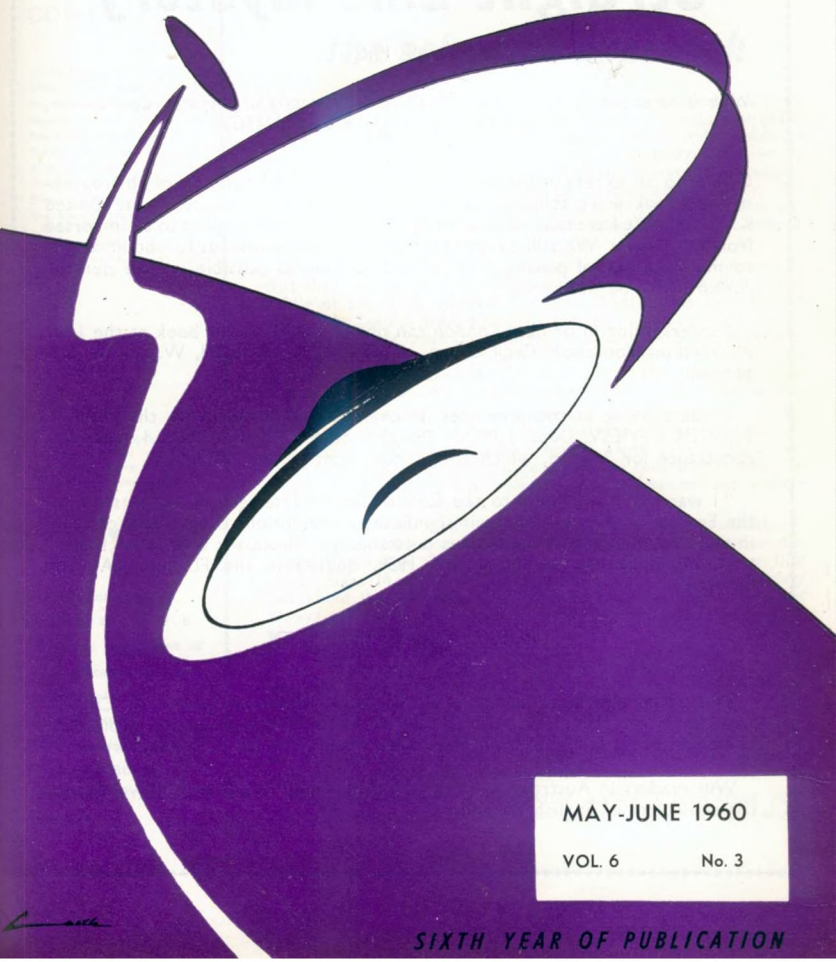


FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW



MAY-JUNE 1960

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SIXTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 6 No. 3

MAY-JUNE 1960

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The scientific approach

WE have had in the past to explain that our readers hold such a diversity of views that no two seem to coincide. One point of view, however moderately posed, immediately evokes an angry rejoinder, and when this happens all humility is thrown to the winds. Absolute knowledge is claimed and anyone who disagrees with a particular theory is dismissed as an ignoramus or worse. We are often in the position of a referee of a football match that has degenerated into a free-for-all, and it is sometimes very difficult indeed to hold a fair balance.

Might we venture to remind some of our more perfervid readers that they are not alone in thinking that they hold the clue to the riddle of the flying saucers? Far from it—there are hundreds of others who hold as firmly that *they*, and they alone, know the secret. Unfortunately, it is not the same solution. Very often it is diametrically opposed to another's, and both cannot be correct. Very often those who urge the open-minded approach are the very first to close their own to facts and evidence that fail to fit their particular theory.

How can we deal with such diversity? Free expression of conflicting views is very healthy and is, as readers will have noticed, encouraged in the columns of this journal. There are some, however, who claim that the scientific approach is the only way in which to arrive at the truth. When dealing with flying saucers we wonder whether this is strictly true.

So far—with one or two notable exceptions, it must be admitted—the scientists who have approached the problem have either dismissed the saucers altogether or have given them explanations that reduce them to an everyday classification. Now, the extraordinary fact about these "scientific" explanations is that they are almost always subjective. There are plenty of examples: Dr. Menzel, a physicist, claims that many of the saucers are light inversions etc. Dr. Jung, the psychiatrist, plumps for them as hallucinations, objects in the mind only. The meteorologist says they are meteors; the official at London Airport, when confronted with a mysterious object in the air, dismisses it as a nose-cone from a conventional aircraft. Examine all the conventionalisations, and it will be found that the "expert" is basing his views on the trade, profession or art in which he practises: his established habit of thought will not allow him to venture into realms that are, as yet, unknown.

The phenomenon of the subjective approach is nothing new, Plato, for instance, held that the Creator of the Universe was a

great mathematician. Kepler, who was musical himself, tried to relate the sizes of the planetary orbits to musical intervals. Later, astronomers in the nineteenth century, the age of the mechanics, thought they had discovered a mechanistic basis for the Universe. Dare we suggest that even among the ranks of saucerers, the same subjective fallacy is at work? We have noticed that those who are spiritualists tend to view the mystery in terms that belong to spiritualism. Those who are extra-dimensionalists already are those who apply their theories to the saucers—and so on. We could continue with examples of subjective reasoning *ad infinitum*, drawing our illustrations equally from those who believe in our subject and those who vehemently spurn it.

Even the expression "scientific approach" means different things to different people. The professional scientist who really has an open mind is reluctant to commit himself to an opinion until he has checked and counter-checked each piece of evidence. With flying saucers this is almost impossible to achieve—so much of the

evidence is that of eye-witnesses. Strangely enough, this is the most readily accepted in our law courts, but distrusted, apparently, by the pundits of science. In this issue we print, in good faith and, as a matter of fact, with some confidence, an eye-witness's account of the sighting of a saucer with occupants a few years ago. Because there is no further evidence, the scientific approach would ignore this story altogether. It cannot be repeated: it cannot be counter-checked: the saucer left nothing tangible. We agree, but this most certainly does not mean that because of the absence of these desirable adjuncts the report is untrue.

The scientific approach is inadequate when confronted with a mystery as deep as that of the flying saucers. Our minds must remain rational, of course, but they should be intuitive as well. We suppose this is just another way of saying that we should keep a well-balanced as well as an open mind. Our reason must guide our imagination: our imagination must drive our reasoning forward.

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TRACKS THAT LEAD TO SPACE

by **VALENTIN RICH** and **MIKHAIL CHERNENKO**

When extracts from this article were referred to recently in the press of the English-speaking world they caused a sensation. M. A. Agrest, a Soviet scientist, had suggested that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah had been caused by an atomic explosion and that the mysterious Tektites found in the Libyan Desert were caused in prehistoric times by a space-craft from another world.

We considered that the article in the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* of Moscow was of such importance that we should reprint it in full, and the translation that follows is exclusive to the *Flying Saucer Review*. The article is of interest not only for its intrinsic merit, but also because it marks a revolution in scientific thought. For the first time this century, scientists are allowing themselves to speculate upon the hypothesis that intelligent life exists in outer space; hitherto Man has been considered unique in the Universe. When men's minds have been fully opened to the possibility that there are other men on other planets, then, and then only, will the evidence for the flying saucers be admitted into the general pattern of thought. The article that follows is yet another sign that the moment for which we have waited so patiently may be at hand.

NOW that the mighty achievements of Soviet science have opened up for mankind the road to Outer Space, no-one any longer doubts the possibility of man's flying to distant worlds. And, seeing that our Earth, with its human inhabitants, cannot be an exception in the endless and everlasting Universe, there is no doubt either that the inhabitants of distant worlds can also master the summits of scientific knowledge and make space flights.

Basing his argument upon these truths which are self-evident for contemporary man, the Soviet scientist, M. A. Agrest, "Kandidat" in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences*, has put forward a hypothesis regarding the possibility of the Earth's having been visited by space travellers in the distant past.

Traces of these suppositious space travellers can, he says, be sought among certain objects existing on Earth, the origins of which have remained unsolved until our days, and among the

most ancient traditions of various peoples. In the opinion of the author of this hypothesis, the following facts can, for example, offer undoubted interest:

Puzzle of tektites

One of the most mysterious of Nature's puzzles is the question of tektites, glass-like formations found in various separate deposits over the surface of the Earth, and particularly in the Libyan Desert. Tektites have been found to contain radioactive isotopes of aluminium and beryllium. Radioactive isotopes are birth certificates; evidence of origin. In the present instance, they prove that the tektites came into existence not more than a million years ago under conditions of very high temperature and of powerful radioactive emanations. But our planet was formed, not millions of years ago, but thousands of millions of years ago. Consequently, the tektites made their appearance in a world that was already "finished"—i.e. relatively recently. Can they be akin to meteorites? But the meteorites that reach us from time to time are also incom-

*Roughly equal to our M.Sc.

parably "older" than tektites and are, moreover, distributed evenly over the surface of our planet.

Many attempts have been made to explain the nature of these enigmatic formations. Some scientists see them as of inter-stellar origin; others consider that the tektites were formed when the Earth collided with the head of a comet. A third school of thought suggests that an enormous meteor collided with the moon and that bits of the moon were knocked off on to the Earth. But not one of these attempts has led to any explanation for the many peculiarities of tektites, and in particular for their concentration at certain different points on the Earth's surface.

Could it have been like this? asks the author of this hypothesis. A gigantic space-ship from the remote reaches of the cosmos approached the Earth. In inter-stellar space the craft travelled at speeds close to that of light, but at the distance of about 25,000 miles from the earth its speed was reduced to nearly 2 miles per second, and with its engines turned off it hung above our planet like an artificial satellite, having a periodic time equal to one 24-hour day. Such a situation would enable the craft to avoid wasting the power of its motors and to stay for long periods above one and the same region of the Earth. From this position in space the space-travellers then investigated the atmosphere and surface of the Earth by means of special "sonde" apparatus and then, having selected a suitable spot, they landed on the Earth. Are the tektites traces left by the "sonde" devices dropped on the Earth?

The Baalbek Terrace

Of the buildings erected in remote antiquity, one of the most enigmatic is the Baalbek Terrace, a terrace of colossal stone slabs which stands among the mountains of the Anti-Lebanon. "For thousands of years it has stood there, astounding and captivating the travellers," wrote Mark Twain. The largest of the slabs is over 65 feet in length and weighs not less than about 2,000 tons. Even in our own day the erection of such a structure would present exceptional difficulties, requiring the construction of special super-powerful lifting and transporting mechanisms.

No-one has so far given a precise answer to the question: when, how, and with what object was this singular structure erected?

In order to make flights to other planets of the Solar System, using the Earth as their base, as well as in order to rejoin their own base-ship which might have remained as an artificial satellite of the Earth, the space-travellers had to build

rocket-launching ways and other special constructions.

Is the Baalbek Terrace the remains of one of the space travellers' launching sites, or a monument built by them to mark their visit to the Earth? Incidentally, it is situated comparatively near to the Libyan Desert. . . .

The Dead Sea Scrolls

In the Spring of 1947, Muhammad Dib, one of the Bedouin, while looking for a sheep that had fallen into a hole, found his way into the cave of Ain Feshk near the Dead Sea. In the cave he found numerous earthen pottery fragments and a number of intact jars. The jars contained leather scrolls bearing the marks of incomprehensible writings.

Since then archaeologists have excavated in the same area extremely rich deposits of ancient documents which have been given the name of the "Dead Sea Scrolls."

Historians established the fact long ago that ancient writings, cleansed of their religious and legendary accretions, can contain valuable evidence of occurrences that actually took place in ancient times. For example, the ancient Greek myths about the Trojan War were found to contain, along with a mass of imaginary stories of gods and heroes, precise indications that enabled the famous archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, to unearth the authentic remains of Troy almost 3,000 years later. Echoes of genuine events of the past are likewise preserved in the traditions of other peoples.

"The Dead Sea Scrolls" present a very special interest in that they were found in an area near to the Anti-Lebanon.

Among the manuscripts found in the jars were the oldest texts so far known of the earlier parts of the Bible, transcribed over 2,000 years ago and themselves copies of still older writings. It is well known that, when compiling the Bible, the ancient Hebrew priests included in it the oldest written records extant at that time. In the legends contained in the first chapters of the Bible there are references to beings who arrived on Earth from the sky, and to people who were taken up from the Earth into the sky. "Those who fell (from the sky) were on the Earth in those days and even after the arrival of the sons of God (who had fallen)." "And Enoch walked with God and was seen no more, for God took him."

The attention of contemporary mankind, familiar with the discoveries made in nuclear physics, cannot fail to be attracted likewise by the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Before the catastrophe, so tradition tells us,

On Prejudice

It is evident that the fewer things we know, the more ready we shall be to pronounce upon and condemn what is new and strange to us: that is, the less capable we shall be of varying our conceptions, and the more prone to take a part for the whole. What we do not understand the meaning of must necessarily appear to us ridiculous and contemptible; and we do not stop to inquire, till

we have been taught by repeated experiments and warnings of our own fallibility, whether the absurdity is in ourselves, or in the object of our dislike and scorn. The most ignorant people are rude and insolent, as the most barbarous are cruel and ferocious.

from *Sketches and Essays* by William Hazlitt, 1839.

envoys came to Lot, an inhabitant of that region, and said:

"Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." Lot answered: "I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die." Further on it says: "Lo, a pillar of smoke went up from the earth, like a pillar of smoke from a furnace . . . and it rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah . . . and destroyed those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and the vegetation of the ground." . . . "And his (Lot's) wife became a pillar of salt. . . . And lot went up out of Zoar (a little place where he had taken temporary refuge) and dwelt in the mountain, for he feared to dwell in Zoar. . . ."

Interpreted in modern parlance, this tradition appears to have the following meaning: the people were advised to leave the neighbourhood of the impending explosion, and not to remain in an exposed place, nor to look back at the explosion, and to take shelter behind a thick layer of earth.

