

BUFORA

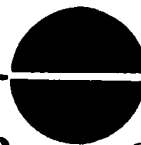
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BULLETIN

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British UFO Research Association

SEPT 83

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THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

BUFORA LTD (by guarantee). Founded 1964. Registered office: 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 2FW. Registered in London 1234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Association founded 1959, and the British UFO Association founded 1962.

AIMS 1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom. 2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). 3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee. Application/information forms can be obtained from any Association officer.

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Details from the Director
of PUBLICATIONS.

BUFORA's entry on the
PRESTEL viewdata system
starts at page "50801"
(on EASTEL)

BUFORA's summer meeting was held on July 2nd, 1983 at Hans Streuli's beautiful house in Wentworth, Surrey. The day was warm and sunny and after a barbecue lunch and wine Council settled down, alfresco style, albeit it somewhat reluctantly, to the agenda which included discussion on the long and short term plans for BUFORA's future. Conversation was only occasionally interrupted by the noise of assorted Boeings and Trident's making their way into or out of Heathrow!

The main item was a report by the new Director of Publications on BUFORA's journals. It was felt that these should be more clearly rationalised and a publishing programme agreed which would give both continuity and stability for the foreseeable future. It is intended that members shall continue to receive 10 publications a year and it is hoped that from time to time it might be possible, where finance permits, to add to these with a brief summer or winter newsletter.

● From 1984 J-TAP (The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena) will be published in March and September and BUFORA Bulletin, which from the spring 1984 issue will be upgraded to A4 size, will appear in February, May, August and November. Probe Report, which will from January, 1984 be re-titled "BUFORA Probe" will be published in January, April, July and October. All journals will be made visually more attractive with glossier covers, heavier weight paper and more illustrations. Each publication will retain its present identity and editors viz Bob Digby, (J-TAP); John Barrett (Bulletin) and Ian Mrzyglod (Probe). The editors would welcome contributions from the membership at large in the form of general articles, learned papers (J-TAP) and letters to the editor(s). The three publications are YOUR journals and the editors very much look forward to your input of new ideas and feedback on other contributions. Case reports are currently at an all time low and now is perhaps the appropriate moment for members to look back on past cases and to reflect in general, in the journal pages, on ufology. The Bulletin editor would particularly welcome news and reports on the activities of individuals and groups outside London and he would also like to see historical articles published which looked back on some of the classic cases of the past 36 years. Younger members might find this idea of interest to them.

● John Shaw and John Spencer reported on the organisation and administration of the 1983 Congress. The line-up of speakers and topics was (in early July) attracting a satisfactory number of applications.

Pam Kennedy, Membership Secretary, reported that numbers were rising again, slowly, after the dramatic fall-off in late 1982 and early 1983.

Hans Steuli said that BUFORA's finances were looking somewhat healthier also, but stressed the need for present members to recruit new ones. Although subscriptions were higher for BUFORA than other UFO groups members did get very good value for money with regular meetings, 10 journals a year and a busy investigations department. A further service to members in the shape of a library of books, tapes, magazines and case reports was being organised by Robin Lindsay. This would be an invaluable aid to the serious investigator/researcher and Robin will be pleased to answer any queries from members wishing to visit the library which is based in Peterborough.

● Stephen Gamble, the new Director of Research briefly outlined his plans for the Department's future and will present a detailed report to Council at its next meeting.

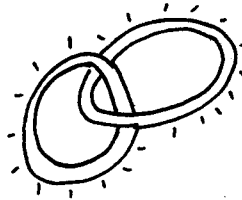
All in all a very successful day which went on until the early evening with Council members strolling through Hans's gardens and mulling over the day's business before returning to the dust and grime of London.

CASE 54 AA Mid November, 1954 14.00
Carlisle, Cumbria

In October and November, 1954 Europe underwent a major UFO wave. Britain was not exempt from this and we do know of some intriguing events from this period, including the first CE111 at Ranton, Staffordshire. A new case has recently come to my attention thanks to a 46 year old tool-setter whom we shall call Stanley.

In 1954 he was a young soldier at his passing-out parade in the grounds of Carlisle Castle. He and a line of other recruits were standing to attention as a military band played. Suddenly, he saw in the sky above the castle battlements two silvery bands, like wedding rings, which were interlocked and spinning. They reflected the sunlight as they moved but hovered in one place. In apparent size they were roughly equivalent to a half-pence piece held at arms length. Under the difficult circumstances Stanley could only snatch brief glimpses of the phenomenon and obviously he could not engage any of his colleagues in conversation. After five minutes or so the rings began to move away, in line of sight, and within about five seconds had totally disappeared.

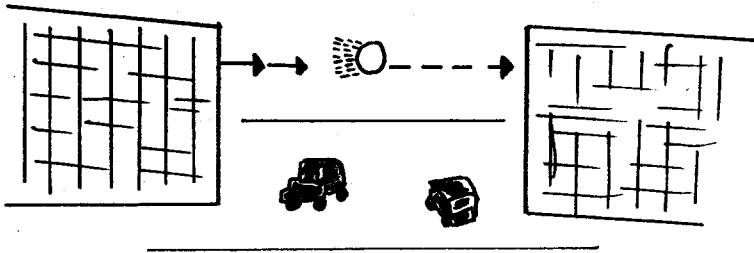
Stanley was extremely glad when he later discovered that about half a dozen other soldiers in the barracks had seen the strange object too. Indeed a couple of them claimed to have seen windows within the structure, but Stanley saw no markings of any kind. No explanation has been forthcoming, and in discussing this case at a NUFORA evaluation meeting no suggestions could be offered as to what it could have been except some sort of ceremonial kite of which the soldiers were, for some reason, ignorant.



CASE 79-272 23rd November, 1979 07.20
Speke, Merseyside.

The same witness had another close encounter a quarter of a century later, and this time closer to home, whilst he was taking his usual early morning drive to work. The phenomenon appears to have been that mysterious item ball-lightning and so this case becomes quite instructive to me since I have never come across it before.

Stanley had stopped his car at the junction of Edwards Lane with Speke Hall Road and was about to filter right into a line of traffic. The weather was dull and drizzly but there was no storm activity around. Suddenly a bright green ball appeared from behind one of the factory buildings about 200 yards away to Stanley's right. It was solid and quiet, spherical and with a faint trail behind it that was not quite the size of the object's diameter.



The object appeared to float majestically across the road in a very straight path and disappeared behind buildings on the opposite side of the road. It took about five seconds to do so. In view of this it was naturally difficult to gauge the object's size, but Stanley estimated it was several feet in diameter (this being in comparison with the line of cars over which it passed). He is positive that it was above the roofs of the cars, but below the roofs of the buildings. Thus at a height of may be 20-30 feet.

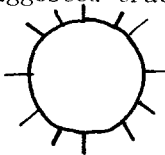
This description is evidently that of ball lightning, which certainly does not only appear in conditions of thunderstorms.

CASE 82-013 2nd March, 1982. 05.05 Eastern Standard Time
Vero Beach, Florida, USA.

This case came to BUFORA because the witness is British. We shall call her Miss JF and in March, 1982 she was piloting a light aircraft from Norfolk, Virginia to Miami, Florida. Her airspeed was 135 knots and her height 8500 feet. At Vero Beach it was about 1½ hours before sunrise, and quite dark. Ahead (in the south east) she saw a bright white light which she assumed to be the landing lights of another aircraft.

