

THE RUWA INCIDENT

62 PUPILS WITNESS UFO LANDING

by Michael Hesemann, Magazin 2000

“Close encounters of the 3rd kind – CE-3” is the term UFO researchers use to describe UFO sightings/landings that include visible beings. These cases are rather rare and often reported by very few eye-witnesses. While some UFO manoeuvres can be seen by 10 thousands of witnesses, landings mostly take place in remote areas. The three best-documented CE-3 cases with numerous witnesses were the UFO-landing on Gran Canaria in 1976 (dozens of witnesses watched a transparent bullet with two huge humanoids inside hover above an onion field), the Bentwaters incident in 1980 (US soldiers witnessed a UFO landing in Randlesham Forest), and Voronesh in 1989

September 14th, 1994 started as a normal day in the life of Cynthia Hind. In the evening, temperatures would hardly cool down as spring was too hot in the highlands of Zimbabwe, the country south of the mighty Sambesi river. Harare, its capital, had become Cynthia's

home. Born in the cape province of South Africa and raised in a both wealthy and educated family, she had spent several years in England after her marriage before she and her husband settled in Salisbury in the erstwhile Rhodesia.

There, her father had left a furniture



(near a bus stop, adults and playing children saw a bullet-shaped object go down in the park and two humanoids step out). But on September 16th, 1994, a UFO incident happened that would outclass all previous cases. An unidentified flying object landed directly next to the playground of a school in Ruwa near Harare, capital of Zimbabwe – and 62 school children witnessed this really “creepy encounter of the third kind” [Note: this is the literal translation of Spielberg's German movie title]. MAGAZIN 2000 chief editor Michael Hesemann flew to Zimbabwe to talk to the witnesses himself.

factory to her, which Cynthia's husband took care of with her active support before she devoted herself completely to her real passion, writing about and dealing with the unknown. Her first book “UFOs – African encounters” was published in 1982 and became a cult book because for the first time, the Western readers were introduced to the Black Continent as being no ,White Spot' / unknown territory to UFO research. Still UFO sightings were scarce here, compared with the USA or Europe, which might be due to the sparse colonisation – only 11 million people live in Zimbabwe – or due to the majority's lack of interest in mysterious aerial sightings, Cynthia says. But as she was sitting in her oppressively hot office this Wednesday evening, studying her



Cynthia Hind

correspondence, she had no idea how soon this was going to change.

A loud explosion, followed by the vibration of the window panes, suddenly distracted Cynthia from her concentrated work. Instinctively, she checked her watch: It was 9:04 p.m. Shock shot through the stout lady. Her house is in Mount Pleasant, Harare's elegant residential area, with ambassies in her direct neighbourhood and the president's home nearby.

Additionally, the house where Mengistu had found asylum is near her home. Had an assassination been committed? Cynthia looked out of the window into her cared-for garden with its colourful flower beds and the swimming-pool that had refreshed her on many hot spring days, but everything seemed calm. She stood up, went into the garden, looked into the evening dusk – nothing! Her



Ariel School in Ruwa, Zimbabwe, became scene of a UFO landing on September 16th, 1994 – view on the class houses and the schoolyard

son and a good friend who stayed with her had both heard the bang, too, and were checking if everything was fine, and, without further ado, the courageous trio got into the car to inspect the neighbourhood – there had to be a way to find out what had happened.

As they returned home after half an hour, the telephone was already ringing. It would ring again and again, until long after midnight. Cynthia found out that what she had heard had been a sonic boom, caused by a mysterious celestial phenomenon which put people all over the country into excitement.

SPACESHIP OR SPACE SCRAP?

Throughout the southern part of the African continent, from South Africa to Botswana, the South of Zambia, all of Zimbabwe and up to Mozambique, people had watched the

evening spectacle. Most reports came from Lake Kariba in the North of Zimbabwe, a recreation area hosting dozens of ships that lay off during the nights and offered their crews a clear look at the evening sky. Among the callers was a doctor, the head radio operator of Lake Kariba, the owner of a popular safari camp, and a personal friend of Cynthia's who had his yacht berthed on

the lake. They all described the same: A row of lights between two rocket-like cones that would fly sometimes faster, sometimes slower across the lake, first from the North to the South, then, after altering its direction, from the East to the Southwest. Cynthia decided to inform the press, but they had already heard of the lights at "Herald", Harare's largest daily newspaper. A local astronomer was soon able to identify the sighting as a "spectacular meteor shower", an explanation that seemed logical to Cynthia at first, though a lot of details reported by the witnesses hinted into quite a different direction.