Inhabitants warned

The explosion which followed was accompanied by a typical smoke column and wrought great destruction, wiping out all the vegetation and all the inhabitants who had remained behind. Of those who were in flight, the ones that looked back were blinded and killed. Those that saved themselves by hiding in temporary shelters near the scene of the explosion had subsequently to withdraw to distant caves in accordance with the advance warning that they had received.

The story can, of course, be given other interpretations.

We can conjecture that the space travellers, having landed on Earth and being possessed of incomparably higher culture and power than the Earth dwellers of that time, were taken by the latter for gods, just as several hundred years ago the first Spaniards to appear in Peru were received as gods by the Indians. Later the space travellers left the Earth—and with them there went a "son of the Earth." Would not the visitors, before their take-off, have destroyed their surplus nuclear fuel and warned the local inhabitants beforehand so that they would not suffer through the atomic blast? And have not these events, which so astounded the populace, been reflected in the traditions of the peoples who once inhabited the Dead Sea area?

It was noticed long ago that certain information relating to the heavenly bodies had in some incomprehensible manner become known on our Earth even in the days before there were any instruments with which such knowledge could be secured. For example, Jonathan Swift described the basic features of the two satellites of Mars 150 years before the satellites were discovered. The size of these is so small, and they are so close to Mars, that it is possible to see them only with powerful telescopes such as did not yet exist in the days of Swift.

The scientists found these "incongruities" so surprising that they have even advanced the theory that there had existed in early times on this Earth a race possessed of an improbably high level of knowledge in the field of astronomy. This race, they held, had disappeared, but certain items of the information possessed by them had remained in existence throughout the ages. Such

a hypothesis has already been talked about by the great German mathematician and astronomer, Gauss. But historians know nothing of any such race.

Could it have been . . . ?

At the time of the space travellers' visit to our Earth, they tried to impart their knowledge to the Earth's inhabitants. But, given the extremely low level of culture and the weak technical development of the human society of those days, such knowledge was extremely difficult to apply, and could not therefore endure. The only exception pertained to certain information about astronomy, since even the most primitive nomadic tribes needed to know how to find their way by the stars. Astronomical knowledge was therefore carefully preserved from the most remote times of antiquity, and consequently it would be precisely the astronomical information imparted by the space travellers that would have the greatest chances of survival.

Is not the explanation of Swift's "discovery" and of other examples of the same sort simply that these things proclaim to us from the rooftops certain bits of knowledge obtained by Earth-men from inhabitants of other worlds?

The answering of this question and also of the questions about tektites and about the Baalbek Terrace and the sources of certain ancient legends calls for a combined study by historians of the cultures of antiquity, by archaeologists, by geologists, by physicists and by radiochemists.

It may be that they will succeed in finding a new meaning in the oldest writings. It may be that they will find radioactive isotopes which prove precisely that so many years ago, at the spot where they were found, an atomic explosion took place or atomic engines were operated. It may be that the scientists will tell us that not one of these puzzles has any connection with visits to

the Earth by our brother-men from space—and will conjure up dozens of new enigmas for study. And in that case the efforts of the scientists will not have been in vain—and a host of phenomena at present mysterious to us will be explained.

The search for traces of a possible visit to our planet by envoys from other worlds is well worthwhile. It is worthwhile; not simply out of curiosity and not merely because they would constitute yet a further blow struck against the religious interpretations of ancient documents. If traces left by space travellers are in fact found, it will be visible confirmation for the old idea of the plurality of inhabited worlds and will uphold the correctness of our conviction that neither time nor distance will prevent us from reaching the distant stars.

"Still flying home . . ."

On becoming acquainted with this hypothesis of Mr. Agrest, it may at once occur to the reader to ask how, if space travellers are assumed to have come to our planet in immemorable ages past, we are to explain the fact that there have been no further visits in the last few thousand years?

To this question, says the author of the hypothesis, it would be very difficult indeed to reply if the supposed space-travellers had come from one of the planets of our own solar system or of neighbouring star-systems. But to the inhabitants of the far-off reaches of the Universe our Earth would be only one of a host of inhabited planets.

And besides, one must bear in mind that, according to the Theory of Relativity, the flow of time in a super-fast rocket would be considerably slower than on Earth. And it may well be that the native planet of our supposed space travellers is so far distant that, having left our Earth thousands and thousands of years ago (by Earth time), they are still flying home. . . .

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MY VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE

by **MARY M. STARR**

Mrs. Starr lives at Old Saybrook which lies at the mouth of the Connecticut River, U.S.A. Nineteen miles east is the city of New London on the Thames River. At Groton, just across the Thames, is the Electric Boat Works, where atomic submarines have been built. Both the Connecticut and the Thames are a mile wide at their mouths and strangers could easily mistake one for the other. Mrs. Starr adds that the Flying Saucer which visited her seemed headed in the direction of New London when it took off.

EVER since 1946 I had been sceptical about the reports of "flying saucers." In 1953 I began to keep a few cuttings from newspapers dealing with eye-witness reports from those who had seen such phenomena. One, in particular, intrigued me, a year later, as it happened near where I was then teaching. Two men driving north along the shore of Lake Superior, between Duluth and Two Harbors, about 4 a.m., had seen a lighted cigar-shaped object flying above the lake. After watching it for several minutes, they decided to drive back to Duluth and report it to the office of the morning paper. Their account was published, but it was accompanied by ridicule.

Driving back and forth from my home in Connecticut to Los Angeles and San Francisco, I always hoped I'd be fortunate enough to see some of these unidentified flying objects. I have flown the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Mediterranean, but never saw anything unusual in the skies. I was still sceptical, but willing to be convinced.

Then it suddenly happened. It was the night of December 18, 1957. I was alone in my cottage, asleep in an upstairs bedroom on the south-east corner of the house. The shade on the east window is rarely drawn, as I like to look up at the sky. Planes to and from Boston and New York fly

above my garden; other planes on a north-east course are usually military planes from Westover Air Force Base, in Massachusetts. My cottage is on Long Island Sound, a popular place in summer, but deserted in winter. My half acre of land is surrounded by salt marsh on the north, east and south. Along the eastern side a little tidal creek flows. Long Island Sound is on the west.

I was awakened from a sound sleep by a brilliant light shining in the east window. I sat bolt-upright and saw what I thought was the lighted fuselage of a plane very slowly gliding by the window. My first thought was, "Good God, there's going to be a crash!" Then, the machine stopped and I could see men, whom I took to be stewards, passing each other in the aisle. "There's no panic," I said to myself, as I watched the two men, each of whom had his right hand raised. I thought they must be carrying trays of refreshments to the passengers. I tried to see more of the inside of the "plane," but the portholes did not permit it. The "stewards" were wearing off-white, even yellowish, jackets. The backs of their necks seemed to be quite reddish. I wanted to see their faces and thought I was to get a good look at a third man, who came from the forward end to join the other two.

As I leaned forward for a better look, the lights suddenly went off. So close was the plane to the

cottage that I expected at any moment to hear the port wing rip through the shingled wall, but the plane was motionless and there was no sound. "Must have lost their motors," I decided. Just then, the whole outer skin began to glow like burnished brass. I could no longer see the portholes. Then, from the end nearest me, a little antenna was raised and the tip of this six- or eight-inch tube began to whirl around very rapidly. "They are signalling for directions," I thought, "and they need them for they are certainly off-course."

So I watched for seven or eight minutes, not daring to take my eyes off this "lost" plane. I have since been asked why I didn't telephone to the police, or to a neighbour. But what could the police do? There was no disaster. The nearest neighbours were a mile-and-a-half away, and I didn't know their name.

It may even have been ten minutes before the antenna was withdrawn and the lights all went out. Almost at once, the plane began to move. It had come in from the south towards the north. To my surprise, it began to back up, towards the south, reminding me of a double-ended sail boat. Then it made a sharp right-angled turn to the left and I thought, "They'll hit my blue spruce, or the tool house," and I held my breath. But the pilot went between those obstacles quite easily.

At my first glimpse of the fuselage, it looked black, except for the four portholes which I could see. Next, it had been brilliantly glowing, but now it was a dull bluish-grey as it moved towards the east. Looking down on it, its shape reminded me of the long oval mirrors which used to hang

in private homes many years ago. The rim of the plane was surrounded by a close row of small round blue lights, which I saw clearly as the plane dipped low over the tidal stream at the foot of the garden. Then it shot straight up into the air and quickly disappeared.

So fascinated had I been that I forgot all about being cold, as I sat up in bed in a room without heat. I snuggled down under the blankets and wondered what sort of plane that could have been. Then it dawned on me that those men could not have been ordinary beings. Their plane was too shallow. I, who am five feet tall, couldn't possibly have stood upright in it. At most, those men were three-and-a-half or four feet tall. What I had taken to be the steward's jacket was the complete rig and the "skirt" of the jacket formed the two very short legs. The reddish necks were small rectangular masks resting on their shoulders. On one, I had seen a decidedly red bulb in the centre, presumably of the face. The up-raised right arm of each man must have been holding on to a stabilising bar through the centre of the plane.

Had I seen a flying saucer? For many days, I told no one of my visitor, and then the response was, "Forget it!" A less sceptical young friend paced off the distance where the plane had hovered above the grass and said its length was thirty feet.

Where had it come from? Who were its crew? I've been hoping it would come to my garden again. I want to run out and ask them in for a cup of tea and I'll gladly exchange souvenirs with them. I must have "proof" to convince those who will not accept my word. But will they reject even tangible proof? I'm afraid so.

Angel hair in the South Seas?

A FEW days after leaving Pitcairn Island, the Shaw Savill liner *Corinthic*, which arrived at Wellington from London on January 4, passed through masses of light floating debris. This extended for a distance of nearly 900 miles and for an unknown width on either side of the ship until she was about 150 miles from her New Zealand landfall.

The master of the *Corinthic*, Captain A. C. Jones, said the mysterious substance, plainly visible over the ship's side, was of light honey colour and appeared to be quite soft and of a jelly-like or silky consistency. Some pieces

were several feet square and in depth, but much was broken into quite small fragments.

As the *Corinthic* was steaming at more than 18 knots in order to arrive on her scheduled time, it was not possible to collect any specimens, Captain Jones added. The captain reported a similar phenomenon in the Pacific in 1928, when he was an officer in another Shaw Savill ship. Masses of floating substance, extending for many miles were sighted not long after a severe earthquake in some of the South Sea Islands.

Naturally, "experts" were

called in to give an opinion. Usually they are anonymous, but this time we can give their names and qualifications. Dr. J. C. Yaldwin, a biologist at the Dominion Museum, and Mr. G. L. Shaw, a geologist with the Geological Society, after hearing the captain's description, thought that the substance would have been pumice from an underwater volcanic eruption. Maybe, but the description given by the captain can hardly be said to tally with that of pumice either in colour or in texture.

(Report taken from the *Herald*, January 9, 1960).

Reader Watson goes to war

—a blast from the North

WE have often wished that a flying saucer sceptic could be persuaded to write a regular feature for us: the effect, we believe, would be most salutary. The trouble, however, with all the sceptics we have met is that they have not studied the subject and their very scepticism has kept them off our ground.

At last, we have found such a person among our own ranks. Mr. W. H. Watson, of 6 Mackerston Place, Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland, has written a very long letter criticising this Review and its contributors. Mr. Watson is apparently a believer in saucers—or in some of them, at any rate—but he might just as well be the downright sceptic we have been looking for. Unfortunately, his letter is so long that we cannot print it in full. Reader Watson's generosity with words, however, is balanced with such an economy of thought that we have been able to condense his matter under a number of heads without, we trust, unfairness to his point of view, and we have selected his unkindest cuts in preference to his rare flashes of praise.

One before 1952, please

The article about the Adamski photographs in our March/April issue calls forth the following comment: "At that time I was a science-fiction-addicted schoolboy and I can recall several instances of 'flying saucers' being featured in comic strips. Principal amongst them was 'Dan Dare' in the boy's paper *Eagle*, who in 1951-1952 was cavorting round Venus in the company of medium-height, brown-skinned, long-haired Venusians whose enemies flew to earth in circular space-craft, complete with domes." We shall be delighted to get hold of any copy of this periodical so that we can compare the illustration with Adamski's disputed photograph. We must, however, point out that circular-shaped aeroforms came into fashion soon after the coining of the phrase "flying saucers" in 1947. What we are looking for, as can be judged in the context of the article, is an object in a boy's comic before

1952 which resembles the Adamski saucer as closely as those sighted by Darbishire, Potter and others subsequently to the publication of Adamski's book. We believe that Mr. Watson has misinterpreted the purpose of the article: it was intended neither to defend nor to attack, but to arrive, if possible, at the truth. Our reader may be able to help us here.

Mr. Watson has this to say about the article "The first contact of the century?": "It is in all probability, despite—or perhaps because of—what is said, a perfectly mundane airship." Probably. Reader Watson has missed the irony behind the article and our experience is that where irony cannot penetrate, all explanation of it equally fails. But we can point out to other readers that the contemporary mundane explanations of the Lethbridge mystery not only failed to cover all the facts, but practically cancelled each other out. Even Mr. Watson's omniscience cannot be retrospective: the incident occurred fifty years ago. This matter is also referred to in our correspondence columns: the "balloon race" explanation may be the right one, but it was not one put forward at the time and we would have thought that the conventionalisers would have jumped at it had it been at all plausible.

The "electric brae"

The African mystery concerning the hill near Johannesburg and the apparent aberration of gravity at the spot drives Mr. Watson to scorn. The matter is not really worthy of his big guns, but out they come: "This is the most amusing article I have ever seen in the Review. There is a hill which does precisely the same sort of thing right here on the West Coast of Scotland, near Culzean Castle. It is known locally as an electric brae. The effect is due entirely to an optical illusion. The hill, because of its position in relation to the surrounding countryside, appears to be going up when, in fact, it is going down. A spirit level will show this up!"