For 35 minutes she had the light continually abeam of her plane. It took on a spikey appearance, but basically looked like a fuzzy star. It seemed to vary its distance: "Several times it moved very rapidly indeed further away, at right angles, to my line of light." It almost disappeared totally into cloud at several points and became very hazy. It was last seen as she piloted her plane into a layer of low clouds preparatory to landing.

She reported the incident and it was suggested that she had seen Venus, which was very bright at the time. She disputed this because (a) the object seemed too close and (b) its exceptional movement away from her was too fast. She concluded by stating: "It was certainly neither a star nor an aircraft."



This case was investigated by Philip Taylor, BUFORA's RIC for Sussex, who is also a scientist at the Royal Greenwich Observatory. He was easily able to explain it. Indeed you ought to be able to solve it too with the minimum of thought and some not too difficult checking up.

The solution appears on page 11, but why not try finding out first before looking!

Hilary Evans' lecture at Kensington Central Library on 7th May, 1983 - "The Seven Day Wonder At Cergy Pontoise" - posed more questions than it answered. That was understandable for the case is of the greatest complexity and if Mr Evans seemed persuaded that the episode was a hoax I for one agreed.

The story began at 4.20am on 26th November, 1979 in Cergy Pontoise, a sprawling suburb within a suburb north-west of Paris. Three market traders - Jean Pierre Prevost, 25, Salomon N'diaye, 25 and 19 year old Franck Fontaine - were loading clothes into a Ford Taunus car (which belonged to a fourth man who plays no further part in this story) parked outside Prevost and N'diaye's apartment block at 11 Rue de la Justice Mauve. Fontaine did not live there but at Saint-Ouen-L'Amore. The men were making an early start for N'diaye's market stall at nearby Gisor.

Whilst thus engaged they claimed that a brilliant, cylindrical white light passed overhead and disappeared in the direction of the nearby electrical complex. Prevost said that he was unconcerned by this spectacular occurrence and returned to the apartment for more clothes; N'diaye, with more presence of mind, followed in order to find a camera which, when located, lacked a film. Fontaine, meanwhile, drove out of the courtyard and onto the main road towards the complex in order to get a better look at the object. His companions returned just 10 minutes later to find the car some 200-300 metres away enveloped to a depth of 20-30cm in a misty halo of light which, in turn, was surmounted by three or four smaller, bright lights. As they watched the lights merged, trailed upwards and disappeared into the early dawn sky. When they had summoned up enough courage to approach the car they found that its left door was open, its lights were on, its engine was running and Franck Fontaine had disappeared.

MOUNTING SPECULATION

They searched the surrounding area and then informed the local Commissariat that their friend "had been carried off in a UFO." Their alerting the police was in itself an act of courage for Prevost was a known, self-confessed anarchist who had spent some months in a military prison and N'diaye, who came originally from Senegal, was a student with a singularly unimpressive record of academic achievement. Both men would have been automatically suspect to the police of any nation - let alone the French! A day of hard questioning followed in which the two men, separately and together, told a consistent story. The car was checked for radio-activity - but none was found - neither was there any trace of compass deviation. Radar bases in the area reported nothing unusual on their screens at the time in question.

The case was passed from the local police to the Gendarmerie Nationale and Prevost and N'diaye also told their story to the press. This led to a week of intense and mounting speculation throughout France and abroad, with Fontaine's alleged abduction receiving unprecedented coverage even in those newspapers not normally given to flights of extra-terrestrial fancy. It was, therefore, almost on a note of anti-climax exactly one week later to the day and the hour - 4.30am 3rd December, 1979 - that Fontaine reappeared in a field adjoining the flats. He was still dressed in the clothes he had worn on the morning of his disappearance and his pocket contained the same 100 franc note.

Commandant Courcoux of the Gendarmerie Nationale provided the official version of what Franck claimed had happened.

".....he left with the Ford Taunus in order to get a closer look at the object, which seemed to be falling in the

direction of the Central Electricity complex at Cergy. Arriving at the complex, Franck saw a round object approaching, an object similar to a tennis ball. This landed at the left hand side of his bonnet. At that moment the car was completely engulfed by mist; the whitish ball grew and he then felt his eyes stinging. He must therefore then have lost consciousness for as from that time he remembers nothing.

"The witness stated that he then woke up in the same area where he had disappeared. He was standing up, saying 'Our car has been stolen.' In fact, 8 days later, the car was no longer there, following the events we have already set out. It was 4.30 am. Franck stated that his memory returned suddenly, but at the time he didn't know where he was. He went to his friend, Jean Pierre, but he wasn't in. He therefore called on Salomon, the second witness: the door opened and he found Salomon in his pyjamas. Franck was astonished at this for (to him) only five minutes previously he had been dressed and they were to have gone to Gisor market! He announced that the car had disappeared and thought that it had been stolen. Totally taken aback by the turn of events, Salomon had to tell Franck the whole story." (1)

Hilary Evans reports that Fontaine and N'diaye went to the apartment of a journalist on the local newspaper where Prevost had spent the previous night. It was some three hours later - 7.30am - before Fontaine's reappearance was reported to the local gendarmerie. They abandoned the case on the grounds that no criminal act seemed to have been committed since Fontaine had returned unharmed, albeit as mysteriously as he had vanished. French ufologists were, understandably, given the incredible implications of the story, less dismissive. The Control Group investigated initially but were soon ousted by the more sensational World Institute for Advance Science and its founder Jimmy Guieu, a well-known, if not particularly well-regarded French ufologist who took charge of the case. Guieu lost no time in confirming that the boys' story was completely genuine in every respect. A spate of lectures, books, newspaper articles, press interviews, sessions under hypnosis and guest appearances at UFO symposia - all of which proved a good deal more lucrative financially than market trading - took the trio into 1980.

The hypnosis sessions gradually revealed that Prevost, not Fontaine (who recalled little or nothing of his experiences) had been the contactee. Prevost drew a picture of the laboratory on the distant planet he claimed to have visited and also recalled the aliens who had taken him there and who described themselves as "intelligences from beyond; from a planet not like yours." Aliens are infuriatingly vague about both their intentions and their antecedents!

With time Prevost became the dominant figure, Fontaine and N'diaye contributed less and less to the controversy and the former, in fact, absolutely refused to submit to hypnosis. Prevost claimed to have been teleported from Paris to Marseilles, had an encounter with a, to him, completely unknown commercial traveller who obligingly drove him, totally uninvited, to a meeting of other alien contactees and was visited by the ubiquitous Men In Black.

INCONSISTENCIES

As the story was repeated so the more inconsistent it became. Hilary Evans says that the official case report contains no less than 50 A4 pages of details which either failed to stand up to hard scrutiny or else contradicted other details recorded elsewhere. Prevost

insisted that he knew nothing about UFOs and had no interest in them: his brother, it later turned out, was a member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO). Brothers, as Mr Evans rightly emphasised, might not share each other's interests, or, indeed, even be aware of them. Nevertheless the APRO link, however tenuous, is an interesting (perhaps vital) one. Prevost must have heard about, even if he hadn't actually read, the sensational UFO abduction reports which were widely publicised throughout the 1970s: Fickson and Parker and Jeffrey Greenhaw, 1973; Carl Figden and Lydia Stalnaker, 1974; Travis Walton, 1975; Mona Stafford, Louise Smith and Elaine Thomas, 1976. APRO researchers certainly investigated some, if not all, of these incidents, including the internationally reported Walton case with which the Fontaine story shares some passing similarities.