A week later, geologist professor Ewan Nesbitt, who had been on his way to London when the sighting occurred, said that at Greenwich Observatory he had been informed that a part of a Russian satellite, which had been launched on August 26th, entered Earth's atmosphere

over South Africa on September 14th. Later, Cynthia found out that fragments of it had been found in Karoi, northwest of Harare, and at River Chokwe in Mozambique.

This wouldn't convince Cynthia, either, since many witnesses had clearly spoken of altering directions of the mysterious light phenomenon, which is not typical of re-entry phenomena. For her it seemed clear that at least some of the described phenomena were caused by something completely different – unknown flying objects, extraterrestrial visitors, who curiously accompanied the Russian satellite's crash. But as fascinating as Cynthia's hypothesis was, events wouldn't grant her enough time to pursue it any further.

Only two days later, in the afternoon of September 16th, a hot spring day, she received a phone call from Tim Leach, BBC correspondent in Zimbabwe and a friend of hers. "Cynthia, have you heard of the UFO landing this morning?" he asked excitedly, and the UFO lady denied. "Yes, this morning at 10:15 a.m., immediately next to the private elementary school of Ruwa, 20 kilometers East of Harare! 62 children report to have seen a spaceship and its passengers. They are off for the weekend now, but on Monday I'll go there. Will you join me?"

Cynthia didn't need to think twice. But she wasn't the kind of person who would wait for two days, but started her own investigations of the case right away. She called an acquaintance in Ruwa,

a veterinarian, who had heard of the incident himself, and who even knew parents whose children attended the school. Ariel School (named after the arch angel) had been founded in 1991 because some of the wealthier citizens of Ruwa didn't want their children to attend a state-run elementary school as their standard was not the best. Ariel School's headmaster Colin Mackie employed excellent teachers and developed a wide-ranging curriculum which was supplemented by an extensive sports program in the afternoons. The school evolved into an insider's tip, and its good reputation got as far as to Harare, and some parents weren't even deterred from



Headmaster Colin Mackie

driving for half an hour. The group of 18 students that the school had started with grew to a number of over 200 students in 1994, mostly from the middle class and upper class, deriving from all ethnical groups: the Blacks, the Coloured and the White would learn to form a community here. They were aged 5 to 12, attending the 1st to 7th grade.

THE FIRST INVESTIGATION

The first student's mum that Cynthia called was Alyson Kirkman, a physio therapist whose daughter **Fifi** (10) attended that school. Alyson turned out to be an indirect witness of the event herself. Like other mothers, she would help out at the small kiosk in the schoolyard and sell drinks and sweets to the children. "Luke Nel, one of the older students (12 years old), came running to me and told me all excited that he had watched a tiny man in a silver suit and



Top: Closeup of the landing site.

Bottom: The swamp adjacent to the schoolyard and the bush in front of which the UFO landed.



with a silver lace around his forehead walk around in the playground."

"Dontcha pull my leg", the mother said coolly. She thought of a hoax and assumed that she was to be enticed away so the children could "scavenge" the kiosk.

"More children were coming, and they all were really excited. They said that a kind of white object had landed maybe 100 meters away from them. It was reportedly glowing in some way, and several children mentioned a buzzing sound in the air. After a while it would lift off and come closer. Some children became hysterical with fear, especially one little girl."

Still she didn't consider leaving her kiosk – especially not for something that she believed didn't exist.

Even Alyson's daughter Fifi claimed to have seen the object, and when Cynthia asked to talk to the girl, Fifi told her her story over the phone. A "silver white light", Fifi said, had landed behind the trees, while a quiet buzz could be heard. Some children say they have seen little men in black suits with "strange eyes", but Fifi, who was too far away, couldn't see them.

Cynthia made her next telephone call

with **Barry Downing**, a student 11 years of age. "First I saw the crowd at the end of the playground, then I saw the object myself. It was surrounded by a ring of flickering lights, then a bright light lit up, and the object disappeared and instantly appeared somewhere else. This happened for three times. Then something that looked like a small black bullet descended and landed near the gum trees. Some children saw a little man who appeared on top of the object, dressed in black, with a long, thin neck and eyes like Rugby balls. The little man vanished and reappeared while we were seized by a breath of wind."