Well, the "article" to which our reader refers

was not an article at all: it was a news item taken from the *Friend* newspaper, published in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The electric brae in Scotland and the explanation of its apparent mystery has been known to us for forty years. Mr. Watson, who affects the scientific approach, must guard against the assumption that an explanation valid in Scotland must also apply to a hill in South Africa: in logic, this is known as the fallacy of mistaken identification. As a controversialist, too, he has been unwary: he has committed himself to an opinion in advance of his facts. Our comment on the item of news was much more guarded, for we said: "If gravity really does work 'backwards' at this spot, then the hill may contain the secret that has so far eluded all researchers." We had already asked our representative to make a thorough investigation and have mentioned the phenomenon of the electric brae and its explanation. We shall inform our readers of the result of our enquiry as a matter of general interest.

The sensational Papuan sighting reported fully in our November/December, 1959, issue calls forth this downright comment: "Has it not occurred to anyone that what Father Gill and his followers were seeing was merely a reflection of their own images in the sky caused by some meteorological quirk? This 'Menzel-type' explanation at least accounts for the arm-waving of the 'spacemen' coinciding almost exactly with that of the people on the ground." This "explanation" certainly did not occur to Father Gill, whose signed account we printed: he, after all, was much nearer the spot than the dogmatic Mr. Watson. If Mr. Watson will now re-read

the account he will see that, at first, *one* mission boy waved and *two* occupants waved back. If the Papuan incident is genuinely reported, the "Menzel-type" explanation is nonsense. Incidentally, the weakness of the Menzellan position is typified by our reader's comment. Speculation as to what things "could be" is boundless and usually, therefore, quite unprofitable, particularly if the one who speculates is distant some thousands of miles from the scene of the alleged happening. Direct evidence must always be preferred, until it is upset by something more weighty than conjecture, particularly when that conjecture is based upon a mis-reading of the original account. It is strange that those who pride themselves on being "hard headed" are often the first to flounder in this way.

The "Life in Space" article meets with criticism because of our remark: "The strongest argument in favour of extra-terrestrial life is the flying saucer." Our critic's comment is: "Somebody has got the cart before the horse!" If we accept the evidence, as we do, that flying saucers exist and are not made on this earth, then we must hold that the horse is firmly in its right place. We think that once again Mr. Watson has misread the article and thinks we wrote "interplanetary" instead of "extra-terrestrial."

Mr. Watson ends his letter by saying that if we do not mend our ways and become more critical our magazine will fold up. Our circulation, as it happens, is steadily increasing and has been for some time, but we shall certainly attempt to become more and more critical, particularly if Mr. Watson can be persuaded to write to us regularly.

The latest from Papua

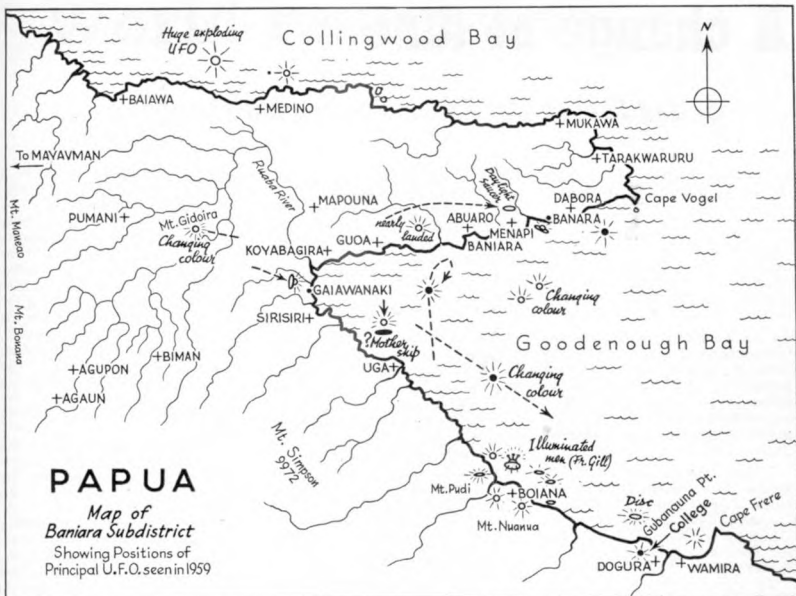
READERS of our November/December, 1959 issue, will remember the report of one of the most amazing of the recent sightings: four men in a saucer were seen at fairly low level by a number of witnesses at Boianai.

Papua and Northern Australia seem to have been the area of greatest concentration just lately, and we are indebted to the Rev. N. E. G. Crutwell, who reported the Boianai incident, for three further sightings. On Friday, October 23, 1959, a very big light came over from the direction of Boianai towards Pumani which lies about five

miles east of Mount Gwoira, a precipitous mountain about 4,500 feet high. The bright light seemed to ascend the mountain until it hovered vertically over the summit. It was observed in this position for about an hour by Micah Aigaba of the Anglican Mission at Pumani. Finally it descended until it seemed almost to touch the mountain peak, but then moved away towards the north. It kept at a level height as it passed over Monari and Medino and then it veered eastwards and circled right round the coastline of the Cape Vogel Peninsula (apparently, though it

could have been much nearer) and finally disappeared in the direction of Boianai, from whence it had first approached the witness.

In appearance it was a dazzlingly bright disc or globe; it was especially bright when on the move. It changed colour continually, the basic colours being green, red and yellow. Parts of the object showed different colours simultaneously—in the words of the witness, "it twinkled." The colours changed about every three minutes. In size it was approximately half the apparent size of a full moon, but



was, of course, far brighter. There were at least three other witnesses and the occurrence caused great excitement. The sighting took place between the hours of ten and eleven in the evening.

One week later, on October 30, the same witness at the same time saw what appeared to be the same object again. It did not come quite so near as on its first appearance. The object, performing in very much the same way as before, approached from the direction of Boianai and then moved northwards, following the coastline. This time it disappeared to the north and was not seen again.

On November 23 yet another sighting occurred over Papua. This time the observers were the Rev. Albert M. Ririka of the

Anglican Mission at Menapi, Japhet Kirakai, Mission Teacher and Cecil, a Native Medical Assistant. The object was first seen by Cecil at about 7.30 p.m. He, and his companions, were on the Mission Station of Koyabagira, one of the outstations of Menapi and about 15 miles south west of there. The station is right on the shore with a clear view to the east and south east across Goodenough Bay to the ranges of Boianai and Dogura.

What was seen was a brilliant illuminated disc or sphere in the sky towards Boianai. It was above the level of the mountains but not very high. Again it appeared to be half the size of a full moon, but much brighter. This time the light was white and did not change. Beneath the bright object, which Cecil described as a "plate," was a dark boat-shaped

object, "like a black cloud." The witnesses watched the round object slowly descend until it slowly disappeared into, or behind, the "black cloud," being gradually eclipsed until it went out. The bright object did not reappear, but the black object was still visible about an hour later.

Our correspondent adds the following remarks about this curious occurrence. The bright object, he points out, could not have been the moon which did not rise that night until midnight or afterwards and which was at that time of the month only a small crescent when it did appear. Although at first the "disc" was giving out a brilliant light so that the "black cloud" stood out against the glow in the sky, when the "disc" passed behind the

A change of tune

United States Air Force has second thoughts

WE take the following account from the New York *Sunday Times* of February 28:

"The Air Force has sent its commands a warning to treat sightings of unidentified flying objects as 'serious business' directly related to the nation's defence, it was learned today.

"An Air Force spokesman confirmed issuance of the directive after portions of it were made public by a private "flying saucer" group. The new regulations were issued by the Air Force inspector general on December 24.

"The regulations, revising similar ones issued in the past, outlined procedures and said that "investigations and analysis of UFOs are directly related to the Air Force's responsibility for the defence of the United States.

"Existence of the document was revealed by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. The privately

financed committee accused the Air Force of deception in publicly describing reports of unidentified flying objects as delusions and hoaxes while sending the private admonitions to its commands.

"Vice-Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter (Ret.), a committee board member and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in a statement that a copy of the inspector general's warning had been sent to the Senate Science and Astronautics Committee.

"It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings," he said.

"The Air Force confirmed that the document had been issued. A spokesman said it was put out by Major General Richard E. O'Keefe, acting inspector general at the time, to call attention to revised Air Force regulations concerning unidentified flying objects.

"The statement was included in an 'operations and training'

pamphlet circulated at intervals to bring commands up to date.

"Pentagon aides said the new regulations covering seven printed pages, made no substantive change in policy but had been rewritten as a matter of course.

"The Air Force has investigated 6,312 reports of flying objects since 1947, including 183 in the last six months of 1959. The latest Air Force statement, issued a month ago said 'no physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called flying saucer has ever been found'.

"Admiral Hillenkoetter said that 'behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs'.

"But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense," the retired admiral said. He charged that 'to hide the facts, the Air Force has silenced its personnel' through the issuance of a regulation."

Continued from page 11.

"cloud," the glow disappeared, suggesting either that it had extinguished its light, or that it had passed into the black object, which must then have been a solid object, not a cloud. The black object never moved during the whole sighting, nor did it change its boat-like shape (pointed at both ends) or its size. It was in the same position an hour later and these facts surely prove that it was not a cloud.

Our correspondent quotes Japhet Kirakai as saying that he is

sure that the object was a craft and his school children claim that they have seen on several occasions "things like boats in the sky" passing over Koyabagira at night, particularly during July, 1959, when the sightings were at their height in this part of the world.

In an interesting post-script to his report, the Rev. N. E. G. Crutwell remarks: "When I showed J(aphet) and A(lbert) Adamski's photo of a Mother-ship ejecting a saucer, they said 'Yes,

just like that."

We are also indebted to the Rev. N. E. G. Crutwell for supplying us with a map of the area of concentration during 1959. This map we are very glad to be able to reproduce as it is clear that, for some reason which is at present beyond our understanding, Papua has proved of great interest to those alien intelligences which are subjecting this earth to such an intensive survey.

World round-up

LIFE BEYOND THE EARTH

It is now quite the fashion to speculate about the possibility of life in outer space. Only a few years ago such speculation was considered so outrageous that the offender against orthodoxy in this respect was hardly allowed to speak: it is a wonder that he wasn't prosecuted under the Blasphemy Acts.

Today, we are allowed to suggest that the earth is not the only habitable spot in the universe. The *New Scientist* for February 18, devotes its first article to a lengthy study of extra-terrestrial life by Professor Joshua Lederberg, Head of the Department of Genetics at the Stanford University School of Medicine, U.S.A. (In 1958, he shared the Nobel Prize with two other Americans). The article he contributes is a very learned one and, for the first time, as far as we know, he uses the expression "exobiology" to cover the new science. Mars and Venus, particularly come under his survey and these planets, once held to be lifeless, are now allowed to be able to breathe. Gradually, the truth is dawning.

Underground water world

In the same issue of the *New Scientist*, John Lear, the American correspondent of the paper, contributes a fascinating article in which he reveals that he is translating a document written by Johannes Kepler three and a half centuries ago. The famous German mathematician put forward a hypothesis based on an assumed view of the earth by travellers who had managed not only to land on the moon but also to establish a habitation. "These beings," the article explains "he (Kepler) clothed in thick, porous, husk-like skins. To provide for their locomotion he gave them

ability to negotiate vast watery caverns which he described as lying beneath the lunar surface."

Mr. Lear says that when he read Professor Firsoff's recently published *The Strange World of the Moon* he had something of a shock to realise that modern scientific findings support the postulation of an underground water-world on the Moon and possible habitation by living things equipped with husk-like coverings to survive the perils of evaporation in a near vacuum.

Professor Firsoff comments in his book that for forty years the professional astronomers have written off the Moon as a dead planet and abandoned it as a scene for further study. The selenographers in vain have protested that they have seen the changes, both periodic and non-periodic, which are actually taking place upon the surface of the Moon—changes which clearly indicate that the Moon is not as dead as the professionals would have it.

Reward for patience

All this must go to comfort us: our patience is slowly being rewarded. We would invite the professors and the scientific commentators who are so slowly shedding their orthodoxy to cast just a glance or two in our direction. We, too, have seen things much nearer than the Moon: we are not all mad or hallucinated. It

of news and comment about recent sightings

cannot be long before *all* the evidence is for the first time taken into account—evidence that will convince even the dimmest-witted that we are by no means alone in the universe and that we are far from being the first to conquer the vast distances of outer space.

AUSTRALIA: parabola trail

On November 30, 1959, the postmaster at Overland Corner, Mr. S. B. Warne, saw a sky object which left a curling trail. The object appeared as a shining light twice as bright as the brightest stars and behind it was a luminous red trail. The time was approximately 6.50 p.m. At first the trail was a perfect parabola, but by 8.03 p.m., when it faded away, it had changed shape. Residents at Kadina said the trail was similar to that of a jet plane, but "curled like a cat's tail" in the north-western sky at about 7.45 p.m.

At Loxton, observers described the object as being like a bright star, leaving a trail like a question mark. It alternatively faded and glowed a bright pink. At Port Pirie the object was seen as two bright lights, leaving a red vapour trail.

(Report in Adelaide Advertiser South Australia).

Continued on page 14.

Australia: Continued

Flying melon

Matron Sheila Wooten, of Laverton 550 miles east of Perth, and her husband, Cyril, were returning from an emergency run to Leonora Hospital when they noticed a peculiar object in the sky. The time was 2.30 a.m. on the morning of December 14, 1959. The strange object was a yellow ball as big as a water melon with a greenish fin on either side. It was low in the southern sky.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten stopped the ambulance to stare at the object and they took a sighting over a tree. The object moved from side to side and then appeared to approach the amazed watchers on the ground. As it got near it appeared to grow larger. A Department of Civil Aviation spokesman said that there were no aircraft in the area at the time.

This report is taken from the *Sydney Sun*, December 15, 1959.

