

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. I, No. 6

September - October 1971

SIGHTINGS INCREASE: POLICEMEN OBSERVE AND PHOTOGRAPH UFO

A British constable who photographed a huge object; American policemen who saw a "glowing" UFO that eventually "sped southward"; flying objects that emitted sounds like a "large air conditioner" and a "whistling" noise; a craft that "glowed like an electric stove burner"; and a UFO that "seemed to follow the lightning" are characteristics of reports from four states and England in July and August.

Police Constable Les Leek and four other law officers were watching an object "bigger than a jumbo jet" at about 1,000 feet altitude at Aldridge, Staffordshire, England, on August 16. Leek, who had a camera, took a dozen photographs. The one reproduced in the August 19, 1971, edition of *The (London) Sun* shows a huge disc on its side.

According to *The Sun*, Staffordshire Chief Constable Arthur Rees "immediately slapped a security ban on the photos," but two days later, consented to make the pictures public.

"The photographs are very interesting indeed," said a police spokesman. "We would certainly like to know what the object was. Perhaps the experts will be able to throw some light on the subject."

Other reports also came in from the same area and nearby Armitage Rugeley confirming the constables' sighting, *The Sun* stated.

UFO Drops From Clouds

Bruce McGowen, William Schultz, and Mrs. Bonnie Geliske were standing on a patio in Independence Township, near Pontiac, Mich., at about 6:40 p.m., August 10, when they saw a disc-shaped, red-orange UFO that "glowed like an electric stove burner" drop out of the clouds, whistle and hover before zooming toward Pontiac, according to the August 12, 1971, edition of the *Pontiac Press*.

Several days earlier, on August 3 and 8, witnesses in Carroll County, Maryland, saw strange objects.

At approximately 8 p.m. on the third, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Kenyon and their four children saw a large, oval object during a lightning and rain storm near Westminster. The family watched it disappear behind a wooded area, then reappear and head northeast along Md. Route 31, according to the August 16, 1971, edition of the *Frederick, Md., News*.

The object then turned toward the west, circled and flew back across the truck Kenyon was driving. Kenyon said the UFO was about 50 feet lower than the WTRR Radio tower. He also said there was a flashing light on top of the object and eight smaller lights on its underside. He estimated its length at 20 feet.

As the object passed over the truck, the witnesses reported, it emitted a sound "like the whine of a large air conditioner."

Kenyon said they observed the UFO while the lightning was intense, but the rain had stopped. Also, he added, "the thing seemed to follow the lightning wherever it was the severest."

At about 8:15 p.m., August 8, James Key and about 20 others in nearby Frizzleburg saw an egg-shaped object with bright lights as it came from the north and turned west toward Thurmont.

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UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 6. Published monthly by UFO Research Associates (UFOR), P.O. Box 34252, Washington, D.C. 20034
 Editor: Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr.
 Annual subscription rates: \$7.00 (U.S., Canada and Mexico); \$8.00 (foreign, surface rate); \$11.00 (foreign, air mail). Single copies: \$.60 (U.S., Canada and Mexico); \$.80 (foreign).

"KOOK" PREOCCUPATION MARS UFO WORK
(A Book Review)

A belief that, in the last quarter of a century or so, "'God died'; the question then suggests itself: Did he recur, responding to the vacuum in the souls of men, as visitors from outer space?" is the interesting (though hardly new) but totally unexplored "hook" upon which still another cut-and-paste, sighting-reports-retold-for-the-five-hundredth-time, kook-preoccupied

UFO manuscript squeaked past the low interest barrier into publication. In *The Age of Flying Saucers*, author Paris Flammonde, former producer of the Long John Nebel television show that frequently discussed UFOs, ambiguously spends much of his time documenting reports as real, physical objects seen by sober, reliable witnesses -- hardly adequate support for his contention in the first chapter and conclusion that the flying saucer age started with the threat of atomic doom and the "need" for spiritual fulfillment that began with the manifestation of the feeling that God and religion were passé.

"What was the need that brought into this period of science and enlightenment the last of myths -- the Age of Flying Saucers?" the author asks. "What made so large a portion of mankind throw open arms and hearts and hopes to welcome messianic visitors from outer space? They were the first to know that man's own God was dead."