Fungai Mavengare, a third student, could determine two little men who climbed off the object and walked to and fro before the childrens' eyes as if they were puzzled. Their movements looked like slow motion.

The picture of what had happened at Ariel School the morning of September

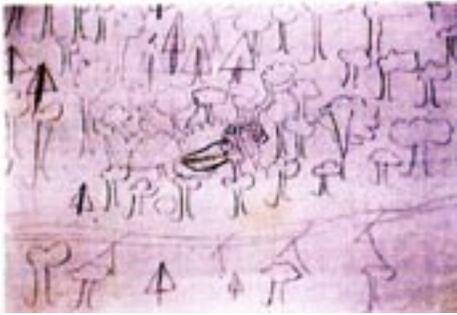


Ariel School

16th became clearer and clearer for Cynthia – it was a case of a dimension that she had never before lived to see.

On Monday morning, Cynthia met Tim Leach, and together with Cynthia's son Michael, the technician Gunter Hofer and a camera man they drove 20 kilometers to Ruwa. The route led them past the suburbs of the capital, straight through a deeply green veldt, past mighty grey rocks bulked up to look like a surrealistic sculpture. After passing by the gas station and the supermarket of Ruwa, you turn left into a country road that goes by several farms and extensive tracks of bush. Finally, you arrive at the school which is marked by a clean shield featuring the school's coat of arms: A number of strung-out, one storey houses, hosting the school's administration and class rooms. In front of them the spacious parking lot, to the left the sports facilities. Behind it there is the schoolyard / playground, a wide, cared-for lawn, which is separated from a forrested area

(which an electricity line passes by) by a swamp (fenced off by a dam), by thicket and a beaten path. Here, approximately 100 meters away from the playground, the UFO is said to have landed. The thicket is "off limits" for the students, not only because snakes sometimes crawl in the wetland, but mainly because it is hard to overlook.



LANDING TRACES?

Tom, Cynthia and her companions were welcomed by Headmaster Colin Mackie, who had taken action himself and asked the children to draw pictures of their sighting. “I really don’t believe in UFOs, but these children don’t lie. They wouldn’t lie to me”, he explains to the researchers. After being introduced to some of the witnesses, the group, accompanied by the two witnesses **Guy Gibbons** and **Fungai Mavengare**, both aged 12, went to look for landing traces.



Both of the boys were convinced that the landing had taken place between the third and fourth pillar of the overhead power line, but as the group searched the questionable area for traces, they wouldn’t find anything. Guy Gibbons, though, knew that on Friday, immediately after the landing, a group of students and their teacher had identified the right spot and found six clearly visible burnt marks. Additionally, there were none of the typically numerous ants there, which seemed at least unusual to him. On Friday, the boy said, he had seen hundreds of dead ants lying on the ground. Gunter Hofer examined the alleged landing site with his Geiger counter, but couldn’t find but minor radioactive anomalies. In a conclusive interview, Guy Gibbons told them his story.



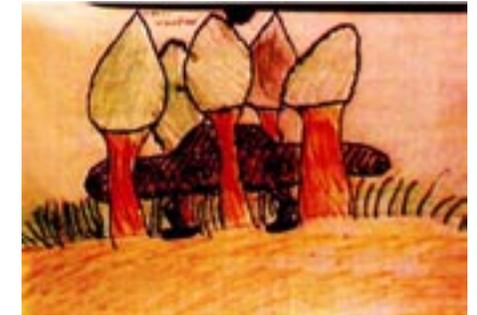
He said he was playing in the schoolyard when the excited clamor and gathering of his fellow students made him aware of “something going on”. He went there and



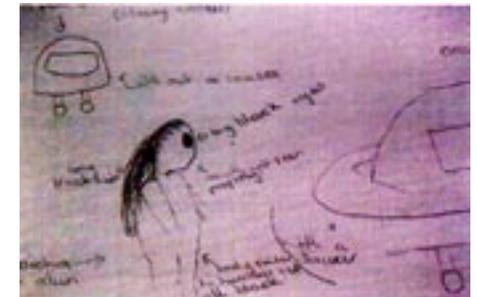
saw “this round object on the ground and some smaller ones next to it.” While he was still staring at the object with fascination, a little man climbed out and walked around. The man was the size of a six-grader. He had long, straight, black hair and wore a tight-fitting black suit. His eyes were extremely large and somehow slanting.



