

Reports, Reviews and Articles from the world of Ufology

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For several years in our not too distant past huge Flying Triangles were reported around the world...

July August 2007



Welcome to issue four of the new format UFO DATA Magazine. Summer is with us and traditionally we should be seeing reports of wonderful formations appearing in farmers' crops across the south of England and we probably will. The long days and short nights mean many of us will enjoy the charms of country pubs on balmy

nights and it was on such a summer night that Channel 5 played their UFO 'con-trick' on an unsuspecting public a few short years ago. Remember '*The Great British UFO Hoax*'. It actually fooled nobody (with a brain), but another summer event happened back in 1999 over Aylsham in Kent when dozens of witnesses observed and reported a gigantic fleet of colourful UFOs and caught the event on camera only to have it shelved by a local news broadcaster after having talked the cameraman into signing the rights to his film over to them, so has the relationship with the media and the UFO subject changed?

We take a look at the reports of huge flying triangular craft that dominated UFO reports back in the 1990s. Far from explained, the phenomena is still reported on a regular basis all over the world...

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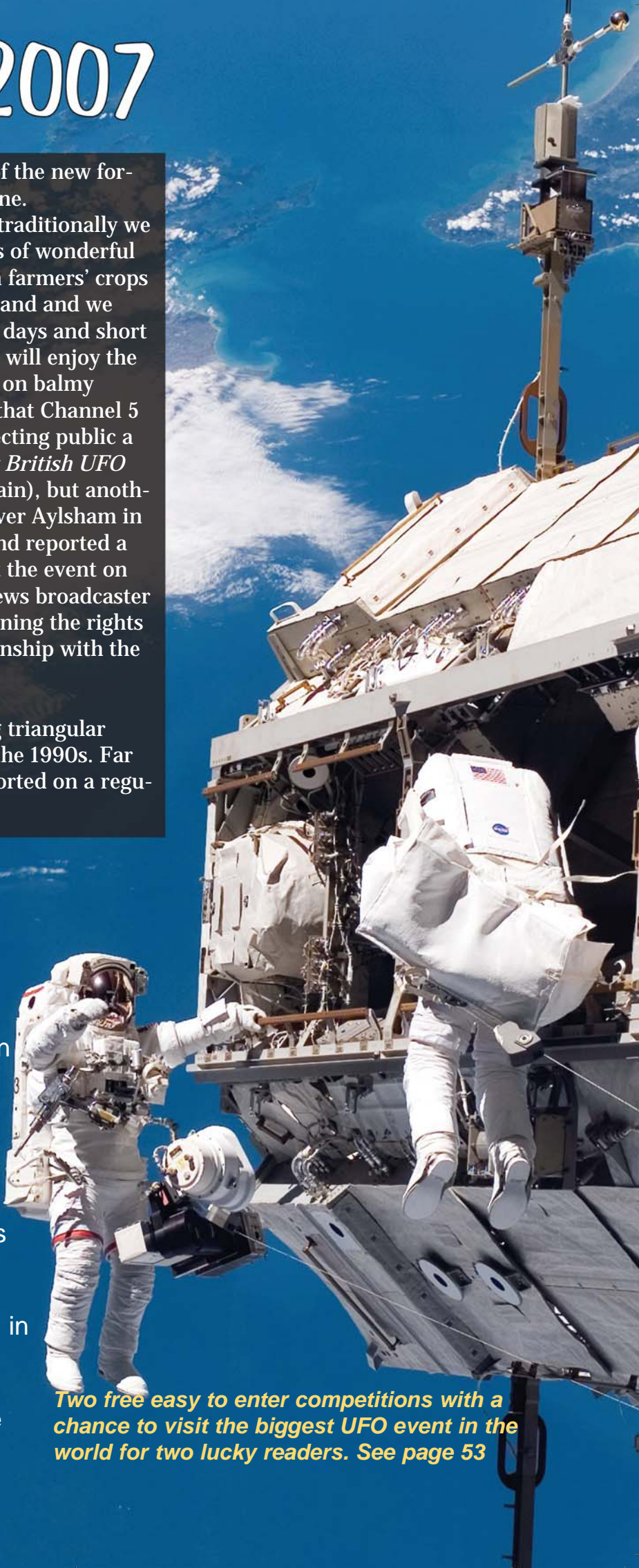
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unaware of a UFO in their vicinity.

Ron Halliday describes an experience that befell a man called Tom Coventry in Glasgow in December, 1983. Having set out for work around 6.25 a.m., Coventry was waiting at a bus stop when he noticed a distant, aerial object coming towards him at a low altitude. Initially, he took it to be an aircraft moving in a wide arc. Then he noticed spurts of flame issuing from its rear. As the object got near, he realized it wasn't a plane. Things began to go quiet around him. The UFO had come directly above him and was hovering no more than 20 feet away. It was grey, shaped like a railway carriage and had a curved roof. Crackling and humming sounds came from it. It had three windows at the front, shaped like port-holes, through which Coventry saw yellow smoke swirling inside. Ambient sounds returned when the object started moving off slowly towards a nearby railway bridge. After stopping there for a second, the UFO shot up vertically. Then it headed across the city and disappeared in the distance. The object was still visible when a bus arrived, but no one else seemed to notice the UFO.²

Of course, a sceptic might surmise that these incidents involved faulty observation or misinterpretation. Regarding the incident in the Highlands, for example, it might be suggested that the oncoming vehicle had made a 180-degree turn and had then driven away unnoticed, so that it was out of sight by the time the Inverness-bound party emerged from the S-bend. And regarding the strange object seen over Glasgow, a debunker might suggest that the witness had misperceived a helicopter!

Hallucinations and Collective Hallucinations

Another possibility is that the ghostly man seen in the hotel, the apparitional vehicle seen in the Highlands, and the unusual aerial object seen in Glasgow, were hallucinations. That idea certainly has some appeal. For example, if Tom Coventry was hallucinating, there's no mystery about the fact that no one else seemed to notice the UFO. And if the ghost seen in the hotel was hallucinatory,

There are overlaps between UFO experiences and apparitional experiences. According to reports, UFOs can suddenly appear and disappear, change shape, split into different parts, or join up with one another. They seemingly come in a variety of shapes and sizes; and not all UFOs display clearly defined edges. Alien entities allegedly exhibit strange characteristics, too, such as an ability to appear, uninvited, in people's bedrooms. Ghosts and apparitions also take a variety of forms and can appear and disappear capriciously, as in the following case, which was reported to me by Jim, a retired civil engineer.

The incident occurred in 1994. At the time, Jim was working in the Middle East and staying in a hotel. He awoke one night, sensing a presence. The atmosphere felt cold. He switched on the bedside light and saw a man of Indian appearance standing at the end of his bed, looking in his direction. The figure appeared quite solid, but it turned round and walked through the wall forming the gable end of the building! About a year later, another engineer, sleeping in a bedroom adjacent to the suite that Jim had occupied, awoke to see a man of Indian appearance standing at the end of his bed.

The figure turned and walked

through the wall separating the bedroom from the suite that Jim had used.

There are reports of inanimate objects, such as cars and aircraft, appearing in apparitional form.¹ The following case was brought to my attention a few years ago and I discussed it with one of the witnesses (the woman referred to below).

The incident occurred in the Scottish Highlands in late 1945. A naval officer and his wife were being driven from Aultbea to Inverness. The officer's wife was sitting beside the driver. They were on a long stretch of road, with moorland on either side, when a large vehicle with big, blazing headlights was seen approaching. But it was then obscured by a small S-bend, with rocky outcrops on both sides. The driver of the Inverness-bound vehicle pulled into a passing place and waited for a while, but nothing happened, so he pulled out cautiously and negotiated the bend. A long, straight road lay ahead, with no sign of the oncoming vehicle. Unlike his wife and their driver, the naval officer hadn't seen the oncoming vehicle. At the time, he was leaning forward, talking to the other two. Was he unable to see the vehicle, or had he simply not noticed it?

There are also cases in which potential witnesses seem to have been

we don't need arcane theories of physics to explain how it could vanish through walls! But an adequate hallucination-based theory would need to explain why two different men, at different times, experienced the same type of hallucination in the hotel; and it would need to explain why two members of the Inverness-bound party simultaneously hallucinated an oncoming vehicle.

Several decades ago, a psychical researcher called G. N. M. Tyrrell put forward an interesting theory about apparitions.³ He conjectured that they were hallucinations arising from subconscious telepathic interaction between people. Imagine, for instance, that a soldier serving in Iraq is injured in an explosion and, at that moment, he thinks of his wife back in Britain, wishing he could be with her. According to Tyrrell's theory, the soldier's crisis might instigate a subconscious telepathic interaction with his wife, resulting in her seeing (hallucinating) an apparition of him. Tyrrell suggested that the apparitional process tends to mimic ordinary perception. Therefore, during its brief appearance, the figure might look like a real person, and if the soldier's wife happens to be with someone else at the time - her sister, for example - the latter might be drawn into the proceedings (again, via subconscious telepathic interaction). Consequently, both women might see the apparition of the soldier.

The Psychic Internet Theory

As it stands, Tyrrell's theory doesn't easily account for cases featuring both apparitions and physical phenomena, and yet there are many such cases on record. However, if we assume that interacting subconscious minds can not only facilitate hallucinatory experiences, but can also produce psychokinetic ('mind over matter') effects, we have the makings of a more comprehensive theory. Because the notion of a network of interacting subconscious minds is analogous to computers linked to one another via the internet, I'll call this the psychic internet theory.

A psychic internet (a group of minds interacting at a subconscious level) might operate as a complex mechanism rather than as a 'higher mind';

and its effects could be variable and possibly even harmful in some cases. The size of a psychic internet (the number of interlinked minds) could vary over time, and so, too, might the pattern of links among those involved. One might expect large psychic internets to be more powerful than smaller ones. Since the interactions would be occurring subconsciously, the people involved would usually be unaware that they were helping to produce paranormal effects.

The phenomena created by psychic internets could be seen as resembling theatrical productions. The manifestations might be created in response to a collective wish, on the part of some of those involved, for there to be evidence of UFOs, ghosts, etc.

I don't think it's necessary to ascribe any spatial location to a psychic internet. And to the extent that its effects are mediated by telepathy (which doesn't seem to be constrained by physical distance), there might be no need for the individuals concerned to be living near the 'target area'. And it might not be necessary for people to know one another at a conscious level in order to be interlinked subconsciously. The basic requirement would be a capacity for forming telepathic links. However, factors such as a shared and emotionally-invested interest (e.g. in UFOs), personal acquaintanceship and mutual liking might facilitate the subconscious networking.

A percipient would need to be connected to a psychic internet at the time of having an hallucinatory UFO sighting that was generated by it (unless psychic internets are able to programme people's minds for delayed-action effects). However, such linkage wouldn't be necessary for witnessing a physical phenomenon. For example, if a psychic internet produced a transient materialization of a UFO - something that was physically real - it would be possible to see it in the normal way, and photograph it, notwithstanding its paranormal origin. By the same token, if marks resembling landing traces were created psychokinetically, one wouldn't need to be linked to a psychic internet in order to see them.

The initial manifestations in a UFO case might have a different cause from those that occur subsequently. Imagine, for example, that a couple of ordinary aircraft are misperceived as UFOs. Now, if the sightings excite sufficient interest, it's possible that psychic internets will come into play and start to produce paranormal phenomena with a UFO flavour.

Because of their interest in the subject, people who investigate UFO incidents and ghostly phenomena might be particularly prone to becoming involved in psychic internets, thereby unwittingly affecting the nature or occurrence of the phenomena under study. There seems to be some evidence for this. During a lecture to the Society for Psychical Research in 1998, John Spencer referred to occasions on which new phenomena had appeared during case investigations.

I'm not suggesting that the psychic internet theory accounts for all genuine UFO phenomena. For all I know, some UFOs may indeed be exotic, intelligently-controlled craft from remote places, from 'other dimensions', or even from our own future. (If some UFOs are extraterrestrial craft, their sudden appearance or disappearance could, perhaps, be explained in terms of advanced 'stealth' technology.) However, I think the psychic internet theory might be particularly applicable in cases with the following features:

Recurrent phenomena occurring in a particular locality over an extended period; Multiple types of manifestation (e.g. UFOs, apparitions, and poltergeist effects); High strangeness.

Applying the Theory to Well-known Cases.

The Warminster UFO flap began in the mid-1960s and continued until about 1977. It reportedly involved a wide range of phenomena, such as unusual sounds, sightings of UFOs, apparitional events, and even the temporary disappearance of cows and sheep. The case is the focus of a recently published book by Steve Dewey and John Ries, who take a sceptical stance, interpreting the events in terms such as mispercep-

tion, a will to believe and hoaxing.⁴ However, their main focus isn't the alleged phenomena themselves, but rather the historical, cultural, and psychological factors that helped to generate and maintain the flap. Moreover, the authors didn't undertake any re-interviewing of witnesses.

In another recently-published book relating to the Warminster case, Kevin Goodman describes a number of interesting experiences that he and some friends had during visits to the Warminster area.⁵ A particularly noteworthy incident (described on pp. 113-115 of the book) occurred in 1977. Looking through a bedroom window, Goodman and a friend were able to observe an elliptically-shaped UFO slowly traversing the sky from right to left. Goodman went outside and took three photographs of the object before it was obscured by trees. He was using a 'fast' film, so he didn't expect any blurring. He focused or refocused the camera before taking each shot. As he finished, his friend, who had binoculars to his eyes, yelled from the bedroom window to say that there were people on a hill who were pointing at the object. However, when the film was developed, the prints showed blue sky and white clouds, but no UFO! And there was no sign of the UFO on the negatives. The tips of the trees on Elm Hill could be seen at the bottom left of the third print.

Assuming that Goodman's account is accurate, the absence of the UFO from the prints and negatives suggests that he and his friend had jointly hallucinated it. But what about the people on the hill who were pointing at the UFO? Were they also hallucinating? Or were these pointing figures themselves hallucinatory? Of course, in referring to hallucinations, I'm not denying that the experience was anomalous. Indeed, if the incident occurred as described, it would certainly appear to have been a paranormal event - and one that accords well with the psychic internet theory.

The Warminster case received considerable publicity in its time, drawing many visitors to the area. In their eagerness to see something remarkable, some of them may well have

misinterpreted terrestrial aircraft, meteors, etc., as UFOs. However, the conditions may also have been ideal for the creation of psychic internets.

In the 1990s, a somewhat vaguely defined area in central Scotland, including the towns of Bonnybridge and Falkirk, acquired a reputation for being a UFO hotspot. It's possible, of course, that expectation, suggestion, etc., led some people to misperceive aircraft and other 'normal' objects or phenomena as UFOs. However, as in the Warminster case, the conditions may have been favourable for psychic internets to come into play and start generating phenomena through paranormal means.

One of the best-known British UFO cases is that relating to Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in late December 1980, although most of the people involved were United States Air Force personnel. The case has been the focus of controversy, and it isn't easy to evaluate, not least because there are divergent accounts of what happened. Interestingly, though, it's been claimed that there are ongoing phenomena in the area. The forest attracts sky-watchers, who have reported manifestations such as UFO sightings, experiences of 'missing time', and phenomena of the poltergeist type. Some of the phenomena might be explicable in prosaic terms (e.g. as the products of misperception, suggestion and imagination), but, as in the Warminster and Bonnybridge cases, it's possible that psychic internets have come into being and have been producing paranormal effects.

Concluding Comments

Attempts have been made to explain recurrent localized anomalous phenomena in terms of unusual magnetic field conditions. It's been suggested, for example, that magnetic fields might affect brain functioning, causing hallucinations. There may be some validity in this, but I doubt whether such theorizing will be able to explain more than a small percentage of cases satisfactorily.

The psychic internet theory isn't burdened by a need to demonstrate that there's something physically unusual

about UFO hotspots. It makes no assumptions about special geological features or magnetic fields. And it makes no recourse to the 'subtle energies' that people of a 'New Age' persuasion seem to believe in! Similarly, it avoids the rather mystical idea that UFO hotspots are 'portals' or gateways linking different 'worlds'. The theory places emphasis on telepathy and psychokinesis, but it seems to me that there's ample evidence that they exist. (For a readable account of some of the findings from parapsychological research, I would recommend Dean Radin's book, *The Conscious Universe*.⁶)

Notes

1 Reports of inanimate apparitions challenge the popular assumption that ghosts are discarnate spirits.

2 Halliday, R. (1998). *UFO Scotland*. Edinburgh: B&W Publishing. Pp. 88-90. Halliday indicates that some names in his book have been changed to preserve the anonymity of witnesses. Accordingly, 'Tom Coventry' may not be the real name of the person who experienced this incident.

3 Tyrrell, G. N. M. (1973). *Apparitions*. London: Society for Psychical Research. (First published 1943.)

4 Dewey, S. & Ries, J. (2006). *In Alien Heat: The Warminster Mystery Revisited*. San Antonio & New York: Anomalist Books.

5 Goodman, K. (2007). *UFO Warminster: Cradle of Contact*. Southampton: Swallowtail Books.

6 Radin, D. I. (1997). *The Conscious Universe: The Scientific Truth of Psychic Phenomena*. New York: HarperCollins.

Author information

Dr McCue, who lives in Scotland, is a retired clinical psychologist with a longstanding interest in psychical research and ufology.



At the time of The Rendlesham Forest Incident, I was a 20-year old single chap, who had recently observed a craft in a late Sunday afternoon sky that changed my opinion of this subject. I was convinced that what I and a colleague observed that Sunday was not of this world.

I can also remember enjoying re-runs late on Friday nights of Gerry Anderson's first live-action series, *UFO*. Ever since the Rendlesham Incident broke in the *News of the World* some years after the event, the

image above has stuck in my mind.

The descriptions of the craft in the forest and even the sketch done by one of the U.S. airmen present are remarkably similar to Gerry Anderson's *UFO* special effects.

As a seasoned UFO researcher, I believe Rendlesham was far more than a lighthouse in the distance and that the trace evidence was not caused by rampant rabbits or badgers or that a half-cut practical joker of a serviceman drove his squad car

through the forest with lights and siren, creating the sci-fi spectacular.

But if you had to suggest that the events were influenced by anything at all, then Gerry Anderson's *UFO* series is as good a suggestion as any.

Russel Callaghan.

The July/Aug 2007 edition of UFO DATA Magazine sees our 10th printed publication produced. Please let your friends know we are here and if they want to catch up with the issues they have missed over the last 20 months, they can pick up back issues of the magazine at a reduced price.

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As the editor of UFO Magazine I have heard many convincing reports from people in many walks of life, people who could face ridicule for airing their views both publically and in print.

I am also indebted to doctors, scientists, police officers and pilots who, in the eyes of the public, are labelled very reliable witnesses for sharing both their own experiences of this subject and also for adding expert comments to cases brought by others.

It is indeed warming and somewhat essential to have such professionals on our side.

I do keep repeating myself, but to be involved in this subject you have to be objective and you must look at both sides of the arguments put forward.

One voice that has rattled many a researcher over the years of the modern era of the subject is aerospace writer and NASA advisor, James Oberg. Below follows a fairly in-depth report into some of the classic pilot UFO encounters reported over the years.

Case Studies In Pilot Misperceptions Of "UFOs"

James Oberg



How good are pilots' "UFO reports"? There is some dispute over whether the features they describe are imaginative interpretations of raw visual stimuli (based on their own aviation experience) or are sound renditions of raw perceptions.

Experienced UFO investigators realize that pilots, who instinctively and quite properly interpret visual phenomena in the most hazardous terms, are not dispassionate observers. Allen Hynek wrote: "Surprisingly, commercial and military pilots appear to make relatively poor witnesses..." The quote is from "The Hynek UFO Report", page 261 (Barnes and Noble reprint). (271 in original Dell, Dec 1977) He found that the best class of witnesses had a 50% misperception rate, but that pilots had a much higher rate: 88% for military pilots, 89% for commercial pilots. the worst of all categories listed. Pilots could be counted on to perceive familiar objects - aircraft and ground structures - very well, Hynek continued, but added a caveat: "Thus it might surprise us that a pilot had trouble identifying other aircraft, but it should come as no surprise that the majority of pilot misidentifications were of astronomical objects." (Dell page 271)

Here are two "test cases" that are illustrative: the November 5, 1990, re-entry of the Gorizont/ Proton rocket body across northern France and Germany, and the January 28, 1994, launch of Progress TM-21 from Kazakhstan. Both events were observed by airline crews. Arguably, in both cases, the pilots over-interpreted their perceptions and subconsciously introduced "deductions" and "conclusions" to shape their remembered perceptions.

The resulting perceptions look like many other 'classic UFO encounters' reported by pilots, encounters that superficially have a high credibility because of the technical expertise of the witnesses. But both of these man-made events provide a rare opportunity to calibrate pilots' perceptions to what we know was actually being observed, and to raise a caution flag about accepting similar perceptions as gospel.

The first description is from the "Special Report to FSR [Flying Saucer Review] (May 1991)", by Paul Whitehead, Summer 1991 issue, page 10".

"It was a dark, early evening (6:15 pm local time), on November 5th, 1990, and a British Airways passenger aircraft was en route to London, flying over the Alps at 31,000 ft. The crew heard a nearby Lufthansa jet report and query 'traffic ahead'. The BA captain peered intently ahead into the night sky. What he saw was hardly what he expected!

"(At the time, the European press reported the incident, and the 'official line' was given: the UFOs were in fact 'space debris from an old satellite re-entering the atmosphere'.)

"Well, MAYBE! But more details have now emerged. An airline pilot, well known to me and based in the UK, has spoken personally to the BA captain who logged the report, at the request of SIGAP (Surrey Investigations Group on Aerial Phenomena). SIGAP has agreed to the captain's request not to make public his name, in order to protect him from publicity, and FSR respects that request. The airline pilot who spoke to the BA captain also wishes to remain anonymous.

"What did the BA captain see? Here is his comment:

" 'I looked ahead and saw, somewhat to my surprise, ahead and to the right and higher than we were, a set of bright lights. One of the lights, the leading one, was brighter than the others, and appeared bigger, almost disklike. It was followed closely by another three that seemed to be in a V-formation. As I watched, I heard another aircraft crew also reporting seeing lights.

" 'I watched the objects intently as they moved across my field of view, right to left, ahead and high. It was then, on hearing the report from the other aircraft, that I realized I was watching something much further away than I had first thought.

The other report came from France.'

"Was it a satellite re-entry? The pilot stated: 'It certainly didn't look like that to me. I have seen a re-entry before and this was different.'

"But it was the BA captain's further comments that are causing amazement and intense interest. SIGAP has released the information to UFO researcher and writer, Tim Good, and we hope to have more comprehensive details this year.

"That same night, a colleague of the captain, in another BA aircraft, reported two 'very bright, mystifying lights' while flying over the North Sea. Two days later, an RAF Tornado pilot told the captain that on the same evening (5th November) his Tornado - while flying with another squadron aircraft, had been 'approached by bright lights'. The lights, he reported, formed on the Tornados'. (This expression 'formate' is apparently used to indicate a deliberate intent)

"The accompanying Tornado pilot was so convinced that they were on collision course with the lights (apparently nine of them were seen) that he 'broke away' and took 'violent evasive action'. This same pilot later added that he thought he was heading directly for a C5 Galaxy, a giant US transport plane. The formation of UFOs carried 'straight on course and shot off ahead at speed - they were nearly supersonic. Some C5!', he said, indicating that they were going faster than the speed a C5 can achieve.

"The pilot known to Paul Whitehead commented, 'This is all a good true story, and could do with an explanation. All the pilots are adamant that what they had seen was definitely not satellite debris - and they should know.'"

Further details were reported in the *National Enquirer*, March 12, 1991, page 50: "Airline pilot in chilling brush with giant UFO", by Fleur Brenham. Has photo of "Veteran pilot, Capt. Mike D'Alton. He's convinced it came from outer space."

"A massive glowing UFO stunned a

veteran British Airways pilot and his crew when it shot in front of their Boeing 737 on a night flight from Rome to London - then zoomed out of sight at fantastic speed"

The newspaper quoted the pilot: "This thing was not of this world," declared Capt. Mike D'Alton. "In all my 23 years of flying I've never seen a craft anything like this."

More: "Capt. D'Alton says he's convinced the mysterious craft came from outer space because: It was traveling at tremendous speed, but caused no sonic boom. . . it had a bizarre shape like nothing he'd ever set eyes on . . . and it made a sharp turn while flying at high speeds - an impossible maneuver that would rip any man-made aircraft to bits. Just as incredible, when Capt. D'Alton checked with area air traffic controllers, they hadn't detected a thing! 'There was nothing on the radar screens of any of the control towers it was flying over,' he said."

According to the article, "The encounter began at 6:03 p.m. last November 5 as Capt. D'Alton's airliner was flying over Genoa, Italy. 'The rest of the crew saw it, too,' he said. 'What we saw was one large, fairly bright light. Ahead of it was a formation of three fainter lights in a triangle. Another faint light was behind the large light and was slightly lower.'"

D'Alton continued: "The craft was flying level, going much too fast to be a man-

made aircraft. I've flown all over the world, and I know this thing wasn't a

shooting star, space debris or the northern lights."

Said Bob Parkhouse, the flight's chief steward: "The UFO was moving from left to right across the horizon. It was a sight I'd never seen before!"

"The crew watched the craft for two minutes, said Capt. D'Alton. 'Then it took a lightning-fast right-angle turn and zoomed out of sight.' Other pilots, including a Lufthansa German Airlines captain, reported a UFO sighting around the same time. Capt D'Alton said. 'It had to be something from another planet - because it was definitely not man-made!' "

Still more details from Tim Good's "UFO Report 1992", pp. 136-7.

"5 November 1990: Genoa, Italy/North Sea - British Airways Captain Mike D'Alton reported sighting a UFO during the night flight in a Boeing 737 from Rome to Gatwick, describing it as a silver disc with three faint points of light in arrow formation and a fourth light behind it.

"Captain D'Alton said the object was visible for about 2 minutes over Genoa. 'I've never seen anything like it before and can't explain what it was. My co-pilot and I called in two cabin crew to see it and then it went out of sight. Ground radar couldn't pick it up, so it must have been travelling at phenomenal speed.' (*Sunday Telegraph*, London/*Sunday Mail*, Glasgow, 11 November 1990)

"That same night, another BA captain reported two 'very bright mystifying lights' while flying over the North Sea, and later spoke to an RAF Tornado pilot who, together with another Tornado from the same squadron, had been 'approached by bright lights' which 'formed' on the Tornados. The



accompanying Tornado pilot was so convinced that they were on collision course with the lights - apparently nine were seen - that he 'broke away' and took 'violent evasive action'. The formation of UFOs continued 'straight on course and shot off ahead at speed - they were nearly supersonic. . .'

"(These incidents were confirmed to Paul Whitehead of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena via another airline pilot, who had spoken with the BA pilot involved in the North Sea incident, and reported to me by Paul in April 1991. . . . In addition, the following report may provide corroboration.)"

Good then describes a case labeled "5 November 1990: Near Rheindalen, Germany/North Sea", and writes:

"According to a highly placed RAF Germany source, two terrific explosions were heard on two separate occasions at night in the Rheindalen area. After the second explosion (at 22:00) the crew of a Phantom jet reported UFOs headed north in a 'finger' formation.

"Separately, two Tornado jets over the North Sea encountered two large round objects, each with five blue lights and several other white lights around the rim. As the Tornados closed to investigate, one of the UFOs headed for one of the jets, which had to take violent evasive action to avoid collision. The two unknowns then headed north until they were out of sight. Nothing showed on the radar screens of the Tornados."

A third report was labeled "5-6 November 1990: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland", and Good wrote:

"Mysterious aerial objects, variously described as orange balls, triangles and points of light were reported during the night by hundreds of witnesses in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Some described a moving shape comprising three, five or six brilliant points of light. Experts in Munich and other countries suggested that a meteorite or satellite re-entry was to blame.



"But in Belgium, dozens reported a triangular object with three lights, flying slowly and soundlessly to the south-west, and the air force said it was studying the reports in liaison with neighboring air forces. Several crew members of civilian and military planes also sighted UFOs, including a British pilot, who reported four objects flying in formation over the Ardennes hills in south Belgium.

"In France, Jean-Jacques Velasco, director of Service for the Investigation of Re-entry Phenomena, said an investigation would be launched, and confirmed that several airline pilots had reported sightings but that no radar contact was recorded in French airspace. One Air France pilot told a radio interviewer: 'We were on a flight to Barcelona at about 33,000 feet at 19:03 hours when we first saw the shape. It couldn't have been a satellite (re-entry) because it was there for three or four minutes'.

"In Italy, six airline pilots reported 'a mysterious and intense white light' south-east of Turin. Pilots also reported five white smoke trails nearby. Police in Bavaria were swamped with calls from people reporting streaks of light with tails of fire at about 19:00 on 5 November (*Glasgow Herald*, 7 November 1990)."

Now, what can we make of these

impressive testimonials? The satellite re-entry was occurring right before their eyes, and these pilots made many, many perceptual and interpretative errors, including:

1. In FSR, the anonymous BA pilot (obviously D'Alton) recalls: "One of the lights . . . was brighter than the others, and appeared bigger, almost disk-like." It was just as light, a piece of burning debris, and the "disk" interpretation was a mental pattern conjured up from previous experience, not from this actual apparition. Note that later, Good alters this comment to have the pilot unequivocally call it "a silver disc".
2. The main light "was followed closely by another three that seemed to be in a V formation," according to the pilot. Referring to a "formation" is an assumption of intelligent control. The pieces of flaming debris were scattered randomly in a group and stayed approximately in the same relative positions, but the pilots misinterpreted this to mean they were flying in formation.
3. FSR reports the pilot saying "I watched the objects intently as they moved across my field of view, right to left," but the objects' actual motion was left to right, as reported elsewhere correctly. Either the FSR writer, or the pilot, jumbled this key piece of information.

4. The pilot did not believe the apparition was a satellite re-entry because "I have seen a re-entry before and this was different." These re-entries are particularly spectacular because of the size of the object, and the pilot was speaking from an inadequate experience base here.

5. The RAF military pilots in the Tornados concluded that "the lights 'formed on the Tornados', which is the kind of thing a fighter pilot is trained to detect and avoid, not dispassionately contemplate. The lights, of course, never changed course, but the pilots who were surprised by them feared the worst.

6. The accompanying Tornado pilot was so convinced that they were on collision course with the lights that he "broke away" and took "violent evasive action". This move would be prudent in an unknown situation, but there's no need to believe that the perception of dead-on approach was really accurate. Since the flaming debris was tens of miles high, no real "collision course" ever existed, outside the mind of the pilot.

7. D'Alton in the National Enquirer is quoted as claiming "it made a sharp turn while flying at high speeds - an impossible maneuver that would rip any man-made aircraft to bits." Again, the actual object never made such a turn, and the pilot's over-interpretation of what the object MUST be experiencing was based on mistaken judgments of actual distance and motion.

8. After two minutes of flying straight, said D'Alton, "... it took a lightning-fast right-angle turn and zoomed out of sight." But we know that the actual observed object never made such a maneuver, but D'Alton remembered it clearly when trying to explain in his own mind how it disappeared so fast.