Our old friend 3 per cent

The Minister of Air, Mr. F. M. Osborne, seems to have become well versed in the art of statistical flummery when answering recent questions about flying saucers, though we have to admit that he seems to be slightly more open-minded than his counterparts in America and England.

Mr. Osborne was replying to a question by a West Australian member, who asked whether the Australian and overseas air forces had exchanged information on the frequent sightings of unidentified objects, and whether the Air Department had made any reports on mysterious objects sighted over New Guinea. Mr. Osborne said all reported sightings of unidentified objects in Australia were investigated by the Air Department. "Generally, they are weather balloons, high-flying aircraft, stars or comets," Mr. Osborne then added: "Only a small percentage cannot be identified. In this age of techno-

logical mysteries it does not do to be sceptical about anything. But the last time a full-scale investigation was carried out into a sighting west of the Blue Mountains, the object was found to be the planet Venus."

It will be noticed that the Air Minister has carefully avoided the New Guinea question: did the sightings over that territory contribute to the three per cent.?

Doctors' testimony

We are indebted to Dr. B. E. Finch, an occasional contributor to the *Flying Saucer Review*, for allowing us to quote from a letter he has just received from C. A. Marshall Renou, F.R.C.S., F.R.A. C.S. Mr. Renou and Dr. Athol Quayle of Queensland, an amateur astronomer, were in a boat, with others, fishing. They were anchored twenty miles up the Norman River from its mouth in North Queensland at approximately 6.40 p.m. on the night of July 14, 1959. It was nine-tenths dark and there was not a cloud in the sky, it being still a mild evening. Venus had risen, but no other stars were visible.

We now quote Mr. Renou's own words and what he and his companions witnessed: "The UFO was visible to us all (seven of us saw it) for approximately eight seconds. It was dead silent and it was travelling at about twice the speed of a jet aircraft in a north-westerly direction at an elevation of about ten degrees above the horizon. It was travelling parallel to the earth and in this period of time it traversed through an arc of about 25 degrees.

"The UFO consisted of three parts: a head, a body and a tail. The head gave us all the impression it was solid. The body appeared to be a light reflection of the head travelling through the sky, and the tail as I will describe in a minute.

"The head was completely round and was about half the size of the large full moon. It consisted of an iridescent, shimmering, greenish-white light, and it was quite sharp and clear-cut

superiorly, inferiorly and anteriorly. At the back it merged off into the body. The body consisted of a wide and fairly long streak of intense white light which appeared to be about twice as bright as Venus which was all we had to compare it with.

"The tail was a series of bright stars which blew off from the body and during the eight seconds I suppose ten or twelve of these stars blew out from the body, apparently burned up and disappeared. They did not fall with gravity nor was there any sound.

"The whole thing gave the impression that it was not a natural phenomenon such as a meteor, and we all felt that the pull of gravity was not affecting it. If it were so far away that it was outside the earth's gravitational pull, it must have been indescribably large, and I, for one, do not believe it was. One of the interesting things about it was that after the eight seconds the whole thing just disappeared in a flash, just as if someone had turned the electric light switch out. There was no cloud for it to disappear behind, nor did it slowly disappear as I imagine it would have, had it been on a parabolic course, and was at that stage going away from the earth."

THE ARGENTINE:

That mystery submarine

We just don't know what the undersea mystery represented, so we'll quote the international news magazine *Newsweek* for February 22 and readers can take their pick of the solutions offered by that periodical. The Golfo Nuevo unidentified undersea object could have been a whale; or the Loch Ness monster adrift from its habitat in Scotland; or an amphibious flying saucer. Buenos Aires apparently was agog with these and other rumours after the Argentine Navy had dropped everything explosive in its armoury in an attempt to destroy or to bring to the surface the mystery object

that had defied all that had been done to discover its identity.

One of the most fantastic theories that circulated in the South American capital was that it was a German submarine which had been cruising, like the Flying Dutchman, since the 1945 surrender. Eager Argentine newsmen "figured they'd have the story of the century if the vessel docked and Hitler strolled down the gangplank with Eva Braun on his arm."

The Navy, however, took the matter very seriously. They issued a statement to the effect that the Argentine public could be sure that the intruding submarine existed. Later, they discovered a second submarine. All the great powers declared that, if it were a submarine, it certainly wasn't one of theirs.

Unchecked rumours

In such a set of circumstances, rumours have spread unchecked. In addition to those already quoted, it has been said that a landing party had come ashore from the submarine before it had been spotted. A young German skin-diver told of finding steel rings "possibly mooring devices." A food cache for 5,000 men was said to have been found in the care of a man and woman of Slavic origin: Naval intelligence added to the confusion by reporting that it had seized a secret radio transmitter "operated by a man with a British accent"—a very sinister touch, this. Yet another report mentioned the discovery of a frogman, dead of some injuries, but with no clues on his equipment as to his origin and nationality.

What on earth can we make of these conflicting reports? Why can't it be admitted that the whole thing is a complete mystery—one of the many that confront us—and that by treating the matter as just one piece of a vast jig-saw puzzle try to fit it in and so complete the picture of the great twentieth century conundrum: Are we alone in the universe?

ALASKA:

A hurtling tube

The *Salt Lake Tribune* on February 16 reported that at Anchorage, a mystery object had been seen to hurtle through the western Alaska skies late on Sunday evening, February 14.

A Wien Alaska Airlines employee at Nome, Pete Walsh, said the flame-belching object appeared to be a manned aircraft travelling at tremendous speed about 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the earth. Walsh told a newspaper reporter that the object headed south-east and was sighted later at Unalakleet and St. Michael about 150 miles across Norton Sound from Nome. Walsh also reported that the craft was monitored by two radar stations near Nome.

Walsh also said that the object was silvery and tubular, somewhat like a jet plane, with orange flame shooting from the tail. He was unable to tell if it had wings. The FAA station manager at Nome speculated that the object might have been a friendly jet "on some assignment we don't know about."

In the headlines on this report—which made front page news—it was hinted that the "tube" might have come from Siberia. (*Grateful acknowledgements to our reader Mr. James D. Wardle who supplied us with the cutting.*)

CYPRUS: sky mystery

Mr. J. Ritchie writes to tell us of his strange sighting. He was at Episkopi camp in the North of Cyprus. He was looking into the western sky at an angle of 45° on January 27 at approximately 5.15 p.m.

"When first seen there was a black streak in the sky rather like a long black cigar pointing earthwards. It was apparently a dense smoke cloud of unusual shape. Immediately below and to the left of this cloud was a very bright cloud that looked like the remnants of a vapour trail shining in the sun. Almost on the horizon below and to the left of these

clouds was what seemed to be a star, apparently stationary. Above this 'star' and to the right of the clouds was another 'star'. While I watched another cloud appeared to materialise beside the black one. They were both the same shape but while one was materialising the other one started glowing from the bottom upwards.

"After the glow had spread half way or more up the cloud the glowing part seemed to detach itself and appeared to fly in the direction of the 'star' on the right of the clouds. Meanwhile the 'star' on the left had disappeared, probably behind some clouds on the horizon. These two 'stars' on the right appeared to be stationary now but were gradually getting dimmer, which may have been caused by them moving away from me.

"Then the remaining cloud started to glow from the bottom and after a short while it formed itself into a 'star'. Then it followed the other 'stars', one of which had disappeared by now. The remaining two 'stars' were moving towards the horizon and they finally disappeared. Visibility was good and the whole sequence of events took approximately ten to fifteen minutes. There was a fresh westerly wind.

"After the 'stars' had left, the clouds were of normal appearance and remained visible for approximately half an hour."

ENGLAND:

the noise in Kent

In our January/February issue we mentioned that a mysterious noise had been making a nuisance of itself in that otherwise pleasant county of Kent. The theory has since been put forward that it is being caused by radar. A lady from Tiverton, Devon claims that her husband and his family were so disturbed by the noise that they could not continue to live and remain well in Whitstable where they formerly dwelt. The senior Telecommunications Officer at London Airport however acquits radar of being the offender. He commented: "We get all

Continued on page 20.



IS ANOTHER WORLD WATCHING US?

FOR SEVERAL YEARS WATCHERS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE BEEN REPORTING STRANGE THINGS IN THE SKIES.

These have been grouped generally under the description "Flying Saucers," a name given because one of the group appears to be disc-shaped.

But the objects vary greatly. While some are merely lights which behave most strangely, others are flying tubes lit with the eeriest light humans have ever seen.

And while some seem to be so small that no living thing resembling a human being could possibly be inside them, others are of a tremendous size, and capable of a fantastically higher speed than any flying machines men have ever dreamed of.

What is the mystery of these fascinating sky apparitions?

Is another world watching us?

Which world could it be?

As the watchers cannot possibly be like human beings what form could they take?

Have they an intelligence higher than ours and are they controllers of power far beyond our knowledge?

Why are they watching us? Are they benign or hostile to us?

Some months ago the Sunday Express commissioned GERALD HEARD, who has a world reputation as a science investigator and writer, to study the problem and report.

Gerald Heard lives in America. He has investigated and tested every report made on these mysterious sky visitants. He has weighed carefully the evidence. And now he is in a position to report.

His report, which will be published exclusively in the Sunday Express in instalments beginning this week, starts by setting down the known facts.

Then, by sifting them carefully, it makes deductions on the nature of the visitants and their control, on those who mean them, and on what they must be like.

We who people the earth have never faced a more tremendous problem. And Gerald Heard's report upon it will excite, astound, and fascinate every reader.

Who?... What?... Why?

by GERALD HEARD

Author of 'The Ascent of Humanity,' 'This Surprising World' and many other authoritative works on the mystery of the universe.

THIS report covers just over three years—from midsummer 1947 to autumn 1950.

It is clear now, beyond any reasonable doubt, that something has been continually haunting the upper skies.

Nothing... what has been seen is no man-made flying machine. But some are clearly in any exact sense of the word.

The problem then arises: "Where do they come from? What are they? What do they want?"

The glamorous grandmother



MARSH, her mother

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MacA gets 'Cr signal from

TROOPS MASSING AS SOVIET VOTE FAILS

THE United Nations General Assembly last night gave General MacArthur a "thumbs up" for crossing the 38th Parallel of North Korean forces.

This was the effect of an resolution passed by the Assembly by 47 votes to 15.

adventures. One delegate, a U.S. delegate, voted against.

In earlier the Assembly had given its "thumbs up" to the U.S. forces.

MacArthur's crossing Korea on last night should be a signal to the U.S. to move northward.

It also means that the U.S. is now in a position to move northward.

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HOW THE NEWS CAME TO GREAT BRITAIN:

There was no conspiracy of silence in 1950 as the reproduction of the front page of one of England's largest circulating Sunday papers proves. Gerald Heard's book *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* (subsequently published in the U.S.A. under the title *Is Another World Watching?*) was brought to the attention of nearly three and a half million readers in its serial form. As will be seen, it was considered of front page importance. By a coincidence, another London paper with a mass circulation, *The Sunday Dispatch*, on the

6,500 tortoises stretch their legs

Six thousand tortoises

stretched out their

limbs in the sun

in a park in

London, and

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the tortoises

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SILENCE IN THE PRESS: a glimpse behind the scenes

by ROGER MUIRFIELD

Last year we published two articles on the question of press censorship and we are still receiving letters discussing the problem of a conspiracy. The article that follows will shed some new light on this controversial topic. We can confirm that the press in Britain is, at the moment, quite unprepared to treat the subject of Flying Saucers in a serious fashion. During the last year or more the only references to appear in a popular paper have nearly all made fun of those who are associated with our movement.—Editor.

ABOUT a year ago, at a time when scientific achievements were beginning to show the man in the street that space travel had moved out of the realms of fiction, I, as a freelance journalist, approached the editor of a widely circulating English newspaper. The idea I put forward was based on the assumption that, sooner or later, the average man and woman would start to ask the question "What awaits us on the other planets?"

For ages man has speculated about this problem, but now, at long last, the answer to that question might have an immediate bearing on the lives of every one of us. The article, or series of articles, which I proposed to the editor of this newspaper would have brought to the public

attention all those discarded pieces of evidence that Charles Fort has called "damned." I was going to mention the lights on the moon, the signals which, it is believed, have been received from outer space, the explosion on Mars and so on: facts which are not new to readers of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* but which, to the public for whom I intended to write, would have been sensational. All the facts—I emphasise that word—would have been well attested and beyond doubt but, because they have not suited the current scientific opinion, have been generally ignored.

I pointed out to the editor that he would, at least, be offering something new to his readers. I was fairly certain that the orthodox opinions

very same day and with equal front page prominence, publicised the sensational advent of a new and revolutionary subject. *The Sunday Dispatch* gave a series of extracts from Scully's *Behind the Flying Saucers* and Keyhoe's *The Flying Saucers are Real*. In introducing the subject to his readers, the Editor of *The Sunday Dispatch* quoted an extract from a letter he had received from "one of the

most famous men alive to-day" congratulating him "on the intelligence and incidentally the courage" displayed in printing news about the subject.

That was ten years ago: to-day we may speculate about life on other planets but our newspapers no longer print anything about Flying Saucers. The intelligence and the courage have both evaporated.

about life on other planets would soon be given an airing and these views would hardly take us a step forward in our speculations.

"Out of sympathy"

As a freelance journalist, I am quite hardened to rejections. There are a hundred and one reasons why articles or ideas for articles submitted at random have to be sent back. Very often it has nothing to do with the merit of the article: it may mean that the editor has already bought something along similar lines—in other words, it may just be a bit of bad luck.

Had this particular editor sent me a stereotyped rejection I would not have given the matter another thought. Perhaps because I happened to know him (we had once been colleagues) he must have felt constrained to write me a polite letter turning the idea down. The reason he gave was, I thought, curious, but it does shed some light on quite another problem—why the visitations from space receive such small attention in the public press. The editor wrote that he thanked me for my submission, but "he was out of sympathy with my views." Now, I had put forward no views of my own. Indeed, my suggestion carefully avoided the voicing of anybody's views. I merely quoted a string of facts which astronomers had noted over the past hundred years. This observation tended, of course, towards the conclusion that intelligent life does exist in outer space—to that extent, I suppose, I could be accused of having "views," but they certainly were not expressed in my detailed synopsis.