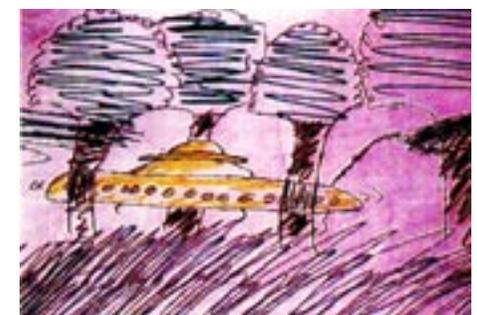
“He had but a slim slot for a mouth. I couldn’t see a nose. While I was watching this, two of the smaller girls started to cry. I walked up to them and asked them why they were crying. They said they were afraid the little man might come and eat them.” Apparently they took the being for a tokolosh, a goblin. African mothers tell their children: “Be good or the tokolosh will come and eat you.” When Guy heard that, he got frightened, too.

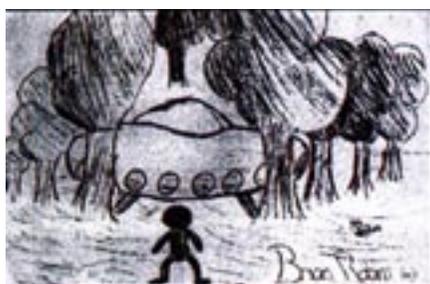
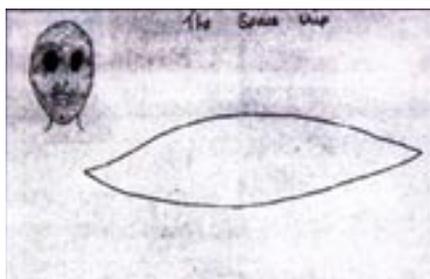
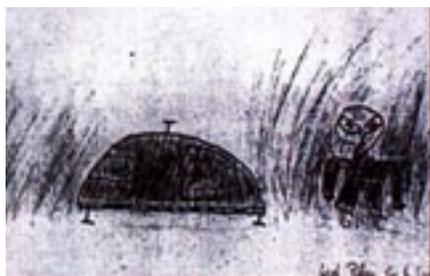


As the boy came home, his parents wouldn’t believe him. Even though they knew that Guy normally wouldn’t lie, they couldn’t possibly believe their son’s story. “There was no way to convince them”, he explained to Cynthia, “I can’t help it. I can only keep it all for myself.”



What impressed Cynthia most was the obvious sincerity and honesty of the children. You could literally feel that they were telling the truth and trying to put their experience in most accurate words. Of course there were contradictions, inconsistencies, but these would soon be explained as well: Some children could see more details than others because they simply had a better perspective on it. Some climbed the logs (that had





phases: The appearance of the object, its landing, the appearance of the beings. However, they agreed on a number of important details.

Cynthia felt with the instinct of a good writer and experienced UFO researcher that she was dealing with a world-class case. And the media covered it. BBC reported it the next day, the South-African and the Dutch tv would follow the next days and weeks, and thanks to Cynthia's initiative, even a world-class UFO expert became aware of the incident:

Harvard psychiatrist Professor **John E. Mack** who was on a research trip to Africa in December 1994. Mack, who has specialized in children's psychiatry, was fascinated when he had the chance to interview the children of Ruwa for two days. He, too, was sure that these students were telling the truth. For many of them, the UFO landing was a deeply formative experience, causing severe traumata, nightmares and, in one case, bed-wetting. Professor Mack spoke, among others, with three children who had left the playground, ventured into the thicket and come very close to the spaceship – "up to three or four meters", according to one of the children. They all described several beings and could look directly into the eyes of one of those. And they realized that the large spaceship was surrounded by several smaller ones. "It was a large spaceship with some sort of a saucer (cupola) on top of it, and there were some smaller spaceships hovering above the ground, and they were

been let in to the schoolyard) to have a better view, while others, especially the smaller pupils, struggled to actually look over the students in front. Additionally, some children saw the event in different

surrounded by small lights. When looking at them, they would look greenish. And they had some kind of a green window, but you wouldn't be able to see anything behind it, it was as though they had dark sun shades ... the little objects were all gathering around the large spaceship...