Prevost also had in his flat, although he denied either having bought it or read it, a popular television magazine featuring a serial on UFOs. A witness in the small apartment courtyard at the precise time of the alleged sighting saw neither the UFO nor men loading clothes into a car. What he did see, however, were two men getting into a car and driving away. The description given by Fontaine, Prevost and N'diaye of the UFO differed radically: "a huge beam," "a ball," "a flash," "moving slowly," "moving fast," "going east," "travelling west" and although that in itself does not preclude their having seen a UFO their claim to have done so must become more suspect as their description of its nature and behaviour polarise.

So, if there was no abduction, where did Fontaine spend that week in the early winter of 1979 with all France hunting for him and his photograph staring out from every newspaper and magazine bookstall?

A GARRULOUS AUNT

A small scale investigation conducted by local schoolchildren in Cergy as part of a classroom project tracked down Fontaine's aunt who, when asked if she knew where her nephew has spent his missing week, replied that he had been with friends. Unfortunately for all concerned neither the child nor the journalist who was present at the interview kept a permanent record of this important piece of evidence. The aunt, as aunts frequently do when confronted by a family embarrassment, clammed up, and has refused to comment further. But my money, for what it is worth, is on auntie. I am sure Fontaine spent that missing week with some friends. I suspect that I have even managed to track them down.

Although the area around Cergy is, as Hilary Evans pointed out, well-served by public transport - main line railway, buses and the Metro - and he could, quite easily, have made his way from there to any part of Paris - or indeed France - I do not think he did so, and for a very good reason. The risk, once his story broke, of some other lone early morning traveller recalling this tall, slim, rather androgynous boy, with his distinctive Beatle-mop hair-style, roll-neck sweater, zippered leather jacket and jeans was too great. If we assume that Fontaine did not use public transport then, for a similar reason, since it contained even greater risks, we can also assume that he did not hitch-hike his way into his brief notoriety.

There remain the two men seen by the only known witness driving away from the flats in the early hours of the morning. Was Fontaine hidden away for a week? It is possible, but not, I think, probable given its inherent dangers. Cars arriving and leaving at odd hours and strangers suddenly appearing attract more attention in remote areas than they do in crowded ones. Fontaine would have had to be provided with a week's supply of food some of which would need to have been cooked, necessitating a fire, since it was early winter and cold heating (again a fire?) and lighting would have been

required. Even a remote, uninhabited farm house has neighbours who keep an eye on it as they drive or walk past it en route for somewhere else. The French are notoriously nose-y - almost as much as the British and it is unlikely that Fontaine could so easily have escaped detection, especially when the entire French nation talked of nothing but his disappearance and must, therefore, have been on the look-out for him.

A FACE IN THE CROWD

No. Much the best place for Fontaine to have hidden would have been where he was completely safe from discovery and where, most important of all, no one would ever dream of looking for him. Where better than either Prevost or N'diaye's apartment at 11 Rue de la Justice Mauve? The boys' rooms that week had young people coming and going at all hours of the day and night. Fontaine's girl-friend Manina would certainly have been there, tearfully speculating to assorted newspapermen on what had become of Franck, and no doubt being comforted by Prevost and N'diaye's girl-friends. There were other visitors also, neighbours, friends of both the boys and girls, perhaps the formers' business associates at Gisors market, certainly an investigation of journalists and television reporters.

".....when we entered Jean Pierre Prevost's apartment. (Prevost is one of the witnesses), we wondered whether we were entering a theatre! Some fifteen people were present, settling down in chairs, sofas or simply standing! Everyone listened to the witnesses' fantastic account which tended to be added to and embellished. Amongst those present were some journalists, but also a number of investigators working for their own group or individually. In the light of this we understood perfectly why the GEPAN (the French Governmental Investigation Group - Editor's note) wished to work in peace, far from the noise and the press." (1)

The tiny apartment with its crush of curious humanity must, as late November shaded into early December, have come to resemble nothing so much as the Black Hole of Calcutta.

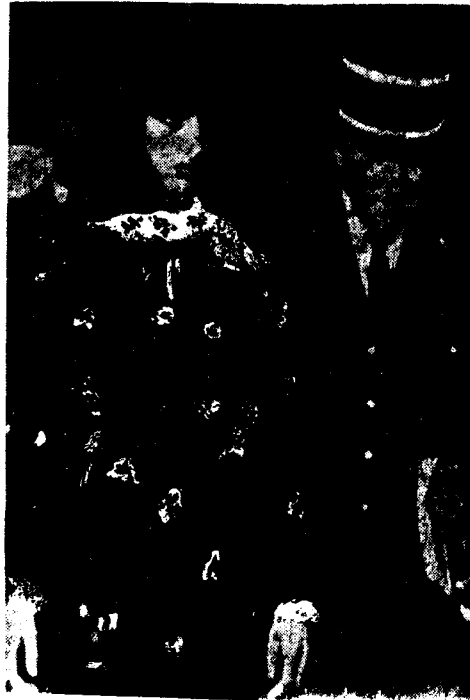
Earlier in this article I described Fontaine as "androgynous." Newspaper photographs of the period show a delicate, almost feminine-looking 19 year old, his face apparently not even roughened by regular shaving. It is not difficult to see that, in a dress, his smooth oval face framed by a long dark wig, he could very easily have passed himself off in a crowd as a girl - Francine rather than Franck. The chances are that he would not even have been noticed amongst all those other people and, if he had been, it would not have been difficult simply to dismiss his presence with a non-committal Gallic shrug of the shoulders as someone's friend who had merely dropped in to share the excitement and help if she could. Perhaps "she" even looked after his and Manina's baby daughter. There he stands, Francine/Franck, very much in the background, naturally pale, nervous, mainly silent, a rather different creature amid the noise and excited chatter.

His/her presence would have had for Prevost, N'diaye and the others a delicious piquancy, with the police, amateur sleuths, clairvoyants and ufologists all scouring France for someone who had, in fact, never left Cergy. It would certainly have amused no end



Franck

..... or Francine Fontaine?



the anarchical Prevost who was, by his own admission, "something of a clown." Thus disguised it would also have been easy for Fontaine to have left the flat in the early hours of 3rd December and to have reappeared shortly afterwards at the nearby electrical complex. A wig and a long dress worn over the clothes which Fontaine had worn a week earlier could easily have been discarded and hidden for later retrieval.

I do not believe my theory as to what happened to Fontaine that week is any more bizarre than the known facts of the case.

INTERESTING ANYWAY

Research still continues. In July, 1982 Fontaine and a friend were arrested for stealing a handbag, robbing campers and attempting to sell fake LSD tablets. Shades of Kraspedon who claimed to have undergone traumatic personality changes as a result of his awesome experience? I think not.

The story's interesting aspect, as it so often is with similar ufological cases is not its improbability but why its participants concocted it in the first place thinking that it would be believed and why so many people not only believed it then but continue to do so now when so many of its inconsistencies are known.

The sociological, rather than the extraterrestrial content makes the event at Cergy-Pontoise more than just a seven day wonder for, as Mark Twain wrote, about something else entirely, the case is "Interesting if true but interesting anyway."