Well, it is not wise, perhaps, to pay too much attention to what an editor says when he rejects an offering, but subsequent events have gone to confirm that those in charge of our popular press are, for some reason or other, quite unprepared to put before the public the real evidence that there is intelligent life on other planets, let alone the idea that these intelligences may have been visiting us. The editors of most papers are "out of sympathy" with these views. Or is it just that the penny hasn't yet dropped?

The approach timorous

In one respect, at least, I have been proved right. Subsequent scientific achievements have set the man in the street talking about the possibilities of life on other planets. But still, how timorous is the approach! And all the facts that I had proposed to marshal are still "damned." I cannot make up my mind as to whether these facts are unknown or whether they are deliberately being suppressed. And if they are deliberately being suppressed, is it because the editors

are "out of sympathy" with these facts or for some other reason?

I can quote a few examples of how this problem is being treated. The London *Daily Telegraph* leader, of January 6, on the subject quotes American scientists who are on the look-out for radio signals from outer space. "These hypothetical beings," the leader writer remarks, "if they are observing and listening to us over a distance of 11 light years, would have recently noted the first nuclear explosions, and perhaps other signs of our more violent activities." That was a near miss, but a miss just the same.

Four days later, on January 10, the London *Sunday Express* printed a feature article by Peter Masefield, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society. It is headed "By 1970—a link with men of other worlds." In the course of the article, Masefield says that "by sending first of all scientific instruments deep into outer space, we may discover—and in the next ten years—whether Man is alone in the Universe. Almost certainly he is not. The first contacts with other life in outer space will be the greatest news since civilisation began."

Readers shielded

It must have occurred to Masefield that the news has already broken: as President of the Royal Aeronautical Society he must have heard of flying saucers. He may, of course, dismiss them, but it is still curious that he stopped just one inch short of mentioning them. It is stranger still when you reflect that it was the *Sunday Express* which, in 1950, first brought the idea of flying saucers to the attention of the British public by serialising Gerald Heard's book on saucers under the title of *Is Another World Watching Us?* The editor, in those days at least, was not "out of sympathy" with such an idea. He is now, apparently. Why?

The same newspaper has, it is true, referred to Dr. Shklovsky's theory that Phobos and Deimos are Martian artificial satellites—first voiced, by the way, in the Gerald Heard serial referred to above—but the writer takes refuge in the thought that these satellites were placed there some thousand million years ago. In other words, the readers must, for some reason, be shielded from the suggestion that descendants of those Martian space pioneers might be alive and voyaging in space and actually visiting us.

On December 27, the *Observer*, another paper which used to keep an open mind on the subject of flying saucers (it gave a very fair and full review to *Flying Saucers Have Landed* when that book first appeared), carried a half-page

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).



1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

When ordering please give numbers of photographs. Send order with remittance to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, England.

article by Arthur Koestler. This article, it is true, was mainly about Professor Lovell and his work at Jodrell Bank. But once again the question of inter-planetary signalling arose and its possibilities were discussed. It is quite noticeable that the possibilities are confined to the "neighbouring regions of our galaxy." Not a hint that it might be easier to try to get into contact with the Moon, Mars or Venus or that there has ever been the faintest hint of the possibility that their inhabitants have ever tried to get into touch with us. In fact, Koestler's article puts forward all the stale ideas of inter-communication: he even revives, without acknowledgment, the suggestion that were we to try to communicate with another planet we should have to use mathematics as the common language.*

These examples show the attitude of the public press—I could add many others—to be very puzzling. At one time, many papers would print articles about saucers, yet at the very moment when they might be expected to be coming into their own, the saucers have become taboo. Here, indeed, is a mystery behind a mystery.

It is strange that the flying saucer is so ostracised. When the idea was new, it was natural that it should be rejected. Twelve years ago it was rejected out of hand for two main reasons. One was because the scientists firmly held that we were the only inhabited planet in the universe. The other was a sort of saving objection, to be added to the former. The distances were so great between even the nearest of our neighbours that, even if life did exist elsewhere, it was quite impossible to bridge the gulf.

One astronomer quite recently dismissed the whole idea of space travel as "bilge." Time has brought its revenge: life somewhere else is now allowed to be possible: we are on the threshold of space travel: the distances are no longer insurmountable. The two main objections to the saucers have been removed, but, one has to admit, the saucers are more "damned" than ever.

Although I cannot explain why the truth is still being suppressed, I am certain it is merely a rearguard action that is being fought, consciously or subconsciously, by those who are responsible for the moulding of public opinion. Somewhere, I am certain, the penny has dropped, but the public must not be told. I cannot give you the reason: your guess is as good as mine.

*See *The Mysterious Universe*, by Sir James Jeans, page 120, published in 1930. The author refers to the "mathematical code" idea as being then fifty years old.

WORLD ROUND-UP

Continued from page 15.

sorts of complaints about noises—usually those of aircraft engines, but we have never heard of this before.”

Mr. A. E. Nevett of 13 Nettlefield, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, has another theory. He writes: “I remember somebody telling me that a town along our coast enjoys the doubtful privilege of drinking water derived from a chalk shelf extending under France. Could not this noise be from a large waterfall deep underground, originating possibly, from the Continent?”

Possibly. But we prefer to consider the noise a complete mystery.

A hole in Hampshire

The holes in the ground which we reported as having mysteriously appeared in Holland soon produced a counterpart in England. The *Hants and Berks Gazette* of January 29 reported that another mysterious hole had appeared in the land of Woodhouse Farm, Ashford Hill, Kingsclere, Hants. The police arrived on the scene but could offer no satisfactory explanation, so “an expert from Surrey” was called in. His verdict was “subsidence.” By a coincidence, the two star-shaped holes in the ground at Woriner, Holland, have also been explained away in similar fashion. It would seem strange, however, to make such a fuss about subsidences. In Holland, it will be remembered, the military were finally brought in and they imposed a censorship.

It appears that the authorities in Holland took an extraordinary step in dealing with a mere subsidence. Mountains have before been made of molehills, but we have seldom heard of the process being reversed.

Professor Lovell recants

The latest pundit to climb on the “there could be life on other planets” bandwagon is Professor Bernard Lovell of Jodrell

Bank. He first of all revealed that his “big ear” at Jodrell Bank had been picking up echoes of tremendous disturbances on the surface of the planet Jupiter. They were, he said, “equivalent to the energies involved in several hydrogen bombs or in giant volcanic eruptions like the explosion of Krakatoa.” He then added, pontifically, that these noisy outbursts were natural forces at work.

He later admitted that the theory that the formation of life on our own planet was unique has been changed with the abandonment of the idea that the earth was torn from the sun. “Now we believe that the earth and planets were formed by the accretion of large numbers of small solid particles from a dust cloud which was either formed with the sun or which the sun collected in its journey through inter-stellar space. On the accretion theory there is no reason why the pre-life processes should not have existed on the primeval dust and been preserved during the accretion phase.”

Professor Lovell then told the Royal Society of Arts that Mars and Venus were the first targets of astronomers in trying to break down the mysteries of life outside the earth and the formation of the solar system. “Their physical conditions and environment,” he said, “would not seem to be necessarily prejudicial to some forms of biological development, and, indeed, the presence of plant life on Mars is strongly suspected from recent spectroscopic studies.”

During the course of his lecture, the Professor also stated that two crucial experiments that were under way which might prove the existence of living things on Mars.

Welcome—but

While it is pleasant to welcome another recruit to our ranks, we do think that the Professor should be a little more generous, now that he has been converted, to those whom he decried and contradicted in the past. His objection to flying saucers was

based almost entirely on the “fact” that there could be no life beyond the earth. We recall particularly a discussion between the Professor and Desmond Leslie in a sound broadcast some six years ago. Today he admits that his sweeping assertions were based on nothing more than theory: and the theory has had to be abandoned! So presumably, the objection to flying saucers had had to be discarded also, but we do not expect the Professor to go so far as to apologise to those who are being proved wiser than he.

Those of our readers who are comparatively new to the subject should be warned that astronomy is a very youthful and tentative study. Theories are continually having to be abandoned and very little indeed is known about conditions on other planets. However, those astronomers who, for some reason or other, have captured the public ear during the last fifty years have tended to whistle the same tune: “We are alone in the universe.” Not all astronomers, it should be remarked, have joined in the chorus. Many very eminent men have offered the witness of their eyes that changes and strange events have been noted, signs that the Moon and Mars, particularly, cannot be as lifeless as was popularly supposed. These have been brave men, for they were all laughed to scorn—and the theorists have held the stage until just recently.

We expect to have news of further deserters to our ranks and we shall have great pleasure in welcoming them one by one. But we shall have to remind them, no doubt, that fair play demands they should apologise to those whom, only a few years ago, they were holding up to public ridicule and contempt: and, further, that we were the people who were quoting facts in support of our argument and not theories which were fated to explode at the lightest touch.

INDIA: Head and tail

The *Nagpur Times* of Central India carried the following report

in its issue of December 1, 1959: "A luminous object that streaked across the sky at a high altitude at about 7.40 this evening (November 29) attracted the attention of passers by who wondered whether it was a meteorite, a comet, a cracker or something else. The curious thing about the object was that it travelled in almost an exact horizontal path from west to east. Its head was bluish white in colour and it had what appeared to be a tail which was flame yellow. The tail got separated from the head and at the end of two minutes, both the head and the tail were no longer visible."

SOUTH AFRICA: Flaming objects

Mysterious flaming objects are reported to have been seen on the night of January 5, over the Rand, Natal and the Transkei. A man telephoned the *Rand Daily Mail* and reported that he had seen a "large glowing object" which threw out an orange light, moving from north to south over the West Rand. He said that it sank towards the horizon, and seemed as if it would hit the ground. It eventually disappeared.

In Port St. Johns, Transkei, a garage proprietor, Mr. J. R. Stewart, said that he and dozens of other people saw what looked like a ball of flame coming from the direction of the moon at about 7.40 p.m. It zig-zagged its way to Earth, leaving a thin trail of smoke in its wake. The object then exploded and left a cloud of smoke which could still be seen at 8 o'clock.

At Umtata, about 60 miles from Port St. Johns, Mr. E. G. Dreyer said he heard a noise like distant thunder and saw a large cloud of smoke tinged with orange high in the sky at 7.15 p.m. A "vapour" trail lay across the sky.

Many people in Natal, in areas as far apart as Durban, Harding and Margate, reported seeing a flaming object in the sky.

Mr. Hein Ottens, chairman of the Natal Society of amateur

astronomers, said that the object was probably a meteorite. We, who pride ourselves on being professional, say that this explanation is most unlikely.

U.S.A.: Bowl shaped object over California

At 11.50 p.m. on December 22, 1959, Kenneth Lindsley, aged 28, of Oakdale, California, was walking in the vicinity of Claribel Road and McHenry Avenue when he spotted a "bowl shaped" object coming down out of the clouds toward him. He estimated its altitude as about 2,000 feet when he first saw it. Its colour was bright orange. At first he thought it might have been a reflection of the moon but remembered that the moon did not rise until much later. The object dropped to about 20 feet above the road and was throwing a reflection on the road's surface so bright that Lindsley could see both sides of the road and the trees very clearly. He said it stayed at this low height for about two minutes, then went back into the air. Lindsley, unnerved, headed back to Modesto to stay with a friend, instead of continuing to hitch-hike home to Oakdale as originally planned. The account continues in Lindsley's own words: "I had walked about 1½ miles and was at the location of the new 'McHenry bowl' when I spotted the object again. This time it did not come down nearly so close and did not stay as long. The second appearance was at 12.45 a.m." (The moon, by the way, rose at 1.30 a.m. that morning).

He told of his experience to reporters, hoping that corroborating witnesses could be located. His story appeared in the *Stockton, California Record* on December 24, and a Mrs. Estelle Hendershott of Waterford came forward to report that she had seen the object while driving to her home at about 12.15 a.m., after leaving work at the John Inglis Frozen Food plant in Modesto. Other women on the night shift saw the object, also, and Mrs.

Charles Erikson, of Modesto, reported seeing the object on her way home.

The *Modesto Bee* carried the story and was able to add the following information as the result of an interview with Lindsley who said: "It extended over the entire road and on it I could see shadows which appeared to be moving, but I could not distinguish what they were. It took about a minute and a half to get down, stopping just above the telephone poles. It stayed there for two minutes, then went back down the road and up into the air."

(This account is gratefully acknowledged to the A.P.R.O. Bulletin, issue of January, 1960).

Four western states alerted

The front page of the *Oregon Statesman* for February 8 carried the report that a bright flash lit up the sky over four western states at midnight on Sunday, February 7.

The light was seen by hundreds of people in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and northern Utah. The reports seem to pinpoint the light in south-western Montana, possibly in the Bitter Root Valley. Some people in Missoula and Butte, Montana, claim they also heard an explosion. Captain Richard Belew of Salt Lake City, pilot of a Western Air Lines Convair, said to a reporter: "It was fantastically bright—it lit up everything in the cockpit and in the cabin and in the entire sky outside. It was a brighter night-time flash than either my copilot, George Holgreen, or I have ever seen. It started as a low, blue light, then came the blinding flash. Belew added that he did not see the actual flash, only the light from it. He was about 40 miles south of Great Falls, Montana, flying at 11,000 feet.

At Butte, Aletha Tallon, a secretary at the radio station KBOW, said that a noise like a lot of jet planes taking off followed the brilliant flash.

In Utah, the state highway patrol said it had many reports

which described the light like a flash of lightning streaking across the sky. There were many other witnesses able to confirm these accounts.