Obviously, Flammonde is saying, UFOs became a substitute for God. But there were also other factors involved, he states: myth, legend, sociology, psychology, astronomy, astrology, even art and literature. But here the first chapter ends on the fatal hinge of nondevelopment.

Kooks Given More Than Equal Billing

Perhaps to add weight to his "religion need" theory -- though this is hardly made clear -- Flammonde spends half his time discussing the contactees, frauds and opportunists. Such personalities as George Adamski, Truman Bethurum, Orfeo Angelucci, Albert K. Bender, Howard Menger, George Hunt Williamson, Gray Barker, Ray Palmer, James Moseley and August Roberts get more than equal billing with such serious UFO experts as Dr. James E. McDonald, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe and others. Alleged journeys to Mars, Venus and other "planets" no one has ever heard of are explored as well as the hollow earth theory and UFO prophets.

There are also the usual irritating wrong dates and names that come with a book relying too heavily on the accounts in newspapers, other books and magazines.

Other Theories

The author also considers theories other than the extraterrestrial one for explaining UFOs.

"Perhaps [the UFOs] don't come from 'out there' or 'over there' or 'in there,'" he states. "Maybe they come from 'back there' or from a time before ours. This is just as likely... Or what if they come from the future?..."

He also obviously cottons to the space-animals theory of biologist Ivan T. Sanderson.

"I am certainly not prepared to reject totally [Sanderson's] protoplasmic or amoebalike creatures floating in space," Flammonde writes. "Why not animals whose life blood is electric, magnetic, or etheric?"

The author *does not* discuss strong cases with characteristics that would possibly contradict this theory: E-M effects, animal reactions, much physical evidence, physiological effects, etc.

"The Age of Flying Saucers came to its official conclusion on December 17, 1969," when the U.S. Air Force terminated its long-standing Project Blue Book investigating UFOs, the author expounds.

But, of course, the Age of Flying Saucers is not dead. Reports persist. Reliable, well-trained witnesses are still coming forth with sightings of strange objects defying natural laws. It is only the general public interest that has subsided and, undoubtedly, the negative Condon report and the closing of Project Blue Book helped foster this.

The UFO scholar will find *The Age of Flying Saucers* sadly lacking, if he can wade through a multitude of cases repeated for the umpteenth time. Readers new to the subject may find it fascinating, but they will hardly receive an accurate, well-balanced picture. This, of course, is unfortunate, but, somehow, these models of repetition are still selling.

(Flammonde, Paris, *The Age of Flying Saucers; Notes on a Projected History of Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1971), 288 pgs., \$8.95, photographs, appendices, notes, bibliography, and index).

Sightings Increase (Continued from Page 1)

New Jersey Policemen See "Glowing" Object

In late July and early August, numerous witnesses, including "practically every policeman on the night shift," saw UFOs in the vicinity of Long Branch, N.J.

On the evenings of July 21 and 22, a number of Long Branch police officers saw a pencil-shaped, glowing UFO. On the 22nd, Officer Raymond Raupp said he observed a saucer with a blinking light that hovered over the Brighton Avenue beach. Raupp and other officers said it alternated between bright and dim. Several hours later, they added, the UFO sped toward the south. There was also a report that a New Jersey Air Defense Command duty officer at Highlands observed it, stated the July 23, 1971, edition of the Asbury Park, N.J., *Press*.

More than a week later, on August 1, at least five witnesses reported seeing a UFO over Long Branch, according to the August 4, 1971, edition of the Redbank, N.J., *Register*.

Mrs. Linda Shanley said she watched a red object that "appeared to be blinking on and off." She added it looked cigar-shaped through a telescope.

Police Sgt. Vincent Maccioli and a *Register* reporter also saw it. They said the cigar alternately brightened and dimmed, then tilted and "assumed the appearance of an inverted saucer with a bright beam extending upward from its top."