I saw two aliens. One was standing (in front of the spaceship), he had a longish face and (oval) eyes and two holes, but no nose, and they had normal arms... and normal legs... and I saw one of these men by the spaceship. It was as if he was guarding the large spaceship, and another one ran around, walked around in the grass... he walked staggering, he didn't seem to be going anywhere, he just walked around. And then he ran again, but only a short way and returned to the ship and disappeared, and the ship lifted off for about one meter and then disappeared, and the little ones as well", a white, blonde girl told Professor Mack.

"I saw this hovering object, and it was quite big, and there were little ones all around it. It looked as though they were changing the spaceship... the beings from the spaceship walked into different directions. But it only looked like that... they walked... out there... those were strange beings. I saw one of them in particular, other children saw more of them, some children were crying, and I gave them solace, because there was nothing to worry about these beings. I don't know why I said this... people were crying, and I turned around to see whether they were still there, and I saw this being.

It had big black eyes and a black body... it was in front of the spaceship, between the spaceship and us. It was slightly taller than me... it stood there and stared at me and (my fellow student) Selma who had called the people to come here. It stared at us and we tried not to look into its eyes because that frightened us. His large eyes frightened us. ...It was as if he wanted to tell me ,I want you. I want you to come with me.' My eyes followed him, my thoughts ... part of me wanted to follow him, but I was afraid; something told me that I shouldn't go with him, and something said I wanted to go with him... I think they want people to know that we are making harm on this planet and that we mustn't get too technoledged... that came to my head when the being looked at me", another white blonde girl said.

"The eyes were pointy. I didn't see its nose nor mouth, but the eyes were very big. They were black. It seemed to be looking at all of us. I was frightened because I had never seen such a person before. First I thought it was the gardener, but his eyes were so big, and my friend thought it was a UFO. He had long, black hair. He stood next to the ship. And there was a second one who was walking around in slow motion. And there were smaller ships hovering around the big one. There were some. They appeared and disappeared... I saw them and then I didn't. (The alien looked) sad... he just looked horrible and sad... I felt sympathy, but also, I was afraid. I felt sorry for him because I think he couldn't feel any love... that he needed love... I thought

the world was gonna end, that they had come to tell us that the world is gonna end... some kind of bad news... because we don't look after the planet properly and destroy the air... I felt horrible when I got home. I thought the world was gonna end, and there would be no air to breathe. He never said anything, his eyes looked horrible (and something about his eyes told me this)", said Lisel Pillay (then 11 years of age), a coloured girl.

In Mai 1995, at a conference of "Human Potential Foundation" in Washington D.C., I saw the film material of Professor Mack interviewing the Ruwa-Children for the first time, and I went to far lengths to prepare a journey to Zimbabwe and talk to the children myself. I was not to be disappointed.

JOURNEY TO RUWA

On Thursday, March 13th, 1997, I arrived in Harare, on time for a presentation that Cynthia had organized for me at the university of Zimbabwe – my longed-for opportunity to finally do research on site in Ruwa. In the highlands of Zimbabwe the rain season, the longest and most intense one in years, still lingered on, and though I had made an appointment with Headmaster Colin Mackie a week ago, I couldn't get through to him now since the mudslides had caused a new breakdown of the phone lines. So I went to Ruwa on Friday morning to try my luck. Mr. Mackie, dressed in an athletic polo shirt and a

baseball cap, welcomed me and said that I had chosen "Sports Day" of all dates to come here. Though he was very busy, he showed me the landing spot, gave me his collection of original drawings the children had made, and left it up to me to look for eye witnesses on my own. The amiable secretary could help instantly. She had seen Lisel, a witness who had left the school a year ago to attend high school, just like many other children who had been present in 1994. Lisel had a younger sister at Ariel School, whom she had accompanied on Sports Day. So we went looking for her.

Lisel Pillay turned out to be a bright, remarkably pretty coloured girl aged 13, and she was happy to tell me what she had seen back then. I did my best not to bias her answers and to avoid constricting terms such as "UFOs" or "Extraterrestrials". For Lisel, the object was a "ship", the crew member was a "little person", and we left it at that. And this was Lisel's story: "I saw several lights light up, about at the height of the dam (on the other side of the swamp; MH). Suddenly we saw a strange silver thing.



Lisel Pillay and her drawing

My friends and I ran to see what it was. It was round, like half a bullet of silver or a plate. Then we saw somebody get out of it. He wore a black suit and was quite small. And his eyes were big and black. The covered almost all of his face. The teachers were in a staff meeting. We went to tell them what had happened, but they wouldn't believe us. Then they went outside with us, but the ship was gone by then."

