown up by the eruption of Mount Agung, Bali, last March have caused the intensity of solar radiation to decrease by five per cent compared with last year. The dust layer, at about 80,000 feet, is making it necessary for photographers in Australia to give longer exposures.

okay, so you guys
reckon on the
existence of
flying saucers-
things which
the world govern-
ments have
investigated for
over ten years with
the most advanced
apparatus available
we have come to the
conclusion....



of fact...

.... N.A.Kozyrev of the Crimean Astrophysical Laboratory, who in 1958 and 1959 observed volcanic outbreaks on the lunar surface in the region of the crater Alphonsus, has detected an atmosphere on the planet Mercury. This, he believes, may be as high as 1/100 the density of the earth's atmosphere, although spectroscopic analysis shows it to be composed of hydrogen.

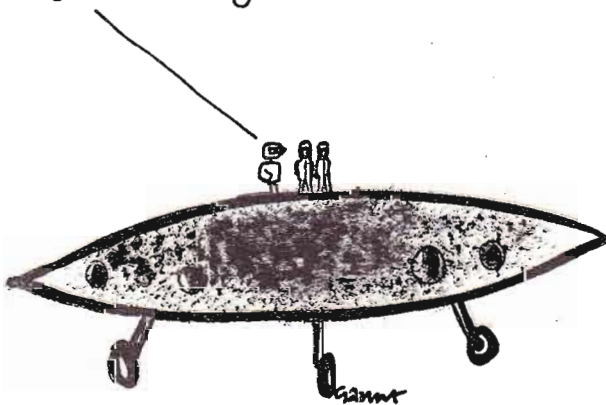
.... the minor planet Betulia passed within 14,600,000 miles of the earth on May 21st this year. The record for the closest passage of an asteroid is held by Hermes which came as close as 485,000 miles on 30th October 1937.

.... the direction of a comet's tail, previously believed to be caused by the pressure of sunlight on the particles of the tail, is actually due to the flow of ionised hydrogen away from the sun combined with an inter-planetary magnetic field. It was found that the pressure of light alone would be too weak to produce the observed effects.

.... Tiros IV, the weather satellite launched by the USA to photograph the cloud formations and other meteorological phenomena, has transmitted thousands of pictures back to earth. In only one of these photographs have there been any signs that the planet below is inhabited; these were white streaks, later identified as snow-bound logging routes through a Canadian forest.

.... Reinhold O. Schmidt who claims to have travelled in a space ship has been on trial for theft in California. Mrs Eva Newcomb says that she put \$5,000 into two mining ventures with Schmidt. One of these ventures, an Alaskan gold mine, is said to have been shown to Schmidt as he flew over the north pole in the Saturnian space ship. The other venture was a quarry in which 'pre-energised quartz' with miraculous healing powers was to be found.

... that they are
entirely hallucinatory



ORTHOTENY?

There are lies, damned lies, and statistics! And it is this last category which shall use in this article to look at the various figures available for sighting reports.

In a recent edition of Flying Saucer Review there was published a letter from Aime Michel regarding the latest developments in the theory of orthoteny advanced in his book 'Flying Saucers & the Straight Line Mystery' of 1958. Towards the end of his letter M.Michel indicated that English readers could expect to find a large number of British sightings lying along a line from Southend-on-Sea, Essex to the Sound of Barra, Outer Hebrides. In his book M.Michel mentions an orthotenic line passing through Po di Gnocca, Italy and Southend, via Calais, and although this does not coincide with the Southend-Barra line there is clearly evidence for an orthotenic line passing across the British Isles from south-east to north-west.

We should, therefore, expect to find that the majority of sightings are reported in the vicinity of such a line if the phenomenon of orthoteny were of more than an ephemeral nature. The figures to be considered are for the four years 1959-1962 and were supplied by BUFOA. They are reproduced on this page but have been abridged for reasons of space, omitting those counties having two or less sightings over the whole period; this will in no way affect the general picture of the distribution of the sightings.

Table I

Yorkshire	31 (9, 8, 5, 9)	Durham	8 (1, 1, 2, 4)
Lancashire	30 (12, 6, 7, 5)	Dumfriesshire	7 (0, 5, 1, 1)
London	22 (7, 11, 2, 2)	Glamorgan	7 (1, 2, 4, 0)
Essex	20 (0, 8, 12, 0)	Hertfordshire	6 (0, 1, 4, 1)
Gloucestershire	18 (3, 7, 6, 2)	Middlesex	6 (1, 1, 2, 2)
Hampshire	17 (1, 1, 9, 6)	Cornwall	5 (2, 2, 0, 1)
Warwickshire	17 (0, 6, 10, 1)	Derbyshire	5 (0, 0, 1, 4)
Kent	15 (8, 6, 1, 0)	Staffordshire	5 (1, 0, 4, 0)
Northumberland	15 (1, 9, 4, 1)	Cheshire	4 (2, 2, 0, 0)
Nottinghamshire	14 (0, 4, 8, 2)	Shropshire	4 (1, 2, 1, 0)
Norfolk	13 (1, 5, 2, 5)	Suffolk	4 (0, 0, 2, 2)
Surrey	10 (4, 1, 1, 4)	Aberdeen	4 (0, 2, 1, 1)
		Berkshire	3 (0, 1, 2, 0)
Devon	8 (2, 2, 3, 1)	Sussex	3 (0, 1, 2, 0)

The first statistical test we shall apply to these figures is the 'chi-square' test. This involves comparing the theoretical values for the number of sightings, as predicted by some hypothesis which we put forward, with the actual observed numbers of sightings. For simplicity we shall put forward the hypothesis that 'there is no association between the source of the sightings and the year.' We do this since it is easier to calculate theoretical results in this case since we have no quantitative results for orthoteny. We first tabulate the figures for the individual yearly totals for each of the first twelve counties (shown in brackets in the above table) and alongside we show the calculated value predicted by our hypothesis (Table II). Thus the probability of a sighting in Yorkshire is estimated as $31/222$, since the 31 of the total 222 sightings for the whole period come from that county. The theoretical frequency of sightings from Yorkshire for

1959, which year has a total of 46 sightings for the twelve counties here, is therefore $46 \times 31/222 = 6.4$, as compared with the actual value of 9.

