

Investigations Diary 26

by Gloria Heather Dixon

With Autumn days approaching I do hope all our members have enjoyed a long hot summer. This certainly has been reflected with many people out and about and looking up into warm blue skies for some sign of unidentified objects, so sighting reports have been increasing during the month of August, which has generated an escalation in media and press interest in the subject particularly in the wilder claims of UFO encounters.

At the time of writing (August 29th) there have been close to one hundred reports made to BUFORA and once again a majority of these are observations of perceived unusual lights in the sky some of which have been caused by the usual culprits of aircraft, astronomical phenomena and laser light shows. Venus is still very visible for several hours before Sunrise as is Jupiter and during the early part of the August both Jupiter and Venus were in a rare conjunction in the East before dawn creating several reports to BUFORA and described as moving up and down, possibly an optical illusion whilst witnesses stared at these bright planets over a period of time. Meteors have also created several of these reports and of course the Perseids Meteor shower in August triggered a few reports.

One of the problems that investigations are experiencing is the lack of follow up of email reports to BUFORA enquiries. I respond to these where there are enough details to assess their sighting, but if this is not the case, the witness is sent a questionnaire for completion to collate all details of their sighting. To date from the beginning of this year thirty of these questionnaires have not been returned, which means we have only very brief details of their sightings and of course therein lies a problem and denies investigations any form of assessment or follow up. It is easy to report a sighting on the net, but it appears that interest diminishes at the sight of a form to be completed! Letters to BUFORA have also resulted in a lack of follow up via the witness only at a lower level than email reports. Telephone calls result in more information being obtained, as investigators can elicit more details about the sighting. Nevertheless the lack of follow up on the part of the witness diminishes the ability of the investigator to investigate in any definitive way. Thus it has always been, but the lack of response appears to have increased over the last couple of years.

On the internet debates continue to rage with regard to the Rendlesham Forest incidents from 1980 particularly with the publication of Georgina Bruni's book on Rendlesham You Can't Tell The People, and new files and revelations have emerged recently to support various theories about really happened in Rendlesham Forest in 1980.

To steer away somewhat from the more mundane reports of unusual lights in the sky in this diary I am recording several curious reports, one which dates back to 1992 and which was investigated by Judy Jaafar and the late Ken Philips.

Strange Events in Tyne & Wear

To begin, however, I want to record a report we received from a lady from Tyne and Wear. This was originally reported to Judy Jaafar via telephone during the latter part of July, when the lady concerned AL contacted Judy with a bizarre tale regarding some photographs she has taken. The first photograph was taken at Madame Tussauds over one and half years ago. She said she saw nothing at the time of taking the photograph, but only after having this developed (This maybe a clue in itself). She describes the face on this photograph as a 'non-human, ghastly, red-eyed and with a ring through its nose. She also claims to have seen and photographed a little girl's face appearing through the walls of her house.

Since taking the original photograph she claims her life as been in uproar and that something throws ornaments at her boyfriend and kitchen knives around the house in addition to doing things of a personal nature to her!

AL claims that she has had a priest in to bless the house and that things calmed down for a while, but have recently started again with a vengeance and because of this she has bought a crucifix for protection. Judy passed this initial report on to me and my colleague contacted her and forwarded a questionnaire with a request for the photographs and original negatives. These had not arrived two weeks on and consequently I have been in telephone contact with the lady, who lives in County Durham. She has informed me that she has moved to a different house in the same street due to modernisation which is taking place and that this 'poltergeist activity,' as she refers to it, is continuing and that her boyfriend has been a witness to it. She will be sending a report on these incidents to me together with the photographs she has taken.

Initial Comments:

After speaking with the lady concerned, I found her conversation to be fragmented and somewhat confused with discrepancies regarding these events, some of which did not confirm information she had given to Judy and my colleague in Newcastle. I plan to wait for her report and the photographs to arrive before I proceed with following this up with an interview in order to establish more personal and background information in order to assess the issues involved in this case. I have just received a written report from her this morning and she has moved house, although this was not due to these incidents and apparently poltergeist activity is continuing and alarming her to quite an extent. More on this in the next issue of the Bulletin. Note here that there is no UFO content involved.

A Strange Incident from 1988

At the beginning of this year BUFORA received a letter from ML relating to an incident that occurred on the M54. The trigger for this report was Philip Mantle's book Without Consent and ML recounts the following tale...

'It was the end of September in 1988 and I had bought a new motorcycle, which I wanted to try out for speed. In the early evening I was on the M54 heading into Telford from the M6 interchange at Junction 10a. The sky was dark and there were a few, but not many clouds. Visibility was good.