Did the ship, as you call it, fly to the trees?

"No, we only saw the lights flicker. Then, suddenly, we saw it near the rocks over there. Then we saw this person who came climbing out of it and stood and stared at us. We all got frightened then. That's why we went to tell the teachers."

For how long did the sighting last?

"I think it took three minutes until it disappeared."

Have all of the children seen it?

"Yes, we all saw it. Almost everybody. I am sure everybody saw it because the playground was full of children."

That being that you saw, what did it look like?

"We saw two people", Lisel corrects me. "One had long black hair, the other one was bald, and they both had large

eyes. All the smaller children were afraid and crying. His skin tone was bright, he was quite short, had big, black eyes. I couldn't see his nose; there was nothing. And his mouth was very small. He stood on our side of that thing, a second one on the other side. One of them had long, black hair, the other one was bald, and they both had these big eyes. All of it happened in front of the trees, but it was hard to look through the long grass."

What did you think when you saw the beings? What do you think did they come for?

"I think they came down to warn us, something that has to do with our world. When looking at them, somehow you could tell that they were harmless, they didn't want to harm us. We all have exchanged each others ideas of why they have come, and most children share my thoughts."

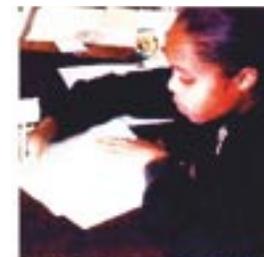
Have you often thought of it afterwards? Have you dreamt of it?

"I dreamt of it, yes, I had horrible nightmares. I dreamt they were coming to my bed to fetch me. But that's over."

Have you ever been to the spot where the ship had landed?

"Not me. I was afraid. But our teacher went there, and she told us that she had seen lots of dead ants and dead birds

Lisel Pillay drawing her sighting





UFO photographed by Steve Thomsen in Kanarrville/Utah, fall of 1994. Most children of Ruwa agreed that "their UFO" resembled this photographed object.

volunteered to fetch them. Some minutes later, **Trisha Nell** (12) and **Emily Windrom** (11) stood in front of me. Both were friends, white. Trisha was tall, almost skinny, and blonde, Emily was shorter, brown-haired. They both wore the school uniform for girls, sky blue, plain long dresses, a bright red hat on their heads. "We saw a bunch of children gathering in one corner of the playground, and Amy (a classmate) came and hailed to come along and look what it was. It

was simply a shiny object over there in the bush. All the children said they had seen aliens and stuff like that, but the teachers only said: „Forget it, there was



Trisha Nell (12) and Emily Windrom (11)

lying there."

I asked Lisel to show me where she had seen the object and to draw the ship and the being from her memory. In return, I gave her a UFO calendar, not without using the 13 photos for a further test: "Lisel, show me the photo that resembles your UFO most..." Lisel turned the pages carefully and slowly, looked at the photos intensely before she decided. "This one!", she said and showed me a photo taken near Kanarrville in Utah in 1994. I thanked Lisel again, asked for her address, and she asked for – and received – Professor Mack's address.

While filming in the schoolyard, I met a friendly, bearded teacher who confided to me after a short conversation that he knew two witnesses, and who

nothing.' I didn't see aliens or anything like that, I am afraid I was too far away, only a shiny object, and there were many lights all around it." Emily, too, only saw "this really shiny object in the bush. Everybody were standing around it, like Trisha said. Two girls saw it first and asked us to hurry, and there was this glowing thing in the bush over there. It was somehow round at the bottom, and then flat."

I asked both of them to draw their sighting and show me in the UFO calendar which of the photos resembled "their" UFO most. Both wavered between the Utah photo that Lisel had chosen and another object, and finally agreed on a photo from Montemorelos/Mexico, taken in summer of 1994, and both emphasized that "their" UFO had not had "those bullets down there".

Meanwhile, the friendly man had found **two boys**, one of them black, the other one white, both ten years of age, wearing short khaki trousers and short-sleeved khaki shirts and the common red hats. "We saw such a silver thing over there near the trees", they told me. "We had our long break, and we were not allowed to walk down the beaten path. The thing landed and stood there for maybe two or three minutes, then two or three people appeared who stood around the thing. It was like a comic; that thing had four legs and was quite big, and three people came out."