In Hollywood, California, amateur astronomer Floyd Rickores said he tracked a "red ball" —without a tail—for nearly five minutes with his 300-power telescope. "I was looking at the moon through my telescope when there was an explosion and a bright flash lighted the room."

He said that he and his wife heard a rumble. Immediately afterwards he located nearly overhead a red ball. "It seemed to stay stationary between two stars for three or four minutes, then took off with fantastic speed and disappeared. I'd guess it was several thousand miles off the surface of the earth and it was brighter than any star at that time."

Satellite tracker

The All-American Engineering Company of Wilmington, Delaware, has produced an electronic device which will show the paths of man-made satellites on a large map as they orbit the earth. The device is known as the satellite display system and it will play an important part in the United States Air Force's "Operation Space Track."

Once a special type of rocket navigation is developed, Mr. J. L. Guenveur, Director of All-American's Applied Physics Laboratory, claims that it may be possible to follow the exact course of the inter-Continental ballistic missiles and/or long or short-range rockets. He further claims that if this is achieved, it will be possible to have instant information regarding the flight of a rocket and the spot where it comes back to earth. In a push-button war this type of device might mean the difference between victory and defeat.

These details were announced in the *Portsmouth Evening News* of February 4, 1960. Interesting as they are, an official, probably in an unguarded moment, added the statement that the projected device might also be able "to trace the movements of unidentified

flying objects." So they do exist, after all.

WALES:

Dozens watch disc

Process workers at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Pembrey, near Llanelli saw a mysterious disc in the sky on February 8. The sky was clear when the object was seen. "It was the most astonishing thing I have ever seen," said Mr. Martin Walsh, 43, of Danybryn, Pembrey.

"I would say it was about 3,000 ft. up and measured as much as 400 yards across. The disc was spinning continuously. One moment it was gold, then it changed to white, and then back to gold again. Dozens of other employees also saw it." A friend of Mr. Walsh's took a photograph of it. It shows a circle of white light silhouetted against the sky.

Activity over South Wales seems to be increasing just lately. A reader of the *South Wales Evening Post* (February 9) wrote in to say that he had been disturbed by a very high-pitched whine and on looking up saw, flying low, an object that "appeared and disappeared in a matter of seconds. It was round, or nearly round, and gleaming all

over. It must have been one of those new hovering craft, for it had no means of location, prop or jet."

Another letter to the same paper with a Castlemartin address, also referred to a "large gleaming craft which was emitting a high-pitched buzzing sound." A third letter from Ammanford referred to a big grey thing seen in a distant field at dawn. "Then all of a sudden there was a buzz and a whine and when I got there the thing was gone." It will be noticed that although the three witnesses were from addresses far apart, their descriptions tally to a remarkable extent.

Monmouthshire:

Further evidence

The *South Wales Weekly Argus* adds corroborative evidence to the reports detailed above. Shortly after the events in West Wales, Miss Rita Hatch of Broadhaven, Ton Mawr, Blanavon, was waiting for a bus in Market Street, Blanavon, when she saw a large spherical object, golden in colour and with a tail, speeding across the sky from the southwest and in the direction of the north-east.

SIGHTING REPORTS...

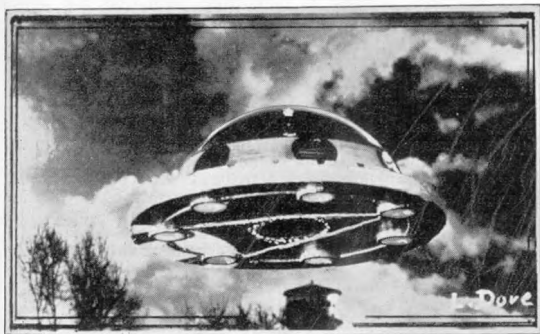
from AUSTRALIA (South, West and Queensland); PAPUA; CYPRUS; INDIA; SOUTH AFRICA; UNITED STATES (California, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska, Utah); WALES.

... IN THIS ISSUE

THE ADAMSKI PHOTOGRAPHS, WHERE AND HOW?

by David
Wightman

◀ Dove's model (1932).



This magazine was published in 1910. Note the similarity to the Potter saucer drawing. Had the writer of this story overlapped Dove in his research?



ALTHOUGH hovering between belief and scepticism, Waveney Girvan concedes the point that Adamski's stories of meetings with space-people are false and that the famous (*sic*) photographs are fakes (March/April issue).

It is assumed that if satisfactory answers to the two main questions posed in the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* article can be supplied, Waveney Girvan would be swayed in the direction of complete scepticism regarding Adamski. It is my contention that these two main questions can be answered by information coming from a single source. But before I deal with these points I would like to present information which goes a long way towards refuting the contention that, prior to 1953, no one had conceived of a spaceship as having today's popular "flying saucer" configuration.

Tantalising question

One specimen of a magazine cover prior to 1952 is reproduced here (right): there are several others. They could have a special significance which I shall mention later. Where did the artists responsible get their ideas from? What made



them depict space-ships as having the flying saucer form? There are several possible sources which could have been discovered by anyone, including Adamski, but only Alice Wells and Lucy McGinnis could enlighten us about

Adamski's pre-1949 interests and activities wherein we may find the missing pieces of the jig-saw puzzle of Adamski's autobiography of hoaxes and lies. As it happens, however, there is direct and irrefutable evidence to indicate the source of Adamski's "inspiration" which produced the "Venusian Scout Craft."

Just in passing it may be opined that Mr. J. N. Mansour's comments on the crudity of Adamski's photographic attachment to his portable telescope adds weight to the optical analysis which shows Adamski never used his telescope to photograph a "flying saucer" but only an ordinary camera. The analysis shows that the model used was approximately one foot in diameter.

The evidence I shall now present has not been withheld and Adamski himself is fully acquainted with it. Over two years ago I co-operated with a competent amateur astronomer to send Adamski a one-hour long tape recording which contained, in part, a discussion on the photographs in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* and *Inside the Space Ships*. This was done following a request made by Adamski on a tape recording supplied by "Tape Recorded U.F.O. Information Service." Our questions went unanswered and though we knew through other sources that Adamski had received the tape, he never acknowledged its receipt. It was many months before Dr. A. G. Dittmar, who was then the Director of TRUFOIS, met Adamski and asked about this tape. Adamski gave his stock answer, "I do not answer my critics, I am telling the truth and time alone will tell."

1932 Model

Now, why did Adamski choose the domed-disc configuration for his flying saucer? The answer to this one is simple: It was because some time before he allegedly took the telescopic photograph of the "Venusian Scout Craft" (a twelve-inch model photographed with a Brownie camera) Adamski gained possession of a model domed-disc type flying saucer. *The model was constructed and photographed in 1932 by Lonzo Dove, a professional photographer and amateur astronomer who lives in Virginia, U.S.A.* Dove has been interested in aerial phenomena for over 30 years and in 1947 when flying saucer reports became frequent he resumed his earlier active research and took up correspondence with several people whom he knew would be interested. It is through Dove's painstaking work and the systematic filing of his correspondence which has made the exposure of Adamski's guilt regarding faked photographs possible.

From where did Adamski get this photograph? It wasn't from Dove, for Dove has never corresponded with Adamski directly. He got it from a (then) mysterious "C.L.J.," to whom an acknowledgment is made in one edition of *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. "C.L.J." is Mrs. Clara Louis John, who published *The Little Listening Post* from Washington, D.C. Mrs. John put Adamski's portion of *Flying Saucers Have Landed* in publishable form from the latter's crude notes. During the weeks preceding the November 20, 1952, "contact" and well into 1953, correspondence flowed freely between Dove and C.L.J., and C.L.J. and Adamski. It also spread to other principals in the fiasco and the whole affair became personal and even farcical. It was to C.L.J. that Dove sent one of his model prints together with his research data which even included dates of probable future flying saucer activity. It can be shown that Adamski was careless enough even to use these dates in his future claims; he even obtained the date—November 20—from Dove's notes. C.L.J. forwarded all this data to Adamski in plenty of time for Adamski to "arrange" for his "Scout Craft" pictures.

Adamski's philosophy

My dossier of information on the complete, up-to-date Adamski saga must exceed that held by any other person with the possible exception of Dove himself. It would make a most interesting volume in itself showing the whole pattern of hoaxes and lies perpetrated by Adamski on behalf of his own philosophy of life which he first propounded when he was President and the founder of "The Royal Order of Tibet."

Waveney Girvan also poses a question regarding the Potter (Norwich) flying saucer of October 6 (not the 8), 1953, and the object photographed by 13-year-old Stephen Darbishire on February 15, 1953, near Coniston in Lancashire. "On what grounds do they (the sceptics) declare one saucer genuine and the other faked?"

There is a simple, logical explanation to show how both the Potter and Darbishire saucers could be genuine and Adamski's a fake. If we assume that Dove's pre-flying saucer era research actually uncovered the true flying saucer configuration, then anyone with sufficient patience could be fortunate enough to see or even photograph a genuine flying saucer. (At this point, if anyone feels inclined to quote Adamski as staying out in all kinds of weather to achieve this end I must point out that my evidence shows he did no such thing.) Furthermore, one could apply orthographic protection analysis to a combination of

The mystery satellite:

a study in confusion

ON February 11, the world was startled to read in its morning papers the announcement of a "rogue" satellite. The American Defence Department at Washington announced that its radar tracking stations had discovered the mystery object circling the earth in a "near Polar orbit." The mystery object had been dubbed "the dark satellite." The identity and origin, the report continued, were still unknown despite nearly two weeks of continuous tracking.

Estimates of the size of the object, which was emitting no radio signals, were variously given as between 15 and 18 tons—a monster size according to one description. Later it was said that the prevailing belief was that the object was the final stage of the multi-stage rocket which launched a Russian pay-load into orbit round the moon and the earth in early October.

The London *Daily Telegraph* went a little further than most of the other British dailies, for it ended its account with these words: "The announcement said the object 'may be of Russian origin.' The excitement which ran through the Pentagon sprang partly from the fact that this was the first time an unidentified man-made object had been discovered in space."

Before we pass on to the next instalment of the bewildering story, we should consider carefully this last statement. It leaves no doubt that

the object was considered "man-made" as well as unidentified. As Americans were responsible for the tracking—for nearly two weeks—they should be in the best position of all to know for certain that the object was not American. If it had been American, then the tracking system must have been remarkably inefficient. So the world is told that the object "may be" (or "must be," according to some reports) Russian.

The next instalment in this mystery comes to light in the afternoon of February 11. Over to Russia and her tracking stations. Professor Alla Masevich, the Soviet woman astronomer who is in charge of 70 Sputnik-tracking stations, said that she "very much doubted" that the mystery object was a Russian satellite. All Soviet earth satellites had, she pointed out, been fired into orbits of 65 degrees to the equator—taking them well clear of the Poles. Russia prefers this type of route because it gives more chances to ground stations to track with optical and radio-telescopes. Her final, and definite, comment was: "If it was anything as useful as a satellite, I would have expected to know about it. But this is the first I have heard of it."

Those members of the public who have had experience of the sort of obscurantism which surrounds our subject waited for the next move in the game of befuddlement which is practised

any two of the photographs mentioned and the same results would be obtained. It must be pointed out in fairness to Lonzo Dove that he did not construct his model with the intention of fooling anyone. He has not sought to press his opinions on the flying saucer mystery to the public, he has written no books and given no lectures. The genuine researcher never seeks publicity but the most broad-minded investigator would never allow his findings to be misapplied in the manner practised by Adamski.

To conclude; in all the flying saucer literature since 1952, books and magazines by the hundred, there has not appeared a single chapter or article written by Adamski or anyone else which can be regarded as even a part answer to the over-

whelming weight of evidence against these claims being true. Adamski has persistently evaded questions put to him and his closest associates will not answer letters which contain constructive criticism.

During Adamski's visit to this country I confronted Adamski with evidence against a more recent contact claim he had made. The best Adamski could do was to allege that I was either a CIA agent or their dupe. But that is another story.

Waveney Girvan will deal with the points raised by David Wightman, and by many others, in an article specially written for the July/August issue.

by the powers-that-be. They did not have to wait long, as we shall see. The uninitiated, however, probably did not connect the two quite conflicting statements that had been issued and probably thought, if they bothered to think at all, that the object was Russian as was hinted in the original announcement from Washington.

Next day, February 12, the *Daily Telegraph* referred to the matter again in a brief announcement in its stop press column. The dateline was New York, Thursday (February 11), and read as follows: "‘Mystery satellite’ on Polar orbit, thought to be Russian, is probably casing of an early American Discoverer, Mr. Sharp, Secretary of the Air Force, said today. He based his estimate on close comparison between size of the casing of Discover series satellites and puzzling dark object which emits no radio waves."

So the object—estimated to weigh between 15 and 18 tons—which started out as not American and probably Russian ends up—when Russia has disowned the paternity—as American and very much smaller. And everybody was satisfied and, unless we are very much mistaken, the mystery will be allowed to disappear from the newspapers of the world.

Long-range surveying suggestion

We will say at once that we do not know the truth. We suspect that we are not intended to know the truth. But we can also say that we are not satisfied with the explanation given and acutely distrustful of the manner in which the story has been killed.

We offer an alternative solution and we suggest that the hypothesis fits the known facts as well if not better than the final "probably American" conclusion.

We suggest that the object has been placed around the earth in a Polar orbit, the best for

observing the earth, by an intelligence or intelligences living in outer space. We further suggest that the satellite has no radio for the very good reason that its purpose is purely long-range photographic surveying.

We would then ask our readers to refer back to the beginning of the story as it broke in the newspapers. The American tracking station discovers the object and watches it for nearly two weeks—plenty of time in which to decide that it is not American. It releases the news, fairly confident that as it was not "one of ours," it must be "one of theirs," i.e. Russian. When the Russians, however, answer back very promptly that the satellite is not one of theirs, the American Defence Department is left holding the baby. If it persists in its original statement, then there can be no doubt that the mystery object is just one more piece of evidence that another world is watching us.

