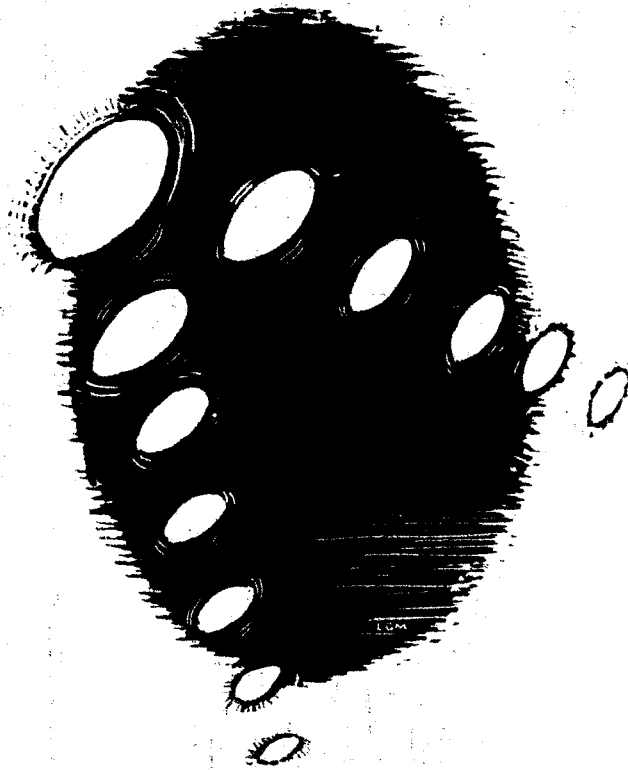


LUFORO BULLETIN



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APRIL 1961

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LONDON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ORGANISATION

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: The London Unidentified Flying Object Research Organisation was :
: formed on 11th July 1959 with the aim of unbiased scientific :
: investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects and ass- :
: ociated claims; collection of first-hand evidence of verifiable :
: data; publicising information in bulletins and by other means; :
: and bringing about closer co-operation and under standing between :
: UFO Researchers. :
.....

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full membership.

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: Any opinions or beliefs published in this bulletin do not necessarily :
: reflect those of the London UFO Research Organisation. :
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LONDON MEETING

The next London Meeting will be held in the CAXTON HALL on Saturday 27th
May at 7:30 pm.

The talk - which promises to be extremely interesting - will be given
by Mr. Richard Shephard. The subject is: Paranormal Cognition and its
Connections with the UFO Phenomena.

Admission 2/6d. The Meeting is open to non-members so bring your friends!

* L U F O R O B U L L E T I N *
* * * * *

Edited by Lawrence G Moore

LONDON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ORGANISATION

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Vol.II No.4

April 1961

AMERICAN FIREBALL SIGHTINGS

This month we have received details of sightings very similar to the reports of fireballs in Britain in November and March - we quote:-

Phoenix Gazette 12/1/'61 - "A fireball flashed across the sky North of the Valley at about 5:20 am.today. Its light was reported so brilliant it brightened the inside of an airplane cockpit and lit up the inside of a truck. Flight control tower at Sky Harbor Airport observers said those on duty saw the meteor-like object to the north of Phoenix ,very bright, blue in color at the start, then, as it dissipated, turning to red. It traveled low above the horizon, from southwest to northeast, according to those in the tower and the airplane pilot. The light lasted 10 to 20 seconds, according to tower reports."

5 DAYS LATER.....The Arizona Republic, Phoenix 17/1/'61. "A large object variously described as bright blue and red was seen falling from the skies west of Phoenix about 6:04 pm. yesterday. Observers at Sky Harbor Airport control tower said the object apparently was a large meteorite."

"Bill Graves of 1014 E.Harmont Dr. said he saw a bright blue light heading toward the earth at a 20-degree angle at about 5000ft. above the ground."

"A report of a second burning object came from Cullen Moore, an engineer at Motorola. He said at 6:59pm. he saw a bright blue object about 20 degrees west." "A giant ball of fire, apparently the same object as was seen in the Phoenix area, flashed across the horizon at dusk last night and lighted up much of California, alarming thousands of residents."

"Coastal points reported the object continued its flight out to sea. 'We assume it was a meteor breaking up', said a spokesman at the Civil Aeronautics Traffic Control Center in Los Angeles. 'But it looked like a satellite re-entering the earth's atmosphere.'

Air Force Maj.Irv Neuwirth, amember of the ballistic missile division said he saw the tail end of the fireball as he drove into his driveway. 'It looked just like a meteor to me, maybe one that was breaking up But it was bright, brighter than anything else I've seen.'
(Credit Space Crafter P.O.Box 4444 Phoenix 30 Arizona)

MEANWHILE, BACK IN LOS ANGELES.....