9. The newspaper account, quoted in Good's book, has D'Alton claiming that "ground radar couldn't pick it up, so it must have been travelling at phenomenal speed." Actually, the speed would have had nothing to do with radar failing to pick it up, but the actual distance - which D'Alton mis-

judged, leading to subsequent erroneous interpretations - did.

10. The Tornado pilots described the flaming debris as "two large round objects, each with five blue lights and several other white lights around the rim." Since they were used to seeing other structured vehicles with lights mounted on them, when they spotted this unusual apparition, that's the way they misperceived and remembered it.

11. "In Belgium, dozens reported a triangular object with three lights, flying slowly and soundlessly to the south-west," but these were separate fireball fragments at a great distance, which witnesses assumed were lights on some larger structure. Their slow angular rate was misinterpreted to be a genuine slow speed because their true distance was grossly underestimated.

12. "A British pilot . . . reported four objects flying in formation over the Ardennes hills in south Belgium." The pilot may have been over southern Belgium, but the objects he saw didn't have to be, they were hundreds of miles away. And despite his instinctive (and wrong) assumption the lights were "flying in formation", they were randomly-space fireball fragments.

13. Note that Good writes that "Jean-Jacques Velasco, . . . said an investigation would be launched," but Good saw the results of that investigation before his book went to press, and he neglected to tell his readers that Velasco proved the lights were from the satellite re-entry.

Such selective omissions make many such stories appear far stronger than they really are.

14. One Air France pilot told a radio interviewer: "... It couldn't have been a satellite (re-entry) because it was there for three or four minutes', but such reasoning is groundless since near-horizontal re-entries can be seen for many minutes, especially from airplanes at high altitude. The pilot didn't know this, and rejected that explanation erroneously.

15. "In Italy, six airline pilots reported 'a mysterious and intense white

light' south-east of Turin. Pilots also reported five white smoke trails nearby." They may have been near Turin when they saw the lights and assumed incorrectly they were 'nearby', but the lights were far, far away.

Hynek's assessment of the accuracy of "UFO reports" from pilots appears to be right on target. It is not meant as an insult to their intelligence, integrity, or professional competence. It does, however, reflect the training their minds have gotten from years of flight experience.

A second case is the so-called "Tajik Air" UFO, on January 28, 1994. It is based on a message from the American Embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (Mr. Escudero), Jan 31/0310Z. Selected passages follow:

"1. Tajik air chief pilot, amcit [american citizen] Ed Rhodes, and his two American pilot colleagues reported Jan 29 that, on January 27, they had encountered a UFO while flying at 41,000 feet in their Boeing 747 at lat 45 north and long 55 east, over Kazakhstan. They first encountered the object as a bright light of enormous intensity, approaching them from over the horizon to the east at a great rate of speed and at a much higher altitude than their own. They watched the object for some forty minutes as it maneuvered in circles, corkscrews, and made 90-degree turns at rapid rates of speed and under very high g's. Captain Rhodes took several photos with a pocket Olympus camera and will send copies to the embassy and Tajikistan desk (Lowry Taylor) in the department, if they come out. After some time, the object adopted a horizontal high-speed course and disappeared over the horizon.

"2. As it was dark when the object was observed, the crew were unable to discern its shape. They described the light it emitted as having a 'bow wave' and as resembling a high-speed photo of a bullet in flight, in which a very small object gives off a much larger trailing wave of heat/light. Some forty-five minutes after the initial sighting, as the sun was rising, the aircraft flew under the contrails which the object had left behind. The



horizon" when it merely rose and grew brighter as it was at all times flying away from their reported position. They mistook "brightening" for "nearing", an extremely common UFO witness error.

3. They claim to have watched "the object" for forty minutes, although the rocket would have been out of sight in four or five minutes. The smoke plumes, sunlit in the pre-dawn upper atmosphere, would have been visible ahead of them in the sky for forty minutes, but there was no "object" there.

4. The pilots reported seeing "circles, corkscrews, and 90-degree turns" but the actual rocket did no such maneuvers. However, the smoke trail would within half an hour have portrayed such a path, so the pilots could have simply assumed they were seeing an accurate history of the object's original path, instead of a smoke trail distorted by winds. They could NOT have actually seen the UFO performing these maneuvers, but in hindsight they could easily believe they did.

5. The UFO maneuvered "under very high g's", according to the pilots. But that rests on assumptions of actual distances and actual speeds, as well as the erroneous belief that it really changed course as reflected in the smoke trail.

6. The pilots recall that "after some time, the object adopted a horizontal high-speed course", when the rocket had been flying essentially straight and horizontally away from them since early in its flight. Their report of a non-existent gross change in course and speed must have been a rationalization to explain its eventual disappearance.

7. The pilots "were adamant that they had seen thousands of falling stars" and other space junk entering the atmosphere in their years of flying. . . This, they insisted, was nothing like a meteor." While true, it mis-aims attention at one explanation while omitting the other, a rocket launching.

8. The pilots concluded that "on the basis of its speed and maneuverability, . . . the object was extraterrestrial

plane was making over 500 knots. Rhodes estimated the altitude of the contrails at approximately 100,000 feet, noting that there is too little air/moisture at that extreme altitude to enable the creation of contrails by the propulsion mechanisms of ordinary aircraft which might be able to reach that height. The paths of the contrails reflected the maneuvers of the object, i.e., circles, corkscrews, etc.

"3. To our suggestion that the object might have been a meteor entering and skipping off the Earth's atmosphere, Rhodes and his crew were adamant that they had seen thousands of 'falling stars' and other space junk entering the atmosphere in their years of flying passenger aircraft for PanAm. This, they insisted, was nothing like a meteor. On the basis of its speed and maneuverability, Rhodes expressed the opinion, which his crew seemed to support, that the object was extraterrestrial and under intelligent control."

Rhodes appears to be a sincere witness who's convinced he saw a true UFO. But to understand the case we need some more relevant data and comments. First of all, this is the key: The Russian Baikonur Cosmodrome (space launch center) is located at approx 46N 66E, east of the Aral Sea in independent Kazakhstan.

The regularly scheduled unmanned supply ship Progress M-21 was launched toward the Mir space station at 0212 GMT on January 28 (a Friday) aboard a "Soyuz" (SL-4) booster. It blasted off and then

pitched over on a slightly north-of-east course, and nine minutes later achieved orbit about 140 miles up, 1200 miles down range, at a speed of 17,600 mph. During ascent it followed a straight course on a constant heading. However, at about 2.5 minutes into the flight the four strap-on boosters separated and fell back to Earth still trailing smoke.

The "Tajik Air" report does not provide direction of eyewitness view or direction of motion of the airliner. However, if one assumes it was flying eastwards, the launch would have been seen directly in front of them and they would have passed under the booster exhaust trail (NOT a jet engine "condensation", or CONtrail) much later.

These booster plumes are known to last 40-60 minutes after a launch, which would explain the air crew's feeling that they observed the UFO for that long. The plumes are twisted into corkscrews and zig-zags by the varying directional winds in the upper atmosphere.

Since this is the obvious visual stimulus for this apparition, we can see that this air crew made many, many perceptual mistakes, including:

1. A "bright light of enormous intensity" must be calibrated with a pilot's dark-adapted eyes in a dimly lit cockpit. From hundreds of miles away a rocket is indeed a "bright light" but it is hardly dazzling, blinding, or "of enormous intensity".

2. They concluded the UFO "approached them from over the

and under intelligent control." One last erroneous interpretation based on all previous misinterpretations and imaginations.

These recent examples are consistent with the experience of UFO investigators for more than fifty years. Reports of UFO maneuvering, intelligent flight formations, responses to witnesses, and other 'inexplicable' narratives can be engendered from prosaic, simple, but unfamiliar phenomena. In these cases, "UFO reports", even from pilots, did not need a "real UFO" to create them.

James Oberg.

Pay a visit to Jim's website, there are articles, books and a great collection of photographs taken by Jim over the years.



www.jamesoberg.com

UFODATA

I have had several email debates with Jim over the years regarding NASA and alleged UFO footage and I know he is a very passionate writer and stands firmly by his beliefs.

However It seems to me that James' interpretations of other peoples' reports are what make his explanations work. He once commented on the NASA Tether (STS-75) during the big 'did it or didn't the huge orb go behind the tether'. James explanation was, 'It only appeared to go behind'.

Well that sort of analysis will work for anything if applied. You either believe the pilots or other witnesses or you do not. And if you are in the camp that doesn't believe witnesses are telling the truth you will always end up with an 'Obergism'.

MoD to release UFO archive

I'm pleased to announce that the British MoD have decided to release their archive of 7,000 UFO reports made to the Defence Intelligence Staff covering a period of 30 years.

The decision - announced in a letter I received last month - is a direct result of my attempts, working with colleagues, to persuade the MoD to follow the recent French example and open their entire historical and recent archive to public scrutiny.

An additional problem in the British case was that 24 files containing UFO reports examined by the DIS branch DI55 from the mid-1970s until 2002, had been permanently closed along with 63,000 other records due to exposure to asbestos during storage in the basement of the Old War Office building in central London.

Initially it was feared these files may have to be destroyed, but after an 18-month project (at a £3 million cost to the taxpayer) the entire archive has been saved. Work is now ongoing to scan and review selected files for release a) to the National Archives and b) onto the MoD's Freedom of Information Act website. The DI55 UFO archive has been selected as an immediate priority for release due to its public interest value.

In their letter to me dated 26 March the MoD say: "It has recently been decided that 24 files from the DI55 UFO archive are to be retrieved from the contaminated archives and scanned onto disk. At this point, each of the files [redacted if necessary] will be placed on the MoD Publication Scheme. Following this work, the files will then be accessible by the general public via the MOD FOI website. It will be a few weeks before we will be in a position to give an estimate as to when the files will be posted on the Publication Scheme."

Further details of the announcement can be found on my website's news page here:
<http://www.drdavidclarke.co.uk/news1.htm>

As the 24 files earmarked for release

contain some 7,000 reports plus analysis and correspondence I suspect it will take some time for the entire archive to appear online, but having had a sneak preview of one year's contents (1979) I can assure you the wait will be worthwhile.

It should be noted that the material due for release contains a number of reports from service sources - including pilots and aircrew - that were never seen by the public 'UFO desk' or Sec(AS). The archive also contains all 3,000 UFO reports received by MoD between 1987 and 1997 that were used to draw up the database used by the author of the Condign report that was commissioned by DI55 in 1997.

The database itself was destroyed shortly after the report was circulated in 2000, see:
www.ukufo.org/condign/

The decision to release these files to the public is a major breakthrough and a landmark both for British UFOlogy and in the wider campaign for Freedom of Information in the UK.

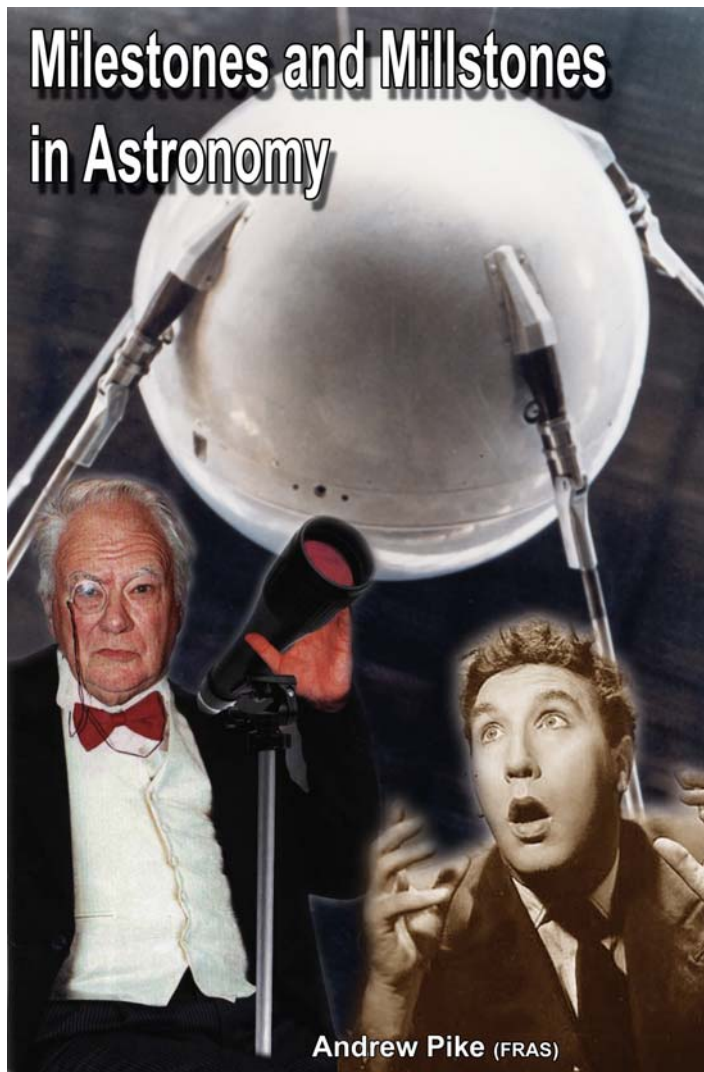
It also marks the end of my personal campaign, which began almost a decade ago before FOI arrived in 2005, to persuade the MoD to release all their UFO records.

My first success was in 2001 firstly with the Rendlesham file and the report by the Flying Saucer Working Party. Success after success has followed, partly through persistence and partly through the support and assistance of fellow researchers - in particular Gary Anthony, Joe McGonagle, Chris Fowler, Andy Roberts and friends in the media, particularly James Randerson, science correspondent of The Guardian. Thanks to everyone who has supported us.

As soon as I hear more about the MoD's planned release I will update this message.

Dave Clarke

Milestones and Millstones in Astronomy



Andrew Pike (FRAS)

This year sees several important milestones in the history of astronomy as well as a few lesser known events associated with them.

Top of the list must be the 50th anniversary of the space age. On 4 October, 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into Earth orbit. With that the Cold War froze deeper, throwing the USA and its citizens into a panic. The Soviets in space meant one thing, attacks on the USA from orbit and there was no shortage of citizens willing to report such attacks to the US government. Fortunately all these turned out to be mistaken everyday events, or simple hoaxes. My favourite was a family who reported that a Sputnik had landed in one of their trees. It turned out to be a hoax, a simple balloon with 'upski' written on one side and 'downski' on the other!

Of course, such events have to be put in the context of the age. 1947 had seen the start of many reports across the country of flying saucers and, 10

years on, the flying saucer era showed no sign of going away. Many of these reports were believed, by some, to be secret Soviet craft so it was a troubled time.

Events across the pond in the UK seemed somewhat less troublesome, but nevertheless had their moments. The long battle by Bernard Lovell to see his dream come true with the construction of a large, 250-foot radio telescope dish also came to fruition in 1957 when Jodrell Bank became the home of the world's biggest radio telescope

dish of its time. It was a major achievement against some amazing odds involving engineering problems and rocketing costs for the UK government who saw their world domination in space not from the ground but from Earth orbit like the Soviets. Many attempts to build a British rocket saw problem upon problem for the scientists.

Elsewhere that year, Patrick Moore was also having his problems.

These involved the start of his long running television programme, *'The Sky At Night'* and a big name in radio comedy called Frankie Howerd. BBC Television had two ideas presented to them for an astronomy programme: one was Patrick Moore's *'Star Map'* (later renamed *'The Sky At Night'*) the other was *'Frankie Looks Up'* presented by Frankie Howerd. Yes it's true, titter ye not, missus! Now, at the time, Howerd was a big radio name but was still

trying to break into television. Also like Patrick Moore, Howerd was a keen amateur astronomer and it was Howerd who got to make his pilot show first for the consideration of the top brass at the BBC. However, it did not go down well with the stuffy BBC executives of the 1950s. Many references to Uranus (using the incorrect, schoolboy pronunciation) and Howerd's female alien co-host, who seems to have come from a planet with a shortage of clothes, did not go down at all well with the powers-that-be at the Beeb! So, Patrick got his show accepted and the rest is history. It is interesting to think how things might have been if Howerd had won through. I believe most astronomers would say "Nay, nay and thrice nay!"

Keeping with aliens and broadcasting, it is also 40 years since we thought we had received their first radio broadcasts. In 1967 the research student, Jocelyn Bell, picked up a strange signal from a source in the constellation of Vulpecular about a third of the way from Altair to Vega. It was an uninteresting signal consisting of a burst of radio noise lasting twenty-fifths of a second and repeating every one and a third seconds. It was like nothing found before and appeared so regular it might just be a signal from an alien civilization. The source became known as LGM1, LGM standing for Little Green Men. Soon LGM 2 and 3 were found and things became interesting. Bell's supervisor was Professor Tony Hewish who it seems, if reports are to be believed, was contacted by government officials and asked to keep the news quiet in case

it was a genuine alien signal and caused panic amongst the public. It was not kept secret and eventually the results were published in the science journal, *Nature*.



Prof's. Bell & Hewish

We now know the signals were natural and the answer to the mystery was eventually solved by another great astronomer, Fred Hoyle, who realised the signals were due to rapidly rotating dead cores from stars, neutron stars, beaming out their radio waves as they rotated like a giant cosmic lighthouse.

Although Bell and Hewish were not working in the area of detecting alien radio broadcasts others were and for them it was also an interesting time. The same year saw problems at the Arecibo radio observatory in Puerto Rico with their more direct Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). The director was Frank Drake and his problems were alien in a different way involving vampires and cattle mutilations. For Drake things were not going too smoothly. While his staff were trying their best to listen out for ET, not far from the observatory mutilated cattle were found on a farm drained of all their blood, which threw many at the observatory into a panic.

Today cattle mutilations and aliens are well associated, whether true or not, but, back in 1967, things were different. Observatory security also reported dark-clothed people moving around on nearby farms late at night. From what I can tell this was not treated like it is today, that is men-in-black and aliens abducting cattle in UFOs, it seemed to be put down to cult vampire groups, or maybe vampire bat attacks. Advice involving vampires was sorted by Drake and for some reason the solution he was given was to use garlic, especially in the canteen food, to prevent the vampires attacking observatory staff. As weird as it seemed, it worked but was to be replaced by a threat from another source, a radical political group who specialized in attacking American interests in Puerto Rico. To put it simply they wanted to blow up the observatory it seems which attracted the attention of the FBI. Security was increased when Drake employed Victor Olazabal who had been a major in Castro's Cuban army. Olazabal had escaped Cuba by getting himself infected through an unnecessary operation so he would be transferred to the USA for treatment. And you probably thought such stories only existed in soaps!! The group flew in an explosives expert which attracted the attention of the FBI. The observatory was informed and Olazabal stood guard with his hand-picked men complete with clubs. Eventually the FBI visited the explosives expert following a worrying monitoring episode, and simply asked him to leave the country! It was a relief when he took their

advice and packed his bags. Business returned to normal at the observatory shortly afterwards when one of the staff burst into Drake's office with a copy of *Nature* and the news of the discovery of the LGM radio signals being picked up by Bell and Hewish. To complete the loop, it was then Drake who decided to call the new form of neutron stars Pulsars to avoid the long-winded version in use until then which was rapidly pulsating radio sources. ET has yet to phone, but if he does he will find the hunt for his message here on Earth was not without its drama.

Not all stories from astronomy are quite so interesting, other discoveries with an anniversary this year were far less dramatic. These include the launch of the Voyager probes 30 years ago, which went on to investigate most of the outer planets on its Grand Tour, returning the first close up images of planets like Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The mission was a huge success but did have a few problems en route when the camera jammed and it was feared the images of Uranus would be affected. I wonder how Frankie Howerd would have reported that one?

It is also the anniversary of the first metal on glass telescope mirrors invented 150 years ago. Until then mirrors were cast from a solid block of metal which affected their optical quality compared to the silver on glass version. It made the universe a

much clearer place.

The Soviets, as we know were not as interested in invading the USA as in flying saucers, or Sputniks, as we were suppose to believe, but they did have spaceships heading elsewhere - Venus. Several probes were sent to investigate the planet during the 1960s. Many failed but the Soviets continued their efforts and in 1967, while strange things were happening for Bell, Hewish and Drake, Venera 4 went to look at Venus' atmosphere and transmitted data of a hostile world. Further efforts paid off when two Soviet probes, Venera 13 and 14, soft-landed on the planet, sending back the first surface pictures 25 years ago. Since then Earth's twin proved to be a twin in size only, reality would show a planet better twinned with Hell itself.

Also, 150 years ago, James Clerk Maxwell showed that the rings of Saturn were made of many small objects and not solid as thought. But it would be a further 120 years before Uranus was found to also have a ring system. Uranus was once again back in the news 30 years ago and no doubt would have been followed by a whole new set of jokes for Frankie Howerd had things been different! Maybe in a parallel universe they are! But for me this one has been eventful enough.

Andrew Pike.



ARECIBO RADIO TELESCOPE

EASY TO ENTER COMPETITION

Here's your chance to get hold of a free copy of Thomas J. Carey & Donald R. Schmitt's latest book 'WITNESS TO ROSWELL', courtesy of Newman Communications, Inc

We have 2 copies, along with UFODATA Magazine's 'Alien Autopsy a little bit of this' DVD to give away.

All you have to do is answer the simple question below and send your answer to:

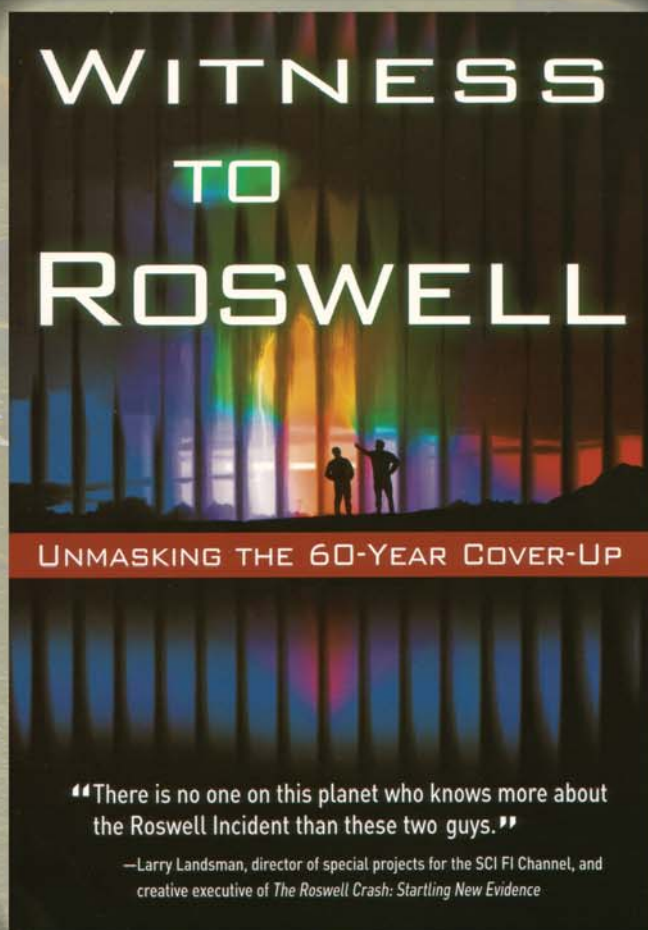
Roswell Competition
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Postcard or on the back of sealed-down envelope please. Winners notified direct and published in Sept/Oct 2007 issue...

Question:

What was the number of the atomic bomber unit based at Roswell Army Airforce base at the time of the famous incident ?

See review in this issue



Crop Circles

Alien art or works of art ?

The season of crop is with us

Summer in the south west and, once again, beautiful patterns begin to emerge across farmers' fields.

Research tells us that these formations are produced by some hitherto unidentified force, a force able to create such intricate patterns in a matter of seconds, totally unobserved, only to confound members of the public and miffed farmers to boot on finding them.

The modern era started in the 1970s but reports of 'Devil Mowers' go back centuries.

Sceptics and debunkers on the other hand blame cider-fuelled students of the 'plank and sighting cap' who have nothing better to do than destroy farmers' fields without getting caught or an arse full of lead shot into the bargain.

Writers and researchers Steve and Karen Alexander have sent these photographs of this seasons early formations.

A full report in the next issue of UFODATA Magazine.



Yatesbury



East Field

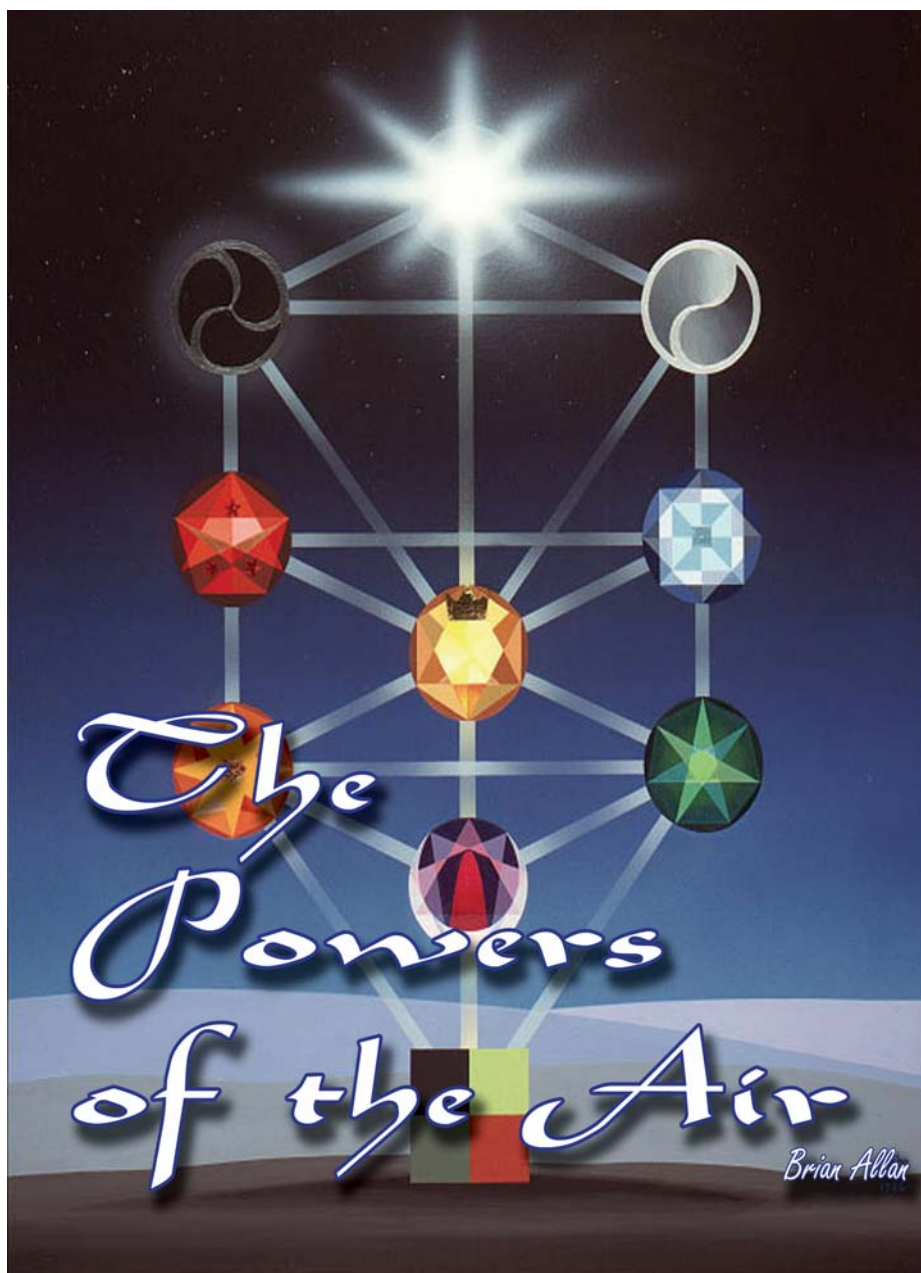


You can find out much more about this fascinating strand of the UFO subject and view some amazing photographs on Steve's website

www.temporarytemples.co.uk



Abbots Down



The Powers of the Air
© Brian Allan 2006

Forward

Receiving a visit from outer space sounds almost as comfortable as having a God, yet we shouldn't rejoice too soon, perhaps we will get the visitors we deserve.
[Jacques Vallee, *Messengers of Deception*, p. 246]

Although I am well aware that even within the mainstream of UFO enthusiasts and devotees there are individual schisms and subgroups, for the sake of both brevity and clarity I have chosen to ignore these and remain with more common and widespread ideas and opinions. I should also point out that this article is not intended to deny, minimise or trivialise any of these beliefs, but

rather to show that for the most part they rely on faith rather than science. Even now, after decades of exposure, the subject of UFOlogy and UFOs still tends to polarise its believers into several distinct camps. For example, there are those who are convinced by the validity of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH), i.e. that UFOs and their occupants originate solely from planets orbiting stars other than our own Sun. There are others who regard alleged sightings of strange, flying objects and their occupants as visits from other dimensions, and yet other groups who see these events as evidence that we are being contacted by mutated human beings or their servants from our own future. Indeed, there are even brands of fundamentalist Christianity who view the whole UFO enigma as a sure sign that, "The Prince of the

Powers of the Air, Lord of those that Fly", (viz. Satan and his demonic horde), use UFOs to wreak havoc amongst us. Finally, and with some justification, there are also those who view the subject as a natural extension of magic and traditional folklore. The purpose of the piece is not to judge, but rather to present a range of alternative explanations for a phenomenon that has puzzled mankind for millennia. Hopefully, during the course of what follows I can present some of the conflicting arguments surrounding this most enduring of puzzles and also present an alternative explanation that has some credible scientific basis.

The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

'A working knowledge of occult science is indispensable to UFO investigations'

[Trevor James, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol 6, No 1]

Comparing each proposition in turn, the ETH is perhaps the most obvious and easiest to grasp, it is a fundamentally simplistic and straightforward concept, but ultimately limited in its scope. There is no real attempt to determine precisely how, and more importantly why, either the vehicles or their occupants actually arrive here. Neither does it question or explain why there should be such a continuing and sustained interest over such a long period of time by the inhabitants of other star systems in the population of a relatively unimportant and primitive planet on the edge of the Milky Way. Other points not addressed are the implications raised by the supposed methods by which these craft are powered. Since, according to the tenets of the ETH, they are assumed to be travelling across the gulfs between stars and indeed galaxies, they must by definition employ technology utilising superluminal speeds. If this is indeed the case, then according to our understanding of physics it involves the probability of time travel, which itself opens another range of possibilities. However, if other methods of propulsion are used, then an even more extreme possibility is some variety of 'warp drive' which allows the very fabric of space/time to be 'folded' or warped, permitting the near instantaneous transit of a

vehicle across galaxies. Since these aspects of the consequences of the ETH are seldom confronted, accounts such as the infamous 1947 incident at Roswell, New Mexico, are uncritically presented as proof positive that at least one, and probably two, ET vehicles crash-landed on the Earth.