"We shall hear nothing more"

The American Air Force then becomes alarmed. It realises that the Defence Department has put its foot in it. Having had a great deal of experience in dealing with U.F.O.s and the public reaction to them, the Secretary of the Air Force steps in smartly and escapes from the dilemma by claiming that the dark satellite is American after all. Mr. Sharp will have known that the majority of people will swallow practically any explanation it is offered and that it has, to all intents and purposes, no more powers of associative memory than an ape.

It will be noted that in Mr. Sharp's statement the word "probably" was used. So there is still plenty of manoeuvre left if the mystery object should cause any further trouble, but it is fairly certain that we shall hear nothing more about this intruder in outer space.

Have you thought how much . . .

your friends would enjoy reading the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW? Show them this copy and then urge them to become subscribers. You can be sure that

. . . we shall welcome them

Is there life on MARS?

by W. R. DRAKE

THE Greeks looked upon Mars as their enemy, for as Ares, God of Battles, he supported the cause of besieged Troy, and contended with their patron, Athene, Goddess of Venus, before the throne of Zeus. This heavenly strife, inflaming Homer's *Iliad*, has been interpreted as a poetical allegory of an actual collision between the two planets about 747 B.C. In that fateful year, as Isaiah lamented the wrath of heaven, catastrophe ravaged the whole Earth; the rivers of Israel turned to blood, great Mycenae toppled to destruction; in America the Mayas thought their world had ended and began a new calendar, and the Chinese saw the sun obscured.

A further conjunction on March 23, 687 B.C., is believed to have destroyed the hosts of Sennacherib around the walls of Jerusalem and burned the earthquake-shattered cities of Egypt.

Fourth from the Sun

Mars is a small world with a diameter of only 4,216 miles, about one-seventh the volume of Earth, and one-ninth its mass, with a surface gravity said to be less than two-fifths of ours. The red planet moves outside Earth, fourth from the sun, in an ellipse, at a solar distance varying from 129,000,000 miles to 154,000,000 miles, so that at its nearest opposition, as in September, 1956, it approaches as close to Earth as 35,000,000 miles, but is now spiralling out to about 62,000,000 miles away in 1963.

The planet orbits at about 15 miles per second; the Martian year equals 687 of our Earth days, the Martian day being 24 hours, 37 minutes, 23 seconds. Some astronomers believe that the thin Martian atmosphere contains about 98.5 per cent. nitrogen, 1.2 per cent. argon, 0.25 per cent. carbon-dioxide, and only 0.05 per cent. oxygen and water-vapour; a mixture quite unfavourable for humans like ourselves; although the notorious inaccuracy of spectroscopic measurements makes this analysis most questionable. The equally unreliable thermocouple alleges that the temperature at the equator varies from about 80°F. during the day to -150°F. at night.

Rain on Mars seems rare; in the absence of seas, water is probably restricted to the white ice-caps

said to be only one inch thick at the North and South Poles, which apparently melt in the spring and grow in the winter, although some astro-physicists believe the polar caps to be frozen carbon-dioxide. The characteristic reddish-yellow is attributed to rusty-hued rocks of iron-oxide having absorbed nearly all the once free oxygen from the air or to ruddy felspar, aluminium-silicate. The general surface is believed to be flat with only a few low hills, consisting of vast tracts of ochre deserts swept by yellow dust-storms.

This conventional description of Mars is challenged by many eminent astronomers, who assert that our Earth's own thick belt of atmosphere makes spectroscopic and thermocouple analyses of other planets largely guesswork from preconceived ideas. Dr. Campbell, of Lick Observatory, said the spectroscope shows no oxygen and no water; Sir William Huggins rejoined that the spectroscope shows oxygen and water as abundant as Earth's. Hoerbig theorised that Mars is covered by an ocean 250 miles deep, and prophesied that it would eventually be drawn to Earth as another moon although it could miss and plunge into the sun. When such experts disagree, we are left to believe what we want to believe!

Until 1877 modern astronomers were baffled by the credulity of the Ancients, who credited Mars with two moons. Homer mentioned the War God's twin steeds in the *Iliad*, Virgil's *Georgics* poetised the "coursers bearing the God of Thrace," while Voltaire referred to the moons in "Micromegas" more than a century before they were rediscovered. The most remarkable description, factual rather than prophetic, was left to *Gulliver's Travels* written in 1726, where Jonathan Swift described not only their size but their short periodicity and distance from the planet, leaving us to wonder whether the Dean had recourse to ancient manuscripts since lost or whether he, too, met men from Mars.

One hundred and fifty-one years were to elapse until the opposition of 1877, when Asaph Hall of

the Washington Naval Observatory discovered two moons to which, on the suggestion of Mr. Madden of Eton College, he gave the Homeric names of Deimos (Panic) and Phobos (Fear). Deimos, the outer satellite, has a diameter of only six miles and rotates 14,600 miles from the centre of Mars in 30 hours 18 minutes; Phobos, the inner satellite, is twelve miles across and only 5,800 miles from the planet's centre, around which it races in 7 hours 39 minutes, about three times in one Martian day. No other known satellites are so small nor so near their own planet. Phobos moves across the Martian sky from west to east, such contrary rotation coupled with the odd fact that both satellites reflect too much light for earthy substance lead to the suggestion that they are made of metal.

Two artificial satellites?

The Master, Koot Hoomi, so revered by Occultists, revealed at the time of its discovery that Phobos was an artificial moon; Dr. L. Shklovsky, a Soviet scientist, writes that Deimos and Phobos are two artificial satellites put into orbit by a civilisation ages ago. This fascinating theory is confirmed by those who say that the two satellites were constructed to restore the equilibrium of Mars which was gravely disturbed when the planet Lucifer, between Mars and Jupiter, was blown up by its evil inhabitants into hundreds of asteroids. The fact that during the last few decades Phobos appears to have deviated from its calculated path by two and a half degrees, accelerating its movement, would suggest the satellite still remains under intelligent control.

The Captain of a flying saucer warned Dino Kraspedon, the Brazilian "contact," that before the end of this century one of the Martian moons will be torn from its orbit by a new sun intruding into the Solar System and it will be caught as a satellite of Earth or disintegrated into showers of rocks during a cosmic catastrophe.

"And other sheep have I, which are not of this fold." "In My Father's House are many Mansions." In these sublime words Christ clearly stated the existence of life elsewhere; Buddha preached of countless inhabited worlds; Gnani Yogis believe in life progressing through the chain of worlds; the Ancients saw life on all the stars; intuitives such as Swedenborg claimed communication with beings on various planets.

Modern science dethrones God and fosters the belief that in all the glittering Cosmos life exists only on Earth, even though our world is now reduced to a small planet revolving around an insignificant dwarf sun near the edge of our

Milky Way, just one of a thousand million galaxies. The man-in-the-street preoccupied with his football pools is quite content to believe anything or nothing, whichever happens to feel more comfortable.

The advent of flying saucers, however, seems have inspired a new spirit into humanity. Pope Pius XIII promised that the Catholic Church would send missionaries to God's family on other planets, not to convert but to learn the answer to cosmic questions; the Protestant clerics of Germany agree that man was created on all the stars to praise the glories of God. Our own scientists, while admitting nothing, cautiously fall back on logic as usual to prove anything they want to prove. Professor A. C. Lovell says that modern cosmogony accepts star systems similar to our own. If only one star in a million has planets, then over one hundred thousand stars in our Wilky Way have inhabited worlds. Dr. Harold Urey, the famous biologist, states that since the stars appear to obey the same chemical and physical laws as our own Earth, they probably obey the same biological laws, producing humans like ourselves.

Astronomers generally agree now that some life does exist on Mars, but restrict it to lichens and fungi which form dark, greenish patches called seas or lakes varying with seasonal changes. Though primitive animal forms are possible the alleged thin, poisonous atmosphere makes humans resembling us unlikely. Recent photographs suggest that the blues and greens may be illusory, the dark areas appear to be grey when compared with a colour-chart, suggesting not the red vegetation beloved by science-fiction writers but a new hardy grey plant life, which in the absence of chlorophyll has evolved a different photosynthesis for converting the sun's rays into energy, the Martian plants being organically more advanced than our own.

This theory is refuted by Russian astro-botanists who, using blue, red, green and yellow light filters, suggest that Mars has blue vegetation similar in form to the green plants on our own mountains. Since photographs from rockets show our Earth apparently devoid of profuse vegetation, our analyses of distant Mars must be highly suspect.

One historic night during the opposition of 1877 Giovanni Schiaparelli glimpsed a network of numerous fine dark lines criss-crossing the planet, which he termed "canali," Italian for "channels." Mistranslation into "canals" at once implied artificial waterways constructed by beings of great intelligence striving to channel their

scanty water supplies from the polar caps to save their doomed planet. The belief that Mars was inhabited inspired Percival Lowell to devote his life to charting about 700 canals, some 300 miles long, which intersected at oases presumably occupied by cities and civilisation. Everything that Lowell discovered by telescope, camera and spectroscope to exist, Campbell by telescope, camera and spectroscope proved could not exist.

Even today astronomers dispute the canals' reality; some contend they are strips of vegetation, cracks in the ground or confused dots and dashes; others dismiss them as hallucination, lines before the eyes or flaws in the telescopic lense. Students of flying saucer lore at once recognise the meanderings of the Menzel mind. Astronomers seem divided into the few who want to see the canals and the many who do not; the observations made by both factions generally support their preconceived opinions, a fact surprisingly unscientific which somehow saddens us.

Some scientific writers, notably Gerald Heard, who apparently accept the official doctrine that conditions on Mars are not favourable for human life argue that the planet must be ruled by insects. Quoting the impressive intelligence of ants and the researches of Dr. Von Frisch, who apparently proved that bees communicate ideas in patterned dances, they suggest that colonies of super-bees two inches long have developed their communal brain-power to produce a scientific civilisation. This fantastic prospect depresses those of us already allergic to insects and we turn almost with relief to the barrel-chested, stalk-eyed, spindly-legged humanoids of H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, who blitzed London with heat-rays before they all succumbed to the 'flu, or was it the smog?

The Ancients paid envious tribute to the vitality of Mars and waxed lyrical over the God's exploits in love and war; our unromantic scientists frown at such frivolity yet on occasion even they find themselves intrigued by activities enlivening the red planet.

That chronicler of cosmic curiosities, Charles Fort, collated a most fascinating sequence of Martian phenomena, whose significance seems to have escaped our doubting astronomers. Fort records that in October, 1832, Lockyer saw clouds, and Secchi saw a spot on Mars; two years later red lights winked on the planet followed by lights on the moon. White spots were seen again on May 8, 1873; the following month a luminous object emerged from the planet when strange explosions rent the sky in Germany.

More light spots appeared during the opposi-

tion of May, 1877, an unknown object visited the moon and changes altered the crater Linné. Lights dotted Mars on June 10, 1892; Professor Pickering recorded a bright spot on November 25, 1894; an unknown body was seen between Mars and Venus on January 22, 1898. Astronomers confessed that the series of lights in dots and dashes, which flashed on December 7, 1900, could have been a message; about the same time that strange genius, Tesla, announced that he had received wireless signals from Mars, a communication claimed by Marconi himself in 1921.

On May 20, 1903, Lowell observed a dust-cloud-like object on Mars; the same year new canals radiated from Lacus Solis and a vast yellow cloud covered Trivium Charontis; another yellow cloud obscured Syrtis Major in December, 1911, and unusual cloud-formations appeared in 1924 and 1926. An intense flare spot near Sithonius Lacus was observed on June 4, 1937, and in April, 1938, Dr. Slipher announced evidence of changes in the canals system apparently by design.

Mysterious letter "W"

The most dramatic phenomenon in recent years was the sharp scintillating flare on Tithonius Lacus seen by the Japanese astronomer, Saheki, on December 8, 1951, surpassing even the vast luminous yellow cloud seen by him exactly two years earlier; a third flare was recorded by his colleague, Tosaka, in July, 1954. As volcanic eruptions would hardly appear so bright across so many million miles, our speculations turn to nuclear explosions with all the fascinating terrors they threaten.

During the opposition of 1954 many thousand photographs were taken of Mars through various coloured filters. Astronomers were all vastly intrigued by a "W"-shaped cloud 1,100 miles long which lasted from June to July and obscured the planet as though on purpose; the more romantic observers were struck by the fact that since the telescopic image is inverted the cloud was really an "M." "M" for Mars? Who knows?

Like previous oppositions, that of 1956 brought an increase in flying saucer sightings and light flashes on our moon. Giant yellow dust clouds, the inverted "M," an early melting of the ice-cap, spots of light, new canals, and objects near the surface were seen, and the astro-botanists finally agreed on some sort of vegetable life.

Now that all the photographs are interpreted, there lurks a suspicion that the astronomers may be holding back more dramatic evidence. Can the sudden friendliness between America and Russia be forced by common danger?

OFFICIAL RETICENCE

by **WILBERT B. SMITH**

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

IF WE CLASSIFY IT WE CAN SPEND
AS MUCH MONEY AS WE LIKE ON IT
AND WE WON'T HAVE TO ANSWER
ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.

- Wilbert B. Smith

I AM often asked if I can give a reason for the official reticence in the matter of flying saucers. I am afraid that there is no single reason, only a combination of circumstances, each contributing in its own way to a situation which would be ludicrous if it were really not so pathetic.

The current interest in flying saucers dates from the Kenneth Arnold sighting in 1947. At that time the gentlemen of the press seized upon the item and it was featured far and wide throughout the world, with far more emphasis on its news value than its significance. This was followed by reports of many more sightings and a style was set. Soon everyone was stylish and on the bandwagon; jokes and cartoons were created and published and the whole matter lost what little perspective it had and arrived at the public consciousness completely out of context and misrepresented. Consequently it became practically impossible for a casual enquirer to sort out the facts from the fictions, legends and speculations which mushroomed up and became the "literature" of the subject. After floundering a while in the morass most people just gave up and relied for their opinions on some authority.