"THE BRILLIANT many-hued fireball that streaked across California skies late yesterday was the second one seen in two days. It was seen at 5:57pm. over Los Angeles and seen over Indio 9 minutes later." (Anyone heard of a meteorite taking 9 minutes to burn out? The Air Force denied reports of a satellite burning up. It is interesting to note that Los Angeles is nearly 400 miles from Phoenix)

MYSTERY EXPLOSIONS... these have figured in many reports - frequently a UFO sighting has been connected with them.

Long Beach California - 27/1/'61. - "AN UNEXPLAINED blast or blasts that rattled buildings, cracked windows and caused an avalanche of phone calls to police, newspapers, and fire departments at 6:20pm. on Thursday was felt throughout Long Beach, S.E. Los Angeles County and a large section of Orange County.

"The explosion-like sound possibly was a sonic boom, but Los Alamitos Naval Air Station and El Toro Marine Air Base denied having any planes in the area at the time."

Buenos Aires 10/12/'60 - "A STRANGE white light and explosion during a storm has been reported by several persons in the country near here. It shook homes over a two mile area. A crater 13 ft. wide has been discovered." (Credit to above reports - S.P.A.C.E)

EXPLOSION SCARE - IT'S A MYSTERY...."Police and firemen raced to S. Kensington (London) after startled residents reported a mystery explosion.

Several callers who telephoned Scotland Yard last night said a vivid red flash had lit up the sky over the Chelsea-Fulham district.

But after checking the areas firemen were unable to trace any explosion. A police officer said, 'The same thing happened on Saturday night but nothing was found. It is a complete mystery.'" - Ev. Standard 7/2/'61.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE RE. 'MAINBRACE' R.A.F. SIGHTING

DATE: 2nd. February 1959
PLACE: House of Commons, Westminster.
SOURCE: Hansard.

Mr. Mason asked the Secretary of State for Air the results of the inquiry into the unidentified flying objects sighted by airmen during the N.A.T.O. operation 'Mainbrace' on 19th September 1952.

Mr. Ward: "No object was identified."

This question was put to George Ward, Secretary of State for Air in 1959 regarding the sightings by six Air Force men at Topcliffe, Yorks. on Sept. 19 1952. (Why the question was asked seven years later is a mystery!)

We recall :- Sunday Dispatch 21/9/1952 - "Serious investigation was being made by the R.A.F. into the mystery of a silvery-white object that chased a meteor jet-plane over Yorkshire during 'Exercise Mainbrace'.

"It was seen by two R.A.F. Officers and four aircrew. One of them, Flight Lieut. John W. Kilburn of Egremont, Cumberland, spotted 'something different from anything I have ever seen in 3700 hrs. flying in a variety of conditions.'

'The Meteor was crossing from East to West when I noticed the white

object in the sky.'

'This object was silver and circular in shape, about 10000ft.up some 5 miles astern of the aircraft. While descending it was swinging in a pendulum fashion from left to right.'

As the Meteor turned to start its landing run the object appeared to be following it. But after a few seconds it stopped its descent and hung in the air rotating as if on its own axis. Then it accelerated at an incredible speed to the west, turned south-east and then disappeared.'

'We are all convinced that it was some solid object. There was not the slightest possibility that the object we saw a smoke ring or was caused by vapour trail from the Meteor or from any jet aircraft.

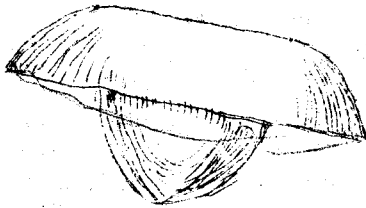
'We are also quite certain that it was not a weather observation balloon, the speed at which it moved away discounts this altogether.'" - All the R.A.F. observers were unanimous in their descriptions of the object.

Now read the report from Mrs Kathleen V. Wilson-Sharp of High Lawns, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex:-

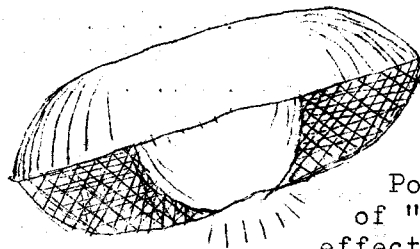
"Dear Dr Doel, My son, Dr Wilson-Sharp has told me you are very interested in 'Flying Saucers', and would like me to tell you about the one I saw some years ago.*My husband and I were having a picnic lunch near Crayke in Yorkshire. I was idly watching some fighters coming in to land at Dishforth Aerodrome some 20 miles away to the North, when I noticed a circular object emerge between two very dark clouds and hover above the aerodrome. At first I thought it must be a weather balloon, as it appeared to be stationary. When suddenly it turned and streaked off in a very unballoon-like horizontal and speedy manner. When I first saw it, it shone by the light of the sun - when it turned I saw it had a brilliant light of its own. I was so puzzled that I wrote to the Commanding Officer of Dishforth Aerodrome - asking if anyone there had seen it. He wrote back by return thanking me for my clear description of it - saying that six of his officers had seen it, and that their description tallied up with mine. He too was collecting all the evidence he could, and has since written and published a book on the subject.