No 'smoking gun' has ever been obtained that would define precisely what occurred at Roswell; therefore it is assumed that the incident has been successfully covered up by a succession of US government administrations. Even the recent efforts of archaeologists employed by an American TV channel to search the area of the debris field created when the alleged craft skimmed the surface before finally crashing a few miles away failed to unearth anything significant. That said, with knowledge of the existence of a 'black world' consisting of secret defence projects and how they effectively vanish into a covert underworld of secrecy and denial, this may have some basis in fact. However since there is no hard data available to substantiate either UFO retrievals or 'back engineering' crashed UFOs in any readily-available information, the main claim that it occurs at all originates from dubious statements made by alleged former Area 51 employees such as Bob Lazar and other alleged whistleblowers. These assertions are not solely confined to the USA, and historically there is a range of other similar supposed landings, either accidental or deliberate in virtually every nation. In the UK, believers in the ETH cite the incident at Rendlesham Forest near the combined UK/ US Bentwaters air base (among others) as further proof of their position. In fairness, it has to be stated that what happened at Rendlesham is, in its way, one of the most intriguing and well-researched incidents in worldwide UFO lore.

Both of these major incidents have their attractions and served to concentrate public awareness on the

subject, and there is little doubt that something unusual occurred at each location, but for obvious reasons the British and American military and civil authorities have either explained them away in more mundane terms, in the case of Rendlesham, a light-house, or flatly denied them. Regrettably, due to the culture of obsessive secrecy, particularly in the UK, the truth surrounding major incidents such as these will

continue to be denied public scrutiny for the foreseeable future. One additional facet of the ETH, and one that does not help its case, is the parallel theory that there are underground bases dotted around

the planet, particularly at Dulce in New Mexico, USA, and RAF Rudloe Manor in England. According to this strand of the hypothesis, alien visitors, either as prisoners or guests, are kept hidden from prying eyes with the full knowledge and collusion of national governments.

However, although through of necessity underground military facilities undoubtedly exist, there is not one scrap of solid, definitive proof that covert, alien sanctuaries are actually a part of them. It is this particular hypothesis that also introduces the uncritical acceptance of (amongst others) blood sucking, shape-changing, reptilian entities as an absolute fact with not one single scrap of corroborative evidence to support the claims other than the speculation that these beings are kept hidden in these underground redoubts. It is from these subterranean beginnings that the more extreme end of conspiracy theory sprouts preaching the dangers of an impending world takeover with the active and willing collusion of

national governments.

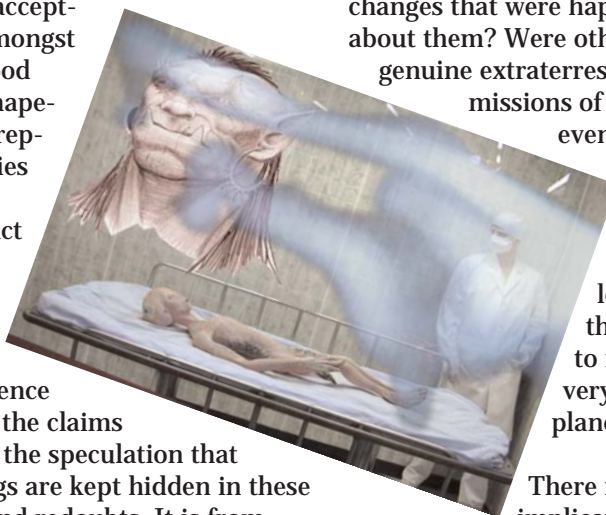
ETs as Paranormal Manifestations

UFO behaviour is more akin to magic than to physics as we know it...the modern UFO sightings and the demons of past days are probably identical" [Dr Pierre Guerin, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 25, No

The supernatural paradigm suggests that the occupants of the craft that appear in our skies are not extraterrestrial at all, but are instead supernatural creatures comprising variants on demons, fairies, elves, pixies, gnomes, trolls, sprites, banshees, sidhe (pron. shee) and sylphs, etc. Every civilisation and culture on the planet has produced its own variation of these magical creatures, as if it was somehow necessary to create something or someone to blame when things went wrong. It should be noted that belief in these creatures, along with animism and shamanism, long predates organised religions and the concept of a single God. Admittedly some of these beings are difficult to tell apart, but nevertheless they all have their own roles to play in the individual society and cultures that created them. It is difficult to apportion which of them were pure inventions and which may have had some basis in fact. Is it possible that some of them were the last remnants of ancient races that used to co-exist with humans, mutations too ill-equipped to handle the rapid changes that were happening around about them? Were others perhaps

genuine extraterrestrial visitors on missions of discovery, or even creations originating from the minds of our ancestors, minds so much less cluttered than ours, closer to nature and the very fabric of the planet itself?

There is of course the implication that these creatures have always been around, right from the very beginning of time. Entities of pure energy and spirit, only becoming visible when a suitable human mind, or group of



minds, was available to decode or otherwise animate them. Perhaps the subtle difference between them comes from the manner in which each individual human mind is totally unique and as such the interpretation of the energy or signals from these entities would likewise be unique. To take this hypothesis further, given that these beings apparently have different temperaments, i.e. violent, malignant, mischievous or friendly, perhaps the mood or psychological make up of the person interpreting the signals had a significant outcome on the personality of the finished product. When the vision is forming, perhaps it uses the tiny potentials of electrical energy present within the human brain and use this to 'fuel' the transformation, and then as the charge slowly dissipates, the image fades away. On the other hand, it could be argued that, once created, these creatures could maintain their existence indefinitely on the basis that as long as they were in the memory of their creators they would continue to exist. In other words, as long as they were 'alive' in an organic memory they would continue to draw on the minute quantities of bioelectricity generated and be 'alive' in the real world.

This possibility was demonstrated in the classic 1950s science fiction film, *'Forbidden Planet'*, when the villain, Morbeus, in a fit of jealousy and resentment created a ferocious and indestructible creature using alien technology to amplify the negative impulses in his subconscious mind. Although at the time this notion was sheer invention and had no direct scientific analogue, there are now some intriguing hints raised in the arcane calculations of quantum physics. One theory incorporating 'probability waves', suggests that reality is an illusion created by the minds of individuals and nothing becomes real until one thinks about it, in effect collapsing the wave function into reality. Indeed, current research into the nature of consciousness by Dr Peter Fenwick of University Hospital, London, England, suggests that once created, consciousness does not reside solely in the brain but appears to partly coexist 'elsewhere' and can to some extent alter physical reality. It is this 'elsewhere' that may hold the answer

to many, if not all, the currently paranormal conundrums that bedevil mankind.

Oddly enough this concept has its direct counterpart in the world of spirituality and mysticism, particularly in Buddhist beliefs. This system of religion posits the possibility that one can create, or project, a thought form called a 'Tulpa' by an effort of will and concentration.

The traveller and explorer, Alexandra David-Neal, claims to have done this in Tibet when, on an expedition, she created an entity identical in appearance to the local bearers. At first, the creation seemed amenable enough, but in a short time it became difficult and surly and it took a considerable and lengthy effort of Ms David-Neal's behalf to return it to its point of origin. This leads one to wonder if, after an extended period of time, it might become virtually impossible to send the creation back to the quantum reality it came from. Perhaps these entities actually draw increasing strength and solidity from the fact that once created, providing other human beings accept them as real, in effect they become real. The obvious extension of this is, if they are real and possess their own consciousness could they then create their own objective reality? Strange perhaps, but as we shall see, a concept no stranger than some of those currently being scrutinised and evaluated by science.

ET's and The Bible

"And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female created he them. [Genesis 1:26, 27.]

The proposition that the bible contains a record of ET visitations is not new nor is the idea that the emergence of humanity is a direct result of deliberate and systematic biochemical manipulation. Nor does this

begin with the early hominids, it predates them, right back at the beginning when single-celled organisms



were artificially created and encouraged to develop and mutate. This of course directly opposes Darwinism and his theory of natural selection, but neither does it have a direct link to Creationism that attributes the appearance of life upon the planet to God's divine intervention. Rather, it provides an alternative to both, namely the concept of 'intelligent design', but instigated by whom, and why? To attribute the human genome and DNA as the sole progenitors of humanity as we know it, in effect an accident of astonishing chemical complexity that developed by natural selection over millennia is surely wrong. Are we instead the deliberate products of an elaborate ongoing experiment in social and cultural engineering?

The Old Testament tells of battles in heaven that resulted in rebellious angels being defeated and cast out by God, sent to a place of imprisonment and punishment; namely Hell. We still tend to assume that Hell is below us, somewhere deep below ground where those who do not fulfil their spiritual obligations here on earth are incarcerated after death. Perhaps there may even be a grain of truth in this belief, and it may also have parallels with those who believe that UFOs originate from vast caverns deep below the ground in the Hollow Earth. The truth or otherwise of this assertion can never be proved, however given that there actually exists a worldwide labyrinth of such gigantic caverns between the Earth's crust and mantle called the 'Mohorovicic Discontinuity,' then

perhaps some vestigial memory remains. Is it possible that the vanquished 'angels' took refuge in these caverns to escape the fighting? Is it likely that after the fighting abated, the 'angels' eventually left their hiding places and actually attempted to breed with human women and were the offspring of these unions the biblical 'Nephilim'? The only records we have of what they may have looked like are depicted in scripture and early drawings and woodcuts; 'Mighty men were they, men of old'.

Biblical accounts also tell us that because of the actions of the rebel 'angels', once again God was forced to act, sending his most trusted and powerful lieutenants, the Seraphim, against these hybrids to destroy them. We are told that the eyes of the Nephilim were seared from their sockets after having gazed upon the power of the Seraphim. Biblical tradition tells us that the Nephilim, due to their 'angelic' fathers, possessed the souls of angels; was this a metaphor for genetic material? Was in fact the ultimate crime of the fallen angels that they had attempted to corrupt the original experiment using their own genetic material? If this is indeed the case, then is it possible that the fallen angels were in fact acting in the best interests of humanity? To modern eyes, the accounts of these events as laid out in the bible make little sense except when read in the context of the activities of extraterrestrial entities.

However, if you accept the hypothesis that UFOs and their enigmatic occupants have been around since the beginning of time, then the technology involved in genetics should not be beyond the capabilities of a spacefaring race. The reasons and motives behind the cross breeding would however be a matter for conjecture. There can be few valid reasons for experiments such as this, beyond attempts to bio-engineer a hybrid species for highly specialised purposes. However, when used to justify any particular strand of belief, the Bible can be made to say anything you want it to say, it all depends on interpretation and context. It is also worth considering that even at our present level of technology we are able to successfully manipulate genes, and the birth of the first

cloned human being (ethics and governmental controls permitting), is only a question of time and surely the birth of a specifically designed, bio-engineered human cannot be far away?

ETs and Quantum Physics

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is identical to magic". [Arthur C Clarke, author, scientist and visionary.]

Where the first glimmer of possibility that visitations by alien entities becomes viable is the proposition that they originate from an alternate reality existing concurrently and in parallel with our own. As we have seen, the theory of 'probability waves', suggests that reality is an illusion created by the minds of individuals and nothing becomes real until one thinks about it. The one major drawback of this particular theory lies in its theoretical premise; due to the shortcomings of current technology it cannot be proved one way or the other that these alternate realities exist, but the evidence is growing.

However, that aside, we should now consider in detail the theory that opened this essay, the ETH and its far-reaching implications for the existence of parallel dimension and their occupants. As already mentioned, to actually arrive here in our solar system, the vehicles and their occupants have, of necessity, to do one of three things: 1) travel from a to b faster than light; 2) actually 'fold' space and transit instantaneously from one side to the other; 3) arrive here from another continuum, in effect travel 'sideways' in space/time. It is here that some of the principles and theories arrived at in particle physics may provide evidence that this is possible. As far as is known, research in the 'black world' is examining the possibilities opened up by 'gravity modification', which is of course anti-gravity by any other name.

From what is known about the research, some of the implications indicate that spinning superconductors actually 'perturb' space/time. According to the author and defence journalist, Nick Cook, in his splendidly researched book, *'The Hunt For*

Zero Point', pub. Arrow Books, anything of sufficient rotational mass will generate a torsion field around itself. If you can create a torsion field of sufficient strength then theoretically you can bend space around the generator. The more torsion you generate the more space you 'perturb' and when you bend space, you bend time. The consequences of this astonishing display of physics leads to the conclusion that it cannot be explained in terms of three spatial dimensions plus one of time; in effect you arrive at a fifth dimension: hyperspace. It has been suggested that another way to short circuit the journey is to harness the power of black holes, the most destructive objects in the galaxy, to travel in space and time. This is based on the hypothesis that the singularity of the black hole, by nature of its gravitational ferocity, does not exist in our universe and opens onto a new continuum. This is, of course, fine as it goes; the only limiting factor is the utter chaos at the singularity and our total inability to survive the transition. Although remarkable in itself, it still does not take account of other, more far-reaching theories indicating the existence of an infinite number of dimensions ranging in size from a pinhead to creations infinitely larger than our own. If we use the analogy that we are rather like fish swimming in a very narrow sliver of an infinitely-deep electromagnetic ocean, effectively unaware of anything outside with our own perception, then what if our capabilities became expanded allowing us glimpses of what lies above and below us. Could we then travel to these previously unexplored regions, what would we find when we got there and could we comprehend it?

This analogy is already partly fulfilled, we can already see beyond our own visible spectrum into the invisible reaches of the infrared and microwave ranges right on to gamma rays and beyond. However, although as human beings we are physically tied by the restrictions of our physical bodies to remain within the comparative safety of our here and now, it does not mean that our inner senses could not be set free to explore this new frontier. Can quantum science fashion the ultimate key unlocking the final door to project con-

sciousness into this brave new world of pure energy? If this is the case, could the work of Dr Fenwick and others indicating the possibility that consciousness exists partly 'elsewhere' provide the final elusive piece in the puzzle? Does the final answer partly lie in the millennia-old truths taught by shamans, mystics and Eastern traditions that through consciousness we are truly and literally at one with the cosmos and all that is in it? Is the journey into the dim reaches of hyperspace only but a hairsbreadth away? While there is still much to be done and proof to be found, we can be assured that the answer is close and provided that it is not denied us by the venality, greed and stupidity of corporate science and outmoded dogma, it is ours to take, it is our birthright. BA

LATE NEWS



UFO DATA's features editor Philip Mantle (*seen here with Ray Santilli*) is packing a case for the 4th July and heading out to Roswell to join in the 60th anniversary celebrations.

We have armed him with camera and notebook and expect nothing less than a 10,000 word essay about 'what I did on my holidays' in time for the next issue of UFO DATA Magazine.

Seriously though, Phil will be touching base with all the great people out in Roswell and reporting back on his return...



Having now being involved at the front end of British Ufology for more years than any of us care to remember (27 and counting since my own UFO experience), there has been much change in the modern world.

Not that we were backward by any means back in 1980, technology had certainly got its foot firmly on the threshold of the 21st century.

Eleven years had passed since Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins had fulfilled the promise of President John F. Kennedy by landing men on the Moon and returning them safely to Earth.

Eleven years was a long time - it was more than half my life at the time - and things were starting to happen.

Home Video had arrived with first Philips and then Sony and JVC joining the battle to reign supreme, but way back in 1947, the Americans had a mobile phone system of sorts that was small enough to fit in a car, (see Philip Mantle's book 'Alien Autopsy Inquest'), Velcro, The Frisbee and Wurlitzer Jukeboxes followed a year later so, as you can see, inventions and technology were moving forward even 60 years ago.

By far the biggest impacting invention of my lifetime, though, has to be the progress of computers and the internet. Love 'em or loath 'em, we need a computer of one kind or

another to do most things in life, apart from bodily functions, but I'm sure there will be some software for that too somewhere.

And as an everyday user of the dreaded PC, I keep a sharp eye on things on a daily basis where software and systems are concerned.

I've mentioned Gerry Anderson's *UFO* earlier in this edition, but watching those shows as a kid, I always thought that if ever I owned a computer, I would use it to keep records of UFO sightings around the world. Little did I envisage that one day that dream would not only be possible, but would come true for me.

Having the internet was not even a thought back then to us mere mortals, it was only in the mind of thriller writers and sci-fi authors that we could imagine a super computer that could access all the information in the world. Well, that dream is also alive - with internet access you can find out about most things, maybe not quite anything, but there is certainly plenty to go at.

It is here where my Ufological problems start. With access to the net available to 99% of the planet, you would have thought that by now there would be some definitive evidence of the existence of UFOs and aliens, just enough to give the debunkers a little food for thought

and to give believers a snatch at their Holy Grail.
As of June, 2007, I have yet to be convinced that there is any photographic or video evidence lurking amongst the world of the three Ws.

There is page after page of old photographs, page upon page of known fakes and page after page of good old bulls**t.

The problem is two-fold and we UFO researchers are as bad as the sceptics and debunkers because, in many ways, we are agreeing with them and fuelling their arguments when we voice the classic two-answered conundrum:

That of which is the fact that we accept if a photograph is poor it looks like a fake and if a photograph or video is clear then it's too good to be true?

What the hell do we want from this?

Well one of my pet theories is that when we get film sent to the office or when we see evidence offered up by documentaries on the subject of fuzzy balls of light or what appears to be out of focus sources of light and when presenters or debunkers look at witnesses or their audience and say 'well it just looks like a blob of light to me', we, the UFO community, should be answering the critics by replying, 'What if that is what it looks like?'

The Condom, sorry, Condign Report pinpointed gaseous masses and plasma as probable culprits to most UFO sightings. Well, my response to the team that put the 465-page waste of taxpayers' money together was, 'How interesting, can I see some evidence of this please? Do you have photographs or video to back up your claims?'

No, they did not but, hey, the newspapers and media went with the first two pages of the report, denouncing all UFO sightings as rubbish.

So it seems this lack of evidence

thing works both ways, that there is no hard evidence for the existence of UFOs but likewise none appears to exist to back up the scientific explanations offered by government as to



the non-existence either.

If you have access to the internet you will have probably visited our website

www.ufodata.co.uk
One of the busiest sections of the site is our forums page.

This is an area where many topics are discussed by way of messages from other readers who can post replies and start up topics by simply registering their email address with us. It's here where many UFO stories originate as news announcements from across the world are posted by various forum members and it was one such posting that got me started on this particular rant.

Back in May a popular American talk show, 'Coast to Coast with George

Noory', hosted a sequence of images on its website along with details of the sighting by one of the witnesses. Chad (the witness) explained...

"Last month (April 2007), my wife and I were on a walk when we noticed a very large, very strange "craft" in the sky. My wife took a picture with her cell phone camera.

"I went back to the site few days later with a high quality camera a friend (and neighbour) had lent me. He came back to the sight with me hoping to get another glimpse at this strange craft.

"It came back, we found it and took a number of very clear photos.

"The craft was almost completely



silent and moved very smoothly. It moves slowly until it decides to take off, then it moves very quickly and is out of sight in the blink of an eye. We found your show with Google and I have listened for a few nights now. I have decided that if anyone can help me understand what this thing is, it is you and your audience. I must admit I am deeply unsettled by this thing. I have never seen anything like this in my life. As for the location:

"I would prefer not to say for now."



As you can imagine images like this provoke two main types of response:

Brilliant, clearest images ever seen, this must prove we've been right all along...

or

Fakes, CGI graphics, deliberate hoax, who they trying to kid...

Well some of UFODATA's readers were not too quick to debunk the images, obviously Coast to Coast were happy with the story (it would do wonders for their ratings whatever the outcome).

A few days later 'Chad' offered a little more information:

"Thank you so much for posting my photos! I hope someone can help identify this. Firstly I see this thing very often. Since it first appeared, I have probably seen this thing maybe eight different times.

"My friend and I went out the next day after I first saw it to get the photos, but it was not there. Then we tried again the next day, and we found it within 30 minutes and followed it for a while. Most of the time I see it out of windows in my house, in the distance. I go hiking a lot and would say that on almost half of my hikes I have gone on in the area where I see the craft, I have seen it very close. It is very easy to photograph and many neighbors aside from my friend have also seen it.

"It makes kind of "crackling" noises. It's hard to describe them but they are only intermittent and not very loud, but you can notice them. Sometimes there is a very slight hum that sounds kind of mechanical, almost like when you are near very large power lines. But it is nothing loud like a jet engine, it is very quiet for the most part.

It moves almost like an insect. If you have ever seen a bug on a pond, it is kind of like that. It is very smooth and slow most of the time, but then every now and then it will rotate very quickly and go very fast into another direction, then stop, and repeat the process all over again. There is just something very unnatural about the way it moves."

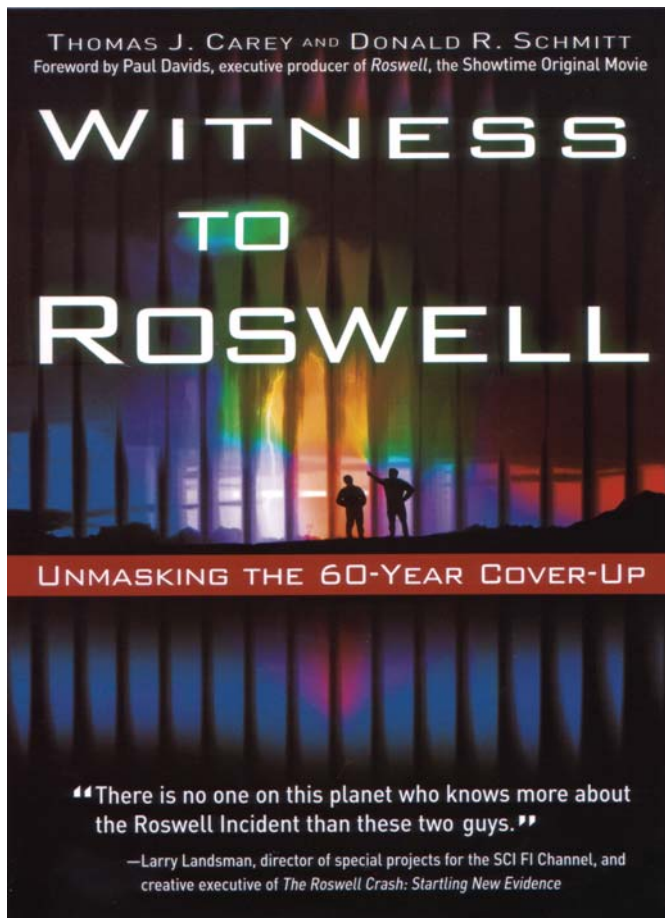


Does all this sound convincing or like me do you remain sceptical about such claims? If the object does appear with such frequency why not capture it on video, or take some serious dollars from a TV company, take them there, let them film and take the money. Chad also tells Coast to Coast listeners he and his wife have a baby on the way so I'm sure a little financial reward would not go amiss at this time.

Personally I think this is a CGI creation, a pretty good one at that. It might even have been created on studio software.

I will leave the final choice with you the reader and report any further info as we get it.

Russel Callaghan.



***WITNESS TO ROSWELL -
Unmasking The 60-years
Cover-up***

Authors: Thomas J. Carey &
Donald R. Schmitt
Publisher: New Page books
ISBN: 978-1-56414-943-5
Price: \$14.99 (US dollars)
Available on amazon.com

With the 60th anniversary of Roswell upon us, it is not surprising that we should see a few books published detailing the alleged events in Roswell all those years ago. To be honest, I thought there would be more than there has been, but it would seem that, at the moment, there is only one book leading the field. That is '*Witness To Roswell*' by Tom Carey & Don Schmitt.

If you are looking for a book about Roswell that will detail the crash of a UFO, its recovery, and subsequent cover-up by the US military, then this is the book for you. The authors present the book like you might present evidence in a court of law. Don't let this put you off and think it is

boring because it is far from boring I can assure you. The authors quite openly state that in court if you have no physical evidence, in this case, no piece of a UFO or corpse of a dead alien, then the evidence you submit is that of eyewitnesses and circumstantial evidence. This is what this book is made of in its entirety. Witness after witness is quoted with a full list of notes and an index. You can check for yourself where the information has come from. It goes without saying there are a number of new witnesses that have been tracked down and

interviewed by the authors and a growing number of deathbed testimonies as well.

The book also has a thread running through it dealing with the secrecy surrounding the UFO crash and the silencing of witnesses. The authors argue forcibly that if all that crashed was a balloon, as the US Air Force officially state, then why all the secrecy? Why the threats and intimidation of witnesses? A good point is made here time and time again.

Another thread running through the book is the fact that none of the witnesses or witness's families that have been interviewed ever state that what they saw or their father saw was in fact a balloon. Surely if it was only a balloon then witnesses would have come forward and said so? Again a compelling argument.

I think it goes without saying that the debate over Roswell will continue so long as there is ufology, but one thing about the whole affair that cannot be doubted is the involvement of Walter Haut. Sadly, Haut died last

year but he has been interviewed numerous times on TV. He was the person who released the official RAAF press release stating that they (the military) had located a 'flying disc'. This press release made headlines around the world in July, 1947. Most people don't know that First Lieutenant Walter G. Haut was a B-29 bombardier during WWII and took part in over 20 bombing raids over Japan. He was highly decorated including the Purple Heart and in 1946 he was assigned with dropping the measuring instruments during 'Operation Crossroads' atomic tests at Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific.

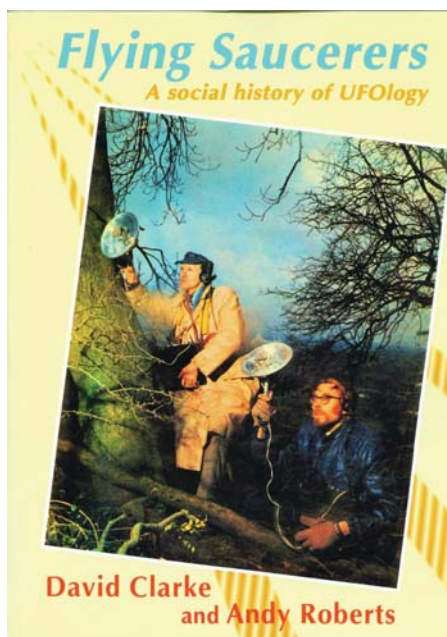
All anyone knew about Haut's involvement in the Roswell crash was that he was the one who issued the famous press release. However, published in this book for the first time is a signed and witnessed affidavit, which was to be released only after his death. It was dated December 26, 2002. Copyright does not allow me to reproduce this affidavit but Haut puts on the record for the first time that he handled pieces of the wreckage, he was taken to a hangar and shown the recovered craft and he also saw the bodies. It will not surprise you that he was not talking about handling balsa wood and tin foil from a weather balloon, it was not a balloon in the hangar, and the bodies were not crash-test dummies used for parachute drops. You should read the book for this affidavit alone.

What can I say? The authors put forward a powerful argument that what crashed in July 1947 was a space vehicle from another world and it contained extraterrestrial occupants and that the whole affair has been covered-up by the US military. Don't take my word for it, read the book yourself as I can assure you that you will not be disappointed.

Philip Mantle.

**Check out
the easy to enter
competition on page 15
and win a copy of this
book**

B O O K R E V I E W S



Flying Saucerers: A Social History of Ufology

Authors: David Clarke & Andy Roberts

Publisher: Alternative Albion

ISBN: 978-1-905646-00-5

Price: £14.95

If you are looking for a book on UFO sightings and close encounters then this is not a book for you.

Alternatively, if you are looking for a book that delves into beliefs, myths and legends and their origins with ufology, then look no further. It goes without saying that both the authors have done their homework; they are veterans of British ufology and have spent many long hours researching and investigating this subject in both face-to-face interviews with witnesses and more recently in the national archives in Kew.

Very few UFO books are different these days but '*Flying Saucerers*' is certainly that. This book deals exclusively with the social history of ufology, a history of ideas, revealing how the notions of a few individuals evolved into one of the most pervasive modern day myths. This is definitely not a book for those who are from the 'nuts-n-bolts' camp of ufology. The aim of this book is to present ideas rather than claims or facts and allow the reader to reach their own conclusion. Surely this has to be welcomed and is a refreshing change

The
story
of
a
real
UFO
Investigation
by
a
real
UFO
Investigator

Alien Autopsy Inquest is available from the author Philip Mantle.

£15.00 plus £1.00 p&p (UK orders only)

Please send cheques or postal orders payable to P Mantle 49 East Leigh Drive Tingley West Yorkshire WF3 1PF

'Check out the readers offer on page 15'

in UFO literature. Like I said previously, this book does not deal with UFO sightings but with the evolution of the subject in the UK - the British flying saucer clubs, contactees and cults. It also looks at the 'hippy' involvement and celebrity counter culture during the 1960s, plus it has a long chapter looking at the interest which famous people have had, both believers and sceptics. This includes the likes of Patrick Moore, Arthur C. Clarke, and Lord Mountbatten etc. What other UFO books deals with this type of topic ? None, I hear you say, and you would be right.

If there is one minor criticism of the book is that it ends in the 1970s, however, to continue into the 80s, 90s and beyond may have made the book too large and possibly difficult to get published. Alternatively we may see a follow-up, who knows ? All I can say is that if you are interested in where the ideas behind today's ufology came from then this is the book for you. Look no further than '*Flying Saucerers-A Social History of Ufology*' it has everything you need to know.

Philip Mantle.



Guernsey Pilot reports UFO...

A pilot for a Channel Islands airline got the shock of his life when he saw two huge objects on the afternoon of Monday 23rd April, 2007. At about 3pm, Captain Ray Bowyers was approaching Guernsey, coming to the end of a flight from Southampton, when he saw what he described as 'a very sharp, thin yellow object with a green area'.

Speaking to the *Guernsey Free Press and Star*, he added: "It was 2,000ft up and stationary. I thought it was about 10 miles away, although I later realised it was approximately 40 miles from us. At first, I thought it was the size of a 737, but it must have been much bigger because of how far away it was. It could have been as much as a mile wide."

As he continued his approach to Alderney Airport, he saw another, smaller object. He thought that they might have been reflections from a vineyard, but as he was able to see the object for over nine minutes, he discounted that theory.

"As I got closer to it, it became clear to me that it was tangible," he said. "I was in two minds about going towards it to have a closer look but decided against it because of the size of it. I had to think of the safety of the passengers first. I'm certainly not saying that it was something of another world. All I'm saying is that I have never seen anything like it before in all my years of flying."

A pilot for another airline also saw one of the objects, but from a differ-

ent location. His description was almost identical to Captain Bowyer's, as was its position and altitude.

Local air traffic control received reports from both pilots, but admit that they saw nothing on radar. Paul Kelly, the controller on duty at the time, commented: "If the object was stationary, our equipment would not have picked it up because the radar would have screened it out."

A photograph, allegedly of the UFO and taken by one of the passengers of one of the planes, was posted on the Professional Pilots Rumour Network forum. It showed a cloud-like object over the sea and, while interesting, offered nothing conclusive.

A few days later, a pilot for the Flybe airline suggested that what was seen was a military test vehicle. Troy Queripel theorised that, as French military airspace is only 20 miles west of Guernsey and British military airspace is 40 miles north of the island, it is highly possible that what was seen was some sort of experimental plane that accidentally drifted into the island's commercial flight paths.

