

**Brilliantly Shining Object and Strange Figures in Langenargen**  
**CE1/CE3-Case**

by Illobrand von Ludwiger and Adolf Schneider

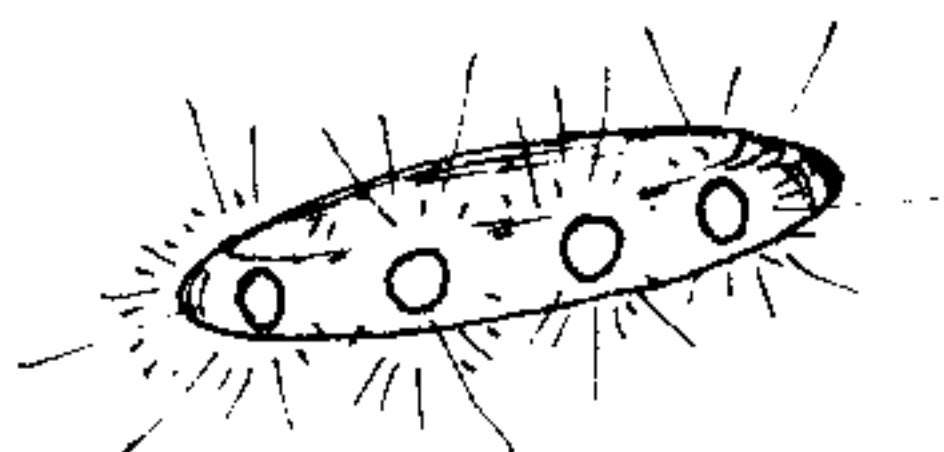
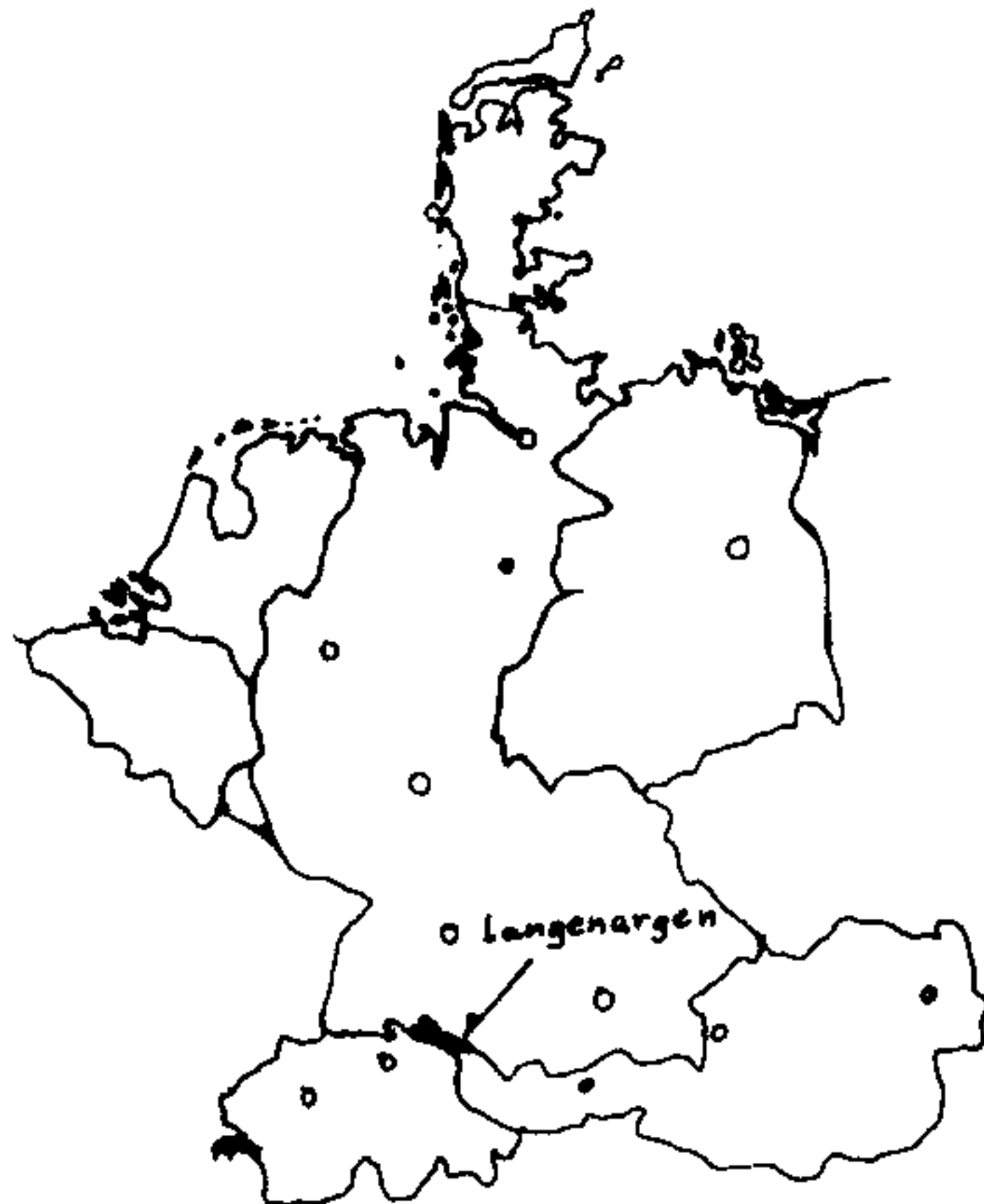
translated from the German by William Craig

MUFON-CES Report NO. 4, 1978, pp 43-83:  
"Strahlenwirkungen in der Umgebung von UFOs"

and

MUFON-CES Report NO.8, 1981, pp 346-354:  
"Offizielle Untersuchungsberichte der Russen und  
der Amerikaner über unidentifizierbare Himmelserscheinungen"

**Location** : Langenargen/Lake Constance  
**Time** : 24/2/1977 between 2:30 - 3:45 a.m.  
**Objects** : 2 bright fusiform objects, each with  
4 brilliantly shining "searchlights"  
**Distance** : > 50m  
**Altitude** : > 15m  
**Size** : ca. 17m  
**Witnesses** : 6  
(for CE I)  
**Reliability**  
**Index** : pr = 99.99%  
**Witnesses** : 1  
(for CE III)  
**Reliability**  
**Index** : pr = 90%  
**Peculiarities**: 2 figures, 1.10 - 1.30m high,  
seen by 1 witness



**Interviewers:**

Prof. Claus H. Bick  
Illobrand von Ludwiger, M.S.  
Dr. Irene Saenger-Bredt (+)  
Prof. Werner Schiebeler  
Adolf Schneider, M.S.  
Siegfried Streubel, M.A.

## Part I - The Sightings

### 1. Introduction

Supposedly shining a thousand times brighter than magnesium light were the UFOs reportedly seen during the night from Ash Wednesday to Thursday, the 24th of February, 1977, by the 52 year old Rudi Grutsch (now deceased), proprietor of the "Waldeck" Cafe-Restaurant in Bierkeller, and the German Federal Railways employee Lothar Schaefer, 27, from Langenargen. Schaefer even felt himself so assaulted and threatened by the strange happenings that he fled in panic to seek protection in a neighboring house, breaking the glass door with his fist. Reports from independent witnesses, as well as thorough questioning of the primary witnesses and psychological evaluations, verified the authenticity of the events.

We first learned of the incident through a short article in the Bildzeitung from March 3, 1977, fourteen days after its occurrence:

#### UFOs OVER LAKE CONSTANCE: SEEN BY 8 WITNESSES

im. Langenargen (Lake Constance), 2nd March.

Neither the German Federal Railways employee Schaefer ("I drank four beers at the most"), nor the innkeeper Rudi Grutsch, nor even Mr. Zirn, want to claim to have drunk too much that night on Lake Constance when the UFOs came.

It was last week, Thursday, two o'clock in the morning, as Mr. Schaefer came out of his favorite bar in Langenargen: "Suddenly a shrill howling and brilliant searchlight beams. From a height of about 50m two shapes dove towards me with a deafening noise. I screamed for help and ran away." Mr. Schaefer was so scared that he jumped in fear through a pane of glass.

Innkeeper Grutsch verifies: The parking lot in front of my bar was lit up as bright as day by the glaring light." Five other neighbors also claimed to have seen and heard the two UFOs.

After one of us (A. Schneider) personally spoke with the witnesses for the first time, it became clear that the case apparently dealt with a Close Encounter of the Third Kind (CEIII). The primary witnesses described their experience in more detail to the Schwäbische Zeitung (Friedrichshafen) on March 4th, wherein it was stated:

To the question whether he had also noticed the shapes of any occupants in the strange object, Mr. Schaefer declined to reply: "That point I wish to discuss with experts only."

As a result we were quietly able to seek verification of the experiences of the witnesses, undisturbed by publicity and sensationalism.



Figure 1: Langenargen on Lake Constance.



Figure 2: Bierkeller-Waldeck with the Waldeck Café.

Numbering over 5000 residents, the town of Langenargen, which lies on the northeast shore of Lake Constance, has been from time immemorial a beloved and heavily visited recreation center. In 1970 the "Sonnenstube" on Lake Constance could look back upon a changing and traditionrich 1200 year history. Prominent landmarks of the town are the Montfort Castle, rebuilt in the Moorish style in the 19th century, and the splendid Baroque Church of St. Martin. Along with the 250 industry, commerce and handicraft businesses which are today based in Langenargen, the tourist trade, farming and lumbering play important roles. The Institute for Seas Study Group for the Protection of Shorelines on Lake Constance, has gained special significance. (see figure 1)

Bierkeller-Waldeck, lying 2 km to the north of the town center, and focus point of the UFO incidents of 24 February, sheltered an air observation stand during the Second World War. This observation post was evolved from a para-military association founded in 1928, and was incorporated into the German Air Force shortly before the war began. Near here, in the 1km distant community of Schwedi, was the then Naval Radio Bearing Station, Southern Headquarters.

This radio, receiving, and transmitting center in the middle of Europe was part of a ship convoy monitoring and listening system. At the time gigantic dipole antennas, which were dismantled after the war, were located between the barracks. The German Army now has its 72nd Signal Corps Regiment's Radio and Direction Finding Southern Headquarters here.

## **2. First Sighting: Shining Objects over Lake Constance**

In the night from 23 to 24 February the weather was murky: the sky was largely overcast, and a weak breeze was blowing from the east. The waxing moon had already set by midnight. In the early morning hours Lothar Schaefer drove Rudi Grutsch home in his green Citroen 2CV. The two had spent the evening together in Langenargen, leaving the Magg Bar, near the train station, towards 2 a.m. After a few minutes Schaefer arrived at the Waldeck Cafe parking lot. (see figure 2)

While Grutsch was getting out of the car, Schaefer, who remained in the car, saw something shining in the sky and called it to Grutsch's attention: "Look! What's that up there?" It was lights, still pretty far away, but shining brightly. Between the tall spruce trees in front of the parking lot, and the gable of the Waldeck Cafe, the witnesses could see two bright points of light approaching in a straight line from Lake Constance. Grutsch, who claims to have flown 33 missions with the JU52 during World War II, and who was afterwards deployed as a paratrooper in the Africa Offensive, estimated the height of the objects to be about 1000 meters. A minute later Schaefer also climbed out of the car. Rudi Grutsch was so blinded by the dazzling brilliance of bluishwhite light coming from four circular "searchlights" on the front parts of the objects that he had to shield his eyes with his hand. Grutsch, who wears glasses (+0.9/+0.75 diopter) and does not hear well, could not make out any further details. Lothar Schaefer believed he could see oval contours standing out weakly against the dark background. (see figure 3)

Grutsch was disconcerted: "I've never seen anything like it before." Both objects approached rapidly, until they were about 500 m away. They then remained motionless for about 5 minutes, the lights sweeping the immediate area. Each of the objects appeared to be larger than a Sikorsky S-58 helicopter.



Both witnesses were overwhelmed by the intense brilliance of the objects. "A thousand halogen lamps would've been but a candle flame in comparison," Grutsch later states. Schäfler described the beams as "whiter than sunlight," comparable to the flashlight of a camera.

Schaefer, who was stationed in a helicopter unit in the German Army in Laupheim, began to wonder: Alouette choppers don't carry such bright light. These objects here emit a high-pitched whistling tone. Chopper noise would have shaken the entire neighborhood awake. An electrician, he is of the opinion that in order to produce that kind of brilliant light one would have to have installed an entire power plant up there.