"Actually it seemed to me to more like an inverted cup and saucer - not unlike a lemon squeezer. - Sincerely Yours, Kathleen V Wilson-Sharp."

*"It was in September - I think about 10 years ago."



Mrs. Wilson-Sharp's diagram of object.



Possible cause of "lemon squeezer" effect suggested by J. Cleary-Baker

J. Cleary-Baker of Weeke, Hants has suggested that the UFO was in fact the shape of two pie pans placed mouth to mouth and that a bright illumination from the lower part of the UFO threw two areas of its surface into shadow - these areas merging with the dark cloud background, thus seeming invisible to the observer." L.A.C. George Grime said: 'I saw a sort of halo shining on the centre of the object. It appeared to be going round and to shine as it turned. It was a solid object with no marks on it.'

(continued overleaf)

However, as the R.A.F. observers state that the sky was clear, and Mrs. Wilson-Sharp, that the sky was cloudy, it is unwise to speculate on these points. Presumably the UFO was disc-shaped and horizontal - observers directly below would see a circular shape whilst an observer 20 miles away would note an ellipse.

Accounts of sightings are always strengthened by additional evidence such as the letter reproduced above. If you have any sightings not yet come to light - please send them to us. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of accurate filing of reports by members - sooner or later a pattern may form, and one which could be immensely useful to UFO Researchers.

BOOK REVIEW - Dr.G.G.Doel

"Flying Saucers and the U.S.Air Force" by Lt.Col.Lawrence J.Tacker U.S.A.F
(Published by Van Nostrand Co.Ltd.)

In this "officially inspired" book Lt.Col.Tacker of the U.S.Air Force acts as mouthpiece of the American Air Force and Department of Defense.

He reviews some of the incidents leading up to the present position regarding unidentified flying objects which have resulted in much disquiet and some anxiety among the American population, and goes on to show that the vast majority of these sightings are in reality due to:-

- a.Meteorites (fireballs and bolides), and other natural phenomena including effects of temperature inversions of the atmosphere.
- b.Misinterpretation of known planets and stars at times aided by bizarre refractions of the atmosphere, and of known types of aircraft and balloons.
- c.Hallucinations and self deception particularly among psychologically unstable persons.
- d.Hoaxes.

He admits that there is a small proportion of unexplained but well authenticated sightings of UFOs and cites the well known experience of Capt.C.S.Chiles and 1st Officer John B.Whitted whose aircraft was narrowly missed by a wingless cigar type of UFO.

The accusation made by many persons in the U.S.A.that the Authorities in charge of Aerial Intelligence in the U.S.Air Force are refusing to release to the public the truth about "Flying Saucers" he utterly refutes and quoted several official pronouncements to support his statement. It is maintained that there is as yet no evidence to suggest that "manned" craft of extra-terrestrial origin exist and that if such evidence occurred the U.S.A.F.Authorities would immediately make the fact known to the general public.

In a chapter entitled "Listen to the experts" the opinions of several eminent scientists concerning UFOs are quoted with Professor D.H.Menzel well to the fore. These experts reiterate that the cause of UFO sightings can be explained in terms of the four headings above.

At the end of the book are facsimile sheets of the News Release documents which are available to the U.S.Press from the Department of Defense from time to time and which deal with the official position regarding UFOs in the U.S.A.

In these it is interesting to note that authenticated sightings of unexplained UFOs (and accepted as such) number 2.76% of the total 6523 reports received by the U.S.A.F. over a period of ten years. This yields a total of 176 sightings accepted as genuine but inexplicable with a further 1239 sightings dismissed as unacceptable on the grounds of insufficient information. (food for thought surely?)

The section dealing with the methods employed for gathering information gives several versions of forms sent out by various authorities to be filled in by observers and returned for analysis. One of these employs an excellent diagram representing the dome of the sky in curved lines on which observers can indicate easily the path of an UFO even though erratic, together with times and directions of flight.

In conclusion the book would seem to be a genuine and guileless attempt to place the true position regarding "Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force" squarely before the general public. That it will satisfy sceptics and those who can remember official "denials" during the second World War (which so often turned out to be the reverse of true but made in the interests of the country) - will remain to be seen.