(Editor's note: It is possible that some -- though probably not all -- of the Long Branch witnesses observed bright planets. Often, to the untrained eye, a bright planet such as Venus or Mars can appear to dart about the sky, change color and even shape. Such sightings are termed "planetary illusions" and are, perhaps, the greatest perpetrators of false UFO reports. We wish to stress, however, that this is probably only a *partial* answer to the Long Branch sightings).

Disc "Surveys" Witness

At approximately 9:30 p.m., July 5, Roger Enlow, of Tuscumbia, Alabama, was at the back of his house when "he had some strange feeling that something was behind him." Turning, he observed a reddish-pink object "like a disc turned sideways." It was moving slowly over the tree-tops to his left. It made an arc and reached the witness' right side, almost as if it were "surveying" him. About one minute after the initial observation, the witness said, the UFO "shot into the sky" at a fast speed.

"After I couldn't see it anymore, I still wondered..." Enlow told Bill Rogers, of Florence, Alabama, who sent a report to UFOR. "I couldn't turn around... because I thought I would see it again. It really was a strange feeling."

This was not the first time that Enlow had seen a UFO. At about 12:30 a.m., in mid-November, 1969, at Tuscumbia, he saw an object as he approached the crest of a hill on foot after parking his automobile.

"The object was blue and looked like an electric arc," the witness told Rogers. "It was clearly defined and had some sort of lines on it. Its shape was like two plates put together with something on top."

Enlow ran for his car and sped along the road. He watched as the UFO increased speed and rose above the trees.

"There it hovered for a second and then headed straight up into the sky," the witness said.

Enlow guessed that it was "a little bigger than a 40' by 20' swimming pool which he was looking at during the interview."

INTELLIGENT LIFE IN UNIVERSE "A GROWING BELIEF"

There is "almost everywhere" in the universe "the molecular constituents of life," stated Dr. George H. Herbig in a speech before the Commonwealth Club late in July, according to a UPI wire story dated July 31, 1971. The acting head of the University of California's Lick Observatory also said that "there is a growing belief among scientists that intelligent life may inhabit other planets in the universe."

"Our existence here at the apex of biological evolution on our own little planet does not represent some fantastic one-time-only quirk of nature," he said.

Our planetary system, the scientist added, was probably "spun off from the sun about five billion years ago" and "this same event is likely to have taken place in most, if not all, stars."

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following UFO sighting reports have also come to UFOR's attention:

- August 13, 1971. About 9:20 p.m. Mobile, Alabama. Jim Johnston said he observed a small white object at about 25-30 feet altitude and "maybe 30 feet wide and 15 long," stated the August 15, 1971, edition of the *Mobile Press*. The witness added the UFO looked like "a single wing" and was traveling very slowly.

- August 13, 1971. Evening. Orange County, Calif. Gary and Cindy Croft, Darrow Halligan. Witnesses reported seeing a saucer-shaped object "surrounded by hundreds of other lights which slowly rotated," stated the August 15, 1971, edition of *The (Orange County) Register*. (Possible explanation: a Billboard in the Sky, Inc., advertising plane with a 36-foot long lighted sign that was reportedly flying in the area at the time of the sighting).

- August 7-8, 1971. Evening. Long Island, N.Y. Sal D'Angelo; Carmine Venticinque; Mr. and Mrs. William Honey and children; and others. Witnesses generally described a domed object "with a rotating rim at the bottom and the rim had flashing red and white lights," according to the August 9, 1971, edition of *The Long Island Press*. (Editor's note: one woman said she saw the object -- it was towing a sign advertising Allen Carpet Shops. It is possible, therefore, that the witnesses saw an advertising plane).

- July 19, 1971. About 10:30 p.m. Warsaw, Iowa. Numerous witnesses observed a reddish object with lights that were blinking on and off "like a Christmas tree," stated the July 30, 1971, edition of the *Keokuk, Iowa, Gate City*. According to reports, the object traveled from the northeast to the southeast and was blocked from view behind some trees. (Possible explanation: Low-flying aircraft and the planet Mars).

- July 14, 1971. Approximately 3:30 a.m. Defiance, Paulding and Van Wert Counties, Indiana. Numerous witnesses, including a sheriff's deputy, saw a "ball of fire," stated the July 15, 1971, edition of the *Fort Wayne, Ind., Journal Gazette*. (Probable explanation: bolide meteor).