He said: "I am not trying to discredit anything that Ray said because I saw him 45 minutes after the incident and he was clearly shaken. He obviously saw something. But think about the stealth bomber and the U2 spy plane. They were being tested for years before anyone was aware of them.

"Two per cent of me thinks it was little green men, but the other 98% thinks it was the military testing new technology that we haven't even heard of."

On 2nd May, French airline pilot, Captain Jean-Charles Duboc, a witness to a UFO sighting over Paris in 1994, commented that he believed what the British pilots saw was a craft from another world.

"My position about the sighting off Alderney is that an extraterrestrial civilisation wants to develop contacts with our planet and that they deliberately organise UFO sightings. It is a really scary reality, but pilots have exceptional training and are the best qualified observers to identify UFOs."

Captain Bowyer, in the meantime, had received a great deal of press coverage. He appeared on local television, describing his sighting, and news reports appeared on websites all over the world. He said: "In the profession it's fairly well known that if you come forward and tell these sort of stories, you become unemployable."

"I think if I had not had eight years with the company it would not have been mentioned. But I'm lucky that I had the security with Aurigny and I want to thank them for their support. It's really nice that other people have come forward to say that they have had similar experiences."

UFOData Magazine contacted

Aurigny, in an effort to interview Captain Bowyer. They kindly forwarded our request to him and the interview should be in the next issue.

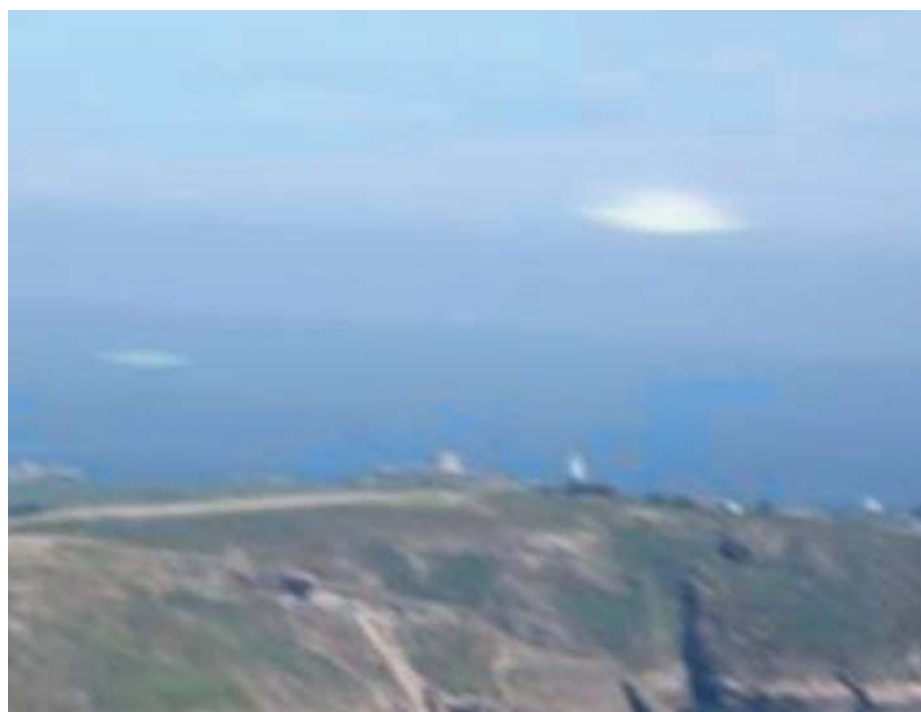
Five days after the sighting, an earthquake shook Kent, in southern England, causing damage to property and cutting power to thousands of homes. It has been suggested that what was seen over Guernsey, some 200 miles from the quake's epicentre, was an example of 'earthlights'. These occur when tectonic stresses build up, causing plates to rub together and generating a kind of plasma or electrical discharge that can be interpreted as a UFO sighting. They can last anywhere from a few seconds to several minutes.

Dr David Clarke, of Sheffield Hallam University, submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) about the sighting. Their response was published on the MoD's own website:

"Thank you for your e-mail of 27 April 2007 to the Secretary of Defence regarding an alleged UFO sighting on 23 April 2007 near the Channel Islands. It has been passed to me to answer as I am the responsible officer. I also note that you have placed a Freedom of Information request on the same topic, asking for any documentation held on the matter so I will address both pieces of correspondence at the same time.

"Firstly, I think it may be helpful if I outline the role of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in UFO matters. The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena,



could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

"However, in this case it was decided to conduct an investigation into the sighting and details were passed to the relevant air defence experts. They stated that the sighting took place in French airspace for defence and therefore this is a matter for the French authorities to deal with. They concluded there was no threat to the UK and, accordingly, the MoD investigation will not be taken any further."

Also included with the FOIA reply was the original sighting report. This can be viewed at http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdon-lyres/1B01106E-699B-4BB5-AF5B-C33EC1BF7BCD/0/ufo_sighting_channel_islands_23apr07_enc.pdf

Captain Bowyer has said that he is surprised at the press coverage that his sighting has received. He wants to collect reports from Islanders and collate them, saying: "The amount of people who have had similar sightings in a similar area has made me want to investigate what has been happening in the Channel Islands."

SJ

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A large, dark, triangular UFO is positioned in the upper half of the frame against a dark, cloudy night sky. The UFO has a prominent bright white light on its top surface. Below this, a series of small, glowing yellow lights are arranged in a triangular pattern on the underside of the craft. A powerful, red, wavy energy beam descends from the center of the UFO, illuminating a dark, hilly landscape below. The beam has a bright, glowing base where it meets the ground, surrounded by a cloud of red sparks or particles. The landscape is dark with some trees and a small body of water visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and dramatic.

The Mysterious Flying Triangles

For several years during the 1980s and 90s dozens of detailed reports of strange and huge triangular UFOs were put on record. Pilots, policemen, servicemen and members of the public reported their encounters with these strange craft. The phenomena was seen across the globe but the strangest of these encounters happened in the tiny European country of Belgium.

It is, though, to reports from the UK that Derby-based researcher and lecturer Omar Fowler concentrates this next article...

With a wealth of reports and over thirty years experience in the field of UFO investigation I have amassed a number of 'Flying Triangle' reports not only from the UK, but from various countries throughout the world. Over a number of years, our UFO study group in Derby, 'The Phenomenon Research Association', has worked closely with other investigation groups in correlating reports from a wide number of sources. The inference that 'Flying Triangle' activity is due to new Stealth technology, has been widely discussed and analysed in a number of 'FT'* reports. Comparisons have been made between the observed performance characteristics of the 'Flying Triangles' and the envisaged performance envelope of secret Stealth aircraft.

Could their comparative patterns of behaviour be confused by a witness? The reasons why this is highly unlikely and are made clear in two 'FT' publications produced by the PRA, 'The Flying Triangle Mystery' and 'Flying Triangle UFO's: The Continuing Story' (Details are given at the end of this article).

The silent behaviour pattern of the 'Flying Triangles' may indicate that they are on missions of observation, although they often carry an array of bright lights. They appear to have, a particular interest in nuclear power stations worldwide. They also appear to be keenly interested in both military and civilian establishments, such as public water works and utilities.

The question of their origin is also under review. They have on occasion been seen emerging from the sea and inland lakes. This could indicate that they are operating quite independently of our atmosphere. They may operate from underwater bases, the location of which, we are completely unaware.

**The description 'Flying Triangle' has been used in preference to the description 'Silent Vulcan.' Many of the witnesses are unfamiliar with the delta configuration of the now, obsolete Vulcan bomber and often give an impulsive description of the craft as a "triangle," a "flying triangle." For the purpose of easy read-*

ing, in some instances, the description 'Flying Triangle' has been abbreviated to 'FT.'

AN EARLY HISTORY OF 'FLYING TRIANGLE' SIGHTINGS

Unfortunately we have no means of confirming the very early reports of 'Flying Triangle' craft, but a selection of incidents are given below. (Source: *Fooplanes* by W.H.Watson B.I.S.)

29 August, 1871:

France. Astronomer Trouvelet reported formations of highly complex objects in the sky. Some were triangular, some round, others many-sided. A few of them hovered and then moved off.

3 July, 1882:

Lebanon, Connecticut, USA. Two luminous triangles were observed on the moon's upper limb. Three minutes later two dark triangles appeared on the lower limb. The two sets approached each other, met and disappeared.

3 August, 1886:

Both M. Poey and M. Trouvelet observed numerous round and triangular objects crossing the face of the Sun.

23 November, 1887:

A huge illuminated equilateral triangle was observed on the Moon in the Crater Plato. Tiny points of light were seen all over the Moon, originating in different craters, from Aristarchus, Kepler and from the Lunar Alps. They converged on Plato, traversed its high walls and were seen to unite themselves in the huge floodlit triangle.

THE FIRST FLYING TRIANGLE 'FLAPS'.

18 November, 1980:

Missouri & Kansas, USA were subjected to a visit by a huge craft displaying a triangular-shaped series of lights. The FT flew over northern Missouri and Kansas for a period of more than four hours, while hundreds of people, including policemen, looked on in awe. The object was observed by people in at least 22 towns and described as being triangular-shaped with one red and two very bright white lights "like headlights." The craft was described as being of spectacular size. "It was at least as big as a football field" said 42

year-old welder Don Leslie of Milan Mo. Another witness, Roger Bennett of Huntsville, Mo., said "It was so big, it would make a B52 bomber look like a Piper Cub."

There was an unusual event, as the huge craft was seen to be dropping 'satellites'. "They were round and had a bluish glow" said witness Randy Hayes, a local truck driver. At one stage, the craft banked over and witnesses described seeing a row of lights shining out of windows, to a cockpit. The UFO craft flew criss-cross slowly between the two states and was tracked on radar during a four-hour period.

(Source: *Enquirer Newspaper*, 3 February, 1981)

October 1980-January 1981:

Clifton-Morenci, Arizona, USA, received a visit from a boomerang-shaped UFO that local witnesses claimed was bigger than several football fields! The UFO had been spotted at least three times above the giant Phelps-Dodge Smelter Plant chimneys. A witness described how the UFO was huge and 'V'-shaped, with lights all around it and what appeared to be a 'searchlight'. The UFO was seen to stop over the smelter plant and shine the light down into the chimneys. One witness said, "We were amazed and happy, it took off at a tremendous rate of speed and then came back. It acted kind of friendly, I wasn't scared." (Source: *The Phoenix Gazette*, 13 March, 1981)

March 1983:

New York State & Connecticut experienced a wave of huge 'boomerang'-shaped craft flying over the countryside at night. The craft, were often described as being as large as a 'football field' and in one instance 'two football fields'. The craft flew over populated areas and continued to do so over the following two years. It was described as a huge 'wing', 'V' or 'boomerang' shape, carrying an array of lights which switched on and off, as though to attract attention.

A SELECTION OF WORLD-WIDE 'FLYING TRIANGLE' REPORTS

AUSTRALIA

On Thursday April 3, 1997, at



The cold war Vulcan Bomber and Stealth B2 are often suggested as FT's by sceptics and debunkers but never by the witnesses...

10.20pm, a man was standing outdoors at Umina Beach, near Gosford, New South Wales (NSW), when he spotted a V-formation of 12 UFOs passing overhead. He described the objects as 'twelve illuminated triangles or Stealth-type aircraft'. "The UFOs passed over Umina Beach heading north towards Palm Beach, then descended and seemed to disappear into the sea."

(Source: *Microsoft Internet Explorer*).

BELGIUM

On the 3rd November, 1993, a young boy, Nicolas (12), observed a large 'Flying Triangle' over Stockis. The time was about 6pm when he saw "an enormous Flying Triangle" pass over his home, moving at a speed of only about 20km/hr. The FT had a small blue light at the nose, a red light, slightly inset from each corner and a large white light in the centre. The surface of the FT appeared to have some kind of 'relief' pattern underneath.

(Source: SOBEPS).

BRAZIL

(1) On Saturday August 10th, 1996, at Guarabira, there had been a series of UFO events in the surrounding countryside during the day. However, by all accounts the most spectacular sighting took place after dark at around 9pm. Three 'Flying Triangle' UFOs were seen travelling slowly across the sky. Then in a display that lasted only a few minutes, the objects started to zig-zag through the night sky. (Similar

behaviour took place during the Belgian FT flap 1989/90).

(Source: AGETI).

(2) On the night of Thursday, October 17th, 1996, a gigantic triangular UFO was seen over Campina Grande, the state's second largest city (pop.326,200), 120km west of Joao Ressoa. The FT flew slowly over the city on a westerly course. People dining in the 11th floor restaurant of the Rique Palace Hotel, watched as the FT 'drifted' over the town.

Friday afternoon, October 18, 1996, Humberto Araujo Cruz took off in his Cessna 310 from Campina Grande Airport in north-eastern Brazil. As he approached Guarabira, Araujo saw a pyramid-shaped UFO. It had rounded corners at the bottom and a transparent dome on top. The Cessna followed the pyramid UFO as it flew off towards the NW, then the UFO's top dome opened and Araujo reported that "a little oval shaped thing came out." Then, while the small, shiny object hovered, the huge UFO rocketed away at high speed. Araujo watched the small object hovering for a few minutes, then it flew off.

(Source: *Microsoft Internet Explorer*).

CANADA

On Monday, November 4th 1996, at 8.45pm., Mrs Ginette C., of Gatineau, Quebec, was driving home from the grocery store with her son, aged 4. After parking the car, she made two trips into the house with bags of groceries. As she started up the walkway to the house a second time, a

huge silent, triangular vehicle appeared over the roof of the house. Ginette described the UFO as "Triangular, five times bigger than the full moon, dark with three globes of white light under each corner and one smaller reddish light in the middle. The red light blinked repeatedly. The FT was about 300ft wide and only 50ft above my head."

(Source: *UFO Roundup*)

JAPAN

(1) At 9.50 pm on August 22nd, 1996, Hiroshi Hayashida and Yuji Murayama, had just parked in Central Park Mitagawa-cho-Kanzaki-gun Saga (South Japan). All the lights in the park were switched off and they were in complete darkness. A few minutes later, Hayashida spotted a strange 'FT' type UFO flying in the SSE part of the sky. Both witnesses said the object was the size of a large aircraft. The UFO was flying from east to west and at an angle of 45 degrees above their viewing point. They observed it for only for 5-6 seconds before it disappeared. The object was darker than the cloud background and it had a series of yellow/white lights in a regular line on the bottom of the craft. Despite the size and speed of the object, there was no sound at all. It appeared similar to what is called a 'triangular UFO'.

'FT' INCIDENTS IN ENGLAND

Printing space has dictated that although it would be possible to fill numerous pages with 'FT' sightings and encounters, I have restricted myself to giving details of only two significant incidents on the following pages- 'A Gigantic Triangle Craft Seen Over Hull' and an 'Abduction Incident in Yorkshire 1996'.

GIGANTIC FLYING TRIANGLE CRAFT SEEN OVER HULL 7TH OCT. 1997

The witness (ref: GP), lives in Hull and is an engineer with a major oil company. He has travelled widely throughout the Middle East. His background no doubt assisted in his methodical study of this huge craft during the short time that it was visible.

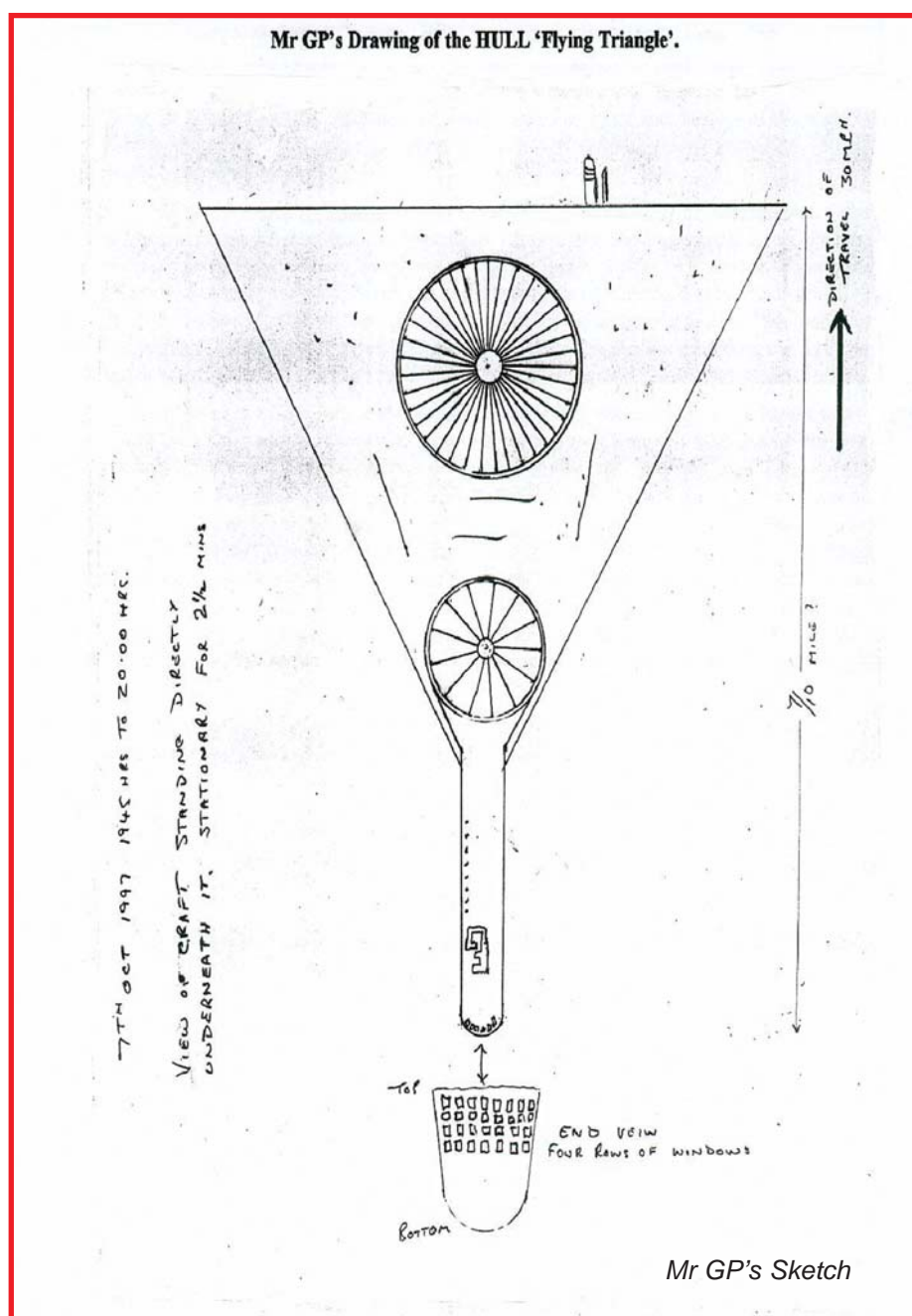
"I had been adjusting new security lights outside my house, the time was 7.45pm. My wife had been walking back and forth in the garden to assist me with setting the infra-red trip.

"She drew my attention to a series of red streaks of light forming in the sky directly in line with the Humber Bridge. The centre one was exactly straight, one coming alongside of it came up and curled over to the right a second one came up next to that and curled over to the right, then another light came up on the left and curled over to the left again until there were five streaks of light in the sky. They stayed on for so long and then they started clicking out. They were about a mile away and looked about two miles long. I heard a buzzing and a 'crack' as the lights went out.

"I was just standing there looking around and wondering what it was, when all of a sudden I saw a series of 'fiery red lights' up on the right. There were about five, three of them were very large and the one on the end was slightly smaller and there was another one that was smaller still. The lights were flickering, like a blacksmiths forge. I thought that they were helicopters at first, but the lights were about ten times bigger than a helicopter. Then I saw other lights over on the right, then I saw an orange glow and I suddenly realised that this was the result of the city lights bouncing off the bottom of a huge craft and it was a triangle. I thought, 'I just don't believe this!' It was moving blunt side forward at about 30mph. The sheer size was enormous! You could see the lights curling around the edges of the triangle and you could see the bottom of it, just an orange glow. Anyway, it stopped and it did a turn, overturned (went too far) and then corrected itself. It went a bit further on for about a quarter of a mile, stopped and did the same thing again. I wondered if the wind was turning it, but there was no wind at all.

"We were looking up (GP and his wife), I was standing in the flower bed and my neck was aching and I looked down and then when I looked up, it had gone! I thought, 'That's crazy, all I did was look down!' That was it, it had gone.

"I looked all around but couldn't see anything, then I looked up and I was amazed, there was something like a rib-cage and two giant circles underneath it and there was like a tail on the end of it. It was right above us and it was gigantic. The red balls that



Mr GP's Sketch

I had been looking for must have been above it. I just kept looking and looking and every now and then I would look down to see if the trees and grass, the garage were still there, it was beautiful, you could see everything crystal clear. Electro-magnetic forces all this was running through my mind. I was frightened to death, in case I was going to get some sort of forcefield on me. It was absolutely silent, no noise, no wind, it was just hanging there. It seemed an eternity, but it could have only have been two or three minutes.

"It seemed to be up there for ages and ages, my wife was chattering away, but I didn't say anything, I was just keeping quiet, I was just taking everything in. I was trying to memorize every little piece, there must

have been over a thousand lights underneath it, all the lights, no matter what it was, they were all pale blue lights. It was really high, but you could see everything, I reckon you could have got three 747 Jumbo jets, wing-tip to wing-tip.

FLYING TRIANGLE ABDUCTION CASE: NORTH YORKSHIRE, 1996

Miss 'MF' Interviewed by Omar Fowler on 13-9-98

This alleged incident took place on the 3rd of July, 1996, in a village called Bilton near Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Miss MF (32) had finished an early shift at her place of work and as it was a nice sunny day, she decided to take a walk and into the nearby countryside. As she walked

along she came across a pleasant looking field and finding a comfortable spot, sat down to read a book, the time was 9.45am.

It was sunny and warm as Miss MF sat quietly reading, then quite suddenly she was aware a large shadow moving over her. She looked up and was astonished to see a large, black, triangular craft overhead. It was twice the size of an aircraft and had a white light at each corner and hovered over her. "I was amazed at the size of it and also the fact that there was no noise. In the quiet of the countryside, there should have been a noise from it, but there was nothing and that unnerved me. There were three lights on the triangle, but there were also other lights near it, which kept on flashing away," commented Miss MF.

Then suddenly a beam of blue light shot down from the FT and covered her. "The next thing, I felt that I was going upwards, very, very fast and I felt really sick. My nose was hurting and I'm scared of heights, I couldn't see anything, I was going up so fast and just seemed to black-out.

"The next moment, I was in a strange building. Everything was very bright white, so bright I couldn't see anything and there was a funny smell to it. I couldn't see much, because it was so white. I felt that I was laid on something, but I don't know what it was."

Miss MF then went on reluctantly to describe what happened next. There were strange, small 'beings' around her and they were doing something down near her legs, but she couldn't see or feel anything. She went on to say: "I know that people see these drawings of aliens on T-shirts and things, but these weren't like that. They had black eyes, there was no whites to their eyes, they had no eyebrows, no eyelashes, no cheekbones, no ears, no mouth or any facial hair or anything similar to our skin. It was just one skin tone, a translucent white. I couldn't see any pores, any hair or any bone or anything.

"There was a taller alien, he seemed to be in charge of the others and looked the same as the others, but he was about 6ft. I say 'he', 'it', I don't know what it was. He stood over me and then stared into my eyes and then I got this feeling of euphoria and happiness, which is odd. I thought that we could communicate

because I'm sure that he could see what I was seeing and I had a feeling that I should be at peace, which is not a normal reaction, I should have been terrified.

"That was the last thing that I remember, the next thing was, I woke up in the field (from where she had been abducted), but I was in a different spot from where I had been originally and I found my book in the hedge. My watch had stopped, although I didn't notice this at the time and I had a rash on my arm.

"When I got home, 5 1/2 hours had elapsed. When I went in, I've got five dogs, the dogs reacted strangely to me, instead of coming up and jumping all over me, like they normally did, they were like whimpering and cowering away and sniffing all the way around me.

"Since then, I had an awful headache and nosebleeds. I thought it was like some kind of dream, but I've kept having really bad flashbacks and I have just felt really ill."

Omar Fowler comments:

Miss 'MF' has related a number of known features about FTs and, unless she had been studying them in particular, it seems unlikely that she could have made up this story. She refers to the three white lights, one at each corner. Miss 'MF' then went on to say that a 'blue beam' shone on her and she was transported up to the craft. This is also consistent with other reports relating to FTs. We have also heard of some species of aliens having no mouth or ears, only large dark eyes and the 'tall alien' appeared to be in charge. He then came and peered into her eyes, once again a known alien procedure.

It was not unusual for her to be returned to a different area from where she was taken. She made an interesting observation when she commented on finding her book in the hedge, at the point where she had been sitting originally. Finally, the reaction of her dogs was highly unusual and it appears that they were able to sense that she had changed in some way, after her abduction experience.

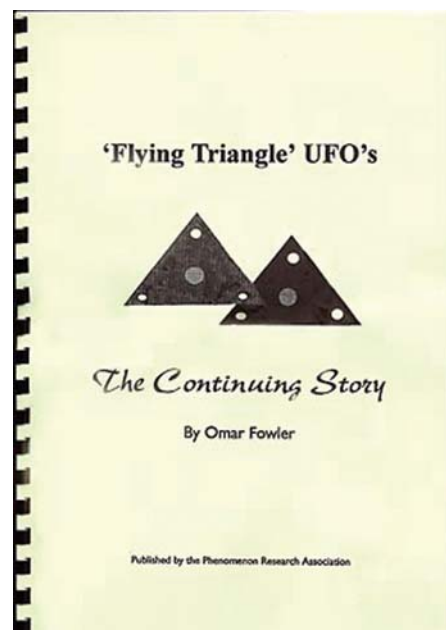
The two 'FT' incidents shown previously reflect only the 'tip of the iceberg' of events that are now occurring on a daily basis throughout the

world.

There are a number of internet information programs, such as the 'Filers Files' which give a weekly report on UFO events and it is obvious that the 'FT' incidents are not isolated incidents but are indicative of an ongoing situation.

Reflecting for a moment on the work of the Phenomenon Research Association, it may not be generally realised that following the 'Hudson Valley' flap (1983) and the 'Belgian FT Flap' (1989/90), the Derbyshire area was inundated with 'Flying Triangle' incidents.

During the period December 1994 to May 1995, fifty-two 'FT' events were investigated in the Derbyshire area. In some instances FTs hovered low over traffic and individual vehicles. In one case a terrified woman passenger tried to hide under the glove compartment of the car as a Flying Triangle flew overhead!

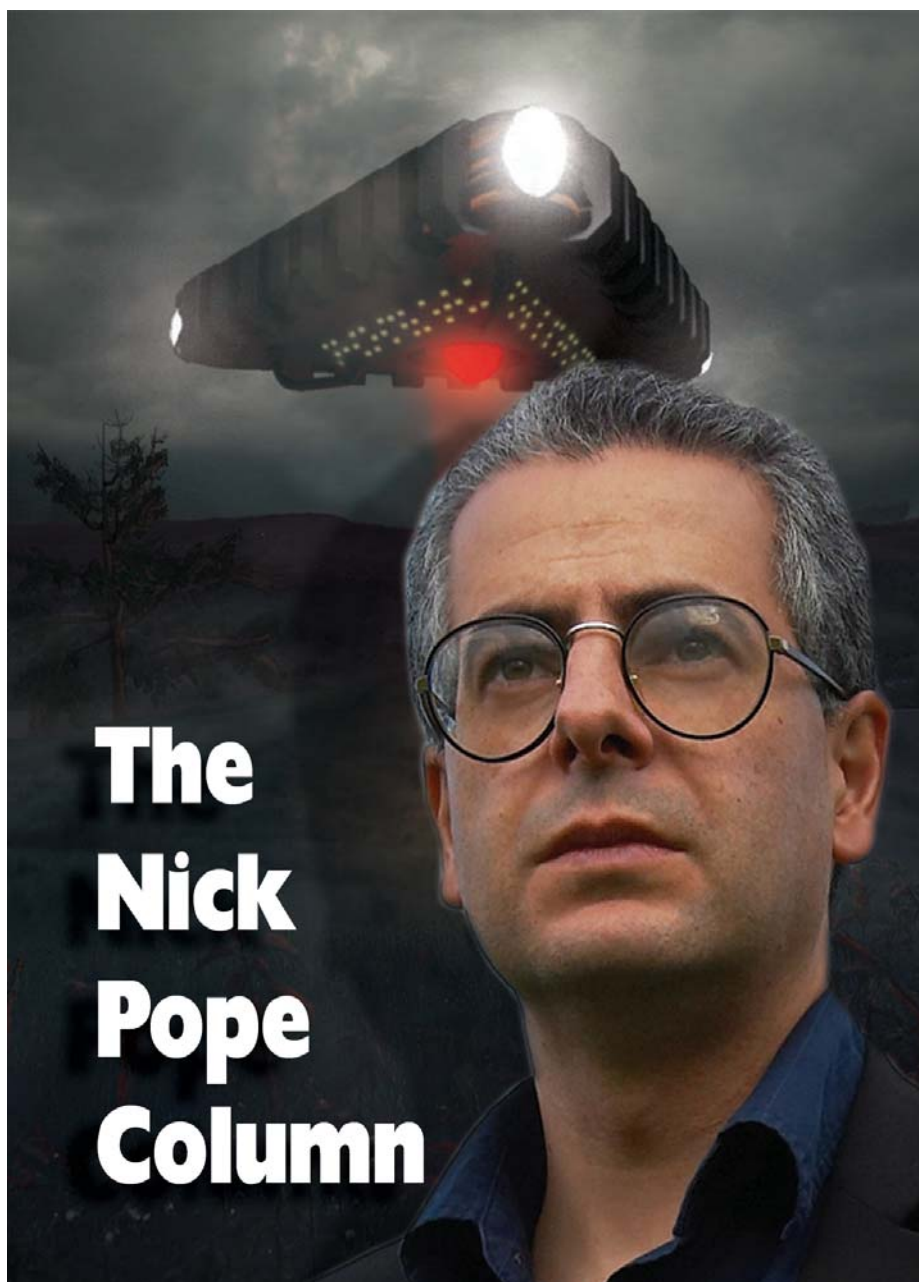


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The Nick Pope Column

Continuing this issue's look at Flying Triangle UFO reports, we asked Nick Pope for his opinion and experience as Nick was running the MoD UFO desk at the time of the FT flap...

The Triangle Mystery

By Nick Pope

Introduction

UFOs come in all shapes and sizes, but in recent years one particular type of UFO has come to dominate. Variouslly dubbed The Flying Triangle or The Silent Vulcan, large triangular-shaped UFOs have been seen in increasing numbers over the last couple of decades and have come to typify the expectations of many ufologists with regard to the phenomenon. Misidentifications and

hoaxes? Secret prototype aircraft? Extraterrestrial spacecraft? There are many competing theories, but what is the truth behind the triangle mystery?