The beings were said to be wearing black suits and having big, black eyes. "They



The boys

had landed on an ant hill, and finally that thing lifted off again, approximately twice as high as I am tall (that is about 2 meters), and then it disappeared, it simply disappeared." Looking at the calendar photos, the boys agreed on the same photo as Lisel, the photo taken in Utah. I thanked the boys and said goodbye to Mr. Mackie and his secretary, we made an appointment for Monday morning, 9 a.m. Then, the headmaster promised, I was to meet two classes full of UFO witnesses and spend all morning with them. I promised to answer whatever questions the children had, be it about UFOs or my home country Germany.

At 1:00 p.m. I had an appointment with **Robyn Selous**, a girl aged 11, who belonged to the witnesses, too. Robyn's mother was head of a factory in Ruwa, an elegant, friendly coloured business woman. Robyn was a small, slender girl with brown skin, curly, brown-blond hair and big, brown eyes like a fawn. In the beginning, she was a bit shy and timid, but after talking to her for a while, she

seemed to like me, and she unreservedly told me about her experience:

“It was during our long break, and everybody were playing. Suddenly everybody came together, everybody ran there, me too, and everybody were afraid, so was I. I cried, and I didn’t know what was happening. Many said they had seen aliens and UFOs, and so I got frightened. The teachers were in a staff meeting. I was so afraid that I locked myself in at the girls’ room, but the teachers wouldn’t believe us. They asked us to paint a picture of what we had seen, and so we did. They still wouldn’t believe us. I was so afraid I couldn’t even tell my mother about it.”

Were you able to recognize anything yourself?

“I left the class room quite early and saw that thing that had landed in the trees, and lights were shining. It was as if it had landed in the trees. It wasn’t perfectly round, but rather oval, and the top was domed, it wasn’t flat. And lights went all

around it. Doors or anything like that were not visible. My friends said they have seen three things come out, with round faces. I didn’t see them. I didn’t go any closer, I was afraid. I went to my class house (Ariel School consists of administrative offices and five houses comprising three class rooms each), I went to the toilet, I cried and I was frightened, I was afraid they were coming to fetch us.”

Was it something real, like, for instance, the landing of a helicopter, or rather like a vision?

“It was scary.”

Yes, but rather real or rather like a vision?

“Real.”

And was it rather blurred or two-dimensional or was it a structured object?

“Structured object!”

Looking through the photos of the UFO calendar, Robyn wavered between the

photo of Mexico (that Trisha and Emily had chosen) and the Utah photo (that Lisel and the two boys had chosen).

Robyn’s mother adds: “Only three days after the event we talked about it. I got to know about it through somebody else. When I asked Robyn about it, she hesitated. I really had to grill her about it. She seemed to be afraid of it, very afraid. Then we parents received a letter from Mr. Mackie. He wrote that we shouldn’t attach too much value to all this hype.”

VISITING CYNTHIA

In the afternoon, I had an appointment with Cynthia who gave me files on this case and showed me video material of the Ruwa children which had been recorded by the BBC the Monday after the landing. Among those videos there was an interview with **Amy Candas**, in other words with the girl who had made Trisha and Emily aware of the phenomenon. “My friends Claire, Hailey and Camilla and I strolled across the schoolyard when we saw this lunar-coloured thing hover, appear and disappear, and we followed it and got onto one of those logs (that are embedded in the schoolyard for balancing games, MH), and we looked and saw this silver thing, it was shiny. We wanted to run

there, but Claire said we mustn’t, but I said it wouldn’t be that bad, so we went closer to it and saw this silver thing, and first we thought it could be a house up on the rock, with a reflecting glass or silver roof, but that was impossible because there simply was no house up there, and we waited for some minutes, then heard a flute sound, and we went closer and closer, and I saw that black person moving as if in slow motion, and I didn’t want to see it, turned away, and as I looked again, it was gone.”

Claire Rickson, 12 years old today, later told me: “We were in the schoolyard and saw a reddish light glittering in the sky, and as it appeared and disappeared, we went down there. And we saw a big, white, silver burning object, directly aside of the rocks, and we saw aliens in tight-fitting black suits, their faces were not covered, who seemed to walk around in slow-motion. You couldn’t really see the ship because it was one huge light. But it was real. I was afraid and excited both at once, and I was very angry with our teachers who wouldn’t believe us.” In the BBC interview she adds: “The being in the grass looked at me, and we (my friends and I) were terrified, and we ran back because we were afraid.”

To be continued

Robyn Selous and her drawing



Claire Rickson