OCCUPANT REPORT RECEIVED

UFOR has received additional information on the sighting report at St. Charles, Missouri, on February 18, 1971 (see "Sighting Capsules," *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 5, p. 3) from the main witness, Dr. J.W. Mueller, a chiropractor.

According to his report, Dr. Mueller and two others -- Theodore and Martin Thoele -- saw an object with a "flat saucer type base with three rods up to form sort of [a] cage-like object" at 9:30 a.m.

"On each rod were three spheres," the witness stated and the "cage" was "occupied by [an] apparent human being." Dr. Mueller said the UFO hung "suspended in mid-air for about three minutes..., then disappeared behind [the] tree-tops."

AIAA AIRS STARTLING MILITARY PILOT CASE

The scientists-laden UFO subcommittee of the prestigious American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA) has revealed an impressive, detailed investigation by the late Dr. James E. McDonald of a startling military pilot case in the July, 1971, *Astronautics and Aeronautics* journal. Fulfilling an earlier promise to keep its readers posted on significant cases, the subcommittee asked Dr. McDonald to discuss the facts in a straightforward manner in an article entitled "UFO Encounter I: Sample Case Selected by the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA."

Early on the morning of July 17, 1957, an RB-47 aircraft left Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, for "exercises" in the south-central portion of the U.S. Its six-man crew consisted of pilot Lewis D. Chase; co-pilot James H. McCoid; Thomas H. Hanley, navigator; John J. Provenzano, Frank B. McClure, and Walter A. Tuchscherer, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 monitors, respectively. The plane was carrying "electronic countermeasures (ECM) gear."

After completing some exercises, the plane was heading across the Mississippi coastline at a speed of Mach .75 in "perfect" weather when McClure "detected on the #2 monitor a signal painting at their 5 o'clock position." The "unknown" was tracked until 4:10 a.m., at which time the crew saw a "single intense bluish-white light" closing rapidly on them. The pilot prepared for evasive maneuvers.

UFO Flashes Across Flight Path

Suddenly, the object "almost instantaneously" changed direction and sped across the aircraft's flight path "at an angular velocity that Chase [said] he had never seen matched in all of his 20 years of flying, before or after the incident." The light then "blinked out." The plane's position, at that time, was near Winnsboro, La. McClure "found he was getting a strong 3000 mcs signal from about their 2 o'clock position, just the relative bearing at which the unknown luminous source had blinked out moments earlier." Provenzano also got a strong bearing on his #1 monitor.

The aircraft headed into the Lone Star state with the object still following. From the official Air Force (AF) report:

"At [4:39 a.m.] aircraft comdr sighted huge light which he estimated to be 5000 below aircraft at about 2 o'clock... Although aircraft comdr could not determine shape or size of object, he had a definite impression light emanated from top of object.

"At about [4:40] ECM operator #2 reported he then had two signals at relative bearings of 040 and 070 deg. Aircraft comdr and copilot saw these two objects at the same time with same red color. Aircraft comdr received permission to ignore flight plan and pursue object. He notified ADC site Utah and requested all assistance possible. At [4:42] ECM #2 had one object at 020 deg relative bearing."

Aircraft Overtakes Object

At 4:50, the report continues, the UFO stopped and the plane overtook it. The Utah site said they lost the object from their scopes, as did ECM #2. The pilot said he veered a bit to avoid colliding with the object..."

Chase turned the RB-47 to the left near Mineral Wells, Texas, and the crew once again tried to spot the UFO. The official report continues: "Aircraft began closing on object until the estimated range was 5 n[autical] m[iles]. At this time object appeared to drop to approximately 15,000 ft altitude, and aircraft comdr lost visual contact. Utah also lost object from scopes."

The AF Project Blue Book conclusion: "Identified as American Airlines Flight 655!" The Condon report, however, disagrees and lists it as "unknown," but the report based its finding, due to a mix-up, on an incorrect date, listing the sighting as occurring on September 19, 1957, rather than July 17.