Hudson Valley

Despite being dubbed "flying saucers", it's important to remember that the UFOs Kenneth Arnold saw on 24th June, 1947, were delta-shaped. However, the modern obsession with triangular-shaped UFOs can be dated back to 1982, when the first in a wave of sightings occurred in the Hudson Valley, to the north of New York. Some estimates suggest that between 1982 and 1995 as many as 7000 people may have seen UFOs in this area. While some sightings involved triangular-shaped craft, in many cases witnesses said

that the UFOs were v-shaped, like a boomerang - not unlike the sightings referred to as The Phoenix Lights. The full story of this incredible wave of sightings can be found in *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*, co-authored by Dr J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt.

The Belgian Wave

In 1989 and 1990 there was a wave of sightings in Belgium, many of which involved large triangular-shaped craft. The sightings culminated in a spectacular incident on 30th and 31st March 1990, when a UFO was tracked on military radar and two F-16 fighters were scrambled. The pilots were ordered to intercept the UFO and were vectored towards it by the fighter controllers. The pilots acquired the UFO on their own onboard radars and accelerated towards it. The UFO then took evasive action and the pilots lost radar contact. They reacquired the UFO but it broke the lock again. This happened several more times, with a bizarre high-speed game of cat and mouse being played out over the skies of Belgium. I made discreet enquiries about the incident through our embassy in Brussels. The Air Attaché spoke to the pilots and to the senior military officer who headed the official investigation. Nobody had any answers, other than to say that they were glad the UFO hadn't been hostile, because if it had been, there would have been little anyone could have done, given that it had so easily evaded the air force's jets. Perhaps the most striking legacy of these sightings was a photograph allegedly taken at Petit-Rechain. The photo shows a triangular UFO directly overhead, with four lights on the underside - one in each corner and a fourth in the centre.

The Cosford Incident

I have written extensively about the Cosford Incident and discussed it on several TV shows, most notably Channel Five's investigative documentary *The British UFO Mystery*, which devoted a full hour to the case last November. Over a period of about six hours on 30th and 31st March, 1993, a large triangular-shaped UFO was seen over the UK by

dozens of witnesses, including numerous police officers, together with military personnel based at RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. Some witnesses saw the UFO at extremely close distances and one thought the craft had actually landed. The UFO was apparently capable of moving from a virtual hover to speeds several times faster than a military jet in a matter of seconds, and some witnesses described an unpleasant low-frequency humming sound coming from the craft. Many of the descriptions sounded uncannily similar to ones in the Belgian Wave, though the key difference was that on this occasion the craft wasn't tracked in radar. The full story of this sensational UFO encounter was told in the launch issue of the new A4 version of UFO DATA Magazine and is also available on my website.

A Spooky Coincidence

It was only when I was some time into my investigation of the Cosford Incident that I noticed something odd. The earliest sighting had occurred at around 8.30pm on 30th March, with the last one at around 2.40am in the early hours of 31st March. Something about that was ringing alarm bells, but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Suddenly it struck me what it was. Checking the files, I realised that the UFO sightings that led to the Belgian Air Force scrambling jets had occurred late on the 30th and in the early hours of 31st March 1990 - exactly three years before the Cosford Incident. Coincidence? Everything in my MoD training rebelled against the idea - never believe in coincidences. So what was the explanation? The only thing that occurred to me was that the sightings began just too late to generate any newspaper coverage on 31st March. If the reports were picked up by the press, the story was more likely to run on 1st April - and a UFO story running on April Fool's Day might easily be dismissed as a joke. Arguably, therefore, this was the best night of the year for a UFO to fly low over countries like the UK and Belgium, without the risk of serious media coverage. This was an interesting idea, though one that I couldn't take much further.

Triangles in the UK

The Cosford Incident was far from being the only case involving a triangular-shaped UFO that I investigated at the MoD. The files contain many other such sightings. Civilian researchers were also receiving sighting reports, and throughout the Nineties, organisations such as the British UFO Research Association, researchers such as Omar Fowler and publications such as UFO Magazine received numerous reports. UFO DATA too, I'm sure, continues to get reports of such craft.

Black Projects

One theory about the triangular-shaped UFOs are that they are secret prototype aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Clearly there are aircraft and UAVs (both experimental and operational) the existence of which is not yet public knowledge. A classic example of this relates to the F-117 stealth fighter and the B-2 stealth bomber. Clearly these aircraft were being flown long before their existence was publicly acknowledged by the US Government, and indeed if somebody had seen these aircraft before their existence became public knowledge, it would be useful if they were reported as UFOs as opposed to a previously unknown aircraft. This has led some to suggest that governments actively encourage or even plant rumours about UFOs as a cover story. I've been accused of this sort of disinformation tactic myself, and it was touched upon in the classic 1997 article, *A Die-Hard Issue: CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*, written by CIA Chief Historian Gerald K. Haines. As you'd expect, the whole subject of black projects is an area where I can say very little. However, in my official MoD investigations there were ways of eliminating this possibility from my inquiries. To give one obvious example, we know where we test fly our own experimental craft, so can take this into account in any UFO investigation.

The Aurora Controversy

Nothing typified the debate about UFOs and black projects better than the controversy that arose in the early Nineties over Aurora. Rumours

had surfaced that the SR-71 Blackbird had been replaced by a hypersonic aircraft called Aurora. Might this explain UFO sightings such as the Belgian Wave and the Cosford Incident? Did Aurora exist? Was it being test-flown over the UK? Again, this is an area where I can say little. However, in 1994 and 1995 there were a series of questions asked in Parliament in relation to Aurora, and the related rumour that it was operating from the remote Scottish base of RAF Machrihanish. The replies were clear and stated that no evidence had been seen to support such theories and no authorisations had been given. If Parliament was misled, this would have a resigning offence, so it seemed that Aurora didn't exist after all. But if the triangular-shaped UFOs being seen in increasing numbers weren't attributable to Aurora, or to a similar prototype aircraft or UAV, what were these things?

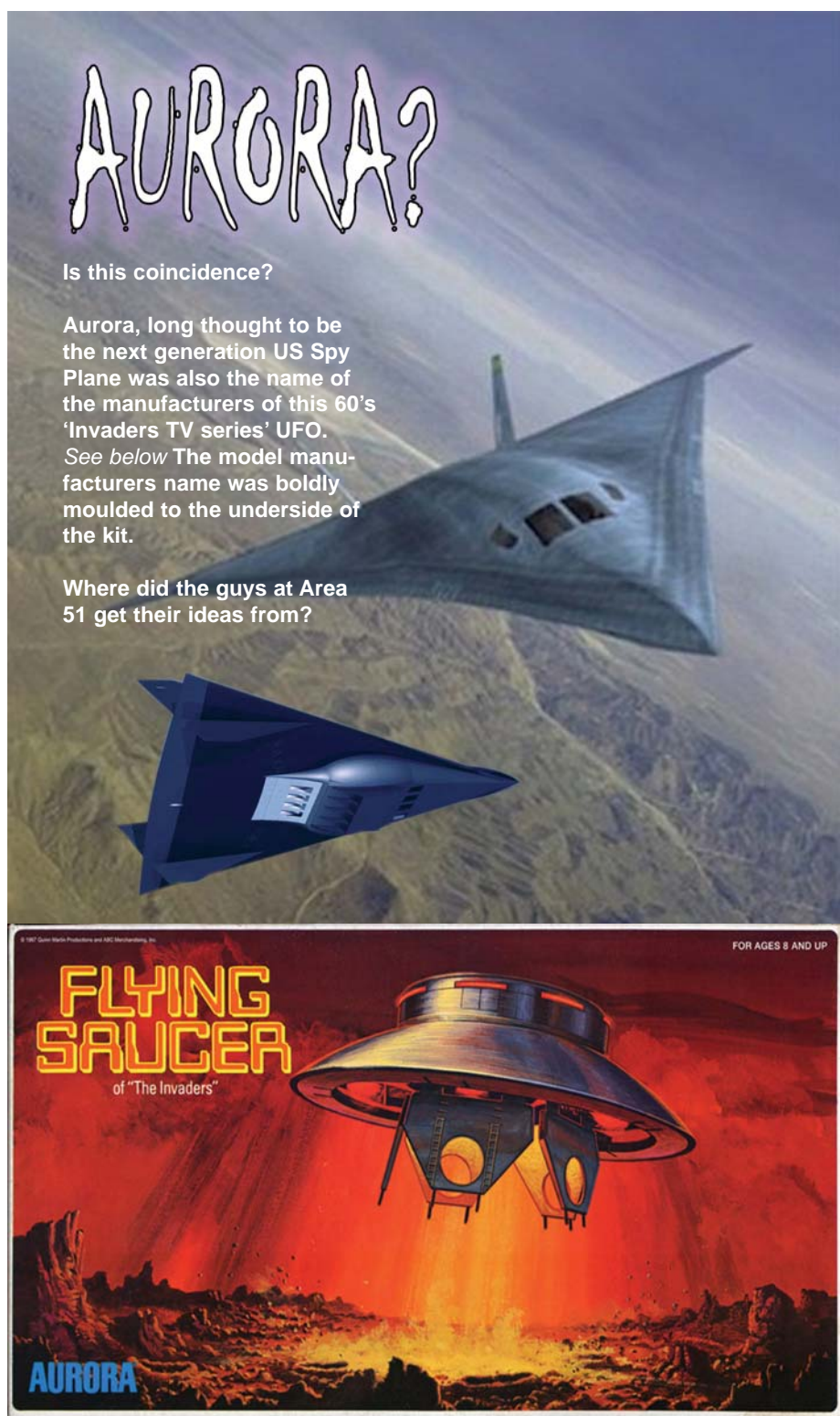
The Disappearing Photograph

When I took over responsibility for investigating UFOs at the MoD, one wall of my office was dominated by a spectacular image of a UFO. It was silver-coloured craft, perhaps no more a couple of hundred feet above the ground, if that. It looked diamond-shaped, but may have appeared triangular when viewed from underneath - this was something I'd come across in other investigations, and was a feature of some reports in the Belgian Wave and the Cosford Incident. A colleague told me the story surrounding the image. Apparently the UFO had been seen near Pitlochry in Scotland in 1990, and the photo had been sent to the MoD for analysis. I'm not able to go into the details of this analysis, but the conclusion was that this was a real object, perhaps 25 or 30 metres in diameter, as I recall. The image on my office wall was a blown-up copy of the original photo and served as a reminder of why UFO sightings needed to be investigated thoroughly. The photo came up occasionally in the course of my dealings with other specialists, one of whom had the same image on his office wall. "Take that, for example", he said to my sceptical boss on one occasion, pointing at the image. "It's not a fake. It's big. If we could just under-

stand a bit more, we could maybe learn something about its aerodynamics, its propulsion system ...". His voice trailed off and the possibilities were left hanging in the air, like the UFO itself. One day, however, my Head of Division came in and removed the photo from the wall, locking it in his desk drawer. Despite the US denials, he had somehow convinced himself that Aurora did exist, and that this is what the photo showed. I alluded to the photo briefly in my first book, *Open Skies Closed Minds*, and this led to Martin Redmond asking a question about the photo in Parliament, and to various ufologists making FOI requests about it. The MoD's responses stated that the photo could not be located. This is a shame, because this might have been the best evidence we had in relation to the triangular-shaped UFOs. Did our best chance of ever resolving the mystery somehow slip through our fingers?

Science Fiction

Ufologists sometimes get upset when I even mention science fiction in relation to their subject. Perhaps they think I'm trivialising ufology, implying that ufologists are Trekkies, or suggesting that UFO reports are made by people who've watched too much sci-fi and have a strong will to believe in extraterrestrials. This certainly isn't what I mean to imply and I'm sorry if I've caused offence. That said, there clearly is a relationship of some sort between science fiction and ufology. Let me give the classic example. The film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was released in the UK in 1978, and in that year the MoD received 750 UFO reports, the largest number of reports ever received in a single year. Does this prove that sci-fi movies implant ideas in people's heads, or does it simply mean the film raised interest and awareness about UFOs, and created an environment where people felt more comfortable reporting their sightings? The latter, I suspect. If anything, it's not that ufology is inspired and influenced by sci-fi, but that sci-fi draws on ufology. Again, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* is the classic example, because Steven Spielberg consulted Project Blue Book's scientific adviser, Dr J. Allen Hynek, in making the movie.



Is this coincidence?

Aurora, long thought to be the next generation US Spy Plane was also the name of the manufacturers of this 60's 'Invaders TV series' UFO. See below The model manufacturers name was boldly moulded to the underside of the kit.

Where did the guys at Area 51 get their ideas from?

He even got a cameo role in the film. To illustrate the point that sci-fi draws inspiration from ufology, triangular-shaped UFOs featured heavily in both *The X-Files* and *Dark Skies*. I featured such UFOs myself in my two sci-fi novels, *Operation Thunder Child* and *Operation Lightning Strike*. Art imitates life.

Conclusion

For decades, the public perception was that most UFOs were disc-shaped. This was in part due to the term "flying saucer", even though the

saucer quote was actually a reference to the movement of the UFOs seen by Kenneth Arnold ("They flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water") as opposed to the shape. Nowadays, many of the world's most spectacular UFO sightings involve triangular-shaped UFOs. Many of these cases have been thoroughly investigated by the government and the military. We know what they aren't ... but we don't know what they are.

Nick Pope.

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FLYING TRIANGLES OF THE LAST 60 YEARS...

To conclude this look at the 'Flying Triangle' phenomenon of recent times, Steve Johnson looks as far back as Kenneth Arnold and his 1947 description of the movement of the nine strange craft he had observed whilst flying over the Cascade Mountains all those years ago.

The term 'Flying Saucer' will forever be credited to Arnold but what he described was no saucer but a delta-shaped craft, akin to a triangular-shaped flying machine...



Flying Triangles

by Steve Johnson

After disc- or saucer-shaped UFOs, the most reported shape for these elusive objects is that of a black triangle or deltoid. Sometimes they are described as V-shaped or similar to a boomerang, but the triangular structure is the most commonly reported of this type. More often than not, they have bright lights at each corner and a larger one at the centre, although some are described as having rows of lights along the edges.

It is often said that Black Triangle (BT) sightings began in the 1940s and peaked in the late 1980s and 1990s, but they have been reported throughout history. Cave paintings, frescoes and woodcuts have all depicted triangular objects, as well as the more common discs, cigars and circles/spheres. Two triangles were observed manoeuvring close to the Moon in July, 1882.

It was the post-war years, though, that saw an explosion in BT sightings. Not all triangles are described as 'black', with some appearing metallic or luminous. It has been suggested, with merit, that the BTs sighted after the end of World War II may actually be top-secret aircraft flown by our governments. This theory is supported by the various delta-winged aircraft that were developed, as well as the numerous 'flying wing' planes like the Northrop YB-35 and YB-49.

Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of 1947 could be counted as a triangle sighting, although the objects he saw were described as 'crescent-shaped'. His description was very reminiscent

of the Horton Ho-229 fighter, although these Nazi-designed aircraft were unable to achieve the 1200-1700 mph calculated by Arnold for the craft he observed.

Although described as a 'flying disc' in the official press release, the downed Roswell craft has been depicted by various witnesses as a triangular, winged vehicle. Based upon these descriptions, forensic artist, William Louis McDonald published his technical diagrams of the craft. They created such a stir that model kit firm, Testors, added it to their range of successful scale models.

It is curious that both of the UFO incidents that kick-started the modern age of ufology have craft that are decidedly aircraft-shaped. Over the following decades, more triangle sightings occurred.

In March, 1965, near the village of Skeeby, North Yorkshire, nine triangular objects, each about 100-feet long and flying in a V-formation, were witnessed by a man driving his 1951 Ford. His engine sputtered and died and he climbed out to investigate the fault. It was then that he saw a large object moving about 100-feet above the moor. As he watched, it shot skywards and joined

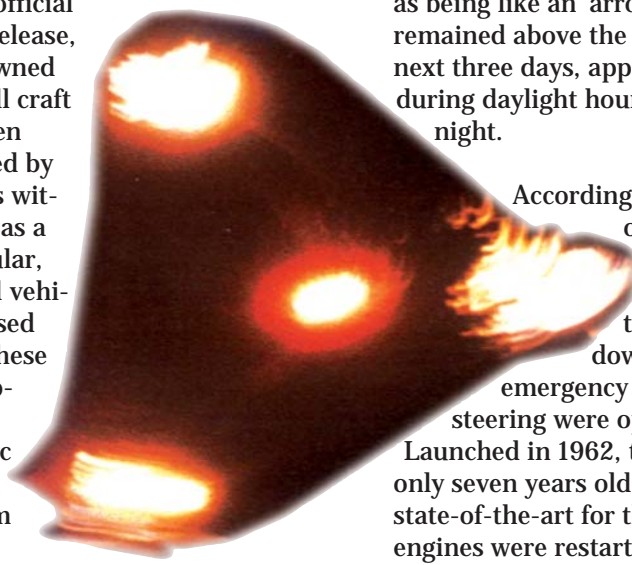
eight other, identical, objects.

In 1969, the British Petroleum (BP) oil tanker, *British Grenadier*, was sailing through the Gulf of Mexico. Suddenly, a triangular UFO appeared over the ship, described at the time as being like an 'arrowhead'. It remained above the tanker for the next three days, appearing dark blue during daylight hours and silver at night.

According to the ship's log, on the first day, at one minute past midnight, the engines shut down and only emergency lighting and steering were operational.

Launched in 1962, the tanker was only seven years old and pretty much state-of-the-art for the time. The engines were restarted, but only after a full manual shutdown and restart of the pumps.

On the second day, the food refrigerators failed. No reason was found for this. The third day of the sighting was



Picture Credit: Alastair Sutherland

the most dramatic. A crewman noticed that the lights in the air-conditioning room were off. He noticed a door open that led to one of the crews' sleeping quarters and passed through it. A few minutes later, at one minute after midnight again, the engines shut down. It was discovered that the starter motor for the engines had been dismantled and the parts laid out as though for examination. Twelve hours later, the craft vanished.

The crewman who had noticed the air-conditioning room lights being



out and passed through the open door into the nearby crew quarters was shocked to discover that the same door had been welded shut before the tanker had left port because of a fault. How could it have been open at the time of the second engine shutdown?

[UFOData Magazine has contacted BP Shipping for more information about this case and, hopefully, will be able to share what we discover later]

In the 1970s, there was a spate of BT sightings over France. In June, 1976, an aircraft mechanic in Pierre-de-Bresse saw a triangular craft with flickering orange and white lights and the forward point and bright, white lights to the rear. The witness observed it moving slowly and silently for five minutes before it disappeared to the north.

A few months later, military personnel saw a similar object over Marseille and just days after that another was spotted over Saint-Nazaire-d'Aude, this time with a red light at the centre.

In December, 1977, a triangle with yellow lights at the tips and a red light at the centre was seen near Brettnach in north-eastern France. The craft moved slowly and silently before angling to 45-50 degrees and vanishing 'as though into fog'.

On the last day of December, 1981, a retired police officer from Kent, New York, saw several lights to the south. At first he thought that a plane was in trouble, but as it drew closer, he realized that this was no conventional aircraft. It became apparent that the lights were attached to a triangular structure and he was amazed that it was travelling so slowly and almost silently, save for a low hum.

More sightings came in and in March, 1983, a telephone hotline was opened, receiving three hundred reports on its first night! That same night, the police switchboard in Yorktown, New York, was also swamped and a road became blocked as motorists pulled over to watch a triangle flying overhead. Between 1982 and 1986 over 5,000 reports came from the Hudson Valley area.



The Hudson Valley wave led into what is probably the most famous flap of BT sightings - the Belgian UFO Wave.

On November 29th, 1989, two police officers driving between Eupen and Kettenis in eastern Belgium saw a 'dark solid mass in the form of an isosceles triangle' over a field beside the road. The object had bright, white lights at each corner and a red light at the centre. They reported what they had seen and discovered from the Belgian military that no aircraft were in the area. A little over an hour later, they saw it again hovering over a watch tower on the nearby Lake Gileppe. They watched it for over two hours before it ascended in a spiral flight path and disappeared.

Over 150 reports came in that night from police officers and members of the public.

On March 30th, 1990, a BT was seen over the city of Glons by a police captain. He reported it to the military and two F-16 fighters were scrambled to intercept. They encountered the UFO and managed to attain a radar lock. The footage of this encounter is now world famous. The jets played cat and mouse with the object for over an hour. Each time they got a lock, the craft would quickly move away. The pilots reported that the UFO executed manoeuvres that were impossible for them to replicate. At one point, the craft descended from 10,000 feet to 500 feet in only five seconds.

An investigation of the incident by the Belgian Air Force came to the following conclusions:

The Belgian Air Force was unable to identify neither the nature nor the origin of the phenomena. However, it had sufficient elements to exclude following assumptions:

a. Balloons. Impossible due to the highly variable speeds (confirmed visually and by radar).

b. ULM. Same as for balloons.

c. RPV. Impossible due to the hovering characteristics.

d. Aircraft (including Stealth). Same as for RPV. No noise.

e. Laser projections or Mirages. Unlikely due to lack of projection surface (no clouds). Light spots have been observed from different locations. Light spots moved over distance of more than 15 NM. Form of inlighted part of spots has been observed with spectacles. Laser projections or mirages cannot be detected by radar.

The man who signed the official report, Colonel Wilfred de Brouwer (now Major General), agreed to write a postface at the end of the Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena's (SOBEP's) report into the sightings. His conclusions were:

The day will undoubtedly come where the phenomenon will be observed with technological means of detection and recording which will not leave any doubt as of its origin. This should raise part of the veil which covers the mystery for a long time. A mystery which thus remains whole. But it exists, it is real, and this is already an important conclusion.

More sightings were reported over the following months. One photograph has become synonymous with the triangle phenomenon. It depicts the underside of a triangular object with a bright light on each corner and another at the centre. In all over a thousand reports have come from Belgium and triangle sightings continue to this day.

Three years to the day after the Belgian F-16 encounter, the UK had

its own triangle mystery. Known as the Cosford Incident, it was investigated in an official capacity by Nick Pope for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and, for him, remains as one of the best cases in the government's files.

Nick has written extensively about the case in UFOData Magazine, so we'll just cover it quickly. On March 30th, 1993, reports came in of triangular craft from locations as far apart as Somerset and Staffordshire. At RAF Cosford in Shropshire, an RAF police officer reported a craft fly over the base at an altitude of about a thousand feet with no engine noise. A meteorological officer from nearby RAF Shawbury saw a large craft shining beams of light down to the ground before moving quickly away to the horizon.

Nick made out a report that concluded that what was seen was of 'considerable defence significance'. His superior officer agreed and stated in a memo to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff that 'there would seem to be some evidence on this occasion that an unidentified object (or objects) of unknown origin was operating over the UK'.

Black Triangles continue to be sighted to this day. One of the most recent was submitted to Brian Vike's hbccufo.org website on June 12th, 2007:

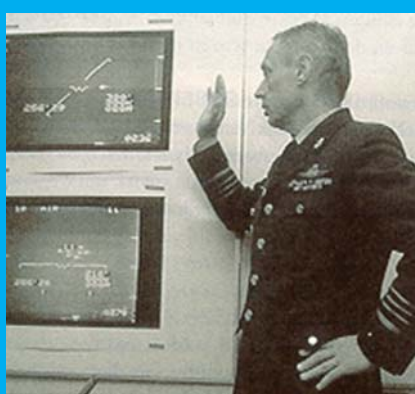
I was outside, walking our dog, about 10:30 p.m. and heard a strange vibration overhead and behind me. I turned around and saw a similar object such as that witnessed by the gentleman in Alabama [a BT case from 2002 that was also submitted to Mr Vike - SJ]. It was approximately 500 feet above our house and moved from west to east, following the river upstream. I could make out the triangular shape of it and also noted that the three lights were there, but they did not illuminate myself or anything else as it passed right over. I did notice some red lights that were constantly on in the rear of the object as it passed over. That has given me the idea that the object was some military plane. But what propulsion it used is beyond me. It only made the strange vibrating sound and there was no sound usually associated with a plane or

helicopter, which frequently fly over our house. I asked my wife if she heard the vibrations when I returned to the house and she said she had and was going to ask me what caused it when I came back in. Perhaps it is some advanced military vehicle stationed at nearby McChord airbase. I'd be interested to know if anyone else in the area has seen anything similar.

No doubt BT sightings will continue into the future, alongside all the other shapes and sizes of the UFO phenomenon. Are they extra-terrestrial? Are they Top Secret aircraft? As they have been sighted since before the advent of powered flight, this would suggest that they are not the latter. We all know that there are some very weird and exotic aircraft being developed by our governments, but can they be testing craft that can perform 'impossible' aerobatic manoeuvres? Why would they be testing them in areas where they can be detected on radar, witnessed by hundreds of people and entering busy commercial air corridors?

As Major General de Brouwer said it is "a mystery which thus remains whole. But it exists, it is real, and this is already an important conclusion."

SJ



Colonel Wilfred de Brouwer was the man who put the official stamp on the sightings over Belgium showing radar tapes to the press. We hoped to have a transcribed interview with him in this issue, but the translation has not arrived. We will post it on the website when it arrives from Belgium. You can read more on the Belgium flap at the following url: <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/vault/9054/ufobelg.html>

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Loving The Alien

A NEW FILM

by

RONAN GALLAGHER

On a cold February night in 1979 in my home of Mohill in Co. Leitrim in the rural west of Ireland, my youngest brother was brought into our house in a very distressed state by a local farmer. The young boy was about twelve years old and had been out helping a local farmer with milking the cows and other farmyard chores. I remember that night very well because the look of fear and confusion on my brother's young, ash-grey face was quite alarming. Pale and trembling in our front living room, he hardly spoke a word despite attempts by our family to find out what had happened to him. It was the first time in my life that I saw genuine terror on a face of one so young and that look haunted me for years after. Not wanting to push it and given his obviously distressed state, my parents decided to leave him be in the hope that at some time later he might recount to us what had happened. My brother never spoke of the events of that night or told us or anyone else what had made him so terrified and for nearly thirty years he kept it bottled up inside him.

Fast forward twenty seven years to 2006 when I was sitting in my own living room reading the local paper. A small article caught my attention.

It was a piece informing the readers that the second international UFO Conference was taking place in The Bush Hotel in Carrick on Shannon. For some reason, the article jumped out at me. I must confess to having no real interest in UFOs or aliens or any of that kind of thing, yet these few column inches seemed to shout out at me, and within minutes I had said to my wife, Valerie, that I knew what my next film was going to be about.

My brother was home from Italy, where he now lives and works, and during a family get together, I happened to mention that my next film was going to explore the area of UFOs and the people who so passionately believe in them. I was not prepared for what happened next. Without hesitation he told me that he wished at last to recount what had happened to him on that cold February night all those years ago. Not having any inkling for all those years that his incident involved a UFO I was shocked and at the same time relieved. I was relieved because for many years I had thought that the incident had involved something much darker and much closer to earth and involved humans not aliens. I was shocked because I couldn't believe that someone could

bottle that up for so long and not feel able or comfortable to tell the world of such an incident. I asked him if he would tell his story on camera and he readily agreed, saying that he now felt it was time to get it off his chest. We set up the camera the following day and he gave me the most chilling interview I have ever heard. His story I have since found out is not an isolated one. During the course of making my film I met many people, friends and strangers, who all opened up to me and recounted the most fascinating stories of UFO sightings I had ever heard. Unfortunately many of these people did not wish to speak publicly about their encounters fearing public ridicule and scorn. I remember thinking at the time how strange it was that people were willing to accept the notion of a God (for which there is a lot less evidence) than the eyewitness accounts of people who claimed to have seen or had encounters with UFOs. Even though I would count myself among the sceptics I felt it was wholly wrong to ignore or ridicule such people and felt very determined to make my film.

The film itself was recorded at the Conference and I spoke to many people working in the field of UFO investigations. The one thing which

really stood out was the apparent normality of these people. No crazy loo-lahs here, just ordinary people whose lives had been touched by the sightings of, or close encounters with, UFOs. I never felt it was my job to judge or ridicule and decided that my best approach was to let these people tell their stories and let audiences judge for themselves. Too many times this subject has been covered for the 'Giggle Factor' or the 'Oh, they are all crazy' attitude. No one seemed capable of just doing what good documentary filmmakers should do. Listen.

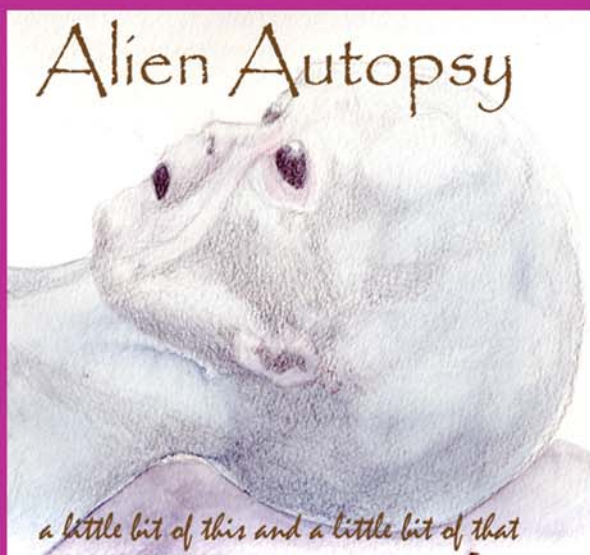
I listened for three days and many more after as I put my film together. It was a great experience for me, opening up my mind to possibilities that I previously would have dismissed as hokum. Don't get me wrong, I am by no means a convert and still hold some healthy scepticism, but one thing which stuck in my mind was the fact that these people came from all walks of life. Doctors, farmers, policemen, all recounting strange stories of lights in the sky. It cannot hold that all these people are just doing it for the attention, after all who would welcome attention such as that. Whether one is sceptical of such accounts or a total believer, the fact is that these UFO sightings are relatively common. *Loving the Alien* is not about proving or disproving anyone's theories, or about mocking or ridiculing people or disrespecting their strongly held beliefs, it is hopefully more about being informative, imaginative, and above all, respectful.

It is why I open the film with a quote from the great bard Shakespeare. It is a quote which seems very apt for such a subject matter and one which sceptics all over the world would do well to remember.

'There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.'

Ronan Gallagher
Director/Producer
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'Strangeness in Suffolk'

ONGOING PHENOMENA IN RENDLESHAM FOREST

In this the second featured article of this issue by Peter McCue, we look at the strange 'going ons' in Rendlesham Forest.

In late December, 1980, Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk became the setting for one of Britain's best-known UFO cases. But there are conflicting versions of what happened, and the case remains a focus of controversy. Irrespective of what did or didn't occur there in late 1980, the forest is reportedly the setting for ongoing anomalous phenomena (UFO sightings, 'missing time', poltergeist-type effects, etc.). I live in Scotland, a few hundred miles from Rendlesham Forest, which limits my opportunity for on-the-spot investigation. However, I visited the area in March, 2007, and met some of the people who've had unusual experiences there; and I've been in touch with other witnesses since then.