- (1) Report-Extra! Gerard Lebat, Genos-Groupment d'Etudes des Objets Spatiaux de France. Presented by Norman Oliver. BUFORA Journal. May, 1980.
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JENNY'S SOLUTION.

This UFO was the planet Venus, which at 05.05 EST (10.05 GMT) on 2nd March, 1983 was, as seen from Florida, at altitude 11° azimuth 66° i.e. very low in the south-east (just as described). It was at its brightest magnitude all year (-4.3). Venus is rightly known as the bane of ufologists and has been known to 'pace' cars and trains. This is one of the rarer occasions where an aircraft was the victim. It is a marvellous example to investigators not to take the witness's statement at face value but to check out the obvious solutions. Even very experienced, and apparently well-qualified, witnesses can be mistaken. In a situation like this (a long duration observation of an object, which is primarily a light, that seems to 'pace' a moving vehicle) any investigator who does not thoroughly check for an astronomical source is not doing his job properly.

A woman in my home town of Paignton, Devon, claimed a close encounter at her home about midnight on 21st March, 1983. She described three circular objects like hula hoops of light, which came very close to her house. They flew in a random manner for four or five minutes before shooting off over Torbay. Certainly an uncommon type of UFO event.

GREEN LIGHTS

During March/April there were reports from Berkshire, including one - later denied - from Upper Heyford air force base.

Not publicised in the UK were reports from South Africa on the night of 19th-20th April. The SABC and Johannesburg Planetarium switchboards were said to be jammed with calls from all over the Republic, from 10pm to 6am. Animals were said to be very disturbed. One witness reported an aerial firework display producing a pink glow which hummed at about 4.30am. A Pretoria witness described an elongated symmetrical craft in three sections, but without windows and flying silently, whereas another, in Pietermaritzburg said he saw a blue round object passing over his house. Two green lights were said to follow a train between Beaufort West and Touws River. A Meteorological Office employee at Beaufort West airport was convinced that the twin green lights had caused his "bakkie" to speed up to 160km/hour despite having his foot on the brake. Opinions varied as to the causes.

It was reported that the Royal Australian Air Force had begun an investigation on 24th May after hundreds of people had seen four cylindrical shapes hovering over Bendigo, a manufacturing town in Victoria, Australia, the previous weekend.

The "Daily Mail", 22nd June, carried an item about Ruth Norman who runs a group called Uranus. She is preparing a landing site for ETs on a 67 acre hillside at El Cajon, California. She claims to have visited 32 'planets' and that the spaceships are controlled by the mind. Per 'space brothers' will land any day now and build a space city of which she has a model.

UK ACTIVITY

Beginning on Monday, 11th July, the "Daily Express" ran stories about flattened circles appearing in a field of barley (not corn!) near Westbury. The main circle was about 50ft across with the stalks flattened close to the ground in a swirling circular manner. It has been suggested that the heatwave had caused localised whirlwinds. An alternative theory was animals larking about and mating. But four more circles, each about 14ft across, and some 60ft from the centre of the main circle, were found equally spaced around it. Tractor wheel lines go through the main circle (relating to spraying) but there were no marks to the smaller ones, as would be made by a hoaxer - unless on stilts! Army helicopters have been known to land in fields, (farmers being normally reimbursed promptly) but could this explain the smaller circles? Lt. Cdr. Henry Bruce was apparently convinced that his field was vandalised by hoaxers. In 1981 a trio of circles was found at the Devil's Punch Bowl near Winchester.

An early edition of "The Guardian" (15th July) carried a Reuter report to the effect that CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) had filed a demand that Mr Vernon Orr, Air Force Secretary, respond within 60 days, and release the remains of extra-terrestrials held by the USAF. This item was missing from later editions. The "Daily Mail" (16th July) gave more detail, and said that CAUS had a recently declassified document revealing how the USAF removed three bodies of human shape, but only 3ft tall, dressed in metallic cloth of very fine texture, from several craft which came down in New Mexico in 1950.

(continued on page 16)

"Ghost rocket" was the term given to strange phenomena reported (principally) over Sweden during the summer and autumn of 1946. The term "flying saucer" had not then been coined. The objects were described as rocket-like, usually glowing and travelling at altitudes between 300 and 900 metres. They were variously reported as travelling slower than airplanes or crossing the sky in seconds at fantastic speeds.

The spate of reports led the Swedish General Staff to issue a press release on 11th August, 1946; it stated that, "Ghost-rockets - mysterious spool-shaped objects with fiery tails - have become a common sight in Sweden" and proceeded to assert that the authorities were certain that their country was in the path of experimental, electronically directed missiles. Some of the unknowns were depicted as fairly small, squarish and, at least, partly coloured red. (1)

It was generally taken at the time, especially by Washington, that the "rocket bombs" or "flying bombs" as they were also known, originated in the Soviet Union and even that they were launched from Peenemunde! Flammonde stated that, although there was testimony that some bombs had crashed, nothing was found. However, he also noted that on 15th August, 1946 there was a newspaper report that the Swedish Army investigators had come upon a fragment of metal. "It was less than three inches (75mm) long and letters were found on it. The implication was that this physical "evidence" might help solve the mystery." Nothing more was heard of this fragment.

INTIMIDATING SWEDEN

Light has since been shed upon these events by Britain's war-time Air Force Intelligence scientist R.V. Jones. (2) Professor Jones tells us that the idea that Russia was intimidating Sweden by flying some sort of new weapon was accepted by officers in his own department. They even worked out the performance of the bombs from the reported sightings in one of the incidents, where the object appeared to have dashed about at random over the whole of southern Sweden at speeds up to 3200kph. Even Field Marshall Smuts believed in the Russian flying bombs, to the extent that he broadcast a warning to the British people! However, Jones himself was sceptical. He was sure that the bombs were not real and that the more dramatic reports were caused by meteors. On one spectacular occasion, he noted that every observer reported the object as well to the east, and that it could have been as far east as Finland. He concluded that the fantastic speeds that were reported were merely due to the fact that all observers had seen the object more or less simultaneously, but that they had varying errors in their watches, so that any attempt to draw a track by linking up observations in a time sequence was unsound. He also asked two sensible questions: (1) What conceivable purpose could it serve the Russians, if they indeed had such a controllable flying bomb, to fly it in great numbers over Sweden without doing any more harm than to alert the West to the fact that they had such an impressive weapon? (2) How had the Russians succeeded in making a flying bomb of such fantastic reliability? The Germans had achieved no better than 90 per cent reliability in their flying bomb trials of 1944, at very much shorter range. Surely, at least one bomb must have crashed somewhere? Jones challenged his staff to bring him a piece of one of the bombs!

It was with considerable surprise that he received the news that the Swedes had several pieces which were reported to have fallen off one of the bombs, and he awaited their arrival in London with curiosity. They turned out to be an odd assortment of four or five irregularly

shaped solid lumps, none of which looked as if it had ever been associated with a mechanical device. Among the specimens was a lump 5 to 8cm across that was hard, shiny, grey and porous. He and Charles Frank immediately identified it, but in order to satisfy the curiosity of his staff he sent it, together with the other specimens, for chemical analysis at Farnborough.