"HUMAN PERCEPTION IN THE EVALUATION OF DATA"

A report of the meeting held in Caxton Hall on March 11th. The lecture was given by Mr C.C. Stevens. Report by Mrs. R. Shepherd.

Mr. Stevens gave a most interesting talk on "Human Perception in the Evaluation of Data." He explained that there can never be a direct "one to one" but only a "many to one" relationship between the outside world and any person and that everything we know (or think we know) about the world is based on our perceptions working through our senses and that the resultant experience is peculiar to the percipient himself and necessarily differs, in from the experience of every one else. (some respects

In the same way, in order to pass on knowledge to another person we have to use the medium of language and as a similar "many to one" relationship holds between what is talked about and what is said we can never be sure that the listener has inferred what the speaker has implied.

Mr. Stevens went on to say that most people subconsciously use the accepted scientific process of research in assessing the happenings of their everyday lives. The process is divided into three stages as follows:-

1. Assumption
2. Prediction
3. Experience

Where experience falsifies the prediction made at Stage 2 it is necessary to revert to Stage 1 and make a fresh and different assumption (providing one has not perished in the attempt at proving the first prediction.)

Mr. Stevens also said that, in his opinion, it is necessary that this method of reasoning be applied to all subjects at all times and that to hold to a belief, or faith, so rigidly that one is not prepared to examine and, if desirable, to change one's fundamental assumptions is not to be on the road to salvation but, rather, to damnation. This remark provoked a number of questions from the audience and a twinkle in the eye of the speaker.

Mr Stevens was also asked how he applied this system to UFOlogy and he replied that, at present, he had only reached Stage 1. He has gathered a
(cont. overleaf)

a good deal of information relating to UFOs and therefore, assumes that they exist. So far, no predictions have been made on this assumption e.g. that more will be seen next week, has been falsified by experience.

A variety of other questions were asked relating to the interpretation and application of the process, and it was a pity that such an enjoyable evening was so poorly attended.

NEWS FLASHES NEWS FLASHES NEWS FLA

WHO'S THAT UP THERE?

Mr. Charles Boseley of Briars Road Windsor was standing outside his house when he saw a block of ice crash through the roof. He believes it was dropped by an airplane.

18/4/'61 - (Ev. News & Star)

Showers of thick black stones each weighing about 4lb. fell from the sky over the Pakistan village of Kalak between Qila Abdullah and Pishin. According to reports frightening thunder in an overcast sky preceded the 'stonefall'. The stones appeared to have been burnt black by some natural phenomenon. Officials have been sent specimens to the Govt. Geological Laboratory.

3/4/'61 - (The Times)

The Lintz (Austria) Naachrichten für den Sonntag published on Jan. 28 1961 an extremely good photo of a UFO seen by an amateur photographer on August 3 1960. He was a sceptic before taking the picture.

S.P.A.C.E. - March

The object - a copy of which appeared in last month's S.P.A.C.E. - bears a striking resemblance to the famous 1952 photo of UFOs over Salem, U.S.A.

Currently running in the 'Daily Mail' is a cartoon strip by Arthur Horner the subject of which is the arrival of a "chap from Outer Space" on the Pewter estate. It seems that he has swotted up a certain 'saucer' book for material!

EARLY ATTEMPTS TO PHOTOGRAPH UFOs

"Though what seem to be reports of flying saucers go back hundreds of years, a reader in Mexico City tells of an astonishingly early and successful effort to photograph them. This was done, at first accidentally, by Jose Bonilla, director of the observatory at Zacatecas, at a few minutes 8 am. on August 12 1883. Director Bonilla had his telescope and camera rigged up to take pictures of sunspots when a small luminous body passed across the face of the sun.

His report states that in the next two hours he observed 283 such objects and photographed a number of them.

On the next day Bonilla and his associates counted 116 between 8:30 and 9:45 in the morning. His photographs are said to be still existant and the property of the Mexican Government." - S.P.A.C.E. No. 49.

From the Australian Flying Saucer Review for Feb. 1961 more details have come to regarding the sightings of a 'mother ship' and 'up to eight' smaller craft by the Rev. Lionel Browning in Tasmania on Oct. 4 1960 - details of which appeared in the bulletin Vol. II No. 2. Apparently local residents also saw these craft, and one, Mrs. Doris Bransdon said - "It was a fantastic sight - like a lot of little ships flocking round a bigger one." Mr. Brad Spencer mentioned that two hours after the sighting loud explosions took place in the locality. The photograph reconstructing the sight-

*
* HOW ABOUT WRITING TO THE BULLETIN? *
* * * * *

Your ideas, articles, criticism etc. will be welcome

Don't hesitate - WRITE NOW - to the Editorial address given on Page 1