There are parallels between what's reportedly going on in Rendlesham Forest and a long-running case involving a wood or forest near the city of Cluj-Napoca in Romania.¹ This hotspot has been referred to as both the 'Hoia-Baciu Wood' and the 'Hoia-Baciu Forest'. I don't know which of these designations is more accurate, but the area has allegedly been the setting for a wide variety of manifestations, including: the appearance of low flying structures or shapes (often invisible to

the naked eye, but caught on film or photographs); spots of light at night (white or coloured, stationary or flying); physical effects (radioactivity, magnetic anomalies, etc.); unusual marks on the ground; biological effects on plants and animals (including humans); and sightings of humanoids. A chemistry lecturer called Dr Adrian Patrut has apparently written a book about the case.² I tried to contact him by e-mail, to obtain further information, but I've had no reply.

Rendlesham Forest

Rendlesham Forest is predominantly coniferous. Lying to the east of

Woodbridge, and close to the North Sea coast, it was planted by the Forestry Commission between 1922 and the late 1930s on what was formerly heath or agricultural land. The forest is criss-crossed by tracks, fire-breaks and roads. It lies on comparatively flat land. The 1: 25,000 (2½ in. to a mile) Ordnance Survey map number 212 (Woodbridge & Saxmunden) depicts the area. The term 'Track 10' appears in this article. I've used inverted commas, because the track isn't currently marked with a number, although people interested in UFO-related matters continue to refer to it as 'Track 10'. Its location can be seen in Figure 1.

To the north of the forest is the site of a former air force base, RAF Bentwaters. The forest itself is largely bisected by the runway of another former air force base, RAF Woodbridge. In the 1950s, the United States Air Force (USAF) took over the two bases. They were officially closed some 14 years ago, following the end of the Cold War. But the Woodbridge installation, or at least part of it, is still under Ministry of Defence control. In her informative book, *You Can't Tell The People*,³ Georgina Bruni states that the base is used by the army and police for helicopter training. And according to Brenda Butler (see below), it's been used for the training of troops prior to their being sent to Iraq.

Incidents before and after December 1980

Strange lights were allegedly seen in the Rendlesham area during the late 1800s (see Bruni, op. cit., pp. 404-405). In the twentieth century, there were reportedly sightings of lights or UFOs prior to the controversial events of December 1980. For example, Bruni (op. cit., pp. 367-368) cites a witness called F. W. Sone, who'd been a security policeman at the Bentwaters base. One day in 1973,

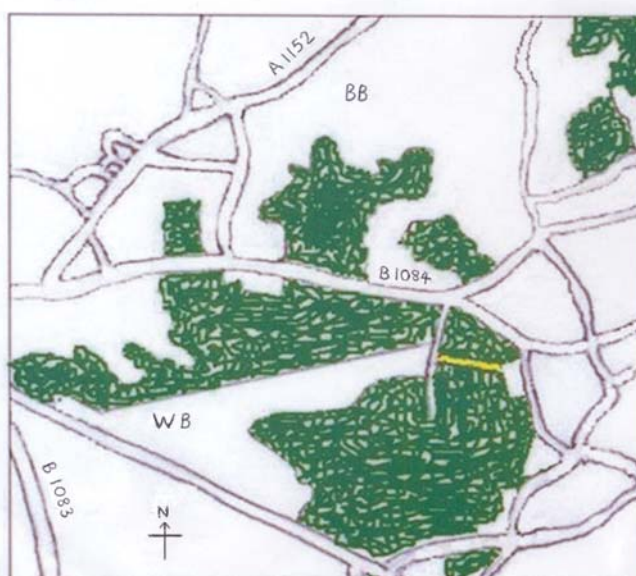


Figure 1: Rendlesham Forest
(WB = Woodbridge Base; BB = site of Bentwaters Base;
'Track 10' shown in yellow)

around 3.00 a.m., he allegedly saw a light hovering over the main runway. Shortly after, spotlights from fire/rescue trucks were trained on the hovering light, which appeared to be about 100 feet in diameter. It was silent, and suddenly disappeared about five minutes later. The following year, while on duty in the nuclear weapons storage area at the base, Sone reportedly witnessed another incident. A UFO appeared twice, and two F-4 fighters were sent to intercept it. But as they approached the object, it became smaller and suddenly disappeared, only to reappear in another place. And that allegedly went on for 30 minutes.

Bruni's book also describes ghostly phenomena that were reportedly experienced by USAF personnel (although none of the accounts appears to have been given to her by a first-hand witness). For example, a James D. Hudnall, who'd been a security guard at the Bentwaters base in the mid-1970s, told her that a colleague of his called Andy had been on duty in a high security area one foggy wintry night when he spotted three figures heading towards the security tower. A patrol vehicle was alerted and entered the area. But when its headlights shone on them, the figures disappeared. A search revealed nothing. Later that night, Andy heard footsteps ascending the metal steps of the tower, although he wasn't expecting visitors. When he opened the trapdoor and shone his torchlight down, he saw nothing. He closed the trapdoor and resumed his watch. But very soon after, he heard footsteps again, which were louder than before and getting closer and closer. The airman went for his gun and stood ready. The trapdoor swung wide open and then slammed shut, but there was nothing to be seen.

Bruni (op. cit.) indicates that there have been UFO sightings and other anomalous events in the area since December 1980. For example, she states that an Ipswich couple saw a "huge spaceship" one evening in 1996, the sighting occurring between Woodbridge and Eyke (p. 379).

The December 1980 incidents

The first book written about the 1980 events was *Sky Crash*, by

Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles.⁴ It relates that Butler became friendly with a USAF security officer in 1975. He was apparently working at the Woodbridge base, and he soon realized that Butler was interested in UFOs. In early January 1981, he told her that a UFO had crashed in Rendlesham Forest several days before (on 27th December). He claimed that he'd been on security patrol and had been called out to the forest, and that he'd witnessed a meeting there between the Base Commander and some alien creatures!

A memorandum, dated 13th January, 1981, came to light in 1983. Written by Lt-Col. Charles Halt, the Deputy Base Commander at Bentwaters/Woodbridge,⁵ it referred to 'a strange glowing object' that had been sighted in the forest in the early hours of 27th December 1980. The object was described as metallic in appearance and triangular in shape. As patrolmen approached, it reportedly manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared, although it was seen again, briefly, about an hour later. According to the memorandum, indentations were later found where the object had been seen on the ground, and radiation was subsequently detected there. The memorandum referred to further UFO sightings, on the night of 29/30th December, and claimed that Halt himself was one of the witnesses. But the document made no reference to the sighting of alien creatures.

Georgina Bruni argues that it should no longer be disputed that a craft of unknown origin landed in the forest (op. cit., pp. 363-364), and she concludes that time travellers from our future, or beings from "another dimension", were involved (op. cit., p. 406). Others have interpreted the events in more prosaic terms. For example, it's been suggested that the flashing beacon of the Orford Ness lighthouse (to the east of the forest) was mistaken for a mysterious object. The alleged incidents occurred close to NATO bases during the Cold War. The authors of *Sky Crash* consider the possibility that something mundane occurred, which the authorities wanted to conceal from public attention, and that UFO stories may have been concocted to

cover up what happened.⁶

Reports of ongoing phenomena

I've given the real names of most of my informants (with their permission), but 'Valerie Wilson' and 'Laura' are pseudonyms. I thought it best to safeguard their anonymity, because I've mentioned Wilson's children, and Laura is associated with the family, and is still in her teens. For ease of expression, I've been sparing in the use of 'distancing' terminology ('alleged', 'reported-ly', etc.). But I can't guarantee the historical accuracy of what I've been told, although I've no reason to believe that any of the informants has lied to me. The ages I've given for them should be regarded as approximate. These informants aren't the only people who've allegedly had unusual experiences in Rendlesham Forest. Three individuals who said they'd provide me with written accounts of their experiences have failed to do so. And for all I know, there could be a good number of other people who've had unusual experiences in the forest.

Brenda Butler

Brenda Butler, a former nurse, lives near the Suffolk coast. She's declined to divulge her age, but she reports a long history of unusual experiences, including anomalous phenomena in her present home. Her first UFO sighting occurred when she was 5. She believes she's been abducted by aliens on several occasions, and she says that she played with them as a child. She has three scars that she believes may be related to her contact with aliens, and she's spoken in a "weird language" at times. She informs me that someone turned up on her doorstep in 1984, stayed for three months, and then returned for a further week. The visitor slept in a nearby caravan rather than in the house itself. Mainly, he appeared in human form. But on three occasions, she saw him as a "reptilian". She told me that he was able to discern her thoughts telepathically, that he knew what was in books without having to read them, and that he sometimes appeared unexpectedly before her. He ate only vegetables and sweets, and didn't appear to wash or use the lavatory, although he always looked

clean.

To Butler, Rendlesham Forest is a "very magical place". She's been visiting it since 1979. She has doubts about whether the December, 1980, incidents involved anything exotic, although she believes that extra-terrestrials and beings from another dimension are involved in the ongoing phenomena. She's taken numerous photographs in the forest, initially using 35 mm film, and more recently with digital cameras. Many of the photographs have been taken at night. 'Orbs', misty patches, and streaks of light or colour can be seen in many of them. Generally, these features weren't evident to the naked eye when the photographs were taken. In addition, Butler has had numerous unusual experiences in the forest over the years, including: sightings of UFOs and apparitions (e.g. of small monk-like figures); 'missing time'; her watch stopping; stones dropping down beside her (which have been either hot or, less often, warm); and her surroundings appearing temporarily different from normal.

Many of these experiences have occurred when she's been with someone else (or with more than one other person). For example, she reports that during a visit to the forest in about 1998, she and an American called Woody saw a helicopter chasing a large white light. Two smaller lights came out of the larger light and then went back into it. And other strange things occurred. For instance, the couple experienced a few hours of missing time, and, for a while, the local topography appeared to be different from normal. On another occasion, in the same general area (the eastern part of the forest), Butler noticed a 6-foot tree at a spot where there'd been no tree about a week before. But when she returned some 10 days later, the tree wasn't there!

Peter Parish

Peter Parish, 48, works as a groundsman at a school, and lives not far from Rendlesham Forest. He recalls childhood experiences of feeling pinned down in his bedroom. During these episodes, he felt as if he were being visited, although he didn't actually see any 'visitors'. (These

sound like experiences of sleep paralysis, which isn't uncommon in the general population.) A few years ago, at Brenda Butler's home, he had a similar experience, although on that occasion he subsequently saw, or hallucinated, a rotating blob of fluorescent green material that resembled antifreeze liquid. The sighting seemed to last about 20-30 seconds. (Butler informs me that other people have had apparitional experiences in her house.)

Using a digital DVD camcorder and an ordinary digital camera, Parish has captured moving images in the forest of what he and Brenda Butler call "rods". Having seen them on DVD, I would say they look like moving hairs or pieces of cotton thread. I wonder whether they could be photographic artefacts rather than things in the environment, although Parish believes they are external forms of some kind.

Editor's note:

I would like to pass comment on some of the films I have seen that Mr Parish refers to as Rods.

One striking piece of digital video shows Mr Parish and another person in a field of crop and they appear to swarmed by 'Rod'-like phenomena. This is also captured very vividly by the camcorder's night-vision system.

One of the participants shines a torch into the night sky and the beam illuminates thousands of these 'Rods'.

In essence I believe, after watching the film through and carrying out basic analysis, what is caught on camera in my opinion are flies, moths or some other insect thriving on the crop. But I have struggled to identify some of the other striking phenomena talked about in this article.

Editor.

He's also caught what he believes are larger images of rods. To me, their shape is reminiscent of pictures of the DNA molecule. To Parish, they resemble pieces of flexible piping, and he describes them as having membrane-like 'wings', one on each side, which vibrate as the rods move. I'm not sure what to make of them,

but I wonder whether they could be magnified, and perhaps distorted, images of airborne bracken fibres. Interestingly, Parish thinks that rods are more in evidence when the bracken in the forest is high.

On two occasions, Parish has filmed a yeti-like form or shadow in the forest at night, although on neither occasion did he actually see a yeti with the naked eye. Also at night, he's filmed a shadowy form, which he refers to as an "ET". Again, though, he didn't see it with the naked eye. I've seen two of these sequences on DVD (the one featuring the ET, and one of the sequences featuring a yeti-like form), and I wonder whether they show Parish's own shadow being accidentally cast by a moving light source behind him (e.g. a companion's torch beam). But that's only conjecture, and I understand from Parish that a woman from Blackpool allegedly saw a yeti-like figure in the forest in the daytime about four years ago.

One evening in January, 2002, while he was living in a flat that was formerly part of RAF Bentwaters, Parish saw an Army helicopter flying very low over the flats, seemingly chasing, or being passed by, a bluish-white orb-shaped light that was heading east. And in about 2002, from Woodbridge, he saw a Sea King helicopter being followed by an orb of light. He's also had UFO experiences in Rendlesham Forest itself. Around midnight or 1.00 a.m. one windless, starlit night, about four years ago, he was looking down 'Track 10', from the road that runs past its western end, when he and Brenda Butler heard a whirring noise, as if some sort of craft were flying towards them from the trees ahead. There was a bright flash in the forest, and then the noise resumed and came closer. They felt wind swirling around them and noticed the trees swaying. Nothing was visible, and the noise moved away in the direction of the Woodbridge base. On another occasion, but during the daytime, he saw a light brown object shoot up from 'Track 10' into a tree. It resembled a stick of French bread and appeared to be about 20-30 inches long and 4 inches wide.

Very warm stones have sometimes

landed beside Parish in the forest, and this has occurred during the day and at night. It happens in warm weather. He's experienced it on his own and with others. He states that if there's a group of people, it has to be reasonably small, and its members need to be open-minded, if the phenomenon is to occur. The stones are always smooth and he's sometimes seen them before they've hit the ground. In his experience, they land without bouncing, although if they're picked up and then dropped, they bounce normally. At one point, an elongated stone landed on its end in his presence. And one evening, a stone landed on the roof of his car, without rolling off, while the vehicle was parked near 'Track 10'.

Parish has elicited the stone falling phenomenon by asking questions. Standing alone at the western end of 'Track 10' one night, he asked, out loud, "Are you from another dimension?" A stone then fell down beside him. He asked, "Can you drop a stone on the track in front of me where I'm shining the torch beam?" That duly happened. And when he asked whether a stone could be dropped on the road behind him, one obligingly fell there!

On about two or three occasions, Parish has been among quite densely spaced trees in the eastern part of the forest when a stone has landed near his feet, but without his hearing a preceding sound of something falling through the branches overhead. At one point, he was on 'Track 10' when a stone landed on the ground between his legs. He had a rucksack on his back at the time, so it's hard to see how the stone could have come from above.

When he's been with Brenda Butler, Parish has sometimes had brief visions of small, monk-like creatures. But these sightings have occurred less often than the incidents involving falling stones and he states that that the figures are seen by only one or two people at a time. One night in April, 2002, he was with Butler and some other people near the eastern end of 'Track 10' when he saw a human-shaped shadow passing him, going to the left. At first, he mistakenly thought it was one of his companions, John Hanson. The figure

walked over a deep hole in a path in front of Parish without falling over. And after that, he and Butler saw a round light moving about in a nearby birch tree.

At one point, some symbols came into Parish's mind while he was meditating in the eastern part of forest. Two or three days later, he was in the forest when he got a 'message' (mental impression) telling him that something was on the left, not very far away. About three days later, he and Brenda Butler were in that part of the forest (i.e. the eastern part) when they came upon a stone on which some of the self-same symbols had been scratched. On one occasion, after he'd been meditating with Butler in the eastern part of the forest, Parish discovered that two-and-a-half hours had passed, although it had only seemed like half an hour to him.

Valerie Wilson

Valerie Wilson, 38, hails from London but now lives in Suffolk. Like Brenda Butler, she reports a long history of anomalous experiences. When she was 6, she had an out-of-body-experience and she saw three humanoids in her bedroom when she was 11. She's seen UFOs over her present home and has experienced phenomena within it, such as sightings of "reptilians", "greys" and "shadows". For many years, she's experienced electrical disturbances. She writes: "I touch the switch to turn on lights and fuse the whole house. I do this at friends' homes. Street lights flicker or switch on or off when I approach them or walk under them. I leave the doctor's room to allow them to get my details up on the screen as their computer crashes in my presence. I give static shocks to people when they get in my car..."

Wilson explains that her partner has also experienced unusual phenomena. For example, she states: "[He] had two days of missing time with me when I was 18 years-old. He [saw] a blue globe of light (much like a plasma ball) appear in the centre of the kitchen when we lived in London... In Suffolk, he has had a UFO beam light at his face..." And she reports that her three children

have all experienced paranormal activity. For example, regarding the eldest, who is 18, she writes: "[He] has been a target for Reptilian interaction. He catches them in his room, even with the bedroom light on at night. He knows when they are going to come. He dreams of trips around the cosmos in craft. His friends have all witnessed UFOs while spending time with him out at night. [He] was with eight friends when a Mexican-hat-shaped craft followed them home..."

Given that so many unusual things have happened to her elsewhere, it's perhaps not surprising to learn that Valerie Wilson has also experienced phenomena in Rendlesham Forest. One night, in about August, 2006, she was sitting in her car there, in a picnic area next to a campsite, when an "entity", about 2½-3 feet tall, fell on to the bonnet! Startled, she dived into the back of the car. The entity remained on the bonnet for two or three minutes. On another occasion, about 11.30 p.m., while she was sitting on a bench near the eastern end of 'Track 10' with some companions, she turned on a tape-recorder. When the tape was played back, clicking sounds could be heard, although she hadn't heard them while the recording was being made. On a couple of occasions, she saw red lights high in some trees north of the B1084 road. On another occasion, south of the B1084, she heard a noise like the "satisfied purr" of a big cat.

Laura

Laura, 16, is the girlfriend of one of Valerie Wilson's sons. She told me that she was with her mother and their dog in Rendlesham Forest, probably just before Christmas, 2006, when a stone rolled along the ground near them. Her mother picked it up, and it was burning hot. From what Laura told me, I think they were probably on 'Track 10' at the time.

John Hanson

John Hanson, 61, is a retired police officer with an interest in UFO phenomena. Although he and his partner, Dawn Holloway (see below) live in the Midlands, they've made repeated visits to Rendlesham

Forest. Hanson has seen 'orbs' there. In the company of others, he and Holloway have sometimes been in the forest at night when a thud has been heard, followed by the discovery, on the ground beside them, of a smooth, rounded, and hot pebble. And Hanson reports that he was struck lightly on the back by a stone on one occasion.

As noted above, unusual features have appeared in photographs taken in the forest. Hanson raised this with a friend of his, a professional photographer. The latter was very sceptical, and advanced numerous explanations. Then, much to his surprise, the friend captured photographic anomalies during a visit to the forest with his wife. According to Hanson, when the couple arrived home, "some random photos [were] taken outside the house...[and] they noticed [it] was covered with orbs." I tried to contact Hanson's friend, by e-mail, to obtain further details, but I've had no reply. Anomalies have shown up in photographs that Hanson himself has taken in Rendlesham Forest.

Dawn Holloway

Dawn Holloway, 52, captured an 'orb' with a non-digital camera in daylight conditions in Rendlesham Forest some years ago, although she didn't see anything strange at the time. At that stage, she and Hanson didn't see the anomalous things that Brenda Butler reported seeing. But on one occasion, Butler asked them whether they could see light around a tree. At first, neither of them could, but then it seemed to Holloway that the tree was shimmering with light, although Hanson still couldn't see it. On their next visit to the forest, Holloway saw what looked like a light in a tree close to a track. Butler indicated that she could see it, too, although Hanson and the other people present couldn't. However, it showed up in a photograph that Hanson took.

Holloway explains that as Hanson looked more intently at the tree, he saw it as well. She states that after that visit, she and Hanson began to see 'orbs' with the naked eye intermittently, and that Hanson captured a great deal with his digital camera. Holloway confirms that stones have



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3

sometimes landed on the ground when she's been in the forest. She describes them as having been "quite warm". She's touched about three or four of them.

Don Ramkin

Don Ramkin, 45, has a longstanding interest in the paranormal and has been visiting Rendlesham Forest for several years. During his initial visits, he didn't see or photograph anything unusual. But since then, he's had a variety of unusual experiences in the forest, and he's captured anomalous photographic images there. He tends to visit the forest in a group of four, including Brenda Butler. He states that he and Butler have concluded that unusual activity is more likely to occur if there are just four of them.

Ramkin has seen anomalous lights or illuminated objects in the forest. One incident occurred when he was walking down a track, at night, with five or six others. He and John Hanson were at the rear, walking parallel to each other, some distance apart, and chatting. An object resembling a bright golf ball shot out of the trees ahead of them on the left at an angle. Ramkin notes: "It...zipped between myself and John...just above our heads, seemed to twist, [and] then, taking another trajectory, shot into the trees to the right, behind us." It made a rasping-like noise. Judging from its high-speed manoeuvres, Ramkin infers that it was being guided or had intelligence. I spoke to John Hanson about the incident. He doesn't specifically recall it. However, if it happened as described, it's possible that he wasn't looking in the right direction at the time.

On one occasion, about half an hour before it got fully dark, Ramkin saw a silent black triangular shaped craft flying in the direction of Orford Ness. It appeared to be at a high altitude and above a field rather than over the forest itself. He's had other unusual visual experiences in the area, including sightings of apparitional figures.

He reports that he and his companions have had their clothing tugged and that they've been prodded; and he relates that he distinctly felt someone or something unseen hold-

ing his right hand on two occasions. And on three occasions, he's felt a grip around his left wrist. (If I've understood him correctly, all of these incidents involving tactile impressions have occurred at night.)

One night, Ramkin and two companions, including Brenda Butler, were sitting on a bench near the eastern end of 'Track 10' when he heard someone whispering in his right ear. He asked Butler what she'd said, but then he realized there was no one sitting to his right. Butler explained that no one had spoken. Ramkin then heard more whispering.

Ramkin has been present when stones have fallen in the forest. They've usually landed near him and his companions, and, if located, have been found to be "very, very warm". He notes that they "can be pure white [and] almost polished", unlike any stones that he and his companions have normally come across in the forest. He states that he's personally witnessed two stones land and roll and he also mentions an occasion when a plastic toy elephant landed at the base of a tree.

One night, Ramkin and a companion were walking down a forest track when they heard a loud rushing and crashing sound from some trees to their right. In his torchlight, Ramkin saw a deer running fast. It fell, but got up and ran off. Ramkin writes: "...I panned my torch round...and suddenly saw two pairs of yellow eyes looking back at us. I thought, as did [my companion], that it was foxes, but my heart began racing as I realized that we were wrong. As we began to walk, these two creatures walked, and when we stopped, they stopped, but I kept hitting their eyes with the torch [beam], so I knew where they were...I caught a glimpse of the shoulder blades going up and down and it dawned on me that this was a big cat encounter."

Comments and conclusions

Brenda Butler has kindly given me a CD containing a large number of photographs she's taken in Rendlesham Forest, including the three photographs reproduced here. Many of them show apparent anomalies, and I sought an opinion on sev-

eral of the pictures (including Photographs 1-3) from Dr Steven Campbell, a former cell biologist, who now works as a professional photographer.

He comments:

"The image meta data shows that all of the images except [*Photograph 1*] were taken with an Olympus Digital Camera and processed with the same software (v574p-76). An internet search for that software number suggests that the camera could have been a C300 Zoom. These very low resolution files have also been highly compressed, and therefore suffer pronounced JPEG artefacts. There is also colour noise due to the small sensor and high amplification [arising from] the fact that the pictures were shot at 400 ISO. The streaks can be explained technically by the fact that the exposure is 2 seconds long.

"The background has been illuminated by the flash for a very brief period and therefore appears still. The long exposure then allows the visualisation of a bright object moving in front of the camera.

"Part of the lateral stretch of the streaking [*in Photograph 2*] is almost certainly due to camera shake and is very similar to an effect seen in firework photography. This lateral handshake stretch is particularly obvious on the right streak. There are very faint 'ghost' images of the fence posts in [*Photograph 3*], which might have been due to [the] double exposure effect already noted. In this case, they could have been caused by the residual light in the sky as revealed by image processing.

"The only intriguing point about the images is the fact that the light streaks in [*Photograph 3*] give the appearance of weaving in and out of the barbed wire. However, the discontinuities in the streaks clearly cast doubt on this interpretation... [*Photograph 1*] was taken with a Hewlett Packard digital camera...The spots appear to be out of focus rain drops. Image processing suggests more are there than is first apparent. The variation in bright spot size is consistent with the fact that rain drops are said to vary in size from 0.2 mm in diameter to 6 mm.

However, size variations in this image could also be explained in terms of different planes of focus.

"There is no evidence from the meta data of sophisticated image processing software being used, such as Photoshop."

By way of an informal control experiment, I took some digital photographs at night in two wooded locations not far from my home. Although I didn't see anything unusual at the time, the camera recorded some 'orbs' at one of the sites. These were presumably normal artefacts, and bearing in mind Steven Campbell's technical comments, I suspect that the same is true of many of the apparent photographic anomalies recorded in Rendlesham Forest. However, it might be premature to conclude that there's no mystery concerning the photographic anomalies captured in the forest. Don Ramkin notes:

"[When] I first started going [there] and was taking endless photos and not getting a single thing, I complained that my camera was crap and that I'd wasted my money buying it. So Brenda [Butler], who was getting orbs and streakers, said, 'Let me try.'" According to Ramkin, she took a photograph with his camera, and straight away two orbs appeared in the frame. Once Rankin had "become tuned in with the forest", as he puts it, he found himself "getting everything he hoped for and more." And he writes: "Since then, we've had people with us who have expensive cameras...and get nothing, and I've asked to try, [and have] taken a photo with their equipment and got orbs, mist, etc." Furthermore, he reports that when he's in the forest, he sometimes gets a headache feeling across his forehead, and that at such times, "I guarantee that if we take photos, there will be orbs or mist."

One might be tempted to regard Rendlesham Forest and the surrounding area as a hotspot or 'window area' for strange events. But without reliable comparative data, it's probably impossible to say for sure whether that's the case. If a randomly-selected area with a similar size, population, etc., were closely studied, it's possible that just as

many accounts of strange events would come to light. However, in the light of the aforementioned reports, I suspect that the locality *is* a hotspot.

I don't know whether Laura is a regular visitor to Rendlesham Forest, but all of my other informants have made multiple visits. A desire to experience phenomena is no doubt part of their motivation. Accordingly, some of their experiences may have been shaped by expectation, suggestion and imagination. In respect of nocturnal visits, darkness and sleep deprivation could, of course, be conducive to perceptual errors.

Furthermore, if incidents aren't noted down very soon after they've occurred, they could be recalled inaccurately. (Regarding events involving more than one witness, I've noticed two or three discrepancies in the testimony, although generally speaking there seems to be a fair amount of consensus.)

Without there necessarily being anything paranormal involved, some people may be especially prone to anomalous experiences. For example, someone with a marked tendency to become very focused on one particular thing, to the exclusion of everything else, might lose track of time in certain situations. And someone with a predisposition to confuse internally generated imagery with external perceptions might be particularly susceptible to hallucinations in a forest at night. Furthermore, if sights and sounds are ambiguous, as they might well be in the dark of night, a person's interpretation of them could be influenced by the pronouncements of his or her companions - if the peer group deems an ambiguous event to be paranormal, that could induce a waverer to place a similar interpretation on it.

The above are necessary notes of caution. However, this case includes physical manifestations, so it can't be convincingly explained away in purely psychological terms. The phenomenon involving hot or warm stones is particularly noteworthy, since it features in the testimony of all of the informants apart from Valerie Wilson.⁷ A sceptic might conjecture that one of the informants has been using trickery to fabricate the inci-

dents. However, it appears that none of them has been consistently present each time the phenomenon has occurred. (Peter Parish reports that it's happened when he's been on his own and Brenda Butler tells me that it's occurred in his absence.) In itself, that doesn't rule out trickery.

For example, a hoaxer could employ accomplices, or there could be a conspiracy involving more than one of the informants; or a sustained hoax may have been perpetrated without the knowledge of any of the informants. However, I rather doubt whether these incidents involving stones are attributable to hoaxing, not least because the perpetrator(s) would have had to spend a considerable amount of time carrying out the pranks. Equally, I think it's unlikely that six of the seven informants have lied about these events. On balance, therefore, I think these incidents involving stones are probably genuine poltergeist-type manifestations, and that some of the other phenomena may also be paranormal.⁸

It's possible that the lights seen by Brenda Butler and Peter Parish in the vicinity of helicopters were produced by military equipment rather than by something exotic. Alternatively, the sightings may have been paranormal hallucinatory experiences. Peter Parish and Brenda Butler's joint experience of hearing something making a whirring noise is puzzling, particularly given that they didn't actually see an aerial object. Was it some sort disguised military craft operated by the Army at the Woodbridge base, or could it have been an exotic or paranormal phenomenon? With regard to the smaller lights or objects that have reportedly been seen in the forest, an explanation in terms of military technology seems quite unlikely to me.

If some of the phenomena in this case are genuinely paranormal, who or what is producing them? Arguably, the most parsimonious explanation is that the manifestations are being created, unwittingly, by the witnesses themselves. The process may operate via unconscious telepathic 'networking' (which could help to engender collective hallucinations), with the physical effects (including some of the photographic

anomalies) being produced by psychokinesis. (I've discussed the notion of 'psychic internets' earlier in this magazine.) Brenda Butler may well be unusually 'psychic'. She's certainly been a very frequent visitor to the forest over the years. Therefore, she could be playing a particularly prominent role in unconsciously catalysing or generating phenomena in Rendlesham Forest.

Acknowledgements

I'm grateful to Brenda Butler for her permission to use Photographs 1-3 in this article. I'd also like to thank her and the other informants for providing testimony and answering my queries. I'm grateful to Steven Campbell for his photographic advice.

1 See

<http://www.lemmiworks.org/weblog/?cat=28&paged=2> . Photographs of a disc-shaped UFO that was reportedly seen and photographed in the area in 1968 can be seen on <http://www.ufologie.net/htm/picamaro01.htm> .

2 See

<http://www.pflyceum.org/50.html> .

3 You Can't Tell the People: The Definitive Account of the Rendlesham Forest UFO Mystery by Georgina Bruni (Pan Books, London, 2001).

4 Sky Crash: A Cosmic Conspiracy by Brenda Butler, Dot Street & Jenny Randles (Grafton Books, London, 1986). (First published by Neville Spearman Ltd in 1984.)

5 The terms 'Base Commander' and 'Deputy Base Commander' are potentially misleading, since they could be taken to mean, respectively, the commander and deputy commander of the whole operation at the twin bases. In fact, though, they refer to the commander and deputy commander of a department known as the Combat Support Group, which was basically concerned with house-keeping, security and policing matters (see Bruni, op. cit., p. 27).

6 See also <http://www.rendlesham-incident.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=299> .

(4109)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09155

13 Jan 81


TO: RAF/CC

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

7 However, although several witnesses have testified to this phenomenon, it may be generally little known in the area. I've spoken on the telephone to Nigel Turner, the Recreation Ranger at Rendlesham Forest. He said that he wasn't aware of any of the forestry workers having such experiences with stones.