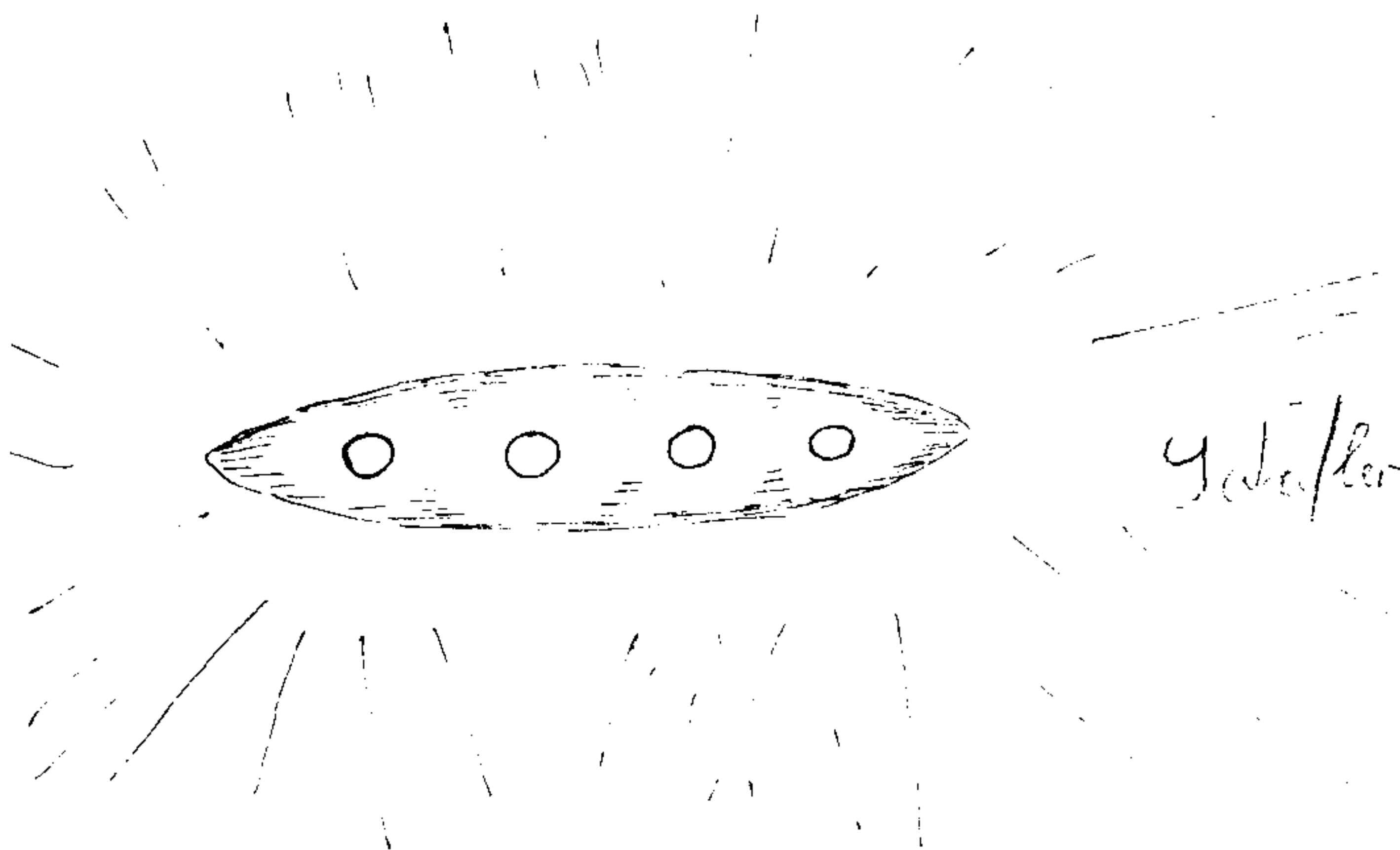


Figure 3: One of the objects drawn according to Lothar Schaefer's statements.

The lights, arranged to point directly toward the front, did not produce sharply defined beam cones. The immediate area was lit up as bright as day. The lights themselves appeared to flicker or quiver too rapidly, and to transform them-selves in some way.

After the now totally noiseless objects hovered in the sky for about 2 minutes longer, they began to approach one another slowly, until they appeared to touch. Both witnesses heard two cars drive by. The drivers must also have been able to see the lights, but were later impossible to trace.

Neither of the two men spoke any longer to one another, the spectacle having rendered them speechless. Suddenly "the things just disappeared, as though turned off." Grutsch looked automatically at his watch. It was ostensibly exactly 2:10 a.m.

Both Grutsch and Schaepler were of the firm opinion that they were not the victims of hallucination during the sightings. Unfortunately, it will always be questionable whether or not the witness Grutsch was inebriated, since he would not allow himself to undergo any psychological testing in the course of the investigation. Schaepler admits drinking a total of "4 - 5 1/4 l" of wine in the Magg Bar (later verified by the police in a blood-alcohol test: < 0.03%, meaning he was relatively sober).

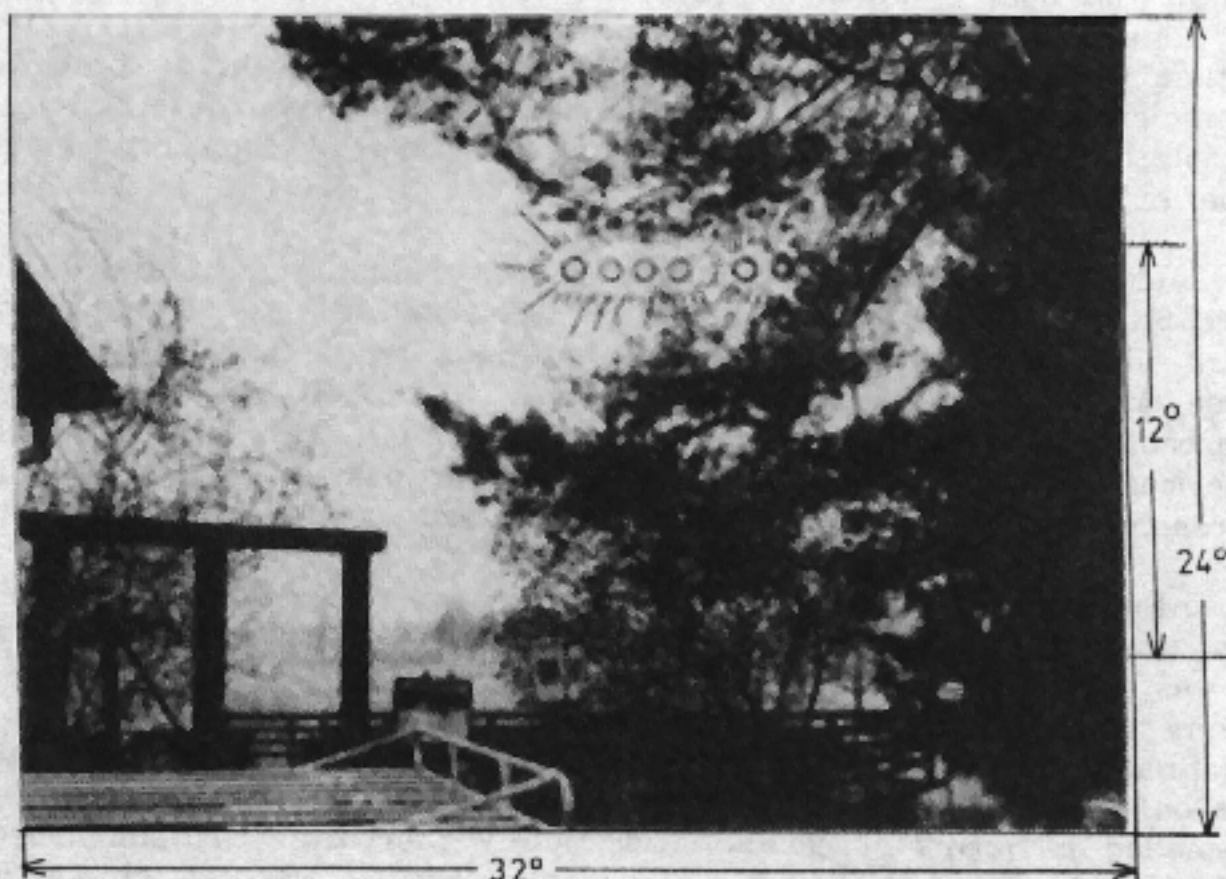


Figure 4: Location of the first sighting from the Waldeck Cafe parking lot.

### 3. Second Sighting: The Objects over the Waldeck Cafe

Shortly after 2:30a.m. Rudi Grutsch said good-bye to Lothar Schaepler. He entered the house through the back door, locking it after himself. Just as he was about to go up the stairs he looked out of the ground floor window and saw the unknown flying objects suddenly appear anew. This time they were coming out of the northeast, from the direction of Tuniswald, and appeared to be quite close. Grutsch estimated their distance at the beginning to be 150m, and their height at some 50-60m above the ground. Once again there were two times four lights, which lit up the back yard and neighboring houses as bright as day, such that the house walls partially became mere black shadows. "Had a copper penny been lying in gravel, it would have shone like gold," assessed the innkeeper later on. He went toward the ground floor window, approaching to within a half-meter of the closed window, before he suddenly found himself unable to go any farther.

He had no idea whether the cause of this cataleptic rigidity was psychic or physical in nature. He wanted to call out to Lothar Schaefer, but found himself unable to do so. "That's impossible! Such things simply don't happen!" and recalled: "I was standing there and thinking, 'now it's all over.'"

In the meantime the intensely brilliant objects came closer. Rudi Grutsch noticed Schaefer was still running around outside, first ducking to the right behind the nearby bushes facing the kitchen, which jut out from the rest of the house, then standing up again and fleeing around the far corner of the kitchen to the other half of the house. Unable to call out to Schaefer, Grutsch then claimed to have seen an indistinct shadow - shaped like a small barrel - swaying to and fro before the built-on kitchen, i.e. directly in the path of Schaefer's flight.

Asked for the duration of these events during a further questioning on April 6, Grutsch admitted: "I had lost all sense of time. To me it was just too long. All I could think was, 'My God, what's happening!'" After about two or three minutes - he can't remember exactly - the objects began once again to approach one another, as in the first sighting. This time, though, the two innermost lights appeared to fuse, then disappear. The remaining lights came increasingly close together, until they also coalesced and disappeared.

Unfortunately, Schaefer was unable to verify this spectacle later on, having been unable to look directly at the lights because of their terrific brightness. "It was simply not comprehensible to me," repeated Grutsch over and over again during a later interview. "First it was eight, then six, then four, then two lights, and finally one. The last light even appeared to get bigger." The fusion process took only a couple of seconds. In his opinion, "the last light's getting larger and proceeded in jumps or jerks." Immediately thereafter Grutsch heard cries for help, and the clinking of pieces of broken glass. He was now able to move again, and ran to the upstairs window in the hope he would be able to see more from there, but outside all was bathed in darkness. He remained standing in front of the window for a while longer, before going into the bedroom, shaking all over. Mrs. Grutsch, by now awakened by the noise Schaefer was making outside, thought a burglar was trying to break into the house. The next door neighbor, Mrs. Burk-hart, has no telephone, and called to her from an open window to call the police at once. At first she also suspected a burglary. Mrs. Grutsch then called the police station in Friedrichshafen. Upon perceiving her agitated husband, who repeatedly whispers that he has just experienced something too impossible to believe, she didn't press him, but instead dressed quickly, intending to run over to her neighbor's. (see figure 5)



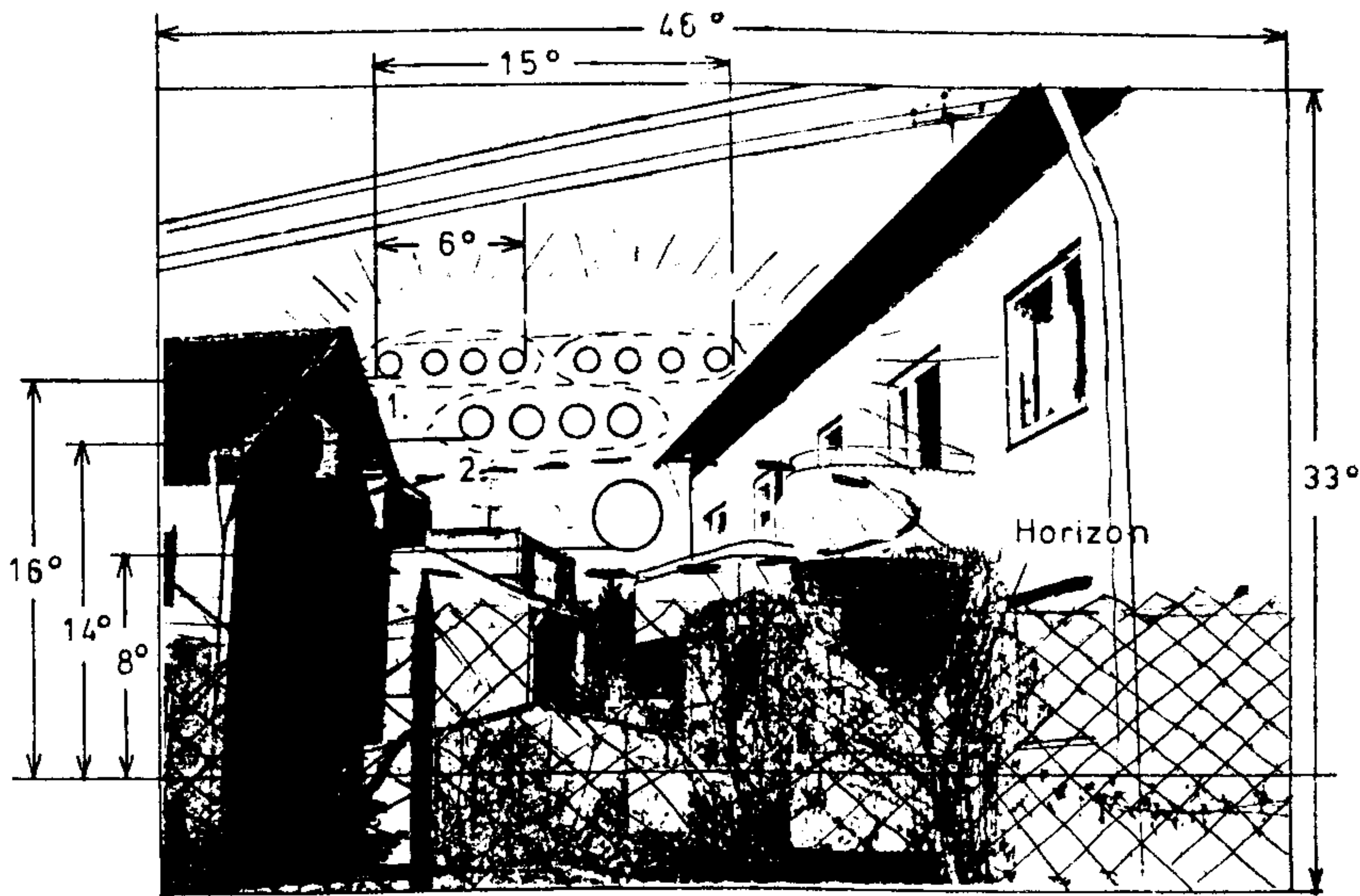


Figure 5: View from the ground floor window at the back of the Waldeck Cafe.

