

Investigations Diary 28

by Gloria Heather Dixon

Sightings

There has been a continuing decrease in sighting reports to BUFORA during 2001 with statistics standing at 142 reports. More exotic encounters within the total of these reports stand at 10 and often do not have a specific UFO content to them, but are reported to BUFORA because of a personal interpretation and perception that these experiences are linked to a UFO encounter. Therefore it is crucial that we explore the way in which perceptions and beliefs influence how people observe things and to understand the inaccuracy of most observations of lights and objects that people perceive to be UFOs, when within the correct resources and time parameters explanations would be available, illustrating the conflicting idea of UFOs versus IFOs (Identified Flying Objects). Therefore a very high percentage of cases could be explained if reported within twenty-four hours and with good objective reporting and investigation by both the witnesses and the investigator. The high strangeness reports to BUFORA make compelling reading for our research and investigation departments, creating an extensive and valuable learning curve for investigators studying the area of UFOs and all related phenomena.

It is often not understood very well that the UFO subject encompasses a huge and complex picture and it is essential that investigators realise just how wide the parameters are when investigating claims of UFO encounters. It is a question of belief or defining unknown experiences within the context of modern day trends and representations of these trends, and therefore how these events are perceived triggers the choice of agency to which people will make their reports. To focus within restrictive parameters will not increase our knowledge of the nature of this subject and more importantly the nature of people who report them. The subject has extended far beyond what were understood to be the original parameters of the UFO field of study and as it has reached outside the threshold of this framework, so the resulting complexities have created a minefield of speculative thinking on what the reality of UFOs may be.

A majority of sightings reported to BUFORA still remain as perceived unusual lights in the sky and fifty per cent of these are now reported via the internet to BUFORA enquiries with very little further information forthcoming. Therefore an accurate evaluation of the reports that remain as UFOs is unavailable at this time. Statistics for January and February are still showing this downward trend. There are still problems in gaining any kind of accurate national statistics, due in part to local UFO groups that come and go and where reports tend to be inaccessible to anyone else. However, it is also evident from various sources that publishers and the press have a very low-grade interest in the UFO subject at the moment. It is unlikely that the decline in interest will continue this way and the release of two related movies and a Spielberg mini-series during 2002 may change this trend and generate renewed interest from the public and media. As many members may be aware, this will not necessarily mean



there are more UFOs, but just more awareness of the subject leading to an increase in reports.

Postal Training Course

At the present time, there are 11 members enrolled on the course. However, many have not completed this or returned various modules as the course has progressed. Only three appear to be continuing within the time limits. I believe two have had time limitations due to other commitments, but this can often be a problem when members enrol on the course and then find the course is directed to understanding what can be observed in the sky and often misidentified.

Photographs and Video Footage

Visual images of UFOs continue to be submitted to BUFORA, often via email as attachments taken on digital cameras or standard cameras. Camcorder footage is also a popular way to photograph perceived UFOs as people focus on capturing an unidentified object in the sky. The quality of these photographs is often very disappointing, showing only anomalous lights in the sky with very little frame of reference to assess the possibilities. Relevant information about the camera/camcorder used and details of film plus background information via the BUFORA questionnaire is limited and this is a very real problem. Definitive explanations can be given in only a percentage of cases and the rest could have several explanations including optical artefacts created by reflections, the camera itself and several other possibilities. This is a particularly significant factor when the photographers inform us that they did not see anything unusual at the time of taking their pictures. With the technology now available, hoaxes are certainly a relevant factor here and therefore we have to be careful how much time we invest in looking at some of these photographs. Although it appears as though there are photographs that remain unexplained at this time, this does not mean that with the correct information and analysis, there could not have been an explanation for some of them. Even with analysis being conducted by good photographic specialists, we still may not be able to specifically identify the object or light in a photograph and video footage can be even more difficult to define.

On behalf of BUFORA, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Bill Rose for his time and efforts in analysing some of these visual images.

Investigators

Currently we have nineteen investigators, some of whom are completing the PTC. A break down on the status of these include eleven Accredited Investigators, five Provisional Investigators and three members who are enrolled and active on the Postal Training Course. The continuing decrease in numbers of Investigators in the NIC is a reflection of the decline in membership at the moment and also the fact that a

percentage of potential investigators find it difficult to complete and stay on the PTC due either to other commitments or a lack of interest after beginning the course.

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to all investigators for their time and work within the BUFORA NIC and also my special thanks to Judy Jaafar and Malcolm Robinson for their support and help with the NIC. I would also like to specifically thank Brian James for his support during his tenure as Chairman.

Case Study

CASE TITLE ----- CAR STOP AT GOODWOOD !
CASE TYPE ----- CAR STOP/MISSING TIME
WITNESS ----- MRS. C. B.
INVEST. REF. ----- JMJ 010
DATE ----- 1955 or 1956
INVEST. DATE ----- 25/5/98

The witness, Mrs. C. B. (61), lives with her two sons David (23) and Sean (39) {pseudonyms} in a terraced house in a S. London suburb. She approached BUFORA after a series of recent events that had left her confused and agitated. Malcolm Robinson and I (Judith Jaafar) went to visit her in her home on 25/5/98, more to offer support than anything else, since the original phone-calls from the witness seemed to be somewhat less than evidential.

Mrs. C.B. has led a rather eventful life, paranormally speaking, as have so many other witnesses. She has been experiencing precognitive dreams and visions since a very young age, and indeed time distortions and anomalies make up the bulk of her strange experiences. She also suffers from the “media premonition” syndrome, in her case seeing reports on TV before the events actually happen. She saw the Lockerbie crash and Oxford Street bombing in advance of the events, and in fact told us on the day of the interview that she had seen a report that morning on TV discussing the fact that Charlton F.C. had moved up a division, when in reality the crucial game wasn’t to be played till later that afternoon. It seems that premonitions don’t always have to be weighty and catastrophic! Charlton did move up, but then again it was a 50/50 probability.

When Mrs. B. was a young teenager (13/14) she befriended a much older man, a gardener and nurseryman, who taught her all about plants. Since then, she believes, she has had an unusual affinity with all types of plant-life, communicates with them, and has a special ability to make them grow. Her house, certainly, was full of plants, all in different stages of luxuriant growth, and one particular Swiss cheese-plant allegedly dances to music when in the mood. This, unfortunately, we were not privileged to see. The nurseryman also taught her about things esoteric, and at one point actually hypnotically regressed her back to a past life as a Celtic princess. The alarm bells were fairly ringing in my head by this time, wondering just what might have been going on between an older man and a pubescent, vulnerable girl, but after such a long time I didn’t think it wise or appropriate to voice those fears to the witness.

A very unusual incident happened to the witness when she was about 18/19 yrs. old. She and her then boyfriend (with whom she has long since lost touch) took an evening spin out to Goodwood motor racing track in the boyfriend's Austin 7. Suddenly the car "died" on them. The engine switched off and all the electrics failed. They sat in the car bemused and decided to smoke a cigarette, never thinking to get out of the vehicle and look under the bonnet. Their next memory was of everything coming on again, at which point they decided to drive straight home, only to find that an hour and a half of time was missing. According to Mrs C.B. the car had never acted-up before, nor again afterwards. Since the incident happened in 1954/55, and the other witness is uncontactable, there is no chance of following this up.

The incidents that prompted the witness to contact BUFORA started about 5