The Farnborough report came back not to Jones, but to another Director of Intelligence, Air Commodore Vintras, who telephoned Jones excitedly as soon as he had read it. Apparently the report declared that one of the lumps consisted of 98 per cent of an unknown element! Vintras was sure that this justified his view that the flying bombs did exist. Excitement on the Air Staff rose; not only had the Russians a flying bomb of fantastic performance, but they were driving it with a fuel made from an element that was new to the world of chemistry!

Jones telephoned the head of chemistry at Farnborough and asked him whether he was joking! Was he perhaps giving a silly answer to a silly question? Apparently not - the chemist was perfectly serious and declared that his section was baffled. Jones then asked if it had not occurred to the chemist that the lump looked remarkably like a piece of coke! The gasp at the other end of the telephone told Jones that he was right and that the Farnborough chemists had tested for nearly every element except carbon! There was nothing mysterious or even significant about the Swedish specimens.

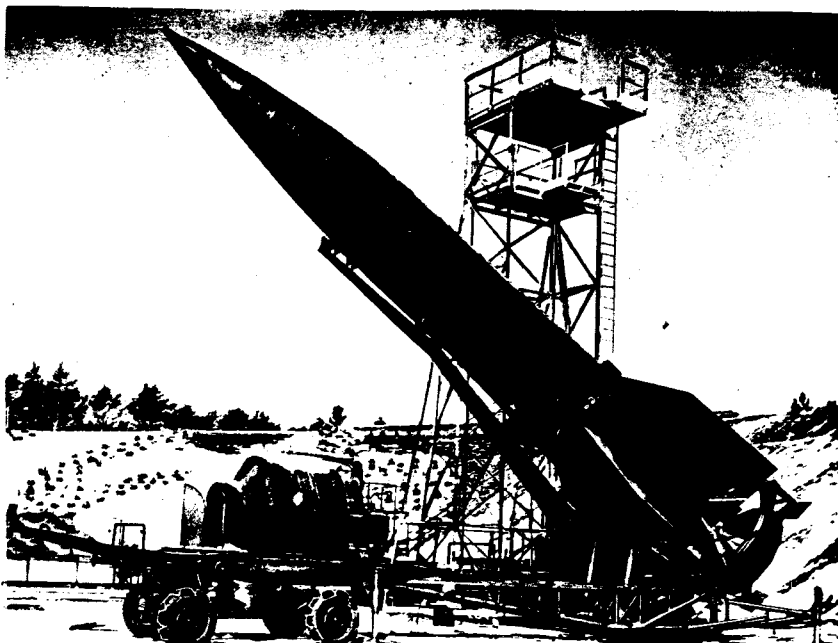
HOAX

Readers will notice several interesting parallels between this story and the reports received about UFOs in more recent times. But the parallels do not stop there. Jones records that although his staff were "somewhat dampened" by this experience, they did not abandon their belief in the bombs. When they received a telephone report that one of the bombs had fallen onto a farm at Westerram (Kent), they jumped at the opportunity to show their director the error of his beliefs. Travelling at a weekend, in order that Jones should not know of the investigation until they could bring back the bomb, they followed instructions given to them by a farmer. But the instructions were false (or inaccurate) and all they succeeded in doing was frightening the life out of a farmer whose name sounded like that of the caller. Dejected, they returned to London convinced that Jones himself was responsible for the hoax. Jones only uncovered the incident when a senior British officer on General MacArthur's staff in Tokyo asked for the latest Intelligence concerning Russian flying bombs and for confirmation of a story that such a bomb had fallen in England in the last few days.

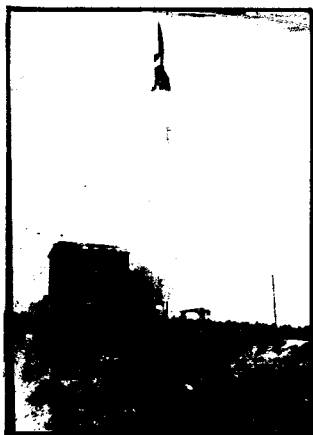
We may imagine that from that date British Air Intelligence ceased to believe in the existence of Russian flying bombs, and this may have not a little to do with subsequent scepticism regarding the existence of "flying saucers." With hindsight it is clear that the ghost-rockets reports were entirely imaginary, possibly arising from Swedish concern regarding Russian intentions in the immediate post-war years. It is significant that similar reports came from other countries who shared a frontier with Russia. The predominance of reports from Sweden may be explained by the fact that the Swedish General Staff took the reports seriously, made public pronouncements, and asked the Swedish public to send in reports. Their reaction may be understood in the light of the fact that during 1944 a test V-2 rocket accidentally fell in Sweden (Jones, p.431). Naturally, the Swedish public reported all sorts of aerial phenomena as "flying bombs" but the volume of these reports then convinced the authorities, not only in Sweden but in other countries, that the bombs were real.

MISINTERPRETATED STIMULI

The incident holds lessons for ufologists. No doubt there was some



Wooden 'mock-up' of an A4 rocket on its transporter (Meillerwagen) for training purposes inside the elliptical earthwork, February, 1942. Note the "Lemon Squeezer" blast deflector at the rear of the rocket. (Courtesy Deutsches Museum, Munich).



A4 rocket launched from inside the elliptical earthwork at Peenemunde. (Courtesy Deutsches Museum, Munich).

stimulus for the reports, and natural phenomena are the most obvious cause, but the stimuli were misinterpreted. They were interpreted as evidence of the power and belligerency of Russia. Today, UFOs are usually interpreted as evidence of the power (and often the belligerency) of alien races. But this conclusion is no more logical than that concerning the ghost-rockets of 1946. Jones' questions apply with equal force to the belief that UFOs are alien craft, and the lack of a UFO fragment is as significant

as the lack of a genuine fragment of one of the ghost rockets.

REFERENCES

- (1) Flammonde, Paris. UFO Exist! (1976 G.P. Putnam's Sons. New York). Book 1. Chapter 7.
- (2) Jones, Reginald Victor. Most Secret War. (1978 Farnish Hamilton, London). pp 510-13.

A DEFINITION OF A 'UFO'

STEUART CAMPBELL

The term 'UFO' has been defined in Iain Nicolson's "Astronomy: A Dictionary of Space and the Universe" (Arrow Books Ltd., 1977) thus: "UFO - Unidentified Flying Object. An object seen, or apparently seen, in the sky and whose nature cannot be determined by the observer." (Basically, this is the same definition adopted by the Condon Report and by me (1))

Nicolson added that: "By far the majority of sightings can be explained in terms of known phenomena with which the individual observer was unfamiliar (e.g. the planet Venus, high altitude balloons, artificial satellites etc) but there remains a residue of sightings which cannot adequately be explained, either because of an insufficiency of reliable data or, possibly, because a phenomenon which is not yet understood has genuinely been observed.

"The most popular explanation (and certainly the most glamorous one) is that such unexplained sightings are due to extra-terrestrial spacecraft, or Flying Saucers (defined elsewhere as an alternative term for a UFO, but implying that the object is an alien spacecraft visiting the Earth), to use a popular term. While the possibility of Earth's being visited by alien spacecraft is one which cannot wholly be excluded...., the nature and frequency of such sightings makes this 'explanation' a most improbable one."