#### 4. Unknown Figures Appear Suddenly

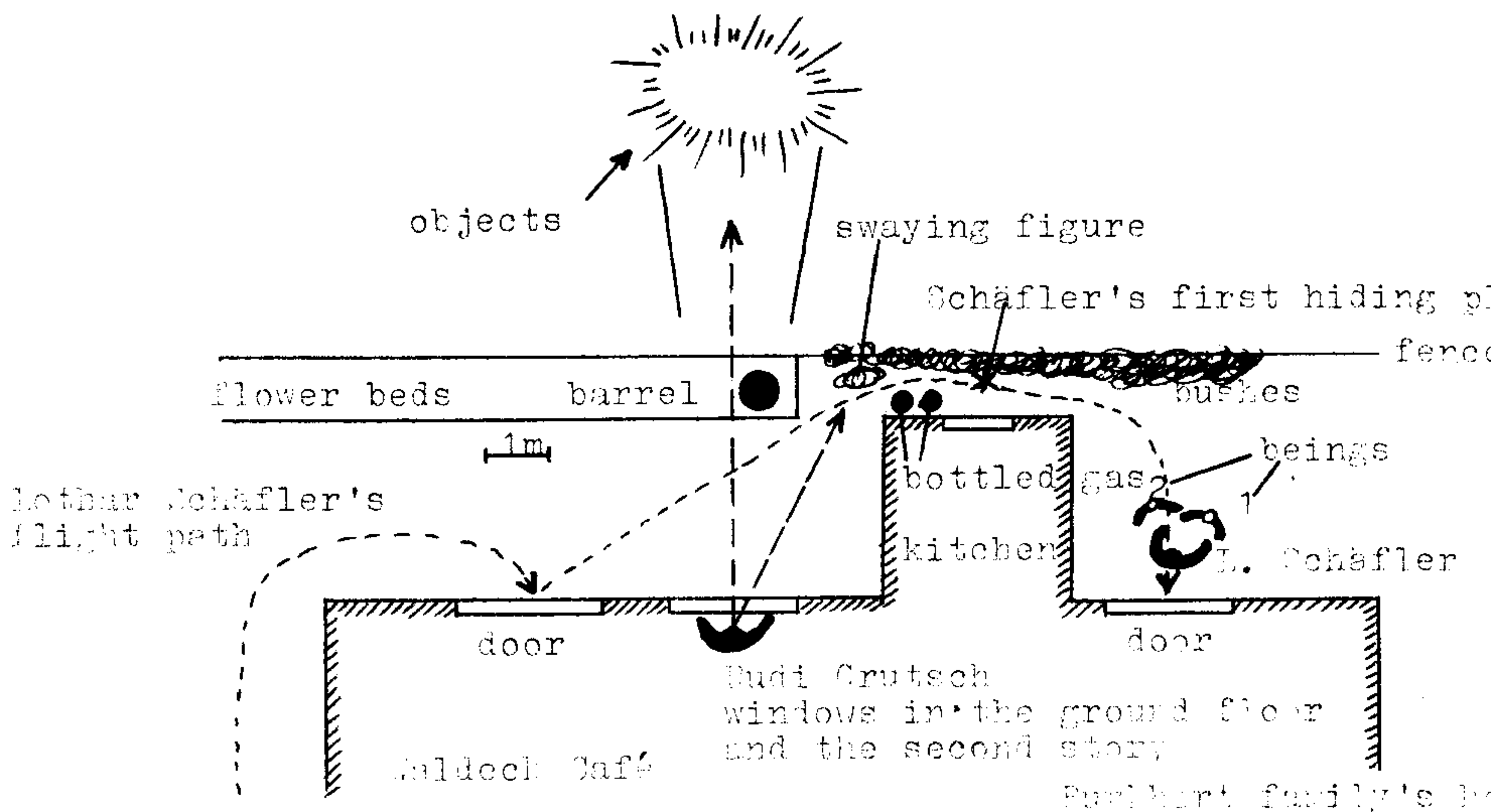
Meanwhile Lothar Schaefer has experienced a time of terror. Shortly after the sudden disappearance of the objects, just as he is about to climb into his car, he also saw the light flare up in the sky once again. This time there was only one object, but very near. The enormous size of the object instilled in him an overwhelming anxiety. He wanted to follow Grutsch into the house, ran first to the south entrance, then to the north, but all doors were locked.

Schaefer reports: "There were four very large searchlights, or whatever they were, kind of circular, or maybe semicircular, that constantly wobbled or quivered - if they were even lights". The object emitted an extremely high - pitched, piercing, but not loud, tone of constant intensity. (Schaefer, who is employed by the German Federal Railways in a telecommunications workshop, and earlier by the Saba Works, compares the tone to the 15kHz tone of a sine wave generator, as used to test loudspeakers.)

Lothar Schaefer ran along the kitchen wall and threw himself full length in the small bushes before the back yard fence. The light kept coming closer. By now the entire area was lit up so blindingly bright that Schaefer didn't even feel secure in this hiding place and ran to the rear entrance of the Burkhardt's house.

There Schaefer suddenly heard a short whistling sound, "from very high to low frequencies," felt a slight draft of air, and - as though conjured out of nothing - suddenly there stood two strange, alien beings directly behind him.

The figures were no more than about 1.30m and 1.10m tall, respectively (as later indicated by comparative measurements). The beings had a quite human-looking body, although their long arms reached almost to below their knees. Conspicuous was also their oddly cramped fingers, reminiscent of those of spastic children. Other than a kind of frill around the neck - somewhat like a harlequin - with some 6-7 light green "star-like serrations," Schaefer could not make out any further articles of clothing. Their skin appeared to be somewhat lighter than human skin. Their hairless heads were completely round, as were their clearly defined mouths. Ears and noses could not be seen, nor did they have necks. The strange figures rocked their torsos slowly back and forth. At the same time their small eyes - "like the Chinese, slanted, but not as narrow" - stared unflinchingly at Schaefer, now paralysed with fear. The larger being stood about 1m away from the witness, whereas the smaller one was at a 90 arc to the left.



Figures 6: Positions of the observer

Schaefer recalls: "I stared at them, and they stared at me, and then I simply went nuts." Although the figures made no gestures signifying aggressive intentions, Schaefer flew into a state of panic. He threw himself against the Burkhardt's door and cried for help, but the door was locked. In his desperation he impulsively broke the upper middle pane of glass, unlocked the door from the inside, fell on the floor, and didn't look around him anymore. By the time the house tenants arrived everything had disappeared - the beings, as well as the lights.





## 5. The Police Arrive

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt, the Grutsch's next door neighbors, later reported that someone repeatedly rang the door bell for about 15 minutes, beginning around 3:30a.m. Finally, cries and appeals for help were to be heard, along with the noise made by the breaking of the door glass. Only then did Mrs. Burkhardt get out of bed, although she was hesitant to run to the door to see who was there. Everything remained quiet for about 5-8 minutes. Then, from her roof window, Mrs. Burkhardt cautiously called over to the Grutsch's neighboring window: "Mrs. Grutsch! Someone was trying to break in. Call the police."

In Friedrichshafen, Police Sergeant Krüger answered the phone and immediately notifies the nearest patrol car.

After a while Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt went slowly down the stairs and found Lothar Schaefer lying prostrate on the hallway floor, his hand bleeding. Upon seeing them Schaefer calls out in his Swabian dialect, "they're flyin' around up yonder," and excitedly points to the sky. The Burkhardts, who did not notice anything, believed Schaefer - a complete stranger to them - to be either drunk or mentally unbalanced, and suspected he has been involved in a fight, as Schaefer had blood smeared all over his face from his bleeding hand. The police arrive within a few minutes, but suspected right away that this does not look like a burglary attempt.

Toward 4 a.m. the police took Schaefer to the Friedrichshafen Hospital, where his hand, cut open on two fingers by the glass shards, was bandaged. The policemen believed at first Schaefer was suffering from hallucinations brought on by an alcohol delirium, but began to wonder when the blood-alcohol test showed only 0.03%. (They were amazed that several scientists bothered to take the witness's story seriously, due to the general lack of information concerning the UFO phenomenon.) Towards 5 a.m. they called the witness's mother, who had understandably been worried over the whereabouts of her son, trying to calm her. Lothar Schäfer finally arrived home toward 6a.m.

## 6. Further Witnesses

The following day Schaefer informed his colleagues of his experiences. He was sick and unable to work. His friend and colleague Wolfram Nafts from the telecommunications unit talked him into reporting the incident to the press as a means of eventually locating further witnesses. Although Grutsch and Schaefer foresee mocking and derisory comments bound to come from many of their friends and neighbors in the future, they agreed to follow this suggestion. Thus a short notice appeared in the Bildzeitung from 2 March, supplemented by a more thorough representation in the Schwäbische Zeitung from March 4th.



In the course of the following days further persons came to the Waldeck Cafe, also claiming to have observed strange things during the night in question. Two of these additional witnesses could be personally interviewed by us. A third witness described his experiences over the telephone.

Within 100m of the Waldeck Cafe, in a northeasterly direction, lives the Brielmayer family, on Buchenstrasse. While her husband was peacefully sleeping in the early morning hours of 24 February, Mrs. Brielmaier took a bath, long after midnight. Shortly after she also lay down in bed and heard a loud whistling noise in the sky. At first she thinks it was merely one of the night flights which regularly fly over the house between 1:30 - 2:00 a.m. on air corridor G4 in the direction of Oberdorf, to the northeast. Because, though, of their high altitude of 8000m, the planes are to be heard only under certain weather conditions.

The 65 year old witness told the following: "Hardly did I get in bed, when I started thinking what an unholy racket the planes were making today. After two minutes at the most, the loud sound was there again. Now it sounded as if there were two objects which wanted to land. Besides a low-pitched, very, very strong noise like a motor, there was also a high-pitched, whistle-like humming in the air." The noise reminded Mr. Brielmaier of the roar made by the French SA330 Puma transport helicopter, units of which are stationed in nearby Eriskirch and Friedrichshafen. Her son-in-law, Mr. Hoffmann, was later of the opinion that the French must have performed a night flight maneuver on February 24th. In any event, a landing approach right in the middle of the houses would certainly have been forbidden. Furthermore, the whistling made by the objects was supposed to have been comparatively louder.

Upon hearing someone yelling, Mrs. Brielmaier pulled the bedroom curtains aside from her bed, and now had an unobstructed view in the direction of the kindergarten and Waldeck Cafe. The sky to the left of the Grutsch's and Burkhardt's semi - detached house was brightly lit up. The lower part shone lilac pink (\*), the middle part chamois, and the upper part grey-violet. Like a rainbow, the colors ran over into one another. Toward the top the lustre weakened noticeably.

The two primary witnesses also believed to have seen a slight bluish tinge. Whereas Schaeffler had indicated a shade approaching turquoise blue, Rudi Grutsch spoke of a weak color between turquoise and ultramarine. Mrs. Brielmaier stressed that the surrounding houses lay in darkness. (see figure 8)

Mrs. Brielmaier was unable to understand why none of the residents east of the Waldeck Cafe should not have heard or seen any traces of the objects. She herself claims then to have perceived cries, and shortly afterwards, the jingling of glass shards. Directly after that the coloring in the sky disappeared. The entire spectacle might have lasted for two minutes at the most, although she could not be sure.

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(\*) Philatelic Color Chart, LIPSIA, Vienna.

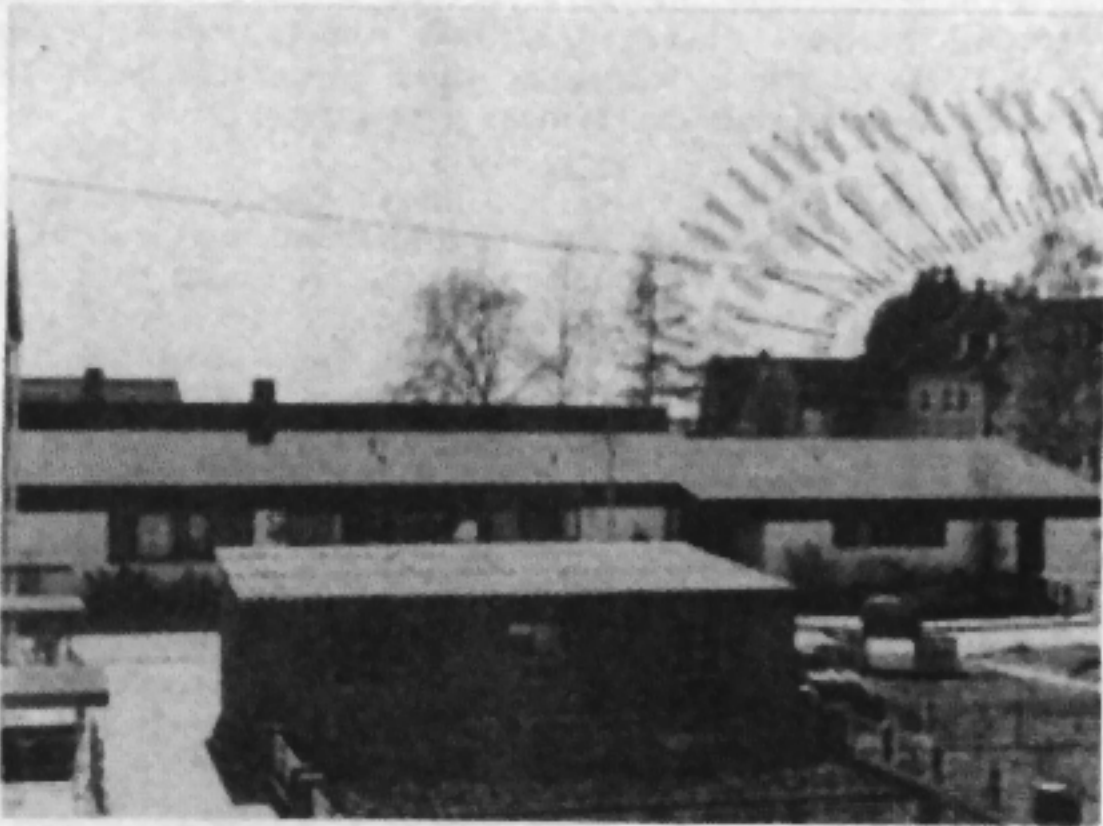


Figure 8: Mrs. Brielmaier's view of the aerial color display.

