

UFO OBSERVATIONS (pp. 98–103)

Again, we list a selection of cases the GEP has received. All are IFOs or NEAR-IFOs. On a photo taken on 8 October 2010 at Ahrensfelde the photographer later discovered a dark smear he thought might be a UFO. However, as a flashlight was used, the diaphragm was open for a certain amount of time, and the smear is simply the path taken by an insect close to the camera. In the historic case from 7 October 1969, a man found a UFO in an image of the city of Köthen which he found in a coffee-table book. The photo shows an oblong and mysterious object – best interpreted as street light suspended on a wire. Again, a strange object was discovered much later on a photo taken on 1991 at Faßberg which most likely was just an insect or bird which was not noticed when the photo was snapped. Also only later noticed was a white irregular object on a photo taken on 5 June 2018 near Agioi Deki, Greece. This appears to be an airborne object close to the car (it is fuzzy while the landscape is in sharp focus), possibly a flower like the ones seen at the curb of the road. A video taken of a wobbling object in the sky on 24 November 2019 at Gaimersheim is certainly a balloon in the shape of a 4, carried by the wind, while the dark and globular object photographed by a hiker on 16 July 2020 near Hohenfelde will most certainly have been a figure foil balloon.

FLYING SAUCERS IN GERMAN PRESS REPORTS 1951 AND 1952 (pp. 104–119)

The author lists and details press reports from the German newspapers in the years 1951 and 1952. There was little coverage in 1951, but this dramatically increased in 1952. Topics included individual sightings in Germany and the world (including reports from Sweden, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, the UK, the US and South Africa), but also Keyhoe's first book, and alleged Nazi experimental saucers (the Miethe disc). While most of the 1951 reports stand alone, many of the 1952 reports reflect the same events – the Washington, DC, flap, a bright bolide over Northern Germany and Southern Scandinavia, and the claims that the Germans built Flying Saucers in WW II.

A UFO IN THE YEAR 1913? (pp. 120–121)

On December 15, 1913, a blue ball of flame, evidently a meteor, descended from the heavens and struck the barque *Belfast* when she was about 300 miles off the New Zealand coast. She reached Sydney Harbour “minus her foretopmast and fore-topgallant mast and the main royal mast.” These were carried away by the strange light. This incident which reads like straight out of a Bermuda Triangle book, was widely reported in the press at the time, and can at least be somewhat verified by notes that the ship was in dock later for repairs.

REVIEWS (pp. 90–94)

Maurizio Verga: *When Saucers Came to Earth: The Story of the Italian Ufo Landings in the Golden Era of the Flying Saucers* – The book collects close encounters in Italy from the first half of the 20th century (from 1912, Cordigora, Ferrara, to 1954, Lozio, Brescia). Each case lists all available sources, shows illustrations, maps, and attempts identification. It is an almost perfect book which shows that the saucers of the time, with their metal hulls, nuts and bolts, looked not futuristic, but rather like good old-fashioned technology. These incidents would hardly be believed today.