"This sample case may serve to illuminate the difficulties in deciding whether or not the UFO problem presents a scientific problem," the AIAA UFO subcommittee stated.

The subcommittee consists of Joachim P. Kuettnner (chairman), Vernon J. Zurick (secretary), and Murray Dryer, all of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Research Laboratories; Jerold Bidwell, Martin-Marietta; Andrew J. Masley, McDonnell Douglas Missile & Space Systems; Robert Rados, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Bernard N. Charles, Hughes Aircraft; Howard D. Edwards, Georgia Institute of Technology; Glenn A. Cato, TRW Systems; Donald M. Single, U.S. Army Electronics Command; and Paul MacCready, Jr., a technical consultant.

NEW FACTS IN BARAN CASE

A few additional details have been received by UFOR from Michael H. Baran concerning his sighting of a green UFO at 2:35 a.m., April 12, 1971, over Jamestown, N.Y. (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 2, p. 5).

The object flew into view from the west, hovered over the city, then proceeded to the east with a "speed beyond knowledge," the witness wrote. The UFO was about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. As it flew toward the east, it left "a trail of purplish-red flame about 10 feet long." It also emitted a "whooshing" sound, he added.

MORE EARTH-LIKE FEATURES DISCOVERED ON MARS

Photographs of Mars showing a "remarkable" resemblance to the Great Lakes and the North African desert have been taken by Mariners 6 and 7, Cornell University scientists reported late last month. The scientists, including Dr. Carl Sagan, famed astronomer and Director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies, Donald J. Belcher, Director of the Center for Aerial Photographic Studies, and Joseph F. Veverka, a research assistant in the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research, said there were "indications of glacial action and the presence of huge sand dunes" on the red planet.

The scientists hinted that the "chaotic terrain" shown in some photographs is reminiscent of "rugged areas produced in the polar regions of earth by the thawing of perennially frozen ground," according to a UPI wire story dated August 27, 1971. The researchers don't believe the rough terrain was caused by meteoric impact -- "leaving only the possibility of geothermal heating as having induced the permafrost collapse."

In a later development, however, both Sagan and Peter Gierasch, also of Cornell's Laboratory for Planetary Studies, reported that "super hurricane-force winds" up to 300 m.p.h. "may be responsible for dust storms and color changes" on Mars, stated a UPI story dated September 1, 1971. The scientists also indicated that such tremendous gale winds may diminish the possibility of discovering advanced life on the perennially mysterious planet.

Enclosed is an information sheet with a coupon for subscribing to *UFO Research Newsletter*. We ask that you pass it along to anyone who may be interested in subscribing. Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF UFOs

By Dr. James E. McDonald

[Part 3 of a series. Before his death earlier this year, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given June 7, 1967, to the Outer Space Affairs Group, United Nations Organization, New York, N.Y.]

For 20 years there has been a puzzingly steady flow of reports, from countries in all parts of the world, concerning... unidentified flying objects (UFOs). The nature of the reported objects appears to be essentially similar in all of these reports, regardless of geographic locale...

I have been carrying on an intensive examination of scientific aspects of the problem of the UFOs... I have concluded that... the problem... is one of extraordinary scientific interest.

It is my conclusion that no official group in [the U.S.] has conducted an adequate investigation of this problem... I wish to urge that all possible steps be taken immediately by the United Nations Organization, through its scientific staff and through the scientific facilities of all its member Nations, to undertake a systematic global study of the UFO problem...

There is now strong indication that the number of reports of close-range, low altitude sightings of completely unconventional aerial objects exhibiting machine-like features and displaying inexplicable performance characteristics has been increasing in the past few years... There is... an astonishing number of... reports, made by highly credible observers over the past two decades, which cannot be... explained away. I believe that this large residuum of reports, now numbering hundreds to perhaps thousands of cases, demands the attention of the world's outstanding scientists. However, because of widespread official, journalistic, and even scientific ridicule, almost no scientific attention is currently being paid to this problem. This situation must... be altered with great dispatch because the evidence... points overwhelmingly to some phenomenon about which all of us must quickly become far better informed... Because of the global nature of the phenomenon, it immediately falls into areas where the United Nations Organizations must accept responsibility for encouraging immediate escalation of scientific examination of the problem.