8 The falling of hot stones has been reported in some poltergeist cases. See, for example, the discussion of the 1709 Canvey Island (Essex) case in Poltergeists by Alan Gauld & A. D. Cornell (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1979, pp. 211-219).

UFODATA

Many visitors to Rendlesham have come away having had strange experiences and not all can be readily explained away. Whatever took place back in 1980 justified the Deputy Base Commander risking a lot when he put on the record what he and his men observed and if it hadn't have been for Brenda Butler getting her teeth into the case, along with Dot Street and the other researchers that followed, perhaps the Rendlesham secret would still be intact...



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All entries to be with UFO DATA no later than Monday October 22nd, 2007, and the winner will be notified direct.

All we need is the answers to the following questions.

1. Laughlin is quite a new town and was named after the young businessman who saw the opportunity to put it on the map. Who is he?
2. Laughlin is situated on the banks of which river?
3. Most of the workers in the hotels live across the river. When they cross over, their watches have to altered by one hour because they enter another time zone and another state. Name that state?

This is a postal only competition, so put your three answers on a postcard, with your name, address and contact number and send it to:

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The photo is very low resolution (160x120, 4.40kb) this is because the camera was set to full zoom (4x) when I took the photo. The photo was taken at 2:20p.m on the afternoon of Monday 08/05/06. I showed the photo to my husband and asked him for his opinion. He

at the image. I look at the photo on a daily basis and I am just as baffled as to what the figure is in the photo. I am sending you the image to ask if it would be possible for you to carry out some analysis of it to see if you can extract some information from it. Under no circumstances am I trying to say that the figure is an alien, but I know 100% in my own mind that no one was visible when I took the photo and it does not show a child or a jogger. If the photo is nothing more than a digital fault then that's fair enough, but even that explanation sounds utterly ridiculous as the figure is too well defined in my opinion, and also I have taken hundreds of photos with my phone and never once have I had any faults or errors show up."

In September, 2006, UFOData Magazine received an email from a lady (we have her name, but she preferred to remain anonymous) along with a photograph of a mysterious figure apparently strolling in the Hampshire countryside:

"I am writing in the hope that you will be able to help me and also take me seriously. I am 46 years old, I have never had any kind of UFO experience, I am not mentally ill, I don't use drink and drugs and I am not a liar. The following letter is 100% true, although I would not blame you if you did not believe me.

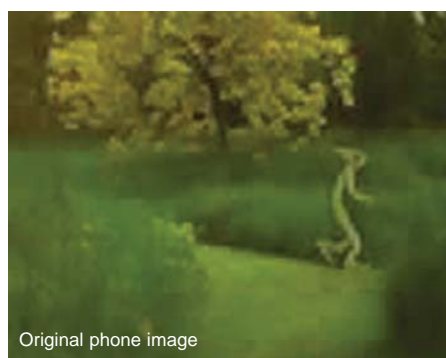
"I recently moved to a new area because of a job opportunity and one of the big attractions to the area was all the green land and woods as I love the outdoors, especially as I have a large dog which needs a lot of exercise. On Monday the 8th May, 2006, I had been out for several hours with my dog and throughout the afternoon I took a series of photographs of the area to send to my sister who lives abroad.

"Later that evening I was downloading the images from my mobile phone to the PC [and] when I looked through the photos, I was very shocked to see that on one of the images there was what appeared to be a greyish figure either running or walking through the shot, all the other images were fine except this one.

"The photo I have sent you is the original photo downloaded straight from my phone; the phone is a Motorola Razr with a VGA camera.

said that the photo is a digital fault and shows nothing more than either a small child or a jogger and, because of the fault, this makes the figure look unusual.

"This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard from my husband. I pointed out that it took me about 2 seconds to take the photo and if anyone such as a child or jogger was in the area I would have seen them. I have very good eyesight and I can clearly say without any doubt that there was no-one there when I took the photo, plus I pointed out to my husband that the figure does not look anything like a child or a jogger or neither does it look anything like a human.



"I haven't shown the photo to anyone except my husband because I don't think anyone would believe me, plus I don't want to be the subject of ridicule. It was my husband's sarcastic comments about "the aliens coming to get me" that sparked my interest in the unexplained, and over the last few months I have become very interested in the subject and carried out some extensive reading.

"A single day has not passed since I took the photo that I haven't looked

It is an intriguing image, but being so small, it is difficult to make any definitive analyses of it. We published it on our website, in the hope that one of our readers could shed light on what was captured in the photograph. Unfortunately, nobody could come to any conclusion about it, with it being variously described as a hoax, a ghost or an alien.

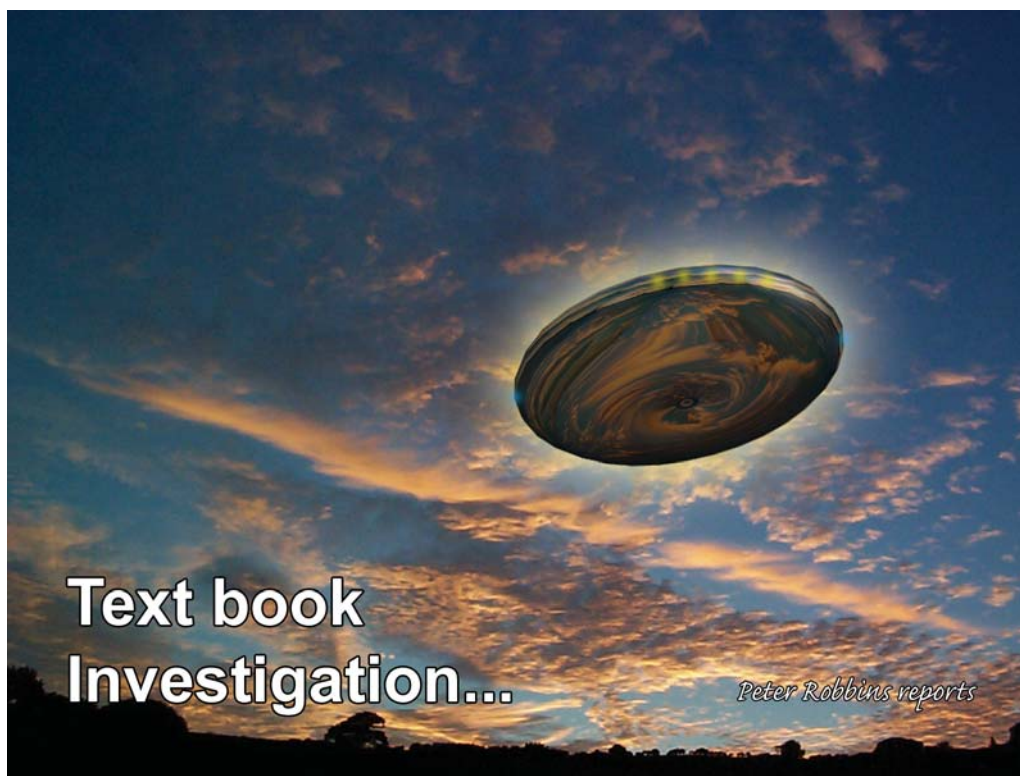
The photographer has returned to the area many times and never seen anything like the figure again. She said, "My friend and I visit the original location all the time. It is very close to the New Forest, Hampshire. We leave food and water and it is always gone when we return. Yes, this could be wild animals, but several times we have had dark shadows darting past us at the corner of our eyes and when we turn to see what is there, nothing is visible."

Her friend took some photographs of the tree, in front of which the figure is seen in the original image. She also posted the photograph around the web, in the hope that somebody could explain what it was she snapped. Thus far, the 'figure' remains an enigma. SJ

Images and accounts such as this will attract scorn and ridicule. If this is a hoax, then the perpetrators have achieved publicity. If, however, our witness is being truthful, then, as she says, the ridicule came from her immediate family.

Such a shame she didn't have the camera that photographed the trees in our mock-up with her at the time of taking photographs for her sister. I would be interested in seeing the other snaps for myself.

Editor UFO DATA



Text book Investigation...

Peter Robbins reports

Notes on an Investigation Through Kentucky and Missouri with Ryan Wood January 29 through February 1, 2007

How do you actually go about investigating a UFO incident, or the allegation of one? The same way you would, or should, conduct any investigation; with care, objectivity, patience, respect for your subject, and the best tools available to you, not the least of which is common sense.

If we were researching a purely scientific matter, or conducting a criminal investigation, we'd be guided by sets of respected, time-honoured investigative proto-

cols. Ufologists are not bound by any such strictures, which is all the more reason we should develop the habit of holding ourselves to the highest investigative standards we are able.

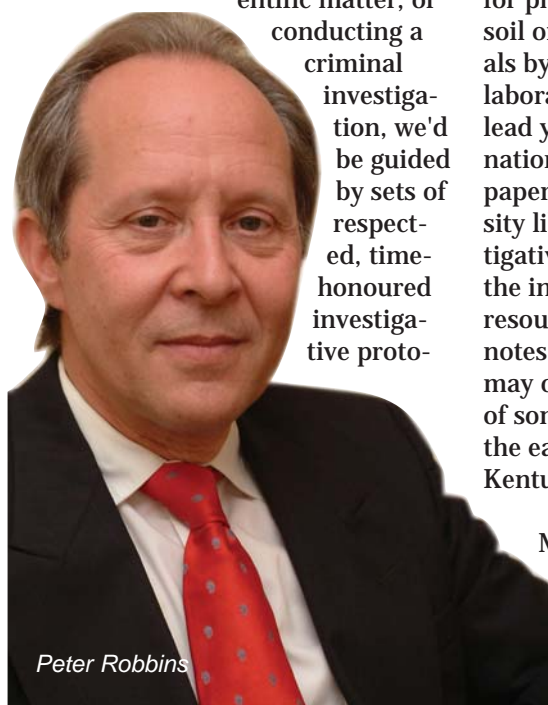
The nature of research (literally meaning, to look again) varies considerably, depending on the nature of the incident or allegations in question. Some cases may involve extensive interviews of witnesses and family members. Others, especially in the case of UFO abductions, may call for regressive hypnosis and consultations with medical and mental health professionals. The situation may call for photo analysis, or the analysis of soil or other case-associated materials by appropriate professionals or laboratories. Sometimes the path will lead you to county records offices, national and private archives, newspaper morgues, or public and university libraries. In short, good investigative research is limited only by the individual's imagination and resources. What follows are working notes on a colleague's case which may or may not prove to be the crash of some sort of anomalous object in the early nineteen-fifties in rural Kentucky.

My involvement began in late autumn with a phone call from Ryan Wood. Ryan, as some of you know, is the organizer of the Annual Crash Retrieval

Conference which takes place in Las Vegas every November. Both Budd and I have been speakers there. He is also the author of *Majic Eyes Only*, and, along with his father, Dr. Robert Wood, is a key investigator into the authenticity of the controversial documents relate to the shadowy MJ-12 working group. The incident he was looking into involved the crash of something in northwest Kentucky in 1952, one that, to the best of our knowledge, no one else had ever looked into. His intention was to spend a few days doing both field work and archive/library research in the area, and was I interested in assisting him on the investigation. Schedules at the ready, we made our plan and booked our flights. St. Louis,

we agreed, was the best place to start, and early on the afternoon of February 29, we met me up at the St. Louis airport. Shortly thereafter, we picked up our rental car and were soon on the road.

Over a Mexican lunch at a restaurant just outside of St. Louis, Ryan laid out our general strategy for the next few days. The first order of business would be a visit to St. Louis's National Military Archives. Ryan had already found out that the Henderson County Public Library housed many volumes on local history. It also served as the newspaper morgue for Henderson County. It sounded as though we would be spending a respectable amount of time there going through local history books and articles from the county's daily newspaper. Back issues of the weekly newspaper were housed in their Union County office which we planned to visit as well. We would also be spending time at the Henderson County Records Office where Ryan intended to locate a full profile of the property in question, as well as more detailed maps of the area: our goal here was to find the name of the family who currently owned the property. Additionally, we'd be looking to turn up any articles on mysterious airplanes, mysterious fires, crashes, meteorites, lights in the sky, etc.; I knew the drill. We'd be on the lookout for a local military museum



Peter Robbins

as well, or a local historical society that might be a resource in helping us fill in the blanks.

Ryan's interest began with a letter originating with the Project Blue Book files at the National Archives. He'd received it from our friend and colleague, the British UFO investigative writer, Nick Redfern. The letter was from an Army general posted to Camp Breckenridge in Kentucky, which then housed part of the 101st Airborne Division. The words that had first ignited his curiosity were "restricted" and "impact area." It was directed to the attention of the Commanding General, Second Army in Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Fort Meade was then only months from being designated as the headquarters of the National Security Agency which came into being later that year. Its subject was "Unidentified Aircraft." The letter was dated 17 March, 1952 and read:

"1. Attention Air Officer. At 1600 hours, 13 March, 1952, an unidentified aircraft believed to be a C-47, with no markings, appeared and flew over impact area which is a restricted area at this station. Coordinates are as follows (longitude and latitude and Nashville air chart coordinates noted here). This information supplied to your office for action as you deem necessary. For the Commanding General, Richard C. Baldwin, WOJC, USA, Assistant Adjutant General."

The letter gave us a longitude and a latitude, but one of the final numbers in the latter

seemed to be the victim of a double typewriter strike, and no matter how carefully we studied the figure, we could not tell whether it was a six or an eight. This was a detail that had to be resolved before we could locate the spot. And if something of any substance had impacted into the Earth, even more than fifty years earlier, some sort of indentation might still be present at the correct coordinates. Perhaps a pond.

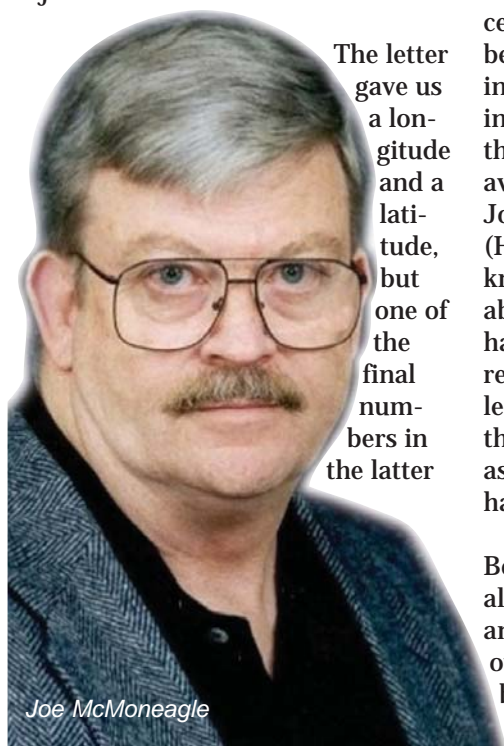
Over the years Ryan has been investigating the UFO phenomenon, he'd come to drawn upon a source I never had, that is remote viewing. Specifically Joe McMoneagle, one of the pre-eminent personages in the field. I should say here that when I first heard about remote viewing, I was more than willing to relegate it to the same shaky category as table tapping and mind reading. It just sounded more like science fiction than science. But in the intervening years since, I've read several books on it, heard some compelling lectures on the subject, and seen some of the amazing, un-doctored results turned in by its best practitioners. Joe McMoneagle learned remote viewing when he was serving in the U.S. Army as part their Stargate Program where he was remote viewer number one hundred. Simply put, the individuals involved are trained to use a series of scientific protocols to develop and extend their psychic abilities to obtain information on pretty much any subject imaginable, and the success rate of these professions goes far beyond coincidence. The techniques involved can be learned by anyone interested in seriously mastering them. There are a variety of books available on it, one of the best being Joe's *Remote Viewing Secrets* (Hampton Roads Publishing Co). I know how it sounds, but the available facts speak for themselves. Ryan had had McMoneagle do a blind reading on the Camp Breckenridge letter and his findings made it clear that he felt a truly anomalous object, as in alien craft of appreciable size, had indeed come down in the area.

Both Ryan and I felt that the general's letter would have been written and sent not long after the C-47 flew over the 'restricted impact area.' To be on the safe side though, we'd check newspaper articles six

months prior to and following the date of the letter. We also had to come up with a cover story. If asked (and we were), saying we were on the trail of a crashed UFO was not the most prudent response. Even the crash of a military aircraft might prove a liability, so we settled on a story that was respectable and might actually be true - that of a meteorite crash. The fact is, meteorites are valuable and it was not out of the question that one might have come down on what would have then been United States government property.

Ryan was also interested in unit histories for the base and learning who its commanding officers had been at the time of the incident. Prior to leaving for St. Louis, Ryan had contacted the Henderson County Library historian and we were already expected there. First thing after lunch though, we were scheduled to visit the National Personnel Records Centre and the National Military Archives in St. Louis. Our reason had nothing to do with the Camp Breckenridge incident though. This was to search for specific records called 'Morning Reports' of specific Army and Air Force personnel who were involved in the earlier days of UFO phenomena. Some of the names had been suggested by Nick Redfern who Ryan was working with on another project. Our stated reason for being at the archives was 'historical analysis,' which was true enough.

Arriving at the huge building that is the St. Louis branch National Archives, we were directed to the visitors parking lot, then entered the facility and passed through security. Getting information on the men Ryan was attempting to locate was going to be more complicated than we'd anticipated though, and a standard reference librarian would have been more helpful than the employee we spoke with. As such we decided that the rest of the day would be better spent at the Henderson County Library in northwest Kentucky. It would take several hours to get there, but the library was open until eight and we were expected. So opening the binder Ryan had prepared to the appropriate map, we headed toward the Kentucky border. The drive took us through a part of the country neither of us was familiar with, but our



Joe McMoneagle

directions were clear and before we knew it we'd arrived in Henderson with several hours to spare. The library's personnel were attentive and personable and turned us loose in the room which housed both the local history section and the microfiche machines. By closing time we had each gone through a number of the local history books and scanned through several months of newspaper articles with no major information coups. The rest could wait a day or two; it was time to find a motel, have some dinner, and plan for the following day.

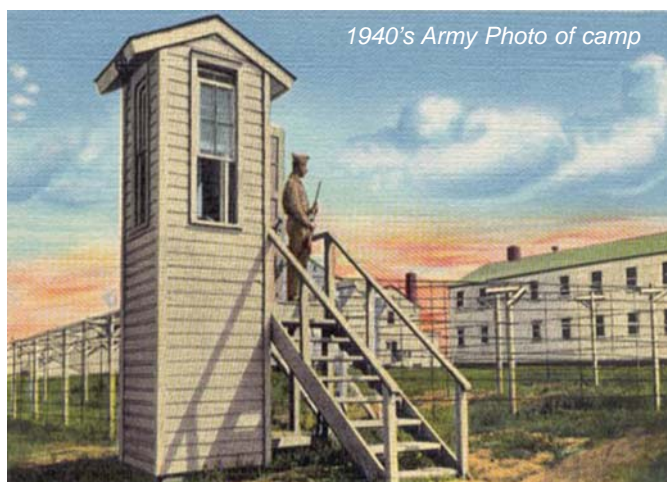
Tuesday began with a light breakfast and a visit to the Henderson County Records Office, the place where we would learn who owned the property whose longitude and latitude were referred to in the March, 1952, letter. Camp Breckenridge had been a huge installation - about 35,000 acres in its zenith, and that it had spanned parts of both Henderson and Union Counties. After checking in at the records office, we were ushered into their records room, a space filled almost floor to ceiling with large, bound volumes; tables in the middle of the room allowed visitors to open and read through them. We began with the General Index to Deeds and reviewed the appropriate ownership ledgers, each of which referred us to previous owners. The clerk assisting us made copies of these deeds for Ryan. We then spent time going over a highly detailed map of the county and established that the 'impact area' was located in Croydon, Kentucky. Unfortunately though the large map had been re cut at the edges and as such was useless in establishing the longitudes and latitude we were looking for.

As we continued on, we learned that the name of the family that had bought the property from the government at the 1966 land auction. And who they, in turn, had sold the land to. Then who had purchased the land from them. We deduced that the current owner had passed away as the papers now listed his wife, rather widow, as the current owner and she would very likely be of advanced age herself. All of the Henderson County officials could not have been more professional. It was here we also learned that there was a military

(and local history) museum on the property. It would be our destination that afternoon.

The Camp Breckenridge Museum (and Arts Center) is housed in a vast wooden building, one of the few original structures remaining from the base's heyday when 1,800 buildings dotted the facility's sprawling acreage. The camp had been founded in 1941 and mothballed in 1953. In excess of one million personnel had been trained there during the Second World War and the Korean Conflict. An auction of 23,000 of those acres immediately became the largest public land sale in the history of the State of Kentucky.

After paying our three dollars admission the curator - a friendly, energetic and amazingly well-informed woman, took us on a tour of the facility. We were the only guests there that afternoon. Our guide proved to be especially valuable in our information search, and helped us to locate information on the base's ranking officers in the early nineteen-fifties. She also allowed Ryan to photograph base maps and whatever else he was interested in getting pictures of. The largest of the maps was wall-mounted and showing its age, but it still had its longitude and latitude references at the edges, and we could see that one of the cross-hair designations we were looking for indeed zeroed in on a pond. and we only had to study it for a moment to get our first real surprise of the trip. Carefully stencilled across its middle were the words "impact area." And it was huge, several thousand acres easy. Following a moment of silence, I pointing to the area in question and asked her what it referred to. The base shooting and target range, she answered. At Camp Breckenridge, the range had always been referred to as the 'impact area.' Had we just hit the wall I asked myself? In my experience, such areas were always referred to as shooting ranges, and target and practice ranges. The term was new in this respect for Ryan as



1940's Army Photo of camp

well. We discussed this revelation as we walked back to the car. There now seemed a very good chance that the mystery we'd come to investigate was solved, and not in a way we'd imagined, expected or, well, hoped for. Ryan was willing to concede that this might be the case, but as long as we were here, we might as well check out the property, if possible, for ourselves.

We spent Tuesday afternoon back at the Henderson County Library continuing our microfiche search through the local paper, *The Henderson Morning Gleaner*. Ryan took the post-letter editions while I began searching those prior to. We were looking for any articles relating to base fires, runway crashes, or the names of individuals who might have been involved or in the know, especially the names of officers or MPs then stationed at Camp Breckenridge. Once found, articles of interest were enlarged, centred and printed out.

The library's original wing, where we were working, was quite beautiful and dated from 1904, a gift from Andrew Carnegie. The librarians were all helpful, interesting and interested. I was glad that none of them seemed to have any trouble accepting our meteorite cover story. One of them recommended several good local restaurants, Wolf's and Ralph's. We decided to have lunch at Ralph's BBQ, in business at that location for more than fifty years. More searching followed, then dinner, then back to the motel. We'd need to get up early the next day as we were expected at the offices of the Union County newspaper (and newspaper morgue) at eight the next morning.

My alarm went off at 06:15 on Wednesday morning. Stopping only for coffee and muffins, we drove the twenty-odd miles to the Union County newspaper office arriving a little after eight. Here we were helped by the only employee there at that hour. Their past editions were not on microfiche. They were in large bound ledgers and once again we spent the next few hours going through them. Here articles of interest were copied by laying the bound volumes across the opening on the office copier and pushing the button. Upon completion, we thanked the newspaper woman for her help, then headed back to the Henderson County Library where we completed our microfiche search.

From here we headed for Croydon and the property where the thing had come down. It was not difficult to find with the aid of Ryan's small GPS, but finding someone to get permission from to visit the site proved to be more difficult. We even went into the nearest farm buildings but found no one. It was now past mid afternoon, and with the temperature dropping and the site less than half a mile from where we'd parked our car, it was decision time. Should we return the next day, our last in the area, and pick up our search then, or take a chance and go over the fence now? A bull lazily appraising us from the adjoining field made me a bit anxious, but the field we were interested in trespassing seemed devoid of occupants. We agreed that tomorrow might not turn up a person either, and being we were here now, we decided to venture on. I should stress here that in doing so, we were both very much aware that we were in violation of the law and if confronted might have to answer to it.

Ryan and I ventured deeper into the empty field, but every thirty seconds or so we turned back to see if anyone had appeared. We were still able to see our car in the distance when a pickup pulled up and two figures got out. We were now too far away to make out any detail, but stopped and watched the men circle our car, then see us and get back in their vehicle. As the truck grew closer, we agreed that Ryan would take the lead with an apology for our property invasion, followed by our willingness to leave

immediately, followed by permission to continue on to the site, and, of course, our cover reason for being there. Within a minute, the two straight-faced men had pulled up beside us and the driver rolled down his window to ask us what we were doing on his property; he was the son of the owner (his mother), the other man was his hired hand. Ryan handled the brief interrogation very well, I thought, and managed to get in some important questions of his own: was there a pond at such-and-such a spot? Yes. Had it been here when his late father bought the property, or had they excavated it? It had been here when they moved in. They showed some interest when we mentioned the possible meteorite, though, and the owner's son gave us the go-ahead to continue on.

A rise loomed ahead to the right and we decided to climb it rather than go around it. From the top we faced in the direction the GPS was pointing us. That was when we first saw the pond. We were at its edge in another two minutes. A pond is a pond you might say, but this one had an unusual feature: small drops into the water from all sides. Farm ponds, manufactured ones that is, are excavated by backhoes, and have a characteristic 'soft shoulder,' that is, they are surrounded by a beach-like edging, no straight drops to the water, not even small ones. This pond had no beach-like effect surrounding it, just straight drops, albeit of only a foot or two. It also had a thick fringe of small trees and vegetation on all sides. Yes, maybe it was a naturally occurring pond, but maybe not. One thing was sure, it was not manmade.

It was now coming on sunset and we took our photos in a timely manner so as to return to the car ASAP; it was cold and getting colder now and neither of us wanted to linger. Glad to back in the relative warmth of the vehicle, we brainstormed as we drove back to the motel. Ryan felt that the impact of whatever had hit the ground could have registered somewhere as a seismic event. This was something I had given no thought to, but was immediately struck by: The confirmation of a small seismic event in that part of Kentucky in, say, early March 1952 would sure have an impact on me. 'Do you mean that it

could have registered a small earthquake somewhere?' I asked. 'Yes,' he said.

Back at the motel, Ryan worked out several equations which established that such a crash, even if not the size that Joe McMoneagle's remote reading had suggested, might well have generated a one to a three point event on the Richter Scale, a modest but respectable little earthquake in anybody's book. He then went online searching for quake date information sources at the Universities of Kentucky and Missouri and requested how he might secure information on lower level seismic readings for the Henderson area around early 1952. The person he spoke with at the USGS (United States Geological Service) said they only kept records for quakes registering three point and above. End of story, I thought momentarily. Then Ryan asked, where would information on quakes below this number be kept? Son of a gun, I thought. The seismic data we were seeking would be kept at the National Earthquake Information Centre in Carbondale, Illinois, if it existed. It was now quite late and Ryan decided to look into this further after returning to Colorado.

The following day, Wednesday, we crossed the Mississippi River again, this time heading north on Route 64 and back into St. Louis. Once there, we drove to the West Campus of Washington University to look into another matter Ryan was investigating. We arrived at the school's research library late that afternoon. We knew what we were looking for, the Military registers, and informed the friendly librarian of same. He then walked us back through the acres of stacks, some of which were electrified and closed in on each other to conserve space. Washington University library possesses one of the most extensive collections of government documents in the Midwest and the place was immense. Military Registers are published annually by each service branch with the volumes for some years as big as an average New York City phone book. They contain information on every officer currently serving, or retiring, from their service branch that year, information which can be used to contact the officer or their family. And final-

ly, there they were, neatly arranged on the shelf facing us, each with a pale blue cover that simply read 'Air Force Register' with the year of issue also printed on the spine. Our librarian asked us to turn off the lights before we left the area.

Once we'd found the editions we needed, we loaded them onto our trolley and wheeled it into the reading area. Ryan plugged in his laptop once we found an empty table. We were looking for information on eight Air Force officers and split up the registers and went to work. By closing time we'd found information on five out of the eight men Ryan was looking for. It was time to close down Ryan's PC and think about dinner.

It was our last night and we agreed that a good meal was in order, and not long afterwards, we were ordering them. Reviewing the next steps to be taken followed later at the hotel and, the next morning, he brought the car back to the airport, we said our goodbyes, and left for our flights home.

While we have not yet established whether the "impact area" noted on the base map and the impact area we were searching for are one in the same, Ryan will be following up on the seismic event theory and some other aspects of the story. He also submitted a 'target' follow-up to Joe McMoneagle for remote viewing. Joe has done so and now feels it may have been a heavily modified DC-3 that literally cork-screwed into the ground at high speed.

The end of this story has yet to be written, but I'd like to think it is a fair example of how a UFO incident should be investigated, no matter what the outcome.

Peter Robbins, New York.



Not much to tell you about this photograph, but it's quite a haunting image. The reflection has produced a very 'Grey-like' alien head on the garden shed.

Thanks to Mr Southern for sharing this image with us.

STRANGE CAT SIGHTINGS

Big Cat sightings have been and are still being reported from many areas of the country. But just recently sightings of a black large creature have been reported from the Spenborough area of West Yorkshire.

The Spen Valley Greenway is a leafy walk that runs along an old railway line through Dewsbury, Heckmond-wike and Cleckheaton. The cat sightings were sparked by a cyclist who claimed to have seen a large, black, cat-like creature close to a chemical works.

Other reports came in, notably from a lady who kept finding dead animals in her garden,

along with areas of scratched earth. She also says that the birds and squirrels that used to frequent her garden have vanished.

Another report came in of a farmer near Bradford finding a dead calf up a tree, close to the Greenway.

Cartoonist John Egerton sent this quite appropriate Marcel image. In recognition of the forthcoming 60th Anniversary celebrations...



As editor of the magazine I look forward to the postman calling every day. I never know what to expect but I always enjoy receiving your letters. Please keep them coming.

1941 Scouting Encounter

Being in my seventies, I thought it was about time I reported a sighting I had back in the summer of 1941.

Whilst on a camping trip with Skipton's Christ Church Scouts in a secluded part of the the Yorkshire Dales near Gargrave, North Yorkshire, I was standing outside my tent with another scout when we noticed something strange.

Further down the valley, we saw what I would describe as five blobs of light. They were high in the sky and the underside of these objects glinted in the early morning sun.

As these objects got closer, we got a much clearer, detailed view. We could see portholes round the side of them and at one point, the spheres almost stopped above our camp site.

We could see a cabin-like structure as the objects tilted slightly. I also thought I was aware of shapes moving behind the darkened (glass) of the portholes. We couldn't see right underneath because of the craft's position but suddenly without warning all five objects set off towards the east at tremendous speed.

I told our Scoutmaster what we had seen and he suggested they were loose barrage balloons (it being wartime), but I knew differently. They were nothing of the sort, they were not of this world.

Mr T Austin, Nr Keighley.

1955 Police Observation

I would like to share the following encounter with you that happened to me back in 1955 when I was a young police constable based in Sidcup, Kent. It was this event that fuelled my lifelong interest in this subject.