This is done for each of the figures and we compare the two values as follows:

we subtract the theoretical value from the respective observed value for the number of sightings, this figure is then squared and divided by the theoretical value. The result is then totalled for all the 48 pairs:

for convenience we shall not perform this calculation here, but the interested reader may carry it out for himself and verify that the final total of $(N - Np)^2/Np$ for all the values is 96.4. This value for the quantity 'chi-squared' is then looked at in the light of statistical tables for the values of 'chi-squared' when it will be found that this value is significant and leads us to reject our hypothesis of no relationship between the location and the date of a sighting, that is, the probability of a sighting being reported at a given place is not constant throughout the four years considered.

	1959		1960		1961		1962		Totals
	N	Np	N	Np	N	Np	N	Np	
Yorkshire	9	6.4	8	10	5	9.4	9	5.2	31
Lancashire	12	6.2	6	9.7	7	9.1	5	5.0	30
London	7	4.6	11	7.1	2	6.6	2	3.7	22
Essex	0	4.1	8	6.5	12	6.0	0	3.3	20
Gloucestershire	3	3.7	7	5.8	6	5.4	2	3.0	18
Hampshire	1	3.5	1	5.5	9	5.1	6	2.8	17
Warwickshire	0	3.5	6	5.5	10	5.1	1	2.8	17
Kent	8	3.1	6	4.9	1	4.5	0	2.5	15
Northumberland	1	3.1	9	4.9	4	4.5	1	2.5	15
Nottinghamshire	0	2.9	4	4.5	8	4.2	2	2.3	14
Norfolk	1	2.7	5	4.2	2	3.9	5	2.2	13
Surrey	4	2.1	1	3.2	1	3.0	4	1.6	10
Totals	46		72		67		37		222

The largest contribution to the value of 'chi-squared' comes from the figures relating to Kent in 1959, Essex in 1961, Lancashire in 1959, Warwickshire in 1961 and Hampshire in 1960.

The second test we are going to apply is to find a quantity R, the correlation coefficient, for the data to detect any relationship between the number of sightings and, in this example, the population of the respective counties. To do this we tabulate the relative figures (Table III) and to each member of each set of data is assigned a rank, calling the highest value in each column rank 1, the next highest value is rank 2, and so on. Figures having the same value are given the mean of their rank numbers. This is done for both sets of figures relating to the number of sightings and the value for the population of the counties (shown here in millions), and the ranks are shown in columns Sr and Pr. The difference of these two ranks (Sr - Pr) is given in column 5 and this figure is squared and shown in column 6. Again for reasons of economy the whole table has not been shown, but only a part enabling the reader to complete it as he wishes.

The sum of the figures in column 6 is obtained and substituted in the formula:

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \times \text{Sum}}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Our figures give a value of 1221 for the sum, and n , the number of readings is 27, thus

$$R = 1 - \frac{6 \times 1221}{27 \times 728} = 0.63$$

The significance of the correlation coefficient, R , and the light it throws on the relationship between the two quantities, S and P , is shown by the fact that if

$R = +1$ the two quantities are directly correlated

$R = 0$ the two quantities are uncorrelated

$R = -1$ the two quantities are inversely correlated.

Thus our result of 0.63 shows that the number of sightings reported from a particular county has some bearing upon the population of that county.

	S	P	Sr	Pr	(Sr - Pr)	(Sr - Pr) ²
Yorkshire	31	4.5	1	2.5	-1.5	2.25
Lancashire	30	5.0	2	1	1	1
London	22	4.5	3	2.5	0.5	0.25
Essex	20	1.8	4	4	0	0
:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Sussex	3	0.8	26.5	15.5	11	121
Total						1221

Conclusions:

Before we discuss the results of these two tests there are a few points which should be made. Firstly, the actual figures for the number of sightings is affected by the fact that they are only of reported sightings, and there may be many more unreported sightings. Secondly, statistical tests such as those carried out above are not to be regarded as damning in their results. If we find that a certain event is statistically unlikely it does not imply that this event is impossible, and any conclusions derived from these tests should not be looked upon as a casting vote for or against, in this case, orthoteny, but should be placed as evidence collateral with other similar results for general consideration.

The above results indicate

- 1) although the chi-square test suggests a relationship between location and date of a sighting, and even that such relationship was noticeable in Kent, Essex, Lancashire, Warwickshire and Hampshire, it does not show that such increases were detectable at any one and the same time, nor does it reveal an overall sighting majority along any one line.
- 2) the correlation coefficient shows that the number of sighting reports is roughly proportional to the population of the area over which they are reported. This might be anticipated, since the greater the number of potential witnesses the greater will be the number of reports.

We now leave the reader to place on these conclusions what weight he wishes, and hope that by outlining the tests available for analysis we have pointed the way for him to apply these tests in other directions, to compare other quantities and to produce other results.

Personally, I would attach more importance to the latter test, and I feel that we have yet to discover more convincing hypotheses, if indeed there is any order in the sightings.

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