(The Brielmaier family's large German shepherd, confined to the living room on the ground floor during this time, remained quiet. The other dogs in the neighborhood, which occasionally bark loudly, were also quiet.)

Further inquiries in the neighborhood provided no new clues. Mrs. Eble, the bedroom of whose house on 11 Fichtenweg (house III, figure 10) faces south, had been sleeping soundly at the time and noticed nothing unusual. The other residents of the building, Mr. Krüger and Mrs. Scholz, also knew of nothing. Neither were any of the residents at Nr. 12 Fichtenweg (houses II, figure 10) able to remember any unusual happenings during the night in question. They all had heard only the cries for help and the arrival of the police, and were under the impression it had dealt with a family quarrel. Mr. Burkhart, Jr. and Mr. Braun, the residents of house Nr. 1 (figure 10), which lies behind the Waldeck Cafe toward the south, did not even bother to reply to a written inquiry. A further witness, Karl Brugger, lives in Endringer Manor, 1.4 km from Bierkeller-Waldeck, shortly before Oberdorf (figure 9). On the evening of Ash Wednesday he had already gone to bed by 9 p.m., having to get up very early to drive to work the next day. He suddenly woke up in the middle of the night and thought at first he had overslept because it was as bright as day outside, in the direction of Bierkeller. He then looked out the window: "It looked as if the police had set up a warning light, like the ones you see on the Autobahn after there's been an accident. It was extremely bright, brighter than the floodlights in a soccer stadium. It looked like a brilliantly lit round searchlight, but considerably brighter. Taking a quick look at the clock on the night table I saw that both hands were already past midnight."

Brugger did not notice the exact time. The size of the light had been difficult to judge, but he thought perhaps it might have had a diameter half of the full moon.

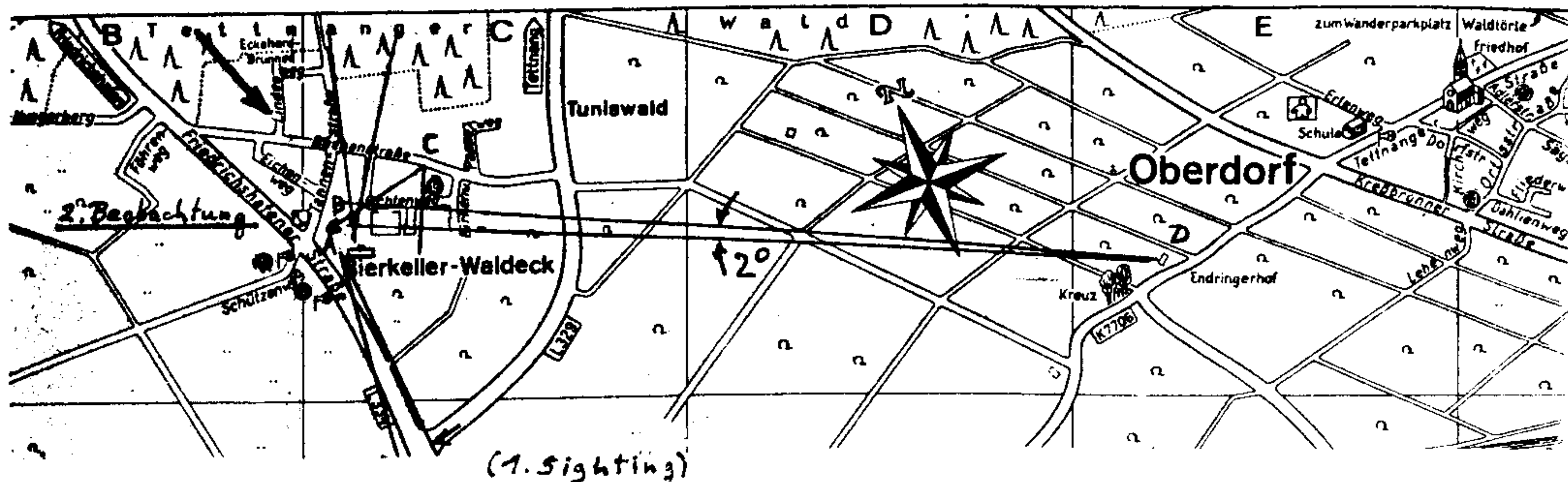


Figure 9: Map of Bierkeller-Waldeck and Oberdorf with the locations and fields of view of the various witnesses.

A supplementary report comes from Oberdorf, lying 2 km east of Bierkeller-Waldeck, and also administrated from Langenargen. Wilhelm Mehr, the brother of the former head designer of the Messerschmitt Works, and who has always had an active interest in air traffic, tells the following concerning his late night observations on February 24, 1977: "I arrived home with the car somewhere around a quarter to one in the morning. After I had put the car in the garage and was on my way to the house door, I saw a glaring white light in the eastern sky. It blinked at intervals of a second, but certainly wasn't a recognition light on a passenger plane. I estimated the distance to be about 15-17 km, and the altitude to be around 5000 m. The light was snow-white and had the appearance of a welding torch adjusted to 'flash'." During the war Mr. Mehr worked in the FLAK(\*) (Anti-Aircraft-Defense), had absolved identification service, and was himself an instructor. Since the object stood absolutely still in the sky at the beginning, the witness thought at first of a star, about the size of Jupiter, but at least eight times brighter. After about 8 minutes, though, the object began to gain altitude, and to fly away with the speed of a passenger plane in the direction of Wagen. "The thing then shot off like a meteor and was suddenly gone. I thought to myself, there is something not quite right there," wondered the surprised Mr. Mehr. Afraid to make a laughingstock of himself, he did not at first tell anyone of his observation.

(\*) trans. note: abbr. of German Flieger-Abwehr-Kanone, meaning literally aviator-defense-gun.



10km distant 2 women are afraid of the bright light of the bright light direction

Bierkeller: site of the main events

most likely position of the UFO

Nr. 27 Brielmaier

10m

Buchenstraße

Fichtenweg

1.4km distant a farmer sees the bright light

1.4km distant a farmer sees the bright light

kindergarten playground

Garage

shed

Anton

Zodel

Tannenstraße

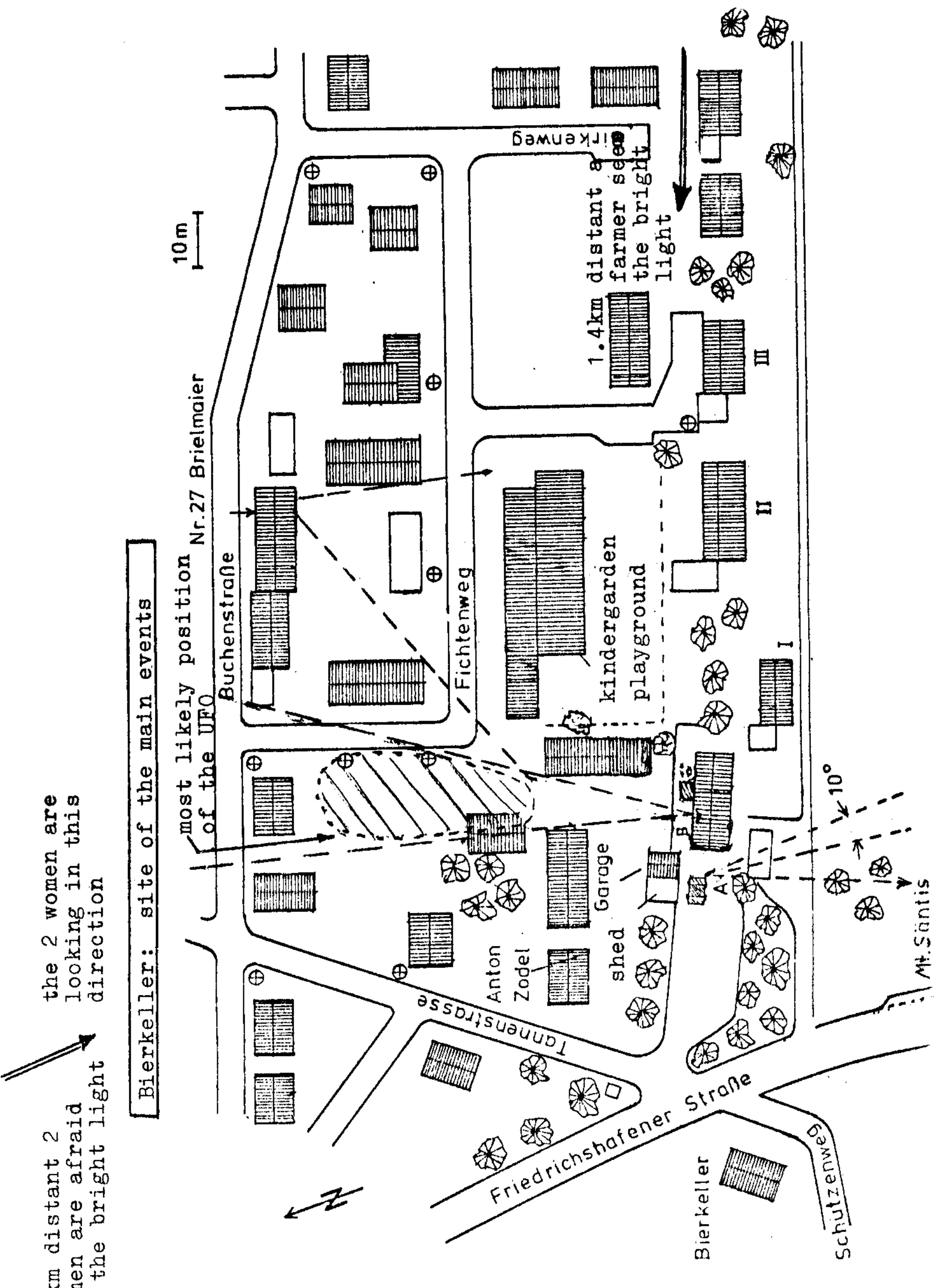
Friedrichshafener Straße

Bierkeller

Schützenweg

Mt. Santis

10°





He had already noticed something strange in the early evening hours of the 23rd. Toward 7:45p.m., shortly before he went out of the house, he heard a loud whistling sound outside, as though a rocket were flying by the house. Immediately thereafter there was a boom which rattled the windows. That it had been the usual sonic boom of a jet breaking the sound barrier, Mr. Mehr rejected. The following day he questioned his neighbors, but no one had heard a rocket or anything similar.

Mr. Mehr and the witnesses Brielmaier and Brugger did not at first give any special significance to their observations. It was only a few days later, after the story of Rudi Grutsch and Lothar Schaefer was made public, that they reported their own experiences to Grutsch. There are probably other eyewitnesses, who fear making themselves known to the public. Schaefer confirmed that during the night of Ash Wednesday numerous guests were visiting the Magg Bar, leaving it again only after it was long past midnight. According to the bartender the locality was closed at precisely 2a.m. That would confirm Grutsch's assertion that it must have been around 2:10a.m. at the time of the first sighting, but not the claims of others - taking into consideration that the police did not arrive at the scene until about 3:45a.m. That same night Mr. R. Houben, proprietor of the Bierkeller, claims to have seen a yellow sports car with a French license plate depart from his parking lot on Friedrichshafener Strasse. He says he was awakened by the roar of motor and the bright headlights.

Wolfram Nafts, Lothar Schaefer's friend and colleague, later heard from a railwayman, who he knows only by the first name, and who shortly thereafter moved to Ulm, that his wife had also seen the bright spectacle in the sky on the night of Ash Wednesday. Together with a colleague, she was driving on the way back home, from Oberteuringen to Friedrichshafen. When the two women saw the mysterious bright light in the sky in the direction of Langenargen, they became alarmed and stopped over at a sports club which was still open to wait until the light disappeared. As so often happens in such cases, they made no attempt to call the spectacle to the attention of others, for fear of being laughed at.

An inquiry in the neighborhood confirmed the course of the events following the breaking of the Burkhart family's door. Among others, Mr. and Mrs. Zodel, owners of a grocery store on Tannenstrasse, were also awakened by the loud occurrence and ran to the window to see what was wrong. At approximately 3:45a.m. the two claim to have heard Mrs. Burkhart cry excitedly, "Mr. Grutsch! Mr. Grutsch! Police!". After a while Mrs. Grutsch was supposed to have called back, "They're coming, Mrs. Burkhart."