My first recollections are of two ladies coming in to the front desk at our police station to deposit some found property. They asked me if I could tell them anything about an

alleged flying saucer that had been reported to have landed in Bexleyheath. I or my colleagues had no knowledge of the event. However, the ladies gave me an exact location as to where this was supposed to have happened. This was only a few miles away and I decided to pay a visit. I didn't learn any more at this time and I didn't really expect to.

However, I spoke with two children who told me that some men had arrived in the area and had been asking questions.

At the time I had nowhere else to go with this but I got in touch with Margaret Fry in Wales. (*Federation of Independent Ufologists*).

Mrs Fry struck me as a very honest and genuine lady and we have kept in touch ever since.

Mr J Streek, Kent.

F15 Incident: A Response

I am a retired Royal Air Force air traffic controller and would be grateful for anonymity (I want to keep drawing my hard-earned pension). During my career I served at both Eastern Radar, now LATCC(Mil) (East), when it was based in Norfolk (sadly a couple of years after the Rendlesham incident), and LATCC(Mil), on a unit called LJAO (London Joint Area Organisation). I frequently controlled similar flights to the F15s at the former, and at the latter AWACS. Coincidentally, I was also at RAF Laarbruch in Germany for a short time when Gary Heseltine was there, but I can not recall our paths crossing.

Firstly, I think that paragraph 3 of the "Stop Press" is somewhat misleading. I can only presume that the "unidentified objects" refers to radar returns from aircraft which are flying under VFR (Visual Flight Rules); this means that the pilot is responsible for collision and terrain avoidance. As long as the aircraft remains clear of controlled/regulated airspace the pilot does not have to talk to a controller on the ground, nor identify the aircraft electronically. This latter is done by using a device called a transponder. This emits a radio signal which can be picked up by radar

and can identify the aircraft and the height at which it is being flown. Most weekend fliers do not have transponders fitted to their aircraft (or if they do, do not know how to use them!). With no transponder signal all that would appear on a radar screen is the raw radar return, or blip. If you do not know what height the unidentified radar return is flying at it is indeed wise to avoid it!!!!!!!!!!!!

If the F15s were receiving an air traffic control service then this would have been provided by LATCC(Mil) (East). I believe that the unit is still based at RAF West Drayton, but due to move to Swannick near Southampton later in the year. The date of the incident is known. If the time is also known then the question to ask of LATCC(Mil) (East) is "what entries did the LATCC(Mil) (East) Watch Supervisor make in the watch log book between ? and ? on 12th January, 2007?". Give it a good half hour either side of the incident.

With regard to the frequency being used. The recording receiver would almost have had to have been on top of the transmitter in order to have picked up any transmissions from a ground controller on such a UHF frequency. The Rothwell site, which may also be known as Cuxwold, is about ten miles southwest of Grimsby, near a town called Caistor. This position means that the F15s may have been operating over the North Sea, although it would also cover most of the land area north of the Wash. It is common practice for operations such as this to be allocated a second, "quiet", frequency. This enables the mission to be completed without a distracting background of routine air traffic control transmissions. It also enables the crews to "chat" to each other more informally. I agree with your Air National Guard source; to my mind the transcription is from such a second frequency as it does not conform to the more disciplined rules of air traffic control radio procedures.

Finally, if an AWACS is suspected of being involved has anyone made a FOI approach to RAF Waddington where they are based? For some time, almost weekly, an AWACS has been coming up to North Yorkshire

and establishing a clockwise orbit of about 20 miles or so based, I would guess, on the TACAN beacon at RAF Topcliffe near Thirsk; it appears to be orbiting too far north to be using the TACAN at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. Also, using the Linton beacon would put the southern part of the orbit too close to the airway which runs out over the North Sea past Hull. On a clear day we can see the whole of the orbit (I would not be surprised if you could see the southern turn from your patch of Leeds) and even a modest pair of binoculars shows the radar on top of the aircraft turning. Having controlled similar flights in the more congested skies off the south coast, I would guesstimate that the aircraft is orbiting at 29,000ft+. I never got involved with the mission side of those flights, but an AWACS' job is to control fighters/bombers.

Hope the above is of some use.

Ray Dargh (pseudonym)

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see the coverage of Roswell in your latest issue, and I wonder if you are aware of two further items of interest. I expect you are aware, but I mention them just in case.

First item is a book I have just received from America called *UFOs and the Murder of Marilyn Monroe*, authored by Donald R Burleson, Ph.D. This book provides undeniable evidence that MM was murdered by US government officials because she knew too much about the Roswell coverup. The book contains a CIA document that refers to Marilyn Monroe, MJ12 and also General Schulgen. As you know, Schulgen was Chief of the Air Intelligence at the time of the Roswell crash, and one of their top men in the UFO business. As Donald Burleson concludes, Marilyn Monroe was murdered 'at the behest of officials of the United States government, and their reasons for doing so were quite literally out of this world. Second item is a book to be published next month. It is called *The Roswell Legacy*, and authored by Jessie Marcel Jr. He claims he is not keeping quiet any longer, and appears to be upset that he has had

to keep silent for 60 years and live with the way his father was ridiculed with the crackpot balloon coverup. This book is said to be the true story of Roswell at last, and it should without doubt dispose of all the baloney (or should it be balloony) of all the silly balloon coverup efforts. The book has a foreword by Stanton Friedman. I expect you know all about it, and I hope you do not mind my mentioning its due publication. I have already ordered mine.

I managed to tape the Roswell documentary from the TV program, but I was not impressed. The result was inevitable anyway. I would have bet my pension (its not much), that the answer would be the latest standby, the Mogul launchings, and I was right. The Mogul theory was rejected some time ago for perfectly valid reasons, and it is a pity that the program



producers were not aware of this (or were they).

Best regards

David Hampton
Bishopstoke
Hampshire

Well, David, you could meet the man himself in October at our Roswell 60 UFO Conference. Full details in this issue. Ed.



The space shuttle Atlantis touched down at Edwards Air Force Base in California on 22nd June, after a 13-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The mission to install new solar panels on the station was complicated by the crashing of the ISS computers. The Russian-designed machines controlled the station's orientation and the oxygen and water supply. Luckily, the Russian crew managed to reboot the systems after a couple of days.

A tear in the shuttle's thermal blanket also caused concern, but that was repaired by NASA astronauts during a spacewalk.

Perhaps the strangest thing that occurred was the capturing on film of an odd, snake-like object close to the space station. It was similar to an object seen and filmed by astronaut, Story Musgrave during a shuttle mission in the 1990s.

The European Space Agency (ESA) is looking for six volunteers who are willing to be sealed in an isolation chamber for 17 months. The experiment to see how a human crew to the planet Mars would cope being out of physical and visual contact with Earth will take place in Moscow.

Although ESA maintains that none of its crew will be in danger of losing their lives, only in exceptional circumstances will they open up the chamber to provide aid. The experiment is due to begin in late 2008 or early 2009 and the 'winning' subjects will be paid 120 euros per day.



Menwith Hill UFO?

Retired aerospace engineer, ex-RAF and UFO researcher, David Cayton, sent this unusual image to the magazine.

David was out walking and getting chatted up by RAF Menwith Hill's own version of the Area 51 Camodudes, forgetting to mention he had his camera in his pocket for fear of losing it under some National Security bylaw. In fact the security people stopped him twice within 10 minutes.

'Perhaps it was the false moustache and two holes cut out of the copy of Pravda David was holding up to his face that had them worried'

David is also a keen photographer and it was that excuse, sorry, reason we will give for David being there last March when this happened.

By the way, Dave, thanks for the stock images of Menwith Hill for use in the magazine, haven't a clue where you got them...

Anyway, back to the image.

This is one of two photographs taken

in quick succession overlooking what is probably the UK's most secret facility. The photographs are digital and taken on a Ricoh GX8 compact. The camera produces 8.5 megapixel images so the resolution is pretty good.

On inspection, there is a slightly out of focus object to the top right of the image and basic analysis suggests this could be one of two things:

The quality of the camera is better than your average point and shoot and I would expect that the main image was focussed to infinity, so the only thing that could be out of focus in the frame is something quite close to the lens, less than 3 metres (*this is about where the infinity setting would see anything beyond that distance in good focus*), or something is travelling very quickly across the frame.

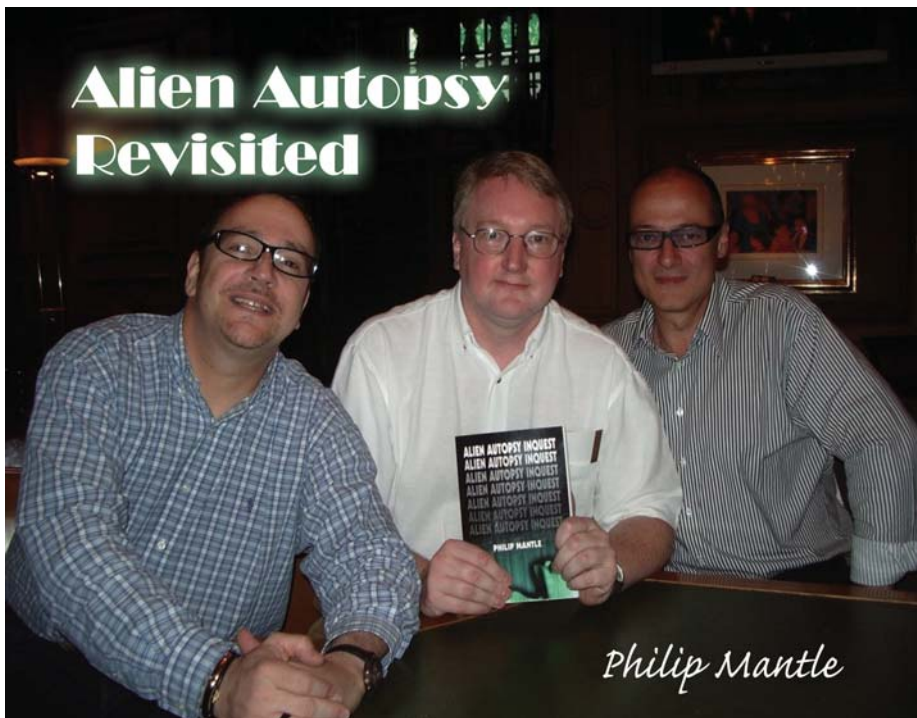
As like in many UFO photographs, David didn't see this until he reviewed his images, but it is interesting that the image caught on David's photo is similar to the 1940's 'Trent' photo, regarded by many to

be the best photographic evidence the subject has ever produced.

However, my own suspicions in this case are that a flying insect of some sort got caught in the shot, something like a horsefly or other juicy critter that you find in the countryside. Having suggested that, the object also reminds me of this classic 1992 image from Puebla, Mexico.



Thank you to David Cayton for sharing the image with us and don't forget you send your UFO photos to UFO DATA via email: pics@ufodata.co.uk



It was 1993 when I was first contacted by London businessman, Ray Santilli. He is of course the man responsible for bringing the alien autopsy film into the public domain. Little did I think then that I would be still trying to get to the bottom of this infamous/famous film in 2007, but I am.

It has been a frustrating task at times, to say the least, but I am proud to have stayed the course. I have of course been assisted by many other researchers down the years. These include Michael Hesemann, Maurizio Baiata, Ed Gehrman, Tim Matthews and numerous others around the world. There has been one other researcher that I must give credit to also and that is Mark Center in the USA. Mark has been involved almost from the beginning and when others threw in the towel, he still came out fighting. I owe him a big thank you in many different ways.

On March 20th, 2007, I conducted a telephone interview with Ray Santilli. This has been published in several magazines around the world. The full interview is now located on my web site (address below). During that telephone interview on March 20th, we touched upon the area of whether or not Ray Santilli actually had any 'real' frames of film depicting the alleged alien creature. All that had been seen so far were bits of film but with no alien visible. Santilli of course stated quite clearly that he did

have these frames and I quote, "The next time you come to London, I will show them to you. No problem at all." It goes without saying that I was intrigued if nothing else and decided to take Ray up on his offer as soon as I could.

If anyone has had any dealings with Ray Santilli they will know how difficult and frustrating this can be at times. He is a very busy man and it is often difficult if not impossible to tie him down to a definite meeting date. However, I persevered and took Ray up on his offer.

To this effect I arranged to meet Ray Santilli for lunch in London on June 22nd, 2007. Ray's business premises are in London and I live 200 miles north of the capital, so I decided to take the train to London instead of driving there and back. Ray did say that his business partner, Gary Shoe field, may join us but he could not be certain of that.

The arrangements were made and I duly travelled to London on the train on June 22nd. Arriving at Kings Cross Station at twelve noon I took a taxi to Marylebone Station, where I had arranged to meet Ray Santilli. I

arrived there at around 12.45 pm and called Ray on his mobile. His office is quite close by and he appeared round the corner in a matter of minutes. After greeting, we walked over the road to a local restaurant and we were indeed joined by Gary Shoe field. I have to say the meeting was extremely pleasant, full of laughter and I was able to supply them with a signed copy of my book *Alien Autopsy Inquest*.

It wasn't long before we were discussing matters directly relating to the alien autopsy film. Ray and Gary both confirmed that there was a time around ten years ago that they both pulled away from it due to the 'nasty-side' of UFO research. Apparently they had even had death threats. I can confirm at least some of this myself, as I have had to endure a torrent of falsehoods from so-called UFO researchers. They made it quite clear, like they always had done, that their prime focus has always been the commercial aspects of the alien autopsy film.

Ray Santilli moved on and said that maybe the time and the climate is right to move forward with the film. He maintains that his story of how he acquired the film is correct, and that their 'restoration' of the film was just that and nothing more. Ray is open to ideas of how best to move forward. I know he has said this type of thing before so only time will tell if anything comes of it now.

I did, of course, remind Ray that one of my reasons for travelling to London was to see the alleged frames of film depicting the alien creature. Ray had walked into the restaurant carry-

ing a large leather shoulder bag. Sure enough, from out of this bag Ray removed a large 'perspex' picture-type frame. In this transparent frame there was five or six separate sets of black and white film cells. In total there were probably around 20 film cells, possibly more, I did not count them. Ray handed this to me along with a hand-held magnifying glass and allowed me to examine them.



The light was a bit too dim in the restaurant, so I was allowed to take this outside into the sunlight totally unaccompanied to view them better. I could now quite clearly see that these frames of film did indeed depict the alleged alien creature. It was lying on a slab; it had a pot-belly, large head and possibly six fingers on its hand. At the far side of it there was what looked like 'medical instruments' in a tray. These frames or film cells were a little scratched in places and you could see the film sprocket holes down the side. This did indeed look pretty much like the creature we have all seen in the alien autopsy film.

After examining these frames for a while, I returned to the restaurant and handed them back to Ray Santilli. I pointed out that I could now at least confirm that such frames did indeed exist but I could still not confirm their authenticity. There still had been no independent scientific testing of any frame with image on to positively attest to the age of the film. Ray seemed to appreciate my comments on this but he and Gary are quite happy to keep the 'mystery' going and not have them authenticated. This still leaves me exasperated and we did have a conversation about this. Again, all I can confirm is that frames with a clear image of the alleged alien creature on them do definitely exist. Whether they are authentic or are another 'restoration' or an outright fabrication, I cannot say. What I will say is that I am as always willing to work with Ray Santilli or anyone else for that matter, to try and get to the bottom of this whole affair. I've been trying since 1993 and I have no intention of stopping now.

After some more of Gary Shoefield's very bad alien jokes (they must be the worst I've ever heard. Sorry, Gary), it was time for me to depart. I had a train to catch and a taxi ride back to Kings Cross. There was just time for a few quick photographs and I was ready to leave. Just before I did, Ray Santilli, quite without any kind of warning gave me two frames of film. They do not depict the creature; instead these were shown as part of the Sky One documentary broadcast on satellite TV last year. It was entitled '*Eamonn Investigates* -

Alien Autopsy'. I took part in this documentary, during which Ray Santilli produced some alleged 'real' frames. One does seem to depict the creature on the slab, but another appears to show two men wearing US Navy dress hats.

Ray claims these were part of the film footage he purchased from 'the cameraman' and wondered if there was any way the person on these frames could be identified. They are reproduced here for your attention. I know some will say this is another smokescreen or red herring by Ray Santilli and they may well be correct, but, as an investigator, can I turn down the offer of trying to identify the man on the film? I don't think so. I know it's a very long shot, but do you recognise this man or can you suggest any way we could use this image to find out who he might be? Your suggestions are most welcome.

So that is the alien autopsy re-visited. I can confirm that film with images of the creature does indeed exist. Ray Santilli still stands by their original story of how the film was acquired. Ray Santilli may engage again with the UFO community and we have a puzzle to solve: who is the man with the hat?

My research into this film so far has recently been published in a new book entitled '*Alien Autopsy Inquest*'. It is of course available via Amazon. Signed copies (UK only) can be obtained from myself.

If you have any information about the Alien Autopsy film, or if you can offer advice or assistance on how I might trace the man in the hat, then please contact me at the following address:

Philip Mantle,
49 East Leigh Drive,
Tingley,
Nr Wakefield,
West Yorkshire,
England,
WF3 1PF.

Email:
philip@mantle8353.fsworld.co.uk
Web site:
www.beyondroswell.com

UFODATA

It would seem we or the world's media at large have not yet seen or heard the last of Ray and Gary, but the UFO community appears to have made its mind up long ago about this particular chapter in our history.

Like Philip, I look forward to being proved wrong.

As for the film frames given to Philip, they look like frames from an old cinema trailer. These would be sent out in the cheaper 16mm format prior to the main movie release on 35mm or 70mm prints.

I'm sure if you look on ebay or around car boot sales, you will be able to find your own unidentifiable film cells.

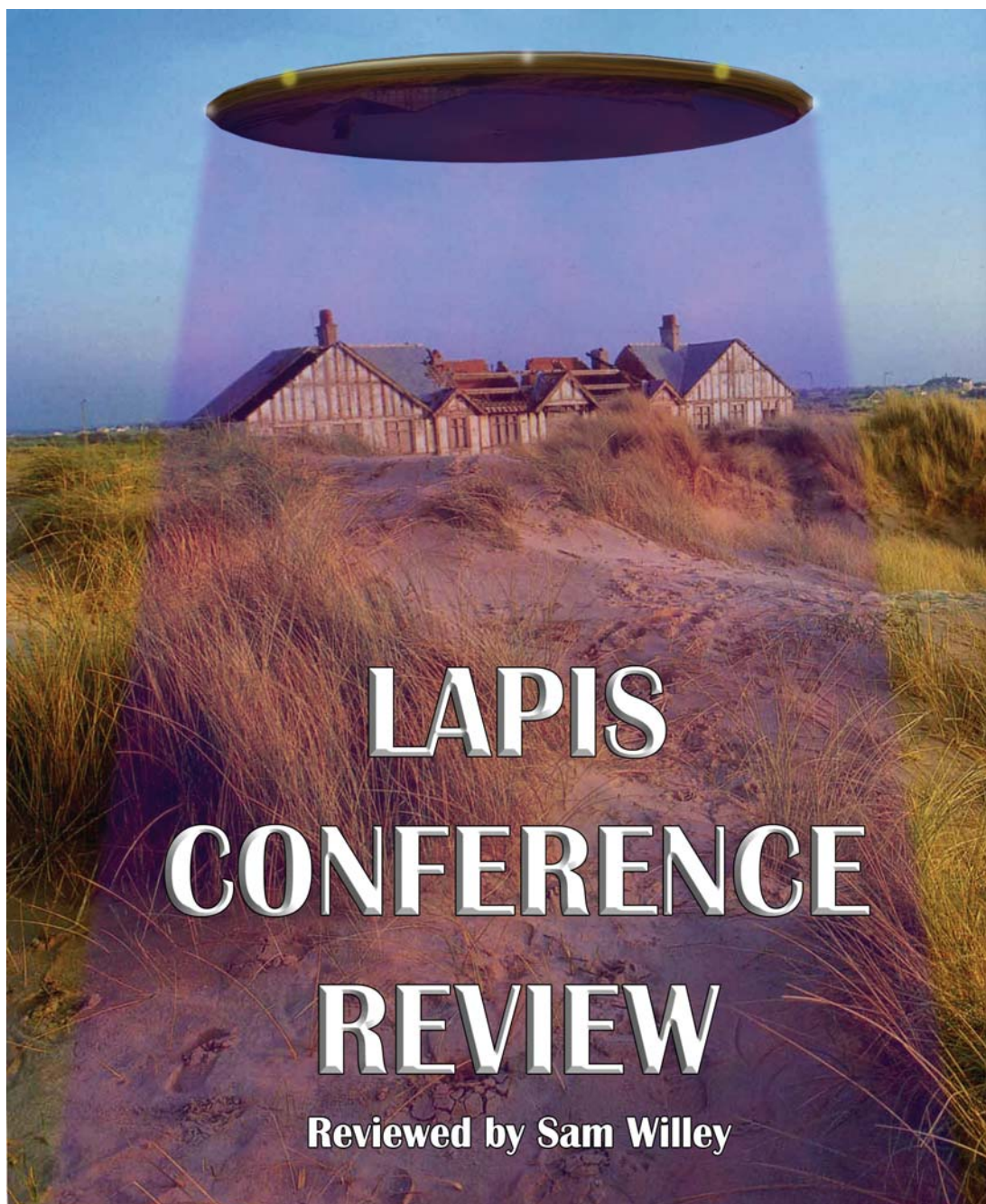
We covered Roswell in depth in the last issue, but it's only fair we mention the incident here as celebrations for the 60th anniversary are just around the corner.

Philip flies out on the 4th of July to present his finding to the good people of Roswell and we have armed him with camera and video and lots of tape and told him to 'fill it'.

I'm sure we will have a full round up of the New Mexico celebrations for our next issue of UFO DATA Magazine.

Editor.





LAPIS CONFERENCE REVIEW

Reviewed by Sam Willey

On Saturday June 16, 2007, I attended the Lancashire Anomalous Phenomena Investigation Society (LAPIS) UFO conference, which took place in St. Anne's Lancashire, England. The event began at 10:30am with Janet Walkey giving her opening address to the good turnout of UFO enthusiasts from all parts of the country. Janet gave the opening address which would usually have been the job of the chairman Rob Whitehead, however, Rob recently moved to Cyprus and had to leave his group responsibilities behind. At any rate, the conference got under way and the first speaker was announced.

Alan Murdie, who has written for *Fortean Times Magazine* and is the former chairman of the Ghost Club organization, was first to lecture. His

talk, entitled "*UFOs and the Gateway to the Magical Mind*", firstly detailed an interesting UFO case from Columbia, South America. This well known UFO case took place in July, 1969, and apparently involved a Columbian farmer who chased a strange ball of light only to meet his death a day later. The main point of his lecture was light ball UFOs that thousands have reported. Mr. Murdie gave his opinion on what he thinks these lights may be, stating that they could be strange, mystical creatures or spirits, instead of the widely-believed extraterrestrial hypothesis. Murdie went out of his way to really dismiss the Roswell, 1947, alleged UFO crash, calling the event a "folk story" and "a good story but nothing more" to the disagreement of myself and many others in

the audience. With the disagreements aside, Murdie made a good point regarding our mind and how we see things. He said that he believes there is something within that makes us all see things as being strange. For example he showed a ghost photograph and said that if you expect to see a ghost, you will, no matter if there is an explanation present. Though I had strong disagreements with many points of Alan Murdie's lecture, it was still extremely well presented and one of the best of the day.

During a break between the first and second lecture, I noticed that Larry Warren, due to speak at the end of the conference, had arrived at the venue. I walked over and shook Larry's hand and to my surprise, Larry said, "Have we met before?" I thought for a moment, then replied, saying that I didn't think so. I had a file full of information with me at the event and I presented the April, 2007, issue of *UFO Magazine (US)*

were I had wrote an article about the Rendlesham Forest Incident which Larry was a witness to back in 1980. As soon as I opened the magazine and showed him, Larry realized that it was actually *UFO Magazine (US)* were he had seen me previously. It turns out that Larry has read my work before and thinks I am doing well thus far in this field. Larry believes it is excellent to see that younger people are getting into this subject so early on in life and told me it is what this subject needs - new people to carry on with the research. After my first conversation with Larry Warren, the next lecture was ready to go and this second speaker was Joe McGonagle, who was presenting reports from airline pilots. Joe presented some intriguing information which was direct from official

Ministry of Defence (MoD) documents, which he had obtained from the National Archives. The main theme of the reports was grey, delta-shaped objects reportedly flying beneath aircraft. These objects had been tracked on radar. Many technical problems occurred through his lecture, the talk had to stop for a break at one point, but with that aside, the content, which was the main point of the lecture, was excellent and very interesting to say the least. It was most interesting to find out that the MoD thinks an unknown grey object, picked up on radar, flying right below aircraft is no risk to the security of the United Kingdom. This second lecture of the day was followed by a lunch break and during this time, I had a chat with fellow researchers and experiencers. During the lunch break, I also had a brief talk with Joe McGonagle about his lecture and then sat down and interviewed a young UFO enthusiast like myself called Alex Devereaux, who was a witness to a UFO and missing time experience known as the High Bentham Incident, which LAPIS investigated back in 2005. Alex was one of four family members who, whilst returning home from a restaurant, saw a strange bright light. They did not realize until taking the exact same route they took the evening of the encounter a few days after that up to one hour of missing time was present. Not only did Alex agree to an interview about the event but he also showed me some interesting UFO video footage taken in 2005. After the one hour lunch break, I returned to the conference hall and the third speaker of the day, Jon Downes, was ready to begin his lecture. Jon Downes is the founder and chairman of the Centre for Fortean Zoology, which promotes research into mysterious animals. Downes has personally searched for lake monsters at Loch Ness in Scotland and has searched for monsters in many other countries around the world. Jon presented some information about Loch Ness and eels but the main point of his lecture was co-operation between all subject matters. Jon Downes believes that there should be greater information sharing network between researchers of all subjects including UFOs, ghosts and zoology as he believes they could all be connected and we can get fur-

ther working together. The final lecture of the day was from Larry Warren, who I, as I mentioned previously, talked to on a number of occasions throughout the day. Larry's lecture was obviously focused on Rendlesham, however, he also mentioned the conspiracy theories behind the 9/11 terror attacks. Larry attended a 9/11 truth movement conference in Liverpool and was not impressed by the theories, calling it "selective information" and his reasons behind not believing the theories was simply because he lost friends in the attacks. Larry does not believe that a half-minded president such as George Bush could pull off the largest mass murder in American history. After 25 years of being in the public spotlight about his Rendlesham Forest experience, Larry finds it hard to talk about the events and told me that the last time he did, he felt physically sick, which is understandable after going over the event over and over again over the past 25 years. I would like to thank Larry for also giving me a quick mention during his lecture I hope the new researchers can live up to everything the older researchers have contributed to the subject. In conclusion, I enjoyed the event and enjoyed meeting with other researchers. I would like to personally thank the LAPIS events organizer, Janet Walkey, for putting on a great conference and I look forward to the next LAPIS event.



Sam Willey is one of our younger researchers who has taken the subject on board in quite a big way. Visit his website, you'll see what we mean.

www.alienationsam.com



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Final Shout

Finnish UFO Images Create a Stir for the Authorities

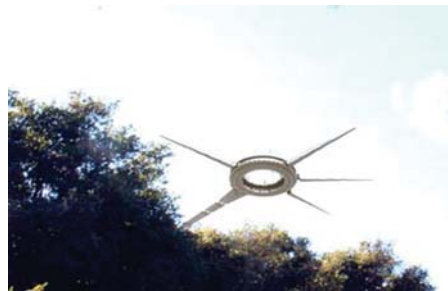


In April, 2006, Finnish magazine, *Ultra*, published images allegedly taken by Finland's Coast Guard of an odd, rod-like object. The Finnish UFO Research Association (FUFO-RA) also reported the incident. The authorities became concerned in May of this year, when a private citizen made an official request for information. Rather than discovering if the object in the images (taken from an infra-red film) are of any concern to Finland's border security, the Border Guard Service are undertaking an investigation to find out who released the images and, possibly, bring charges against them for misuse of government equipment. Coast Guard commander, Marko Tuominen, said: "The actual content of the images we have no need or ability to evaluate." Coast Guard superintendent, Pihla Keto added: "If there is a question, the question is whether an employee has committed some wrongdoing." FUFORA chairman, Tapani Koivula, has stated that his organisation has no intention of revealing their source, also saying that it was agreed that the images could be made public when that person retired. The source's only motive was to find out what was in the images. FUFORA's website can be found at www.suomenufotutkijat.fi

'Chad' UFO DRONE.

We have located a video clip of the image featured on page 21 and you

can access this via UFO DATA's web forums.



URL:

http://www.disclose.tv/viewvideo/968/Big_Basin_Chad_UFO_Drone_CGI/

I think this proves beyond any doubt that the object is the creation of a clever artist.

ShanghaiDaily.com

Several people reported seeing a jellyfish-shaped unidentified flying object about 8pm in Shanghai on Monday.

A man surnamed Zhu told Shanghai Morning Post yesterday that he saw the UFO in the sky at the crossroads of Jiujiang Road and Xizang Road M. in Huangpu District that night.

"It's definitely not a kite," Zhu told the newspaper. "It was flying quite high." Zhu said the UFO was a blue-coloured object and hovered around the area for several minutes and then flew away.

He tried to take a picture of the UFO with his cell phone, but since it was far away the photo only revealed a blurry image of a shiny object.

Zhu said the UFO was spotted by more than 100 people in the area, but so far, no clear picture of it has been released. seen above the boundary between Hongkou and Yangpu districts about 9pm on April 11.

Though many witnesses were convinced it was a UFO - the color of the V-shaped object changed regularly

from red to blue to green and then yellow - an expert said it was just a night-light kite. 'They would'...

Cat & Mouse' UFO Encounter

UFODATA Forum member, 'Roberto', has sent us this report of a sighting he and his wife had back in August, 1996.

I don't recall the exact date, probably because I sent two reports to UFO Magazine and believed they would hold the info.

Anyhow, my wife and I finished work from the Tibbett & Britten factory and proceeded down Makerfield Way in Ince, Greater Manchester, UK. It was a perfectly clear night, with stars shining brightly. We looked at the stars and noticed one of them seemed to be glittering in an unusual way. We watched it and it glittered very brightly and approached to where we were watching. The object then turned into a fiery ball of orange light. My wife was very scared at this point, but I, having a lifelong interest in this subject, was not going to go away without seeing as much as possible! It continued to give off a glittering appearance, when two unmarked helicopters flew in from either side of the object. These helicopters had no lights or markings that I could determine. The object then turned into a very small ball and coasted away. The helicopters followed. The object then disappeared and reappeared some distance away. The helicopters then went after it.

The same thing happened again! As the helicopters moved in, the object disappeared and the helicopters flew away. It was cat and mouse! We continued to watch the object as it descended behind some trees a good distance away. As my wife and I got to the bus stop to go home, I noticed a helicopter across the street come down low, shine a searchlight on the ground for approx. two seconds before flying away.

That's it for another issue, thanks for your ongoing support and we look forward to bringing you our next issue, Sept/Oct 2007...

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