REFERENCE

- (1) "What Is A UFO?" Journal J-TAP. Vol.2/1 May, 1981 pp 3-7

(Continued from page 12)

MY SIGHTING

Saw a UFO myself over Fighgate (the Archway side) on Sunday, 17th July. It was very small, sort of dark edged oval with a hole in the middle. It stayed overhead in a bright hazy sky for two hours until dusk. Calculating against passing jumbo jets, I figured it could have been a kite at between 600-1000 feet being flown from Parliament Hill, Hampstead, although it looked higher. But do kite fliers use lengths of nylon wire over a mile long?

The original version of this edition of the Pre 1947 UFO Bulletin contained a detailed criticism of Brian Burden's article "The Andreasson Affair" and "The Time Machine": Was H.G. Wells An Unwitting Contactee?" which was published in the autumn, 1980 issue of "Awareness" (Vol.9 No.3) Apparently the summer, 1981 issue of "Awareness" published my original comments in the form of a letter, so there is little need to have them repeated. I think my argument is more clearly stated in a letter I wrote to Brian in September, 1981. In this I pointed out that the use of hypnotic regression, even when practised by the most qualified hypnotists, cannot reveal any distinction between fact and fantasy in such cases as the Andreasson affair. I then went on to note that: "I think our main point of contention is in where we locate the common source of such experiences. A useful paper on this subject is "Hypnosis of Imaginary UFO Abductees" by Alvin H. Lawson (contained in "Proceedings of the First International UFO Congress" edited by Curtis G. Fuller (New York, Warner, 1980) He notes that there are extensive parallels between real abductions, imaginary abductions, hallucinations, deathbed narratives, religious conversion, mystical experiences, migraine attacks, creative imagination, etc. Rather than assert that some extraterrestrial force or forces are influencing contactees, writers, drug-takers, it is more logical to regard the psychological processes of the individual responding to less exotic influences. Also it seems simpler to regard the "contactee syndrome" as a particular kind of psychological phenomenon which is conditioned by the culture of the individual, but has the same roots as mystical experiences, trance phenomena and the like.

"I find it easier to claim that Wells' "The Time Machine" and the Andreasson affair have similarities (which from your evidence and my own reading seem to be scanty) because they are derived from a common source - the human mind. You could also add that the Andreasson affair can be linked to a vast multitude of science fiction literature, reported religious experiences, hallucinations, trance phenomenon etc., and so it is rather silly to call all such writers and percipients contactees."

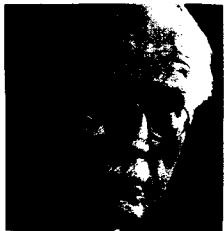
In reply to this and other critical comments of mine Brian, in November, 1981, supplied me with these words: "It is clear that we approach the UFO phenomenon in general and the contactee issue in particular from entirely different preconceptions and academic disciplines.

"First, I venture to assert that I know more about Wells and his science fiction than you do, having recently completed a post-graduate thesis on the subject. Secondly I suspect that I have read rather more about the contactee syndrome - and there is a contactee syndrome - than you have. It is not only the Andreasson entities which find resonances in Wells' narrative. If Mrs Andreasson inadvertently drew on "The Time Machine" so, in various ways, did a small army of other contactees!

"We find some common ground when you invoke Jung with your reference to archetypal symbols. Jung was the first man of science to take the contactees seriously. He regarded their experiences as psychic realities (his terminology not mine) not as matters of hallucination or of individual psychopathology. The expanding body of knowledge on the contactees has tended to vindicate his original conclusions. Incidentally, Jungian dream images abound in Wells

science fiction.

"Two points in conclusion. First you were kind enough to send me some of your past articles. In none of these do I find any sign you accept the reality of any sort of UFO phenomenon. If this is the case, what on earth are you doing in the UFO field at all? Over the years, I have come to accept the existence of the "nuts and bolts" sighting, which could and should be subjected to the most rigorous scientific evaluation. The contactee cases strike me as more akin to the paranormal - an area in which no universally agreed scientific approach has yet been worked out. One should continue, however, to lend a sympathetic ear to the contactees with the aim of accumulating a body of knowledge. This brings me to my second point. I would question the etiquette



Carl Jung (1875-1961)
Pioneer in modern
psychiatry.

of debunking contactees, most of whom have already been through harrowing and intensely disturbing experiences. You will note I say 'debunking' not 'investigating.' The CIA's protective attitude towards George Adamski, for example, is of interest to us all.

"I refrain from taking up your points about hypnotic regression. Though the applications of hypnosis are well-known, its precise nature still remains something of a mystery."

In his statement that you need to accept the reality of the UFO phenomenon as a prerequisite for becoming involved in the UFO subject he reveals an attitude

which is grossly biased and inhibiting. Hilary Evans in his article "Skeptics and Inquirers" (Common Ground No.3 November, 1981) points out that the true sceptic doubts all evidence whether it affirms or denies a given proposition. In the past ufologists like Brian have regarded any scepticism displayed by anyone towards the UFO "evidence" as being a sign of debunking activity. Despite his assertions I do respect contactees as people and do not regard them merely as sources of information. I have written about several contactee-type cases in which I have been involved. But in doing so I have not lost sight of the fact that we should not dispense with our critical faculties when we come to analyse such accounts. An examination of the given data is not to my mind debunking.

Interestingly enough an editorial by Jenny Randles on Nigel Kneale's comedy series "Kinvig" ("Northern UFO News" No.91, December, 1981) reproduces this line from it spoken by the character Jim: "Authors! They think they're writing fiction, but we know different." This ideally sums-up Brian's attitude toward the works of H G. Wells and his hypothesis that he was a contactee manipulated by some outside force(s). This does not give much credit to the creative abilities of the human mind, and since "they" or "it" have such a hold on us why should they stop at merely influencing our writings? Could these forces have "told" H.G. Wells when to eat, sleep or go to the toilet? Indeed, are all of us now merely puppets manipulated by forces beyond our comprehension? Because this is the inevitable question we have to ask if we follow Brian's line of reasoning. Personally

I would prefer to believe that I have a certain amount of control over my actions and thoughts; even if it is sometimes convenient not to face the responsibility of your behaviour it is better to confront this than to blame the aliens!

It is worth briefly noting that David Clarke, a busy phantom airship researcher who lives in Sheffield, was a regular contributor to "Magic Saucer." In his first "Junior UFO Club Bulletin" ("Magic Saucer" No.18 Nov/Dec.1981) he outlines "The Beauty of Historical Research." Whilst going through dusty newspaper files there is a feeling that you might discover a case previously unknown to your fellow ufologists. Such optimism helps David and others to plough through endless pages of newsprint before they discover some obscure column or small paragraph of importance. In the meantime such heroes start suffering from numb bums from hours of sitting, the dusty newspapers can cause bronchitis or you can get blurred eyesight if you use a microfilm viewer (especially if you are suffering from a hang-over at the time!) So next time you read an account of a phantom airship sighting remember the sheer agony and discomfiture us researchers have endured for the sake of human advancement!