Extraterrestrial Probes Theory Expounded

It is my present view, based on what I believe to be sufficient scientific consideration of alternative hypotheses, that the most probable hypothesis to account for the UFO phenomena is that these are some type of surveillance probes of extraterrestrial origin... There are innumerable facets of the UFO phenomena which I can only describe as utterly bewildering and inexplicable in terms of present-day scientific and technological knowledge... If these objects are not of extraterrestrial origin, then alternative hypotheses that will demand consideration will be even more bizarre, and perhaps of even greater scientific interest to all mankind. Hence, regardless of what ultimate explanation is found for the UFO phenomena, the present scientific neglect and ridicule must be replaced by scientific concern and intensive study. My recommendation to the Outer Space Affairs Group is that it seek all possible means of securing worldwide attention to this problem.

The first need is for erasing the ridicule that is quite clearly suppressing open reporting of sightings... Serious concern with an unknown and potentially very important problem must become the keynote of official handling of these UFO sightings...

Secondly, the existence of an already-available sensing system in the form of radar facilities must be recognized as exceedingly fortunate. At present, most radar sightings of UFOs are not getting into scientific hands... This... must quickly be altered...

There is curious evidence... that unconventional objects apparently rather similar in nature to those that have been reported in our global airspace in the past two decades have been seen... prior to... 1947... If true, this has enormously important bearing on our ultimate interpretations of what is going on in the UFO phenomenon... Until we start serious scientific scrutiny of the UFO problem, we will continue in utter ignorance of what may be a matter of the utmost concern to all mankind.

DISC OVER MILITARY AIR FIELD DURING WORLD WAR II

A disc that hovered over a Canadian Air Force field and was chased by a "new fast plane" was seen by several hundred witnesses near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1944 (exact date unknown), according to a report received by UFOR.

R.W. Johnson, who reported the incident, was a taxi cab driver at the time and was approaching the Edmonton airport, which was being used by the Air Force, when he saw a number of people gazing at the sky.

"First, I heard a low hum or whine," Johnson related, "then I saw a silver disk with a round dome on top and a compartment below which seemed to be flat on the bottom."

The cab driver said the UFO hovered over the air field for about two hours, until noon.

"There were 300 or more people around at that time...", Johnson continued. "The disk was up about 500 yards in the air..." He also said that a number of Air Force and Army officers at the field also apparently saw the object.

The Air Force, he said, had just brought in a "new fast plane" that was scrambled.

"As soon as the plane left the ground," Johnson concluded, "the disk took off at terrific speed and was gone in seconds. Some of the people got pictures, but the authorities asked for them and I don't think they ever got them back."

DISCS IN ENGLAND SEEN

Numerous witnesses stated they saw UFOs in England in August, according to newspaper reports.

On the evening of August 15, Mr. and Mrs. David Stretch and some neighbors saw four glowing white discs moving in apparent formation over Bolton, declared the August 16, 1971, edition of the *Bolton Evening News*.

"I've never seen any UFOs before and quite frankly I didn't believe they existed," Stretch said. "Even when we both saw them I was doubtful, so we went into the garden and called our next-door neighbours out. When we all saw the same thing, I was convinced. We watched them for at least five minutes. They kept glowing brighter as they headed over Bolton towards Winter Hill."

Other reports came from Liverpool, Manchester, Matlock, Derbyshire and Aldridge (see p. 1).

UFOs OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN THE 1960s

UFOs apparently visited the Niagara Falls, N.Y., area in the mid to late 1960s, according to the September 5, 1971, edition of the *Niagara Falls Gazette*.

- September 21, 1965. Evening. A UFO emerged from a cloud cover and moved up the Niagara River. It was joined by another object and the two flew over Niagara Falls for an hour, then disappeared.

- August 25, 1967. 4:25 a.m. Two policemen saw an unidentified object over the 19th Street-Mackenna Avenue area.

- September 16, 1967. Evening. A mother and her son saw four UFOs.

- April 2, 1968. Three policemen observed four objects over the Sir Adam Beck power plant.