JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG, No. 123, 3/1999 ENGLISH SUMMARY

UFO OBSERVATIONS (p. 70-86)

Again heading the list of UFO stimuli in this issue are the sky trackers and the reflections of their light rays on low clouds. The "jupiter-like oval light" which moved from side to side several times on October 18, 1998 at Bruchmühle was most certainly such a reflection, as was the group of oval lights observed by several independent witnesses on January 12, 1996 over Scheeßel. Definitely identified as a sky tracker's reflection were the UFOs spotted on May 1, 1994 over Bielefeld by many witnesses.

Possibly a meteor was one of three observations ("a silvery arrow streaking across the sky") made on November 12, 1995 by a Greifswald UFO-buff. His other observations were of an undefined dark something very close which he was unable to describe, and a quick moving brown thing that quickly shot across the sky in the far distance.

An astronomer saw a triangular unidentified object that most certainly was nothing else but the lights of a plane on August 19, 1996 over Bremerhaven.

Although they usually feature very high on the list of stimuli, this issue has only one case that could have been due to a fire balloon. On March 29, 1997, a witness saw a "round brilliant light" landing in a forest at Overath.

A research balloon might have been the UFO observed on March 12, 1997 at Hemer-Ihmert. Through a telescope, the witness saw an orange disc carrying four lights the size of Venus. The witness also thought it might have been a balloon.

Insufficient data exist for four observations. In June 1996, a 10-year-old boy saw "a round thing with a pendulum attached" over Halle (if the drawing he holds can be relied on, this was a sky tracker), in December 1995, a brilliant disc of light was spotted over Rostock (the witness could not be identified), on January 21, 1996 a boy observed a UFO over Fellbach-Oeffingen while his mother heard engine noises (the newspaper concerned refused to cooperate with researchers), finally, "a ray of light with windows inside" was seen on June 13, 1996 at Neubrandenburg, but the witness refused to cooperate with researchers.

"UFO" - A LINGUISTIC PROBLEM (pp. 87-89)

The author explains how the term "UFO" is so loaded with meaning that even scientists willing to discuss extraterrestrial visitors will refuse to use it. Therefore, it should be avoided.

ROSWELL NEWS (pp. 89-90)

An article in the "Fort Worth Star Telegram" of July 9, 1947, contains interesting first hand information by Major Jesse Marcel which conflicts with the version of events as described by ufologists, but is in full keeping with Air Force explanations of the case. In the article, Marcel points out that the Roswell wreckage had been discovered "three weeks ago" and that it consisted on synthetic rubber and aluminium foil.

REVIEWS (pp. 91-98)

Dr. Roger K. Leir: The Aliens and the Scalpel - Scientific Proof of Extraterrestrial Implants in Humans. A somewhat naive book that promises far more than it can keep. As sensational as the discovery of alien implants might be, the author is neither scientific nor does he even for a second consider non-sensational explanations.

Robert E. Bartholomew and George S. Howard: UFOs & Alien Contact. A fascinating study of UFO-waves in the 19th and early 20th century, with a fine discussion of psychological aspects of alien encounters.