LBC AND THE ASSAP GARDEN PARTY**LIONEL BEER**

Hands up those who listen to LBC after 1 am! I was in the bath at the time, Wednesday, 6th July, 1983 and the bathroom radio is permanently tuned. The ASSAP Garden Party at Imber Court Cottage on Saturday, 25th June was given a quarter of an hour slot from 1.15 to 2 am. First to be interviewed was Dr. Pugh Pincott who explained ASSAP's purposes and activities. Author, Brian Inglis, who formally opened the event was also interviewed. The interviewer was taken with the dowsing experiments, and a lady who assured him she had not dowsed before obtained instant results with a pair of angled rods. He tried it with a pendulum over an electric circuit board and was equally impressed. Mary Caine, expounded on the Kingston earth zodiac figures and Jimmy Goddard, Surrey Earth Mysteries Group talked about local ley lines and related topics. David Medina, British Raelian Movement briefly outlined its leader's contactee experience. At about 1.45 am I outlined some of the theories recognised by BUFORA which might explain some world-wide UFO reports. Finally the interviewer was given an aura reading by Carmen Rogers, who said that he might have had headaches. The interviewer agreed that there had been times when he had suffered badly from these.

The day itself was beautiful and some 200 people attended. Participants included The Theosophical Society, Spacelink Books, The Society for Interdisciplinary Studies, and a lady who specialised in a form of healing or problem solving known as "re-birthing." BUFORA had an attractive set of display panels. Particularly impressive, so I was told, was a young lady who did "sand readings", her accuracy was described as "almost uncanny." Organiser David Christie Murray and Mrs Murray are to be congratulated on the event, which raised nearly £60, and for opening their home and garden to the public. Thanks to must go to all ASSAP members, as well as others, who helped with the arrangements and organisation and made the day such a great success.

George Adamski: The Untold Story.
 Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good.
 Ceti Publications. 247 Figh Street,
 Beckenham, Kent. £6.95. 208 pp.
 50 illustrations.

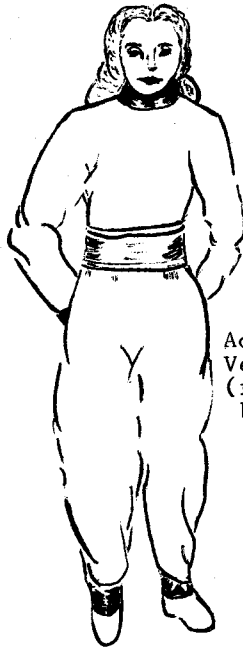
"At last - " says the sub-title to this important book, "the truth about the most controversial UFO contactee of all." The claim is a sweeping one for it is doubtful if one single, substantiated "truth" about Adamski and his claims, other than the fact that he made them, actually exists.

The book is divided into two parts: Miss Zinsstag's reminiscences of Adamski, whom she contacted in 1954 having read and been deeply impressed by his and Desmond Leslie's "Flying Saucers Have Landed" and whose Swiss representative she became in 1957; and Mr Good's thorough re-examination of the evidence behind Adamski's claims. Miss Zinsstag provides a detailed and personal tribute to Adamski the man and writer whose devoted disciple she remained for many years until her beliefs and his diverged. This is a very welcome biography of a man who had (and still has) a fundamental impact on ufology.

In the three decades since 61 year old Adamski's claim to have met and spoken to the occupant of a flying saucer in the Californian desert he has attracted nothing but what might punningly be described as science friction. His detractors portray him as a complete charlatan, the perpetrator of a gigantic, unforgiveable hoax, his defenders regard him as a mystical, almost saintly man in touch with other, higher worlds and profoundly misunderstood and out-manoeuvred by this one.

His encounter on 30th November, 1952, with Orthon, a flaxen-haired Venusian and his space craft was the first of countless other CE3 claims (many of them stranger in character than his) but that, alas, does not make either his claims, or theirs, any the more credible.

Despite the book's new evidence, the integrity of the witnesses and the unlikelihood of a hoax, there is still an undefinable "something" which pre-



Adamski's
 Venusian visitor
 (from a drawing
 by Alice Wells)

vents me from accepting the possibility of a physical encounter of the kind Adamski claimed. I stress physical for I do not doubt that he, like many other contactees, did have a real experience, be it vision, hallucination or waking dream. But stories of space visitors with their fraternal messages of greeting to and interest in mankind, however convincingly presented (and Adamski's alien was not notably articulate) only conjure up those wonderful B movies of the 1950s with cardboard space craft wobbling down uncertainly into the Arizona sage-brush and disgorging entities resembling vacuum cleaner attachments.

What is interesting are the sociological and historical aspects of this case with Adamski's claims matching perfectly the scientific knowledge and expectations of 1952 as later contactee stories always match the scientific knowledge and expectations of the 1960s and 1970s. Given that there are extra-terrestrials do they provide the contactee only with what is scientifically acceptable at a moment in history or do the contactees take from their

experiences only that which they themselves already know, have read about or believe to be scientifically acceptable? One reason why people believed (and still believe) Adamski is because his claims fitted perfectly the period in which they were made when space visitors (pace "The Day The Earth Stood Still") were expected to be benign creatures of superior looks, intelligence and vision. The Orthonans have been pretty thin on the ground ever since.

An encounter similar, say, to the Fills with its dwarfish, bug-eyed aliens, painful medical probes and oblique references not to familiar reassuring old Venus but to the much more remote and esoteric Zeta Reticuli star system would not, had it occurred in 1952 have been as readily understood or as widely publicised as Adamski's or, if it had, would probably have caused widespread panic. Adamski's encounter, transferred to 1961, would not even have rated a brief news item so tame was it in comparison to known scientific fact and achievement at that time. It would seem that the nature and content of the contactee experience becomes increasingly more sophisticated and bizarre as our own scientific knowledge and development advances. Perhaps a comparison of the two would be useful. For instance, have incidences in CE3 cases of silver-suited and helmeted (and sometimes weightless) aliens seen collecting geological specimens increased in the 14 years since Neil Armstrong's televised moon-landing?

It must also be remembered that Adamski's sighting came at the end of the classic world-wide "flap" year of 1952 whose high spot, in July, actually found radar-detected UFOs buzzing the White House and the Capitol building in Washington. What was more likely to follow this piece of extra-terrestrial liberty taking than a landing itself? People were in fact speculating on just such an event. Did Adamski, with his life-time's interest in and knowledge of science, astronomy, space travel and the ancient religions provide it - first to his own satisfaction and then for an audience more than willing to believe him?

Despite detailed research by Timothy Good into the truth which includes re-interviewing some of the witnesses to the 1952 encounter and

watching a new version of the 8mm UFO colour film shot at Silver Spring, Maryland in February, 1965 by Adamski and Madeline Rodeffer, it is still impossible to state quite categorically that Adamski was either a liar or that he was not. It is a pitfall that the authors themselves avoid.

If, however, he cannot be comfortingly pigeon-holed as charlatan or mystic he can most certainly be labelled a catalyst. His claims to have travelled via a flying saucer deep into outer space, seen mountains, forests and animals on the far side of the moon, conversed with a man from Venus and taken close-up photographs of Venusian space craft (whatever the experts say they do look faked) alienated completely those who, between the Arnold sighting of 1947 and the early 1950s had come to accept that a serious, unbiased study of flying saucers was warranted. Whatever else Adamski did or did not do he altered forever and for the worst (but probably not intentionally) public thinking about the phenomenon and acquired, in the process, the doubtful privilege of turning what, in autumn, 1952, was incontrovertible, scientific fact, that something mysterious and therefore worthy of investigation, was haunting the skies, into fourth-rate pulp fiction of the little green men "take me to your leader" genre.