The "classified project"

To most people the government is the final authority, but they seldom realise that government is made up of a large number of people who are experts in their own fields but very much laymen in other fields. If, within the government, there is no bureau within which a new situation will fit neatly, it is entirely homeless unless and until a suitable bureau can be created. But the

creation of a government bureau requires a definite act by the government, and the voting and expenditure of public funds, which in turn has to be justified publicly. Consequently, when a situation develops such as the advent of flying saucers, it is unfair to expect an early answer from government. The best that a government can do under such circumstances is to make use of a "back door" arrangement with which we are all familiar, namely, the "classified project." But even this is a gamble in that it is predicated on the project yielding positive results with the answers all tied up in a neat little bundle, otherwise the project flops and slips into oblivion.

The United States tried this latter approach but it back-fired, through a unique series of circumstances which I shall try to outline. Although I was in no way involved with the United States flying saucer investigations, I do know how these projects work and how they fit into the overall structure, so I feel that my analysis is valid.

Delegated responsibility

Any project starts out with its initial directive or terms of reference from which it evolves its strategy and then works out suitable tactics. Since flying saucers were obviously in the domain of the Air Force, and the vast publicity accorded them resulted in a deluge of enquiries and demands for an explanation of what was going on in the sky, the natural course of action was for the Air Force to set up a project with a directive to look at this new situation and try and get them off the hook. With this sort of a directive the strategy was, of course, to gather actual sighting data and then rationalise it so far as possible. Since it was obviously convenient to classify the project, the tactics at once developed into a one-way pipeline, with all sorts of information going in and nothing coming out. This, of course, made many people unhappy and suspicious, which fact was seized upon, publicised, magnified, and built up into a sinister plot to keep the public in ignorance.

Within the Air Force, as in any other large established organisation, Parkinson's Law has been at work for some time and we find lots of chiefs but not too many Indians. Every job, large or small, is invariably delegated through many

levels of responsibility until it finally arrives at the low man on the totem pole who does the work. Consequently, the only people who are entirely familiar with the job are the low man and his immediate supervisor.

From time to time, progress reports are prepared and started along their lengthy and tedious way up the ladder, and since each successive level is progressively more remote from the actual work done, each level strikes out of the report those references which to him seem inappropriate, and at long last a thoroughly emasculated version arrives on the desk of the individual who started the whole thing off in the first place. If any information on the project is to be released it is almost invariably based on this mutilated version and not on the work as actually done at the working level.

This situation is further aggravated by the fact that personnel at the various levels have a habit of changing and successive reports receive different treatment, so that the corresponding "edited" versions arriving at top level are often inconsistent and contradictory. In the case of the flying saucer projects we have seen all these factors at work with a vengeance.

An alien situation

The question may well, and probably will be, asked: Are the top brass unaware of this situation, and if they know about it why they don't fix it? The answer is very simple; they do know, but to fix it would mean the by-passing of the hierarchy and the destruction of a highly satisfactory system. The system breaks down only when it tries to cope with an entirely alien situation, which happens rarely, otherwise it works effectively and efficiently. The trouble is that the flying saucer situation is definitely alien.

It may be well to remember that initially there may have been some legitimate fear of the saucers, but this fear did not last long. It was soon apparent that these objects did not constitute any particular menace to humanity and there was practically nothing which we could do about it if they did. They came and went as they pleased with little or no apparent concern whether we saw them or not. They were in complete control and we were merely casual observers. Consequently, to the Air Force, since they constituted no apparent threat to the national security, they were reduced to a mere nuisance value, and with it a desire to be rid of the whole thing. But there was no-one else to carry the ball and the Air Force are still stuck with it.

Unfortunately, since the classified projects

were largely aimed at "explaining away" these things, a certain position had been taken by the Air Force, and having painted themselves into a corner, now must wait until the paint dries. What solid information did come out of these projects was most disturbing indeed, striking at the very roots of our conventional science. But there wasn't enough of this information on which to base any substantial reform in scientific thinking; just enough to produce an uneasy feeling that all was not well. So naturally, the least said about this the better, until more was known. One just can't come out and say that the velocity of light is not a universal constant, or that Newton's laws don't always work, or that gravity isn't a primary force after all.

Reluctant politicians

Officialdom is fidgeting in its chair, hoping for some sort of scientific, mathematical or experimental breakthrough which will tie together the loose ends and explain away the whole flying saucer business without having to go beyond the bounds of conventional science. In other words, the *status quo* is more important than new knowledge. Meanwhile, since they do not have enough answers for the questions which are now being raised, they most certainly are not going to invite a deluge of further questions by admitting anything.

There is one more facet that I would like to deal with. Many people have wondered why the politicians have not picked up the ball, but the answer lies in the concept of politics itself. Politicians have two interests in life; first, to win an election, and, second, to do as good a job as possible of representing their constituency. Neither of these could be considered as embracing flying saucer investigations. True, a member of the House may ask questions about flying saucers, suggest that something might be done about their study, or even introduce a bill to take definite action, but without strong public support the result is only so much more verbiage in the official record. Furthermore, because of the type of publicity from which the whole matter of flying saucers has suffered, politicians, who are naturally very sensitive to public reaction, are reluctant to stick their necks out.

In the light of the foregoing reasoning I feel that we need not expect any significant statement with respect to flying saucers by any government agency. The nearest we can come to getting an official statement is from the few sincere researchers in the government service who, themselves, are satisfied of their findings and willing

Continued on back cover.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Why I believe Adamski

Sir,—Dr. Leon Davidson's fantastically elaborate "explanations" of George Adamski's duped honesty are not as persuasive as that which they seek to displace.

Wilbert Smith, sometime in charge of the Shirley Bay Laboratory for the Government of Canada, is the one man who might seem to have more to contribute than all the rest of the "Ufologists" put together; he is not heard nearly as often as he should be—let us have more from him and less from people such as Davidson.

Could you, sir, prevail upon Mr. Wilbert Smith to say—if he can without being libellous—what he thinks of the "terrestrial" theory or the "Devils, Evil Entities, Great Deception" school as represented by Trevor James and others?—Wilfrid Daniels, 134 Weston Road, Stafford.

Reader Daniels will find a further contribution from Wilbur Smith on page 30.—Editor.

Sir,—Dr. Leon Davidson's article on Adamski is certain to cause tremendous controversy. It is the most astonishing thing I have ever read on the subject of flying saucers, and I hope more is heard of this theory.

Personally, I am inclined to agree with him that Adamski has been the victim of a series of hoaxes, although a number of difficulties arise and there are many questions and points which Dr. Davidson has not touched on in that article. To list them all would take much time and space. I do hope that the truth of the

whole matter will definitely be found out soon.

One important fact stands out. If UFO's have been flying so frequently in the Mount Palomar area, as Adamski has claimed so often, how is it that in all these years we have not had a single word of confirmation from the Palomar Observatory? —Christopher D. Allan, 300 Foleshill Road, Coventry.

There are several possible answers to the question raised about the Observatory at Mount Palomar. In the first place, Adamski claims that it does have such photographs but, like other official and semi-official institutions, it will not release its information. We would also point out that we would not think an Observatory a likely place to obtain a close-up of a saucer—its focus is more likely to be on one of the planets or on the distant stars.—Editor.

Sir,—Having read Dr. Leon Davidson's "Why I Believe Adamski," I feel I must write to you in support of Adamski. I think that if Dr. Davidson were to put as much energy in helping to arrive at the truth as he has done in trying to discredit Adamski we should progress further.

The article quotes from *Inside the Space Ships*:

1. "The portholes were closed when arriving at the mother ship."

2. "When you re-entered the scout and rose back to the outer deck."

I would now like Dr. Davidson to re-read pages 49 and 97 of *Inside the Space Ships*. On page 49, Adamski describes opening the port-hole and being told to

watch the entry of the scout ship into the mother ship. On page 97, he mentions how he slid down the sloping rails and out again into space through the bottom of the space craft.

In conclusion, could Dr. Davidson tell me whether those responsible for the hoax also visited Norway soon afterwards and practised a similar hoax?—V. Wade, 2 The Crescent, Hornsea, York-shire.

With regard to our correspondent's opening remarks, we think we should point out, in fairness to Dr. Davidson, that he believes he has arrived at the truth, and, from his point of view, he is vindicating Adamski from charges of fraud.—Editor.

As big as a match box?

Sir,—Nearly every reported sighting of a UFO contains some estimate of its size, compared either with that of a celestial body (say, the Moon), or with some well-known object of everyday use, e.g. a penny, a sixpence or a match box. The observer, however, should state at what distance this everyday object was supposed to have been from his eye. Thus, a match box at 100 yards is barely visible, but held at arm's length is several times the diameter of the Sun.

The Japanese sighting of the "match box" is a bad case of unscientific reporting, particularly when it came via the Sapporo Meteorological Observatory where more accurate reporting could, surely, have been expected. Might I suggest that people who are making first-hand reports

be asked wherever possible to compare the size of the object observed with that of the full moon, or its brightness with that of a bright star, or a half or a full moon?—A. Lloyd-Taylor, London.

(It would help if all observers were more careful. We would like, however, in fairness to the Sapporo Meteorological Office, to point out that the report was taken from a newspaper which may have condensed the original version and removed some significant indication of the size of the mystery object.—Editor.)

Faked?

Sir,—A radiesthetic analysis of the photograph on page 13 of your January/February issue, "UFOs across the sun-face" indicates that it is not genuine. In the first place the "face" is the moon's not the sun's; secondly, the two so-called UFOs are spots caused by the removal of the emulsion from the plate.—Douglas Taylour, Fortland House, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, Eire.

(We would like to point out to our correspondent that Mr. Tsukamoto sent his photograph to a number of reputable organisations in Japan, including the publication Yomiuri, all of which have accepted its genuineness. Perhaps they don't have radiesthesia in Japan?—Editor.)

Sodom and Gomorrah

Sir,—To anyone at all familiar with the Bible the idea that these "two cities of the plain" were destroyed by some kind of nuclear explosion should hardly come as a great surprise. Ever since the first atomic bomb I have been thinking along these lines, and cannot believe I have been alone in this. The facts are clear enough. Sodom and Gomorrah were situated in a well-watered plain, and as consequence were thriving and prosperous. At a certain date B.C. they were destroyed by "fire

from heaven." Ever since then the locality has been one of extreme desolation, and the Dead Sea, as its name implies, continues to exist as a permanent and lifeless memorial of the event.

If the time should come, as well it may, that some such scientific explanation becomes generally accepted, it would indeed be tragic if the essential religious teaching got lost in the process. Is it too much to hope, on the other hand, that the discoveries of science, if properly interpreted, may help to bridge the gulf between Science and Religion, not least in Russia itself?—E. V. Inglesby, 4 Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall.

(Mr. Agrest's hypothesis, referred to in this letter, will be found on page 3.—Editor.)

What Mr. Lethbridge saw?

Sir,—I don't know if the article "The first contact of the century?" (March/April issue) is meant to be serious, but the explanation is simple enough. Most Welshmen of over sixty will remember the Gordon Bennett Balloon races just before the first war when, on one occasion at least, most of the competitors came down in Wales in stormy weather either at night or in the early morning. We had a French balloon down near our house in the Dovey valley about 1912. "The Devil's coming over the mountain," announced the cook to my mother at 6 a.m. one morning. This balloon dragged for miles, leaving a trail of equipment, such as cutlery, thermos flasks and so on. The deflated envelope was packed back in the basket and we took the intrepid aeronauts to the train in the family "T" Ford model after breakfast. At that time ballooning was a popular sport in Europe, though probably not very well known in Wales until this series of incidents occurred.—R. H. Walton, Wilkinson Park, Harbottle, Morpeth, Northumberland.

The Lethbridge incident occurred in 1909, three years before the happenings referred to by our reader. We are not disputing that there may have been some mundane and satisfactory explanation: contemporary attempts to explain, however, failed in their effect, and had there been a balloon race in progress at the time of the incident—May 20, 1909—it is most surprising that it was not seized upon by those working over-time to find the solution. A balloon race seems much more likely than the wild guesses which were put forward at the time, but was there such a race in Britain on or near May 20, 1909? Also was there a large tube-shaped object taking part? What Lethbridge described was not an ordinary balloon of the period: it would seem to have been more like a Zeppelin. Perhaps one of our aeronautical experts could help us in this matter. Readers are also referred to the article in this issue on page 9.—Editor.

Armageddon

Sir,—In reply to Mr. Boddington, there have been traditions going back to pre-classical days of a great final battle between the forces of good and evil. In the Christian tradition this will take place at Armageddon. A detailed description of these traditions will be found in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* under the heading "Armageddon." However, the final battle of Allenby's campaign in 1918 took place at Megiddo, Israel, which is the modern name of Armageddon, and it prompts one to think that if there is anything in prophecy at all, these prophecies which were taken to mean the final battle between good and evil, were misunderstood, and they did did, in fact merely mean the freeing of Palestine, the home of Jesus Christ, from the foreign invader who had occupied it for so many centuries.—Gavin Gibbons, Glan Severn, The Mount, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

OFFICIAL RETICENCE

Continued from page 31.

to risk the censure of their colleagues and the prestige of their positions. More often than not these people must wait until they retire from the government service before they feel free to make any statements at all.

In conclusion, I would like to draw an analogy with the story of the negro who was accused in court of stealing chickens. The farmer, his son and the hired man all testified that they had seen the darkie steal the chickens, but when the judge asked him what he had to say for himself he just grinned and said, "Boss, Ah can produce twice as many people what didn't see me steal those chickens!" I am afraid that this is typical of the thinking of many people.

Stop press

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The flying saucers have recently made front-page news in Austria. On March 7, the Vienna *Montag* reproduced a large photograph of an object which it described as a "glowing spider" which appeared in the sky in the frontier area of Styria.

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