After Junction 2 on the M54 westbound, I saw no cars or police, so I decided to go for it between the junctions where I could be certain that there wouldn't be much interference. The bike in question was a Yamaha FJ1100 and as I started to roll it on, I sensed an object above me and to my right. I didn't look at that point because I was going pretty fast and my immediate thought was that it was a police helicopter. I slowed right down to get a proper look and as I did so, the object slowed with me and remained in station relative to my speed as if it were solidly connected. When it was safe to do so, I looked at it directly. At this point, the motorway was not illuminated, but the object was above the central reservation just about where the tops of the light would be if it were an illuminated stretch of motorway'

ML has drawing a small illustration of the object, which he describes as 30-40 feet long and 20 feet wide with a flat tail and very matt black underside and serrated edges at an altitude of 40 - 60 feet.

He continues...

'It was solid and I couldn't see the top. It was very black, much darker than the surrounding sky and there was no sound at all that I could hear, no smell and no lights on it.

I was surprised and remember trying to work out where the tail boom was because I still thought it was a helicopter. Bear in mind that I've always had an interest in aviation and have seen and flown in various choppers at many air shows.

After gawping at it, I worked out that this wasn't anything that I could recognise so I started to feel a bit nervous. I was still trundling along at not more than running pace looking at it, so I decided to just try to get away from it. I remember clearly doing 142 mph on the bike. The object stayed with me, I could sense it and when I turned my head a bit I could just see the darkness of it. I slowed right down again in panic because speed wasn't working, then the thing moved in front of me, crossed to my left and then went across the fields until the horizon camouflaged it.

There was another person there as I had caught up with a car and I pulled in front of it to gesticulate at the fields. The car slowed and I remember the bloke sticking his thumb up through the windscreen at me. We were doing 20/30 mph at this time. I got off at Junction 3 and did a U-turn and went straight to my friend's house to tell him. I saw nothing strange on the way.

In addition I can tell you this. I know of no aircraft that can keep perfect formation with a fast accelerating motorbike, nor one that is totally silent. There was no rotor draught and no smell of exhaust fumes. I know that RAF Cosford is not far away and I have a feeling that the UFO I observed was military or something experimental, but why it was there I don't know'....

An interesting feature of this case is that there have been several reports from this area over the years reporting unusual traffic in the skies, one of which was investigated by BUFORA AI Dave Pointon and occurred in December 1996. There were unusual lights observed by two men travelling on the M54 in the same area as the report from above. They described a triangular matt black object with a dome-shaped light in the centre. This object was above them on the motorway and then moved off to the left and their observation time was around two minutes. According to the two men involved they suffered physiological effects, which they related to their sighting, extreme tiredness and sickness. Of course it has to be said that this may have been a coincidence and the physical effects were probably independent of their sighting. A couple of days after this sighting one of the men, MM contacted RAF Cosford and claimed that the receptionist there informed him that she has observed the same object six months prior to their sighting. He then was put through to a military policeman, who seemed to know what he was describing, but informed him that RAF Cosford's ATC closed at 5.30pm and no aircraft traffic would have been present there after this time. Several days later Mr. M. received two telephone calls from an unknown source asking for further information on this sighting and then received the standard MOD letter.

In conclusion, it would appear that this was a military vehicle and it is interesting that ML remarks in his letter to BUFORA, that after his sighting he started reading a lot of literature on UFOs and about a year afterward comments that he had problems with his teeth and eyes and started having strange dreams of a UFO nature etc. and goes on to say the following

'I doubt if all this is related to be honest, probably fired by too many books on the subject!!!'

This is a very honest and pragmatic comment and one which, although mundane, is very significant, and illustrates how often a fairly banal sighting can generate a problem, where a witness cannot identify an object or a light, and go on to actually suffer physical effects due to fear and powerful UFO imagery downloaded into their consciousness, so they can genuinely feel they have seen something that could not be of earthly origin. This is something that investigators are very aware of when they assess a report.

REALITY TILT AT HOCKLIFFE

The following case study was investigated in October 1992 by Judy Jaafar and the late Ken Phillips and is a very significant study in relation to claims of alien abduction, odd mists and missing time experiences. What follows is based on Judy Jaafar's transcript and comments about the investigation

The Bellamy (pseudonym) family were travelling by car from Dunstable to Milton Keynes on Saturday 8th August 1992 at 10.30am. The weather was dull, cloudy and humid, but not raining. The family were in a good mood and the children were singing Beatles' songs in the back. Mr. Bellamy remarked that his daughter was "murdering"

the song. Just prior to this, Mr. B. had swerved to avoid a car driving straight towards him on the wrong side of the road at the Hockliffe junction. Both parents mentioned this more than once, as if it were important. Perhaps there is an underlying significance.