The Zodels were also under the assumption the matter dealt with a family quarrel. At first they thought Mrs. Burkhart was admonishing her own son, who had perhaps come home too late. When the police arrived a while later, the young man ostensibly went away peacefully with the policemen, and after the blunt command, "Get in the car," willingly climbed into the patrol car.

Viewed (1st sighting) from position A (figure 10), the Radio and Direction Finding Southern Headquarters of the 72nd Signal Corps Regiment lies one kilometer to the northwest, in Schwedi. Captain Kotz verified that during the time in question no unusual observations or interference were noted, and that no tape recordings had been made.

Fritz Meier, editor of the Schwäbische Zeitung, in Friedrichshafen, arrived at the same negative result. He received his information from the nearest German Army radar station, in Kempten, and through a Swiss colleague in the Air Traffic Control Center in Zürich.

When the objects appeared for the first time their altitude was supposed to have been at least 1000 m. Using this same elevation angle, they must have therefore been at a distance of  $1000\text{m}/\tan 12^\circ = 4.7 \text{ km}$  from Waldeck. This is equivalent to a fourth of the distance between Langenargen and Rorschach, Switzerland.

## 7. Size and Distance Estimates

At a distance of 1.4 km Mr. Brugger estimated the size of the light to be  $3/4 \pm 1/4^\circ$  (half the angular diameter of the full moon), which gives an absolute size of 17 m (+5, -6 m). (Schäfler estimated the object to be larger than a helicopter, and under hypnosis gave it a diameter of 15 to 20 m !)

As seen from position A (figure 10) the width of one of the objects with 4 lights, in accordance with Grutsch's sketch (figure 5), comes out to ca.  $4 \pm 1^\circ$ . With a diameter of 17 m (+5, -6 m), the objects would have been, to begin with, at a distance of  $17\text{m}(+5,-6)/\tan(4\pm1^\circ) = 270 \text{ m}(+200,-130 \text{ m})$  from Waldeck, and thus have hovered over Friedrichshafener Strasse.

From a relative height of  $12\pm1^\circ$  above the horizon, the absolute height is calculated to be  $(240\pm170 \text{ m}) * \tan(12\pm1^\circ) = 46 \text{ m}(+51,-22 \text{ m})$ .

As the objects appeared again behind Grutsch's house after the first visual contact, they were much closer. Assuming that the size of the individual lights remained unchanged during the observation, then, based on Rudi Grutsch's estimated angular diameter of  $2\pm1^\circ$  for the ultimately remaining light, and a real size of 3 m(+0.5,-1 m) for the diameter of 17 m(+5,-6 m) computed for the object, the distance of the light during the last visual contact must have been some 100 m(+123,-58 m).

Lothar Schaefer estimated the distance at 50 m to 80 m. Giving the estimated distance at  $70\pm20 \text{ m}$  for both witnesses, the object that Grutsch had seen at a  $16^\circ$  altitude must have hovered, roughly estimated, at  $18\pm5 \text{ m}$  above the ground.

## 8. Aftereffects

Lothar Schaefer's friend and co-worker, Wolfram Nafts, reported that Schaefer came to work the day after his experience looking deathly pale. He behaved absentmindedly and vomited several times. During the next few days he had to be repeatedly spoken to before he reacted. While driving he would also at times be "somewhere else". Occasionally "he turned off for minutes at a time". Half a year later he still acted as though he were another person. He was no longer as jolly as he once was, having become quiet, and was still occasionally absentminded. While mountain climbing he was always freezing, which earlier was never the case. The first few weeks after the UFO encounter Schaefer suffered from insomnia and nightmares. He let a lamp burn at night due to anxiety. At times he would awaken exactly between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning, having earlier slept soundly through the night.

Two days after the UFO encounter he suddenly broke out in a sweat while sleeping in the early evening, and was literally soaked to the skin. Before this he had never experienced such a thing. Two weeks later he developed a stomach ulcer because of which his doctor wrote him sick for three weeks and sent him for convalescence.

What bewildered Schaefer above all else, and what he had no way of explaining, was the course of time during the encounter. According to Rudi Grutsch the encounter must have taken place some time between 2:10 a.m. and shortly after 2:30 a.m. Nevertheless, it was not until an hour later that the Burkhart family claimed to have heard the ringing of their door bell, and only after a further lapse of a quarter of an hour, the breaking of the pane of glass. Schäfer therefore assumed there were still further fragments of the actual happening slumbering in his subconscious, which could, circumstances permitting, perhaps be brought to light in a hypnotic regression. Just how deeply Schaefer's experience had really shocked him would only become apparent in the course of our investigations.

Rudi Grutsch was also, at least for a few days, totally confused. Shortly after the sighting he was "a nervous wreck", and ran around for three days "as though in a fever". On the third day following the occurrence he began to have hallucinations. He would sit in bed and see "little musicians" sitting on the furniture. Nafts further reported that Grutsch was very nervous the day after the incident, pacing constantly back and forth in his Cafe, in front of the house, in the guest rooms, back to his house, appearing to be looking for something. He continuously filled beer glasses although only a few guests were sitting in his local.

From our investigations we were forced to conclude that Grutsch's accounts contradicted one another with each new period of questioning. The physics professor Schiebeler from Ravensburg, who according to his own declaration had not yet concerned himself with the UFO phenomenon, had visited Grutsch a week after the incident. He considers Grutsch's testimony to be unworthy of belief. It was also noticeable to us that Grutsch was inclined to exaggerated self-portrayal, and to overtell his story. He claimed that he had spoken about the phenomenon with two of his guests (allegedly master mechanics from Friedrichshafen) for about 30 to 40 minutes following the first sighting, which fact Schäfer did not verify. Grutsch ostensibly knew the names of the witnesses, but did not wish to reveal their names to exonerate himself.

During the first interview Grutsch affirmed that he had also seen the strange visitors. He could prove this absolutely. The two beings were standing left and right of Lothar Schaefer, and were swaying back and forth right before the window. Schäfer was surprised at the time by this account because Grutsch had not mentioned anything about it to him. Moreover, Grutsch transferred the figures to a spot on which Lothar Schaefer's encounter had not taken place. The innkeeper claimed to have deliberately giving his own observations to the press on March 25, 1977, due to tactical considerations. When, on April 6, 1977, Grutsch was asked about this point anew, he remembered only a single, barrel-shaped form which kept swaying near the bottled gas behind the kitchen wall. Due to the overwhelming brightness in the yard he couldn't see exactly what it was that had been moving there so elusively.



In view of this contradiction the observance of one figure or two figures by the innkeeper is not believable. Grutsch also refused to have anything to do with all psychological tests which might have confirmed his credibility. Therefore we have to assume that Grutsch, on the night in question, was no longer sober enough to fully grasp all the details. His reliability is therefore rated by us at only 50% .

## 9. Physical Investigations

During a supplementary examination of the sighting area with a Geiger counter on April 6 -- 6 weeks after the UFO incident- no increased level of radioactivity could be registered. An examination of the metal posts of the wire-net fence with a magnetic compass showed no indication of possible magnetization. The negative result of the radiation measurement does not mean that at the time of the sighting there was likewise no radioactive radiation present. After 14 days it would in any event no longer have been possible to separate such activity from the normal background radiation. The natural ground radiation lies at 70mR per anno or 8 $\mu$ R/h. These mean values may be considerably exceeded in certain regions. (In the Feldberg region between Lenzkirch and Todtnau in the Black Forest, for example, values up to 25 times higher were recorded.)

The radioactivity control check in Langenargen was undertaken more to reassure the witnesses. An unknown physicist had allegedly already searched for traces with a Geiger counter on March 6th --namely in Rudi Grutsch's yard, at the spot where Schaefer had first tried to hide himself. There the counter had begun to clatter markedly, registering an indicator value of some 60-70 (presumably milliroentgens/hour). That would indeed have been the radiation yield, spread over half a year, which could just be accepted as harmless.

There were no physical traces found. Contrary, to similar reports Schaefer did not have the feeling, in spite of the intensive light radiation, that the air temperature during the nearest approach had increased noticeably.



## Part II - Hypnotic Regression

### 1. Regressive Hypnosis Sitzings.

Above all else, questioning under hypnosis had as its goal the establishment of clarity concerning the length of the individual episodes on 24 February. The interviews produced contradictory times for the appearance, or presence, of the light phenomenon. The time given for its disappearance toward 3:35a.m. is definite. If the proprietor of the Magg Bar has closed his doors precisely at 2a.m., this would coincide with the time given by Grutsch, who together with Schäfler observed the lights for the first time in Bierkeller 10 minutes later. The sighting was supposed to have lasted only about 5 minutes. After this Schäfler went to his car. The second encounter with the objects, in his opinion, was also supposed to have lasted only about 5 minutes. Grutsch even went so far as to say he had lost all sense of time. If Schäfler indeed rang the Burkharths' doorbell for at least 15 minutes, the objects must have shone in the sky for at least 20 minutes. Apart from this, which doesn't make sense to us, just why the Burkharths did not react sooner to the ringing of their doorbell, the questions remains open, which especially troubled the witness Schäfler, how the contents of a full hour's experience could have disappeared from his memory, and just what really happened to him during this time. (The simpler explanation for the missing hour is naturally that the Magg Bar did not close until 3a.m., and that Grutsch had "miscalculated" by an hour when he looked at his watch.)

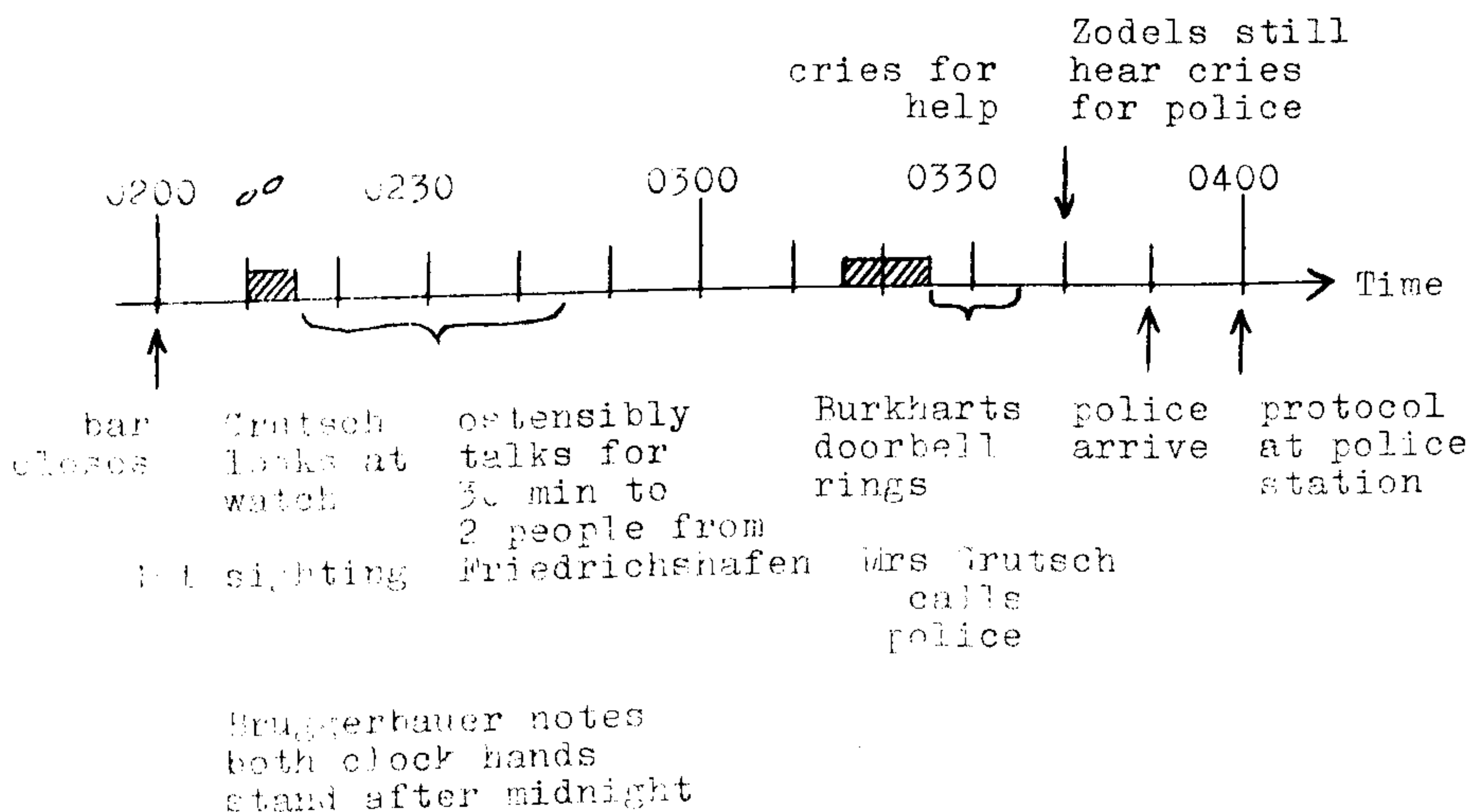


Figure 11: Sequence of events.

Until 1975 there were about 50 known cases in which witnesses of UFO close encounters (CE III) had complained of memory and time losses (there were 19 cases alone between 1973-1975). In 18 cases the witnesses were questioned under hypnosis (Webb 1976).