It was a fiction the popular press of the day quickly exploited. Adamski himself was unable to prevent this and the distortions which followed now make it extremely difficult to unravel the truth from the lies. Timothy Good's researches have gone a long way to restoring the balance and for that we should be grateful. His own point of view, and one shared by many of Adamski's old colleagues and associates is that the contacts were genuine but because Adamski disclosed secret information given to him by the aliens the latter embarked upon a campaign to discredit him and protect

their own interests.

The tabloid press in the UK took particular pleasure in ridiculing the claims and we should consider not their validity (or lack of it) in which the press was not much interested anyway, but at the historical/sociological reasons behind this. The early 1950s were some seven years into post-war Britain and time had increased this country's distrust of the USA. It was rich and powerful, Britain was poor and powerless. Tourists with loud mid-Western accents who flaunted their money and boasted of their superiority had replaced the US servicemen who had been stationed here during the war and were as unloved. That the dislike, which continued for most of the decade was entirely irrational does not matter - it existed. The Americans not only possessed every possible material comfort but, in 1952, also claimed the first, long-awaited extra-terrestrial visitor. The press made up its collective mind against that likelihood.

The story had been told by a man with a foreign sounding name and, therefore, it was implied, he was probably not to be entirely trusted. It had been set not just in America (a continent noted for the richness of its fantasy life) but in, of all places, California (which equated with the superficiality of Hollywood and its dream palaces). That the alien drawn by Alice Wells favoured a chic line in ski pants and, according to Adamski, spoke faultless English, only added further laughable implausibility to the whole affair. The popular press's silly season, which in reality is a year long event rather than confined just to the summer, knew few restrictions. Adamski's lecture tour of Switzerland turned into a near riot and his audience with Juliana of the Netherlands, who earlier, in a search for a cure for her youngest daughter's failing eyesight had been involved with a dubious faith healer, received world-wide headlines - none of them less complimentary than those in Britain. Adamski's rout at the hands of the press was complete. UK ufology never really recovered from the anti-Adamski publicity and, even now, almost 20 years after his death, his name and claims when recalled are done so in a spirit of mockery in the hope of discrediting serious ufological researches.

That Adamski was the most complex and enigmatic of men is undeniable, so much so that although I find his claims unbelievable yet, having finished the book, I am still left with lingering doubts. Could it all have been true? Could even part of it have been true? Yes, it could of course as could Adamski's later claims to have had private audiences with President Kennedy and Pope John XXIII.

Its complexities and seeming irreconcilable contradictions make the book a fascinating one to read and then re-read since it has all the ingredients of the classic who-dun-it but, unfortunately, without the prospect or satisfaction of an entirely convincing denouement.

That contactee stories are still with us, 30 years after Adamski is evidenced by Alien Contacts (Coronet Books. £1.75) which was first published by Neville Spearman in 1981 is now available in paperback. Written by Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall it is an investigation into the fantastic claims of Marion Sunderland of Clwyd, Wales and three of her five children, Gaynor, Darren and Barrie. The research is painstakingly done but, not unnaturally, totally inconclusive as to the real nature of the phenomenon. We are assured that this incredible story is true and certainly there is no reason to believe that two such respected investigators, together with Andy Collins and the Warringtons, would have wasted precious time on it had they believed otherwise. What really manifested itself to the family between 1979-81 in the shape of UFOs, entities, strange lights, stranger voices, incredible dreams and chilling coincidences, we shall probably never discover, and the authors themselves offer no solution.

They do, however put forward some intriguing hypotheses, not least being that of the "bow wave" effect in which some cataclysmic event in the future (in this case a nuclear holocaust) is sending back waves to us of the impending disaster. As the holocaust draws nearer so the waves (in the form of CE3s) become more bizarre and

and the messages received more urgent if, alas, no more explicit! It is a mind-boggling theory even in a world where pre-cognition of disasters is a not uncommon experience. CE3s are certainly becoming a more more frequent part of the UFO story and the messages received more strange. Those given to the Sunderlands make Adamski's appear positively rational if not mundane! Alien Contacts is a noteworthy example also of how random CE3 experiences are both in geographical location and human selection. Well worth reading, but like Adamski's claims reservations must be entertained. Were these really physical manifestations?

JB

How To Build A Flying Saucer
And Other Proposals in Speculative Engineering. T.B. Pawlicki. Corgi. 1983. 139pp. £2.50.

Readers of the Bulletin, and others interested in UFOs may be tempted to buy this book. Don't! The author is an amateur physicist who, although he knows a lot about science, has it all jumbled. The book should really carry a government health warning: "DANGER, THIS BOOK CAN DAMAGE YOUR MIND!" It is written in the language of science, but in a garbled form, like the patter of Stanley Unwin. It is also crude and undisciplined.

Apparently the chapters first appeared as articles in the US magazine "Pursuit"; they cover not only the subject of the title, but how the ancients could have built their megaliths, how to create a world-wide communications network using Bronze-age technology, Velikovsky-type speculations on the solar system and gravitational energy, how to transmute elements by "engineering the geometry of standing waves," and how to travel through time! It is claimed that the "flying saucer" chapter was selected at the MUFON international conference in Mexico City for translation and publication Latin America.

It is unfortunate that as knowledge of science spreads, so does pseudo-science. This book is full of the latter, demonstrating the truth of Pope's warning that "A little learning

is a dang'rous thing! to make matters worse, the author has a proletarian chip on his shoulder; as a 'tradesman' he knows it all, while so-called experts know nothing. I was particularly annoyed by an accusation that architects "frequently forget to allow for the thickness of walls because they never have to do the job"

A catalogue of his technical errors and outrageous statements would occupy a book of at least the same length. He does not even know much about UFOs and appears to accept most reports at face value. He suggests that some "UFOs are devices made by human inventors or government agencies, and in particular that the US space programme is merely a cover for a real "flying saucer" programme! Elsewhere he postulates that UFOs are time machines, but not from our future!

His "flying saucer" would be lifted by rectified centrifugal force (which does not exist); i.e. he thinks he can arrange for the "force" to operate upwards only. He would use an "electronic centrifuge" based on a betatron! However, he misunderstands flywheels, circular acceleration and electrons (which he thinks have no mass). Some of his ideas are based on the mistaken belief that Professor E.R. Laithwaite (of Imperial College of Science and Technology, London) has been working on an "antigravity machine."

SC

BOOKS ON UFOs ancient mysteries etc., bought and sold. SAE for latest catalogue of over 400 items. John Trotter, 16 Brocklehurst Gardens, London, NW7.

MEETINGS

October 8th, 1983:

UFOs and Fallucinations. Dr. Sue Blackmore.

November 12th, 1983:

US Intelligence Agencies and UFOs. Timothy Good.

December 10th, 1983:

AGM followed by "Take Me To Your Leader." Jenny Randles.

All BUFORA meetings will be held at the London Business School, Sussex Place, London, NW1 beginning at 6.30pm.

(See June Bulletin for details of venue)

BUFORA CONGRESS '83.

Over 90 delegates attended BUFORA's 3rd International Congress at Figh Wycombe from August 27th-29th, 1983. There was a very good overseas representation with delegates from the USA, Africa, Europe and Australia. A summary of the highlights will appear in the November, 1983 issue of the Bulletin.

JENNY ON TELLY

Jenny Randles, BUFORA's Director of Investigation is one of the contestants on the Thames TV programme "Tell The Truth" which will be televised later this autumn.

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