They continued on up the hill after Hockliffe, and found themselves in a sudden torrential downpour, which they both felt was in some way unusual. At this point a bank of mist or fog suddenly appeared in front of the car (Mrs. B did not see this) and the husband had no option but to drive straight into it. On being asked by me whether he had seen the mist from some distance, Mr. B. said no, and that it had just suddenly appeared and that it extended all around them. Everything was quiet at this point and there was no other traffic around (unusual for this road on a Saturday morning - Oz factor). They have no memory of driving through the fog, or of coming out of it.

Their next memory is of driving through woods on the outskirts of Woburn Sands. They both recollected that at this point Mr. B. had turned to his wife and remarked that they were in "Aslan Country". Perhaps this was a conscious expression of an unconscious feeling on Mr. B's part that somehow reality had shifted, as happened to the children in Narnia. (The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe - C.S. Lewis).

Mr. and Mrs. B. remember nothing after this until they drove into Woburn Sands itself, about one mile further on. They both then remarked on seeing a road worker in bright yellow doing something at a manhole cover, and then seeing two white cars with bright headlights pointed at them, manoeuvring. Ken asked them if they felt there was anything unusual about this, but both said no. However, this particular small "normal" incident was discussed at least four times during the interview and I felt at the time that Mr. B. particularly was puzzled by it. Could it be a "cover-memory" and that in fact the witnesses did not return to reality briefly in Woburn Sands?

By this time almost eight miles of their journey had been lost (fifteen minutes approximately). They had missed Woburn, the railway crossing at Woburn Sands and a very busy garden-centre, all familiar landmarks to them.

After their brief memory of Woburn Sands, there was a further blank period which lasted until they reached the Fishermead roundabout outside Milton Keynes, where they stopped to fill up with petrol. Mr. B. remarked that when she "came-to", her husband seemed to be driving very fast toward the roundabout but at the same time didn't seem to be actually driving the car. He also maintains that he felt like he was on autopilot, but that his awareness was elsewhere. He remarked at this point that they hadn't gone over the "bumps", humps in the road, which the children liked to go over quickly to give them a funny feeling in their stomachs.

They pulled into the petrol-station at 10.50am., twenty minutes after the start of their journey, which is the normal time it would have taken. Both adults at this point experienced icy-cold tingling in their heads, necks and shoulders, which was decidedly unpleasant and uncomfortable. When Mr. B. got out of the car, he found his co-ordination was awry, and had great difficulty in unscrewing his petrol cap and inserting the pump nozzle. Mrs. B. couldn't find the door handle to get out of the car.

Both adults were feeling peculiar, and "knew" that something strange had happened to them. They realised that they had missed major features on the familiar journey. They drove on into Milton Keynes, wondering why they had come there. The people around them look "funny". Mr. B. in the transcript says that her husband remarked that all he could see were faces coming towards them. During the interview in a part which was not transcribed, Mr. B. said that the people looked funny because he could see no faces, and it appeared that everyone was walking away from him with their backs towards them. Does this discrepancy have any significance? Mrs. B. at this point speculated that they had been taken away on a flying saucer. All the family seemed to be behaving slightly out of character, especially the youngest daughter who was unusually quiet (5 years).

They decided to cut short their outing and come home, because they were feeling disturbed. The feeling of unreality persisted on the return journey, and Mrs. B. actually wondered if they had all died and were ghosts. She half-expected to find their car in a ditch on the way back.

The children haven't played much part in the story so far, but on the way back the mother decided to question them. On asking them what Mummy and Daddy had been doing all through the journey, the children replied that their parents had been totally silent, something very unusual - except for a remark about "Aslan" and about "a man in the road". This silence had lasted for eight miles (15-20 minutes). The parents also noticed that the children were unusually quiet, no bickering or squabbling and one of them complained of a headache. The children maintained that they remembered the whole journey, including the "bumps", but when I specifically asked about this, Mrs. B. stated that she didn't believe them! Unfortunately we had no chance to speak to the children.

There was another sudden rain shower at exactly the same spot on the way back.

On returning home, they immediately went to Mrs. B's mother to relate their experience and to confirm that they were "real".

That night there was a terrific electrical storm. Continuous lightning went on all night with little thunder and no rain.

The family retraced their journey the next day (Sunday) in an effort to make sense of it, and in fact have done so several times. Also on Sunday, Mrs. B. noticed a red mark like a burn on the back of her neck. It was diamond shaped and about one inch square. It was painless. It was seen by her mother and a friend, and remained visible for about one week. Also around this time, Mr. B. noticed a fairly large square-shaped red area on his abdomen. It was an outline rather than a solid patch like his wife's. The mark was still visible, but faded, at the time of the interview. Interestingly, at no point during this whole experience did the witnesses feel any fear, only puzzlement and disorientation.