In the hypnosis effected regression of the test subject to the point of time of the events being examined, it must be taken into consideration that the person in question was unconscious at the time, and no experience contents are present during this state. On the other hand it is also known that in regressive hypnosis sittings with witnesses of UFO CE III incidents--regardless of the particular events--traumatic blockades are created which cannot be broken by the hypnotist (IUR 1977).

The subconscious is extraordinarily cooperative in a state of hypnosis. To comply with the hypnotist's will subjects describe "experiences," even when unrelated to real experience contents.

With UFO witnesses the hypnotist is faced with the difficult task, on the one hand, the need to break through a possible traumatic blockade, and on the other hand, to prevent the subject's merely confabulating an experience because he was in a state of amnesia during the time in question.

Professor Alvin Lawson of the California State University, who has investigated ca. 100 reported UFO abduction cases, has conducted interesting hypnosis experiments, together with Dr W.C. McCall, to determine to what extent the descriptions by hypnotized subjects of imaginary abductions agrees with reported genuine abduction experiences (Lawson 1977a, 1977b, 1977c). For this purpose people were selected who had little knowledge, as well as no definitive opinion, concerning the UFO phenomenon. The hypnotist gave only "reference guide-lines," that is, he did not provoke certain experimental descriptions in that he, for example, said: "Next to the landed UFO figures now appear. Describe how they look," etc.

The result was startling: the imaginary experiences described by 8 of the hypnotized subjects did not greatly vary from those of hypnotized subjects who experienced "real" abductions. The reported "experiences" were just as ludicrous as those ostensibly real. The experimenters also found sufficient grounds for the assumption that a telepathic coupling was existent between them and the hypnotized subjects during the regressive hypnosis of the "imaginary abductees." Several of those hypnotized could not accept upon ~~awakening~~ that they had experienced no real abduction!

The main differences between "real" and imaginary experiences of abduction by an UFO are, aside from possible physical and physiological effects--which differentiate the genuine UFO witnesses from the other group--psychical abnormalities such as time loss, amnesia, fear, nightmares, emotional effects, whose existence can be varified under hypnosis.

Clearly the test subjects had been "confronted" with stories of extraterrestrials--as presented by television, in science fiction novels or in scandal sheets--even if no longer conscious of it. Each of the 8 test subjects drew different "UFO occupants" (dwarves, monsters, animals, hairy forms, men, robots). The psychology Professor J. Harder, who has likewise interviewed many UFO witnesses under hypnosis, sees considerably more differences than Lawson between "imaginary" and genuine abduction cases (Harder 1977).

Lawson sees the biggest problem in the explanation of the "stimulus" which "triggers" the witness to describe abduction experiences which do not differ from confabulations in a state of hypnosis (Lawson 1977c). The energy field surrounding the UFOs might call forth such psychical effects.

In "UFO abduction cases" one has therefore to distinguish between those in which the witness first under hypnosis reports an encounter with strange beings, and those where the witness already has a clear idea of the beings before hypnosis.

The latter case pertains to Schäfler's encounter. It is therefore certain that the appearance of the figure which the witness claims to have seen were not first "invented" during hypnosis.

Through the mediation of Professor Bender (Freiburg), Professor C. Bick, director of the Pfälzer Fels Sanatorium in Dahn, agreed to question Schäfler under hypnosis. As secretary of the International Union of Hypnotherapists, and experienced in ca. 1000 hypnotherapy treatments, Professor Bick was well aware of the danger of the conscious or unconscious influence of the hypnotist on the responses of the subject under hypnosis. Because of this Professor Bick did not want to know the details of the report before the sittings.

In the first sitting on 12 June 1977, Professor Bick obtained the course of the events on 24 February 1977, asked catch questions and prepared Schäfler for the hypnosis to follow. Among other things Schäfler related that he had not yet read anything about the UFO theme, other than short reports.

To the question what he feared the most, the witness answered it would disturb him very much if others considered him "not quite altogether there."



**Figure 12:** Professor C. Bick, hypnotherapist and director of the Pfälzer Fels Sanatorium in Dahn, with the witness Lothar Schäfler.



In the second sitting Schäfler was placed in a state of deep hypnosis. An attempt was to be made to call forth the possibly repressed experiences.

To begin with Schäfler related all the events of the first sighting and then told of the bright object encountered in the second sighting. The following contains excerpts of the description of the encounter with the 2 strange figures:

- C. Bick: We are still interested in what happened while you are standing there. You stood there for quite some time. Do you see them standing again before you?
- L. Schäfler: Yes. I see them the whole time standing before me. One was directly in front of me, the other somewhat farther to the left.
- C. B.: Do you have the feeling that the two have hypnotized you?
- L. Sch.: That could be.
- C. B.: That you did things at their bidding, without being able to remember?
- L. Sch.: That could be, because I am missing a half hour and can't explain it.
- C. B.: You didn't stand there a half hour, though?
- L. Sch.: Sure. It must be so. When they went back up I was still in the same place.
- C. B.: Just a moment. You did break the pane of glass. Were the two still there?
- L. Sch.: Yes, then they were still there.
- C. B.: How did the beings look? Were they standing completely still?
- L. Sch.: The two beings swayed somewhat. I had the feeling that they were swaying 2 or 3 cm over the ground.
- C. B.: How were the feet covered?
- L. Sch.: It was as though they were standing next to me naked. As I saw it, it was pure skin.
- C. B.: Do they also have ears?
- L. Sch.: I don't see any ears. The head is relatively large for the body size. The round mouth makes movements, like a fish gasping for air, approximately.
- C. B.: And a nose--is it also there?
- L. Sch.: But very. . . That isn't a nose! They're. . . a very small nose. I see holes, but very small.
- C. B.: Are the holes directly in the head?
- L. Sch.: They're in the head. Exactly like humans, only very small.
- C. B.: And the eyes?
- L. Sch.: The eyes are slant eyes, like the Chinese, only with a slant toward the back, and in the middle they're really big. . .
- C. B.: Do they move? Do they have pupils?
- L. Sch.: No. They have pupils. They looked at me.
- C. B.: How does it look, that which is looked at you?
- L. Sch.: They're looking. . . they're looking at me.



C. B.: Do they have hands?

L. Sch.: Yes. The hands have fingers. But it isn't like with us. But they are fingers. . . like fins. They're together and very short, but the arms are very long. No fingernails. There are 4 fingers.

C. B.: What is happening now?

L. Sch.: I'm looking at them. They're not speaking with one another, only looking at me. And I looked at them too. It occurred to me that something isn't right. Then I was afraid and smashed in the window. I turned around and smashed the glass.

C. B.: How far was it to the door?

L. Sch.: About 2 meters.

C. B.: Were they scared when you broke the glass?

L. Sch.: They stayed, I believe. . .

C. B.: We have to take another look now. How long had you been standing there when the two came?

L. Sch.: 5 minutes, I'd say.

C. B.: Did your feet hurt afterwards?

L. Sch.: No. No complaints at all.

C. B.: Or do you have the feeling that something else is happening to you in the meantime?

L. Sch.: I'm sure of it!

C. B.: Something is happening to you?

L. Sch.: Yes.

C. B.: Also then, you don't quite stay in the same place with your person? Are they doing something to you?

L. Sch.: Yes.

C. B.: What are they doing to you?

L. Sch.: I don't know.

C. B.: We have to find that out.

L. Sch.: I don't know. That half hour is missing.

C. B.: But that's what we're looking for. What are they doing while they're with you?

L. Sch.: I stood there. . .

C. B.: Yes?

L. Sch.: Then they came. . .

C. B.: Yes?

L. Sch.: . . . and then--I was on the ground again. . . or still in the same spot, I don't know. . .

C. B.: You were on the ground again! Were you suddenly away from the ground?

L. Sch.: No. . .

C. B.: But certainly. You just said: "I was on the ground again." Where were you in the meantime?

L. Sch.: In between I was in any event. . . something must be happened. .

C. B.: Why? How do you arrive at that now?

L. Sch.: The half hour is missing.

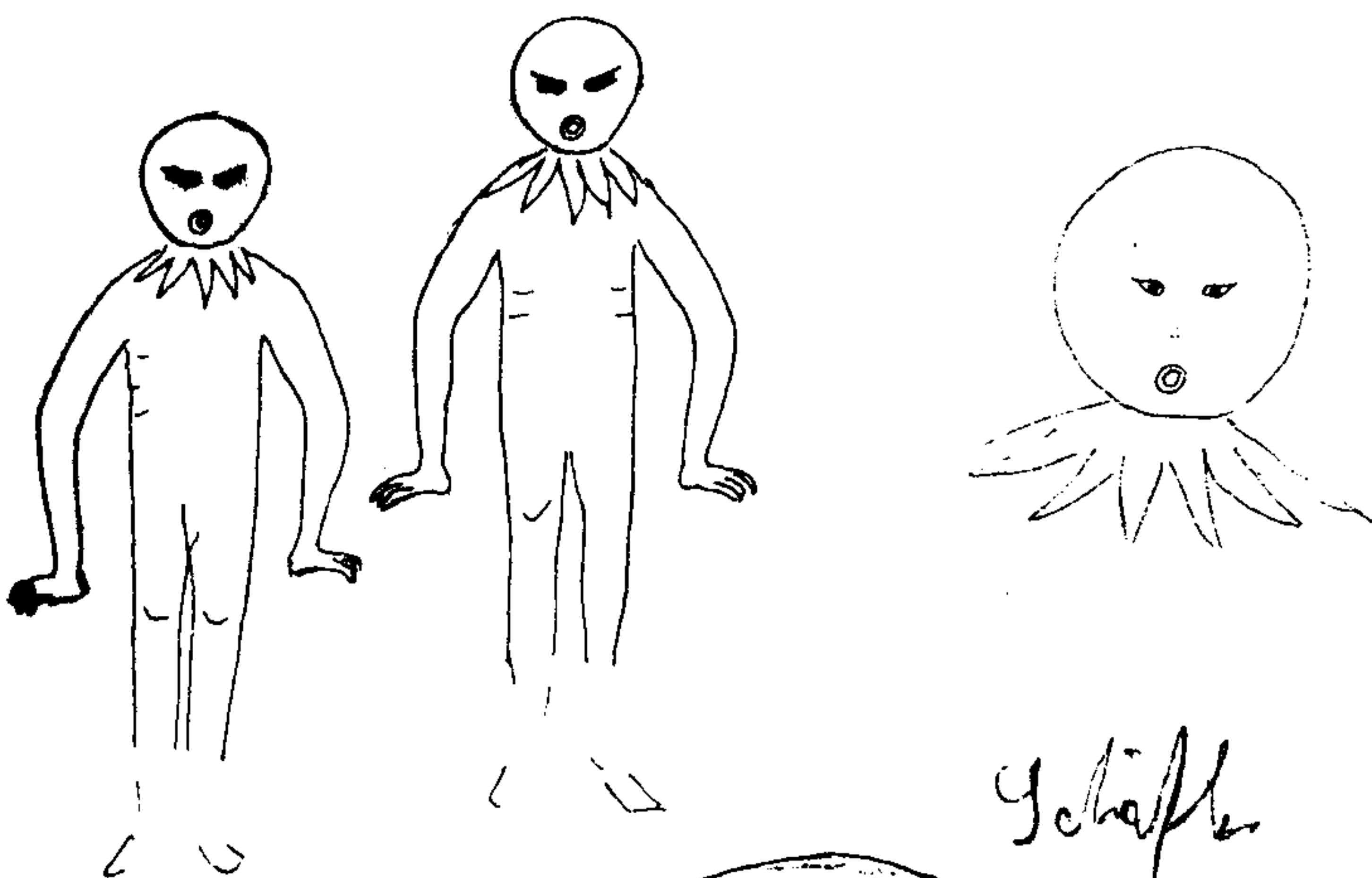
C. B.: But you just said: "Then I was on the ground again."  
L. Sch.: Yes.  
C. B.: Were you perhaps. . .  
L. Sch.: I had the feeling that. . .  
C. B.: You had the feeling what. . .?  
L. Sch.: . . . that I was away. . .  
C. B.: That you were no longer on the ground?  
L. Sch.: Yes.  
C. B.: Where were you then?  
L. Sch.: I have no idea.  
C. B.: We have to find that out. You can remember it very clearly now. Look. Now you are going back again to where you had the feeling you are losing the ground under your feet.  
L. Sch.: I had the feeling. . .  
C. B.: You had the feeling? Were you then suddenly somehow no longer there?  
L. Sch.: Yes!  
C. B.: And then you suddenly came back to your place again?  
L. Sch.: I guess so.  
C. B.: During the time when you suddenly are lifted away from the ground, what happens? Where are you going? Are you coming close to the flying object?  
L. Sch.: It's getting brighter, still brighter.  
C. B.: But what's happening? Come on, out with it! What's happening?  
L. Sch.: Don't know. . . Afterwards I was on the ground again!  
C. B.: Were you in the flying object?  
L. Sch.: No, I don't think so.  
C. B.: Do you have the feeling that you were inside?  
L. Sch.: I was away from the ground, that's the feeling I had.  
C. B.: You were not on the ground. Where were you?  
L. Sch.: Away from the ground, I don't know. I only know that the object was getting brighter. And afterwards I was on the ground again and those two were standing next to me again. . .  
C. B.: . . .and couldn't remember anything else?  
L. Sch.: No.  
C. B.: Good. I believe that's enough.

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Figure 13: Drawing of the humanoids.

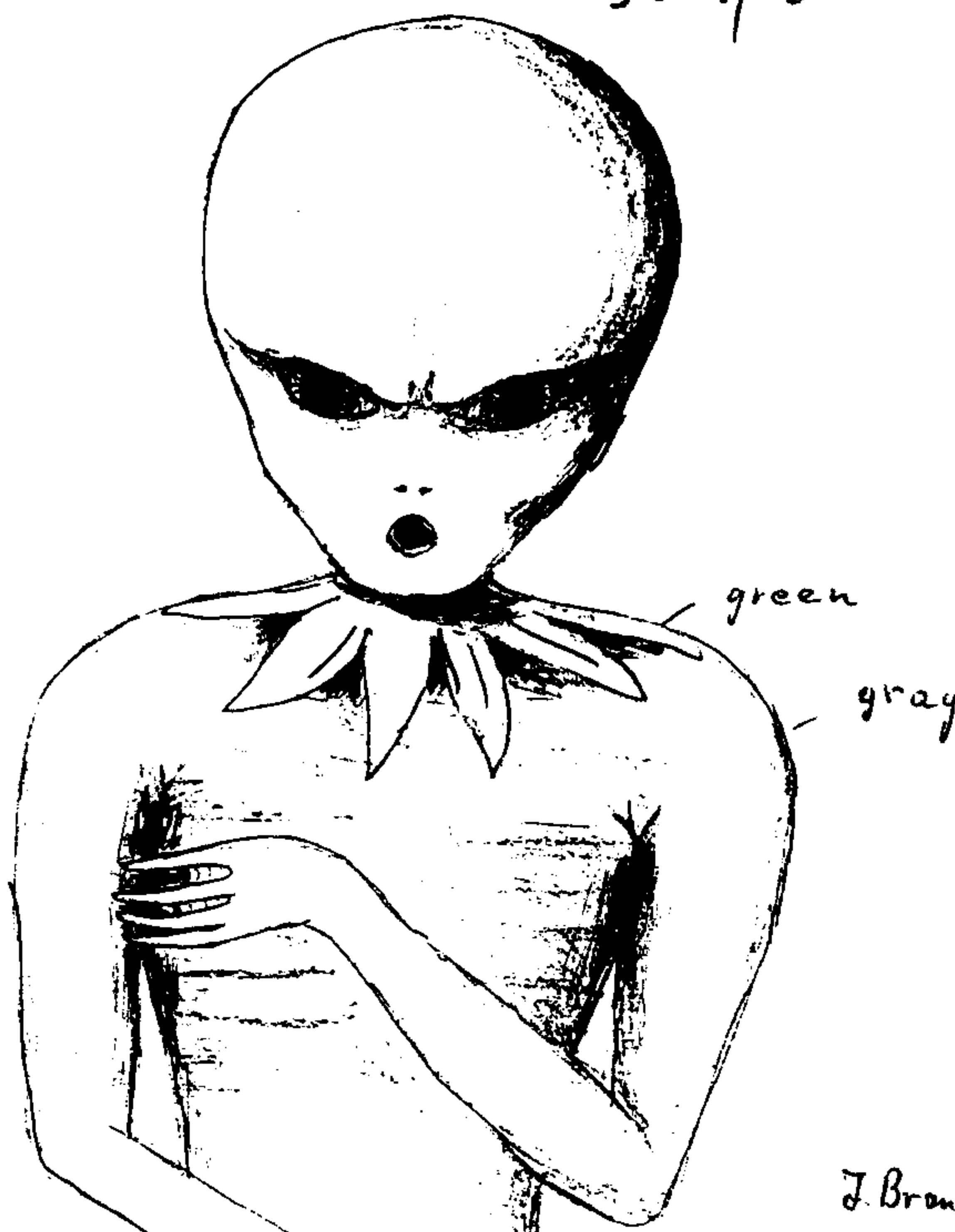
(see next page for original size reproduction)

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Drawn in 1977 by  
I.v.Ludwiger and  
confirmed by the  
witness

*Gschäpfe*



Drawn in 1989 by  
I. v. Ludwiger after  
the witness has  
selected a picture  
from a collection of  
several "ET-faces"

*J. Brand*

Figure 13: Drawing of the humanoids.



The regressive hypnosis succeeded in bringing several forgotten details in the description of the beings to light (nose, number of fingers, mouth movements), although the repressed experiences still remained hidden. In our first interview Schäfler was of the opinion he had seen the beings for only 5 seconds. Under hypnosis he estimated the length of the confrontation at 5 minutes. The Burkharths said on the other hand that Schäfler had been ringing their doorbell for 15 minutes.

A further regressive hypnosis questioning would have increased the danger of confabulation, due to the grounds mentioned above. The witness was therefore advised to try to remember the events without being influenced by others, by noting as many of his dreams as possible. Further event contents were to be searched for at a later date through a dream analysis.

## 2. Evaluation of the Case by a Psychiatrist.

The UFO report and the examination of the primary witness L. Schäfler were discussed with Dr med H. Bjarsch, Chief Medical Adviser and specialist for neurology and psychiatry in the Tegel Clinic in Berlin. Dr Bjarsch was especially concerned over the time of occurrence of the incident. It was a night after Fasching, and any psychiatrist hearing of a description of "little beings" would be led right away to suspect alcohol delirium. Since the appearance of the bright object, as confirmed by the statements of independent witnesses, is a fact, and since the appearance of the beings, according to questioning under hypnosis, may be considered subjectively truthful, it only remained to clarify the question whether the anxiety and stress situation was the cause of a hallucination. This could happen if a person is predisposed. According to Bjarsch a psychotic tendency would already have to be indicated, contrary to the view of Prof Ziolkow (University of Berlin), in whose assessment hallucinations under the influence of shock could also occur, unrelated to psychoses. Hallucinations cannot be induced through fear alone.

A pre-delirious state could have been present in the primary witness if he had drunk especially heavily on the preceding day (i.e. on Fasching Day), or if he were completely worn out. The first condition was certainly fulfilled, but on the other hand Schäfler was able to sleep as much as he wanted to on Ash Wednesday, having had the day off.

That the police officials simply assumed the witness was drunk told the psychiatrist nothing. According to his experiences policemen are among the worst possible witnesses.

The combination "bright flying object and strange figures" does not represent the usual hallucination. Since this combination apparently has been observed worldwide one could think of a new collective archetype, but his conclusion would be going too far to suit Dr Bjarsch.

A psychoanalyst would explain the evolution of the appearance of the beings as follows:

The bright light allows the witness to think of a spaceship landing. In the spaceship are little green men. . . small and green like frogs. . . like Kermit the Frog in the Muppets Show. . . spacemen wear round helmets. . . This then becomes a human-like being with light skin and a round head, but with a shape like Kermit, with overly long arms, fingers with fins, and a harlequin collar.

Whether the hallucination or projection of the dwarves was caused by a shock, and if so, whether intentionally or unintentionally, and whether the picture of the figures was randomly--e.g. according to the pattern mentioned above--produced, or was induced and controlled in this form by something in the bright object, cannot be determined.

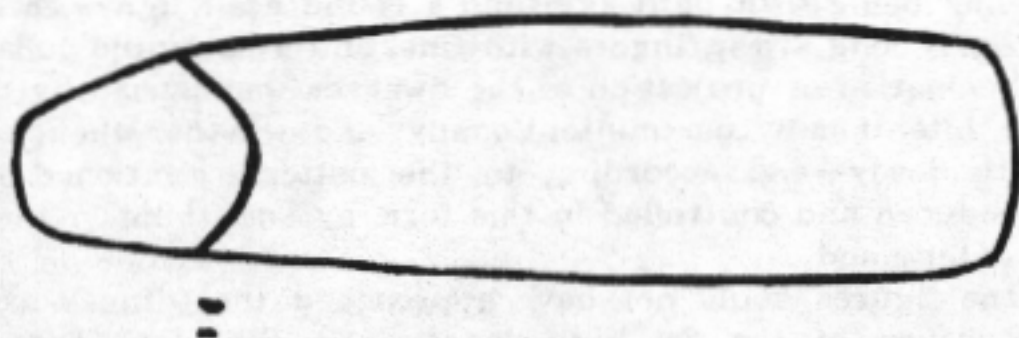
In any event the figures could not have approached the witness as normal physical beings because of the 2m high fence. We consider these beings projections, where it remains open whether they were induced by the witness psychically, or came from the object in some way.~

It was also apparent to Harder that the UFO witnesses whom he questioned depicted obviously nonsensical details as true occurrences--also in those cases where the incident was largely confirmed through several dependable and independent witnesses. He is of the opinion that the confusion of the witnesses and those investigating is "wanted." If someone can manufacture such apparatus as UFOs, then he should also be in a position to manipulate human brains in such a way that the witnesses record the experience in their memory other than according to the information supplied by sensory organs. Important information is repressed and replaced by earlier experiences (e.g. from science fiction films, etc.) which results in confusion in the witness and his report. "We should expect that there would be a plan to neutralize instances in which information should leak out unexpectedly," writes Harder (Harder 1977), and recommends the development of investigative programs which would throw more light on the matter.

The intelligence which lies behind these objects well understands to disguise itself through "mimicry." It only has to show itself "unbelievable enough," and the witness will not be believed. This psychological warfare is reminiscent of the scenario of the allied invasion in 1944: over the peninsula on which they had planned to land (Contentin) hundreds of straw dummies were thrown, fire crackers set off, and records with the cries of soldiers played. This fake invasion was to make the Germans believe the real invasion would take place somewhere else. When allied paratroopers later sprang into this same area, other duty stations no longer believed the reports of the invasion witnesses. One merely laughed at the soldiers who apparently were still fooled by these silly dummies of the English.

The parallels to UFO mimicry are apparent.

The largest of the 8 objects, as it appeared through the binoculars (8 X 30).

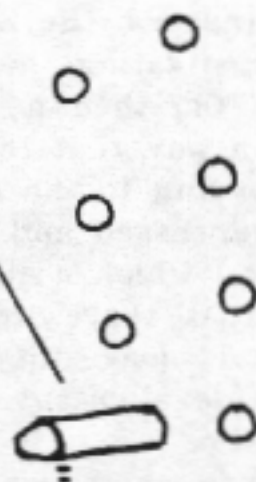


Formation of eight yellowish-red objects

Observation on 30/7/1974

ca. 4:30a.m.

drawn according to statements made by Miss H. from Hagen



East

Osten



This picture was taken from the point of view of the observation and shows the eastern sky with the 8 objects, as they flew in formation at the time of the observation.



### 3. Physiological Aftereffects of UFO Shock.

We have already reported concerning aftereffects in Sec. I - 8. On September 12, 1977, we (I.B.) were called by the primary witness's doctor and asked for assistance in his treatment. Schäfler had become addicted to pills. When Dr Z. investigated the cause of this addiction she found out for the first time about the UFO incident. As far back as February she was unable to explain how her patient could suddenly develop a stomach ulcer. He had noticed that he was always able to sleep well after taking a medication (Novodolestan) to combat his pains. As a result he was now addicted to this medication. Upon our urging Schäfler underwent psychotherapeutic treatment and now has overcome his anxiety, as well as his addiction to pills.

It has also happened in other countries that a scientist who questions UFO witnesses must frequently also serve as a "healer," as pointed out by the sociology professor, Ron Westrum (Westrum 1977). Westrum writes that a closer encounter generally causes a mental shock, and that the conflict between experience and the sense of reality is even capable of inducing paranormal events. The continual occupation with the unusual experiences and the unfortunately inevitable fact, to be excluded therefore from the social circle of the society, mutually strengthen each other, so that many witnesses of close encounters can become sick long after the event.

An example from our own researches:

In our first congress report we reported about a sighting over the Hochries (Schneider 1975). What we did not report there was the devastating effect which this event had on the caretaker's mental state. The nighttime event had developed in him to an anxiety state, which made it impossible for him to remain any longer at the Hochries cabin. After a psychotherapeutic treatment in Rosenheim he once again tried to go back to his job at the cabin. But it was no longer the same. He imagined to have seen "strange beings" in the cellar, etc.

In another case, investigated by Peiniger, the occurrence of an UFO sighting had concrete physiological effects.

At 4:30a.m. on 30 July 1974, an amateur astronomer from the Hagen area observed several small yellowish-red points of light and a large cigar-shaped object (1 angular diameter) through her binoculars. Suddenly she was hit by a flash of lightning coming from the large object that knocked her unconscious for 30 minutes. Immediately after waking she was sick. She was developed a 39 fever, diarrhea, swollen eyes and red spots on her eyelids. For several days she suffered from high blood pressure, headache and muscle cramps. She was afraid to go out of the house and dreamed night after night of the event. Her environment now experienced her as irritable and lacking self-control. Depression drove her finally to a suicide attempt. (See Figure and Picture, next page.)

The physiological and psychological aftereffects of the UFO encounter on the witness in Langenargen fits exactly the scenario of a CE case.

#### 4. Reliability Index and Results of the Investigation.

Olsen (1966) proposed that all UFO reports be given a reliability index so that foreign scientists might know how believable the individual cases are, since the interviewer is generally the only one to experience the witness personally, and thus able to make an estimation of his trustworthiness. The definition of the reliability factor  $p_r$  might be considered too banal, but since several hundred cases have already been evaluated in this manner, we will continue to apply this definition.

Among  $n$  witnesses with a witness unreliability factor  $p_u$ , the reliability factor for the report  $p_I$ , with reliability factor for the conducting of an investigation  $p_v$  of a "k-th" hand report, is

$$p_r = (1 - \prod_{m=1}^n p_{u_m}) p_I \cdot 2^{(1-k)}$$

The factor  $p_r$  allows at least the sorting out of such reports which appear "too unbelievable," i.e.  $p_r < 50\%$ . Values of 90% are considered "to some extent reliable," values over 95% as "reliable," and values of more than 98% as "very reliable."

Along with the factor for the unreliability of a witness there is a factor for the unreliability of an accompanying photograph.

If all photometric, shading and blackening values obtained through analysis agree with the data given by the witness for the object, then the value of  $p_u = 20\%$ .

A photograph is acknowledged, if not proved a fake, like the statement e.g. of a pilot or scientist, as the "proof." (Considered alone a UFO photograph "correct" in every detail, with  $p_r = 80\%$ , would not even give a report the value "to some extent reliable.")

The unreliability factors for the witnesses in Langenargen were estimated as follows, according to the impression of the interviewer:

L. Schäfler:	0.1	}	1 <sup>st</sup> hand information: $k_1 = 1$
R. Grutsch:	0.5		
K. Brugger:	0.3		
Mrs Brielmayer:	0.3		
Railwayman's wife:	0.5	}	2 <sup>nd</sup> hand information: $k_2 = 2$
Her colleague:	0.5		

The reliability that the brilliant, unidentifiable lights in the sky hovered over the spot in question is ( $p_I = 1$ ):

$$p = \left[ 1 - 2^{-k_1} \prod_{m=1}^4 p_{u_m}^{(1)} (2^{-k_2} \prod_{n=1}^2 p_{u_n}^{(2)}) \right] = 99.94\%$$

or, respectively (without the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand witness statements),  $p_r = 99.055\%$  that the brilliant light hovered very close to the ground.

The assertion that the object had 4 bright "lights" (statements from R. Grutsch and L. Schäfler) is considered, at  $p_r = 95\%$  reliable.

Based on the psychological examination performed on the primary witness, his reliability factor could be brought to 90%. His statement that there were 2 figures which suddenly appeared can be considered, with  $p_r = 90\%$ , in any event as "to some extent reliable," even if the event must be considered subjectively.

We have therefore the following facts:

Toward 2:30a.m. on February 24, 1977, two extremely bright discs coming from the direction of Lake Constance flew quickly over Langenargen at low altitude. The only moving source of light on the ground at this time was Schäfler's car.

The bright objects hovered several hundred meters distant from the two witnesses, and came so close together they appeared to touch, building an 8-unit row of lights. The objects had round searchlights on the outside which after several minutes were turned off suddenly. The objects apparently moved on to the northeast, turned the lights back on again, turned and approached anew to within several dozen meters of the witnesses, flying between the houses in Bierkeller.

Grutsch had apparently looked into the bright light--which did not appear especially blinding--a few moments before Schäfler. He could see 8 lamps arranged in a row, and in the time span "which passes between pulling the pin on a hand grenade and its explosion" observed the process of the lamps "melting together." When Schäfler looked into the bright light he discovered only 4 lamps. Because of the intense brightness he now avoided looking directly into the light, which now began to approach closer to him "as a single lamp." This, for Grutsch, uncanny occurrence may have been a simple projection phenomenon:

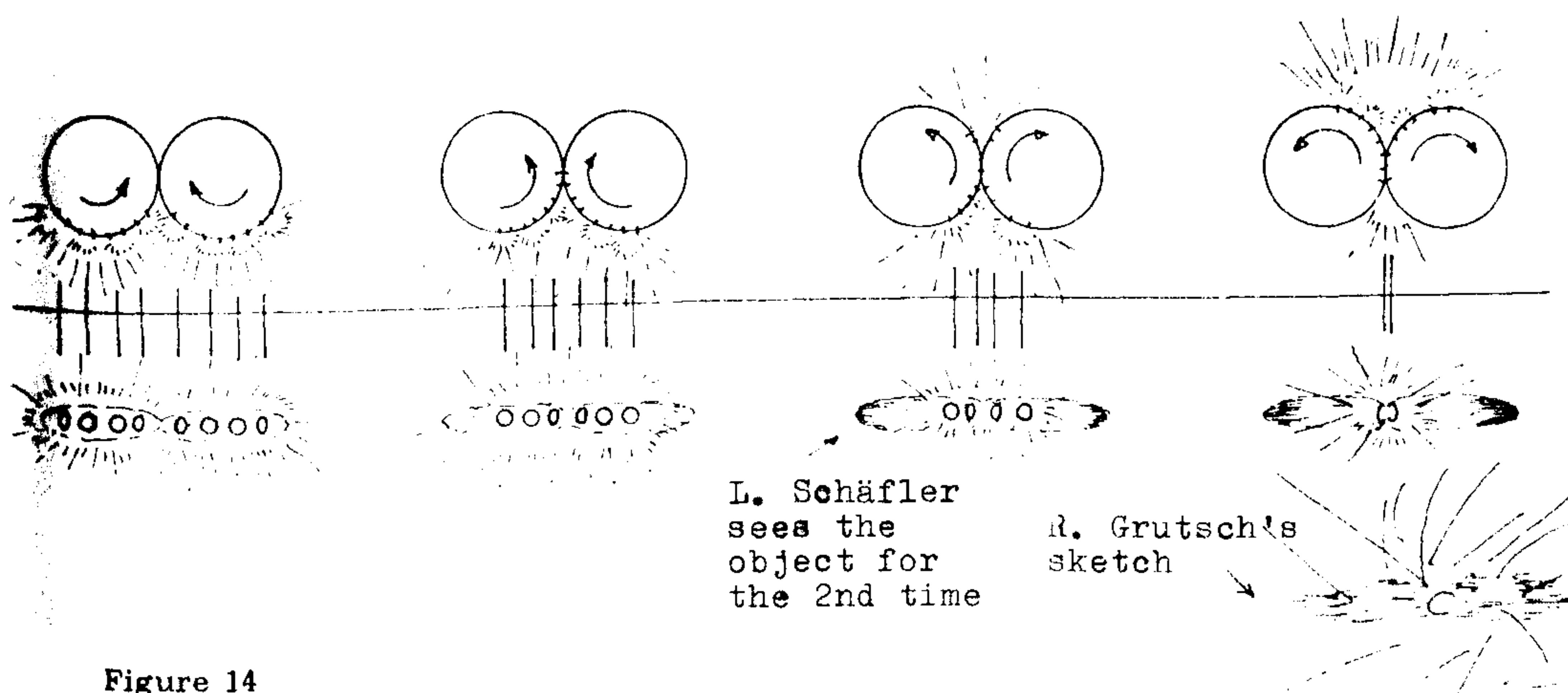


Figure 14



The two touching discs could have turned toward one another, rotating in opposite directions. Since each disc had only 4 lamps on the outside edge, they would have to have disappeared one after the other. When the rotation stopped there was only a single bright lamp to be seen. The remaining lamps had now enabled outlines of the objects to appear against the dark background, so that Grutsch, at the moment of closest approach--when only one lamp remained, could see dark outlines for the first time. The objects emitted a high pitched, penetrating whistle.

What now followed had either taken only a few moments--in which case Grutsch and the bartender at the nightclub had each made an hour's error in looking at their watches, which is highly unlikely, and which is further contradicted by other visitors in the nightclub--or else both witnesses must have experienced a time loss of more than an hour during the course of the events. Both witnesses actually have the feeling that certain parts of the events have been erased from memory. Since only Schäfler agreed to a thorough questioning under hypnosis, we can only say at this point that this witness must have had further strong experiences during this time, during the occurrence of which he possibly became unconscious, to which the feeling, expressed under hypnosis, not to be standing on the ground any longer, could also point.

The witness experienced the sudden appearance of the two "carneval figures" very consciously. Since these were not a projection of the witness's own subconscious, but were instead more likely generated from the bright object, it can be deduced from the agreeing statements from Grutsch and Mrs Brielmaier the light went out when Schäfler began to scream. That could have been a coincidence, but if not, it would at least point out that an acoustical contact existed between the witness and the bright object (perhaps through the projection of the figures?). An explanation for the projection will be possible only when research on the brain and the conscious processes, as well as their connection with paranormal abilities, has reached an adequate level of development.

The literature is full of similar reports of laterally positioned lamps. Contrary to this we could find no reports concerning figures such as those in Langenargen, as far as the "clothing" and the mouth form go. The remaining details fit descriptions given in other places. It would in any case be misleading to talk of a new archetype or even of extraterrestrial spacemen.

Perhaps at a later time it might still be attempted, either through a dream analysis or in a renewed regressive hypnosis sitting, to eventually uncover the missing experiences in the time span between ca. 2:45 - 3.30a.m.

### Part III - Aftermath

#### 1. Supplementary Information Relating to the Langenargen Case.

Apparently the object (or the objects) had come direct from Italy. As reported in the "Münchner Merkur" on 11/1/1980--based on information supplied by the SAD-Rome Agency--the Italian Defense Ministry had made public that in the night from 23 to 24 February, 1977, an Italian Air Force fighter was followed by an UFO for 23 minutes. The object was surrounded by a very bright halo of light. During the chase the plane and the object had covered a distance of some 375km. Only after a 270° turn over the Po Valley did the object disappear.

As regards the appearance of the humanoids, it is of interest to note what L.H. Stringfield reports in his book "The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome - Status, Report II: New Sources, New Data" (MUFON, Seguin, Texas 78155, 1980).

Stringfield claims to know ca. 20 witnesses who had supplied him with reports concerning UFO crashes in United States territory.

The U.S. Air Force is supposed to have examined the wreckage of a metallic construction that crashed in New Mexico in 1962, in which two lifeless human-like beings were discovered.

The unnamed witnesses described these figures as being of small stature (1.20 - 1.30m) and similar in all details..except for the collars--to the two beings which were seen in Langenargen. In 1977 Schäfler could not yet have known of these publications.

Two CIA officials and a doctor sworn to secrecy described the appearance of the beings to Stringfield. They supposedly had overproportionately large round heads in relation to their body size and slanted eyes. Mouth, ears and nose were very small (mere holes or slits). The head was bald. The relatively long arms had four webbed fingers (to the second finger joint). The skin was white-grey.

Are these coincidences due to a worldwide appearance of a new archetype in the Jungian sense? Were the beings in Langenargen and New Mexico real? Are the coincidences pure chance, or perhaps a chance occurrence which was "badly done up?"--The reader can decide for himself.

#### 2. A Man-in-Black Case.

Although Schäfler was no longer the same uncomplicated person he was before this encounter, within a year he had managed to take up his normal day-to-day life once again and talked to others only occasionally about his sighting in February 1977.

In July 1980 a colleague of Schäfler's called and asked for our advice: because of nervousness Schäfler was not able to speak with us himself.

We were then asked if it were possible or usual that witnesses of a CEIII encounter were sometimes threatened by mysterious men. Schäfler had just fainted once again, and in falling had badly injured his hand on a broken bottle. The act of becoming unconscious led Schäfler back to the threat by a man who had told him something bad would happen if he ever again talked about his sighting, which he had just done.

Hoping to be able to calm Schäfler we visited his mother and learned how his present state of bad nerves had originated. One evening in September 1978 (toward 9p.m.) Schäfler was walking home from the direction of Lake Constance. On the empty street (with one-family houses) a bicyclist coming from behind drew even with Schäfler and spoke to him. He was supposed to have said that Schäfler should never again talk about his experience, otherwise something would happen to him.

At first Schäfler did not take the man, who wore a long black coat or cape and a black, broad-brimmed seaman's slouch hat, seriously. Then suddenly he was terribly frightened: ten meters in front of him the bicycle and rider literally dissolved into nothing!

Several weeks later Schäfler began falling over in a faint (the beginning of epilepsy, as predicted by Dipl. Psych. S. Streubel in Part II). Schäfler believed the bicyclist's--whose presence he constantly believed to feel--threats would be fulfilled. His nervousness increased to such an extent he was finally afraid to go out of the house without accompaniment.

In the spring of 1980 Schäfler once again encountered the mysterious man in the long black coat as he was walking along the street in the evening. The man approached him from behind (this time without a bicycle), repeated the same threat, and then disappeared by dissolving into nothing, as in the first encounter.

Our psychologist, S. Streubel, examined Schäfler, and we calmed him down by telling him his fainting attacks were a normal sickness which followed that which he had experienced, and that "these men" would "latch on" to insecure victims, such as himself, wanting to harm them. He, Schäfler, should simply laugh at the man if he met him again. The man could not harm him physically in any case. After this Schäfler clearly felt better because we had looked into his very special situation in the only proper way.

A psychic projection might be one explanation for this MIB case. Schäfler had been unable to remember--even during regressive hypnosis--what happened between 2:30 - 3.20a.m. on the morning of his experience. His subconscious searched in vain for the "lost events" in his memory, where they had not been stored. Finally the unconscious manifested itself in the form of the bicyclist in order to tell the conscious there were no further repressed experiences, or that they could not be revived in conversation.

Schäfler did not recognize this phantom image as a psychic projection, nor were other witnesses present during his confrontation with it. By redirecting his fear due to the time loss to the phantom image, the possibility of getting rid of his dread of the forgotten events arises.

That Schäfler actually had had an experience which lastingly damaged him psychically was shown by an extensive psychological examination.



We have come to the conclusion that MIB reports should be more seriously examined by psychiatrists to better help the witness, if necessary, out of severe depressions.

Supplementing this is the following special evaluation by the psychologist S. Streubel.

In the meantime we have visited Schäfler in 1980 and 1989. Each time a psychological examination of the witness has been done. In 1991 we have paid the treatment of Schäfler by a psychotherapeut. There was a need to continue the treatment. The witness decided to break up because of difficulties in connection with the bad attainability of the therapist.

The witness and the investigators have been attacked by skeptics like Rudolf Henke (from GEP) who never met the witness personally. Today, in 1993, the witness is in good health again and has lost his fears as a consequence of autogenic training.



Lothar Schaeffler, Siegfried Streubel and Illobrand von Ludwig in Langenargen in June 1989

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