Mrs. B. was completely pre-occupied by the experience for several days, to the extent where she felt she was neglecting her household duties. She also suffered from sleep-onset insomnia. Mr. B. recovered from the experience more rapidly, but was

sufficiently affected at the time that he (not Mrs. B.) tried to report it that same evening.

Witness Profile collated by Judy Jaafar

I have very briefly summarised Judy's written investigation and notes on the background profile to this case and this follows below...

Mr. B. had never had any other strange experiences, but was obviously considerably affected by this one and was instrumental in obtaining phone numbers to report this incident. Both parties had the "peculiar" feeling once in a while that they shouldn't be telling anybody about this and that they should drop the whole thing. Judy felt this could be significant for various reasons, which are referred to later on. Mr. B. had little or no interest in UFOs or the paranormal and did not read any literature, but admits to gaining some knowledge of the subject through listening to his wife's views on the subject.

Mrs B. presented a very different profile and Judy believes that the whole experience is centred around her. She had also had a number of strange psychic experiences throughout her life. She freely admitted that she is interested in UFOs and has many books on the subject. In her report Judy wonders whether the interest is a result of her experiences or could the UFO encounters be a result of her interest? Mrs. B. was particularly fascinated by the 'Janos People' and showed the book to Judy and Ken, therefore Judy asks whether it was a just a coincidence that she had visited the site of this case only one week before the Hockliffe experience and whether this could have triggered something in her mind?

Although it appeared that Mrs. B. was looking for an explanation for her experience, Judy strongly felt that she believed she had been abducted and was hoping for them to suggest using regression hypnosis.

Judy also comments that Mr. B. was frank and open about the experience, genuinely puzzled but ready to laugh. In addition to this he was very open to finding a non-exotic explanation for his experience and asked if there were other people in the same situation. He was interested in Judy's comments that atmospheric conditions on that day could be an important factor and that most of what they experienced could have been the result of their being exposed to an ionised electromagnetic field and that the bank of mist and the phenomenal electrical discharges of that evening could well be important, although this would not explain the marks on their bodies.

In her profile, Judy has examined the psychological aspects of this case and whilst she accepts that all the evidence suggest that this experience was very real particularly regarding the physical traces on their bodies and the intrinsic strangeness of the case, she also explores the possibility that Mrs. B was actually instrumental in creating this experience in that she was hoping for something to happen and it did happen - to her husband as well.

Footnote:

An interesting addendum to this case study is that Judy Jaafar met up with Mr. & Mrs B again during the time she facilitated the Witness Support Group (WSG) together with Ken Phillips in 1993. On the first occasion in March 1993 Mrs. B. reported having nightmares and "funny feelings" in addition to what she perceived as an unusual observation on the same road. She also remarked that their youngest daughter had recently been seeing shadows in her bedroom and on the stairs at night. Judy remarks that it would be difficult to judge how much of this is 'real' and how much it maybe the product of the imagination of a sensitive child, who has possibly overheard snippets of discussion from her parents.

In September of 1993 Judy had the opportunity to meeting up with the B's once again at the WSG and Mrs. B. discussed some further strange occurrences that had been happening to her. Once again these included strange and disturbing dreams, some of them prophetic and some of them with a UFO/spacecraft theme. Her daughter had been sick for some time in February and had eventually been sent home from school. Her teachers were rather concerned about the pictures she had been drawing of funny people with pointed ears. Judy points out that this may not be significant as imaginative eight-year-olds draw funny pictures. Mrs. B. also discussed an old photograph with a strange face on it. This was taken in 1983 outside a holiday home, where she experienced some very frightening events. She mentioned that there were new faces appearing on a ten year old photographic print. This has not been verified, although Judy and Ken did see the photograph at the time of their initial investigation and could discern a peculiar feline face in the foliage of a tree. However, this could most certainly be a trick of the light and shade and just an optical artefact.

Conclusions

Obviously this case cannot be definitively evaluated and this experience was a subjective one for both Mr and Mrs B perceived in their own way, but certainly something occurred that they could not understand or explain and so moved them to contact BUFORA in the hope of trying to identify what happened to them on the road that day. This experience turned their lives upside-down particularly for Mrs. B who has searched for an answer to this experience for many years. Jenny Randles has documented this case in her excellent book *Time Storms*, which examines the nature of time and space, collating some of the strangest cases from around the world. She shows remarkable parallels where witnesses report encounters with mysterious mists, which produce a sequence of missing time physical and physiological effects. These mists appear to interrupt the witness' perception of the flow of time producing an effect of 'timelessness' where all familiar sounds cease and an unnatural stillness prevails. As a witness told me in 1995 it was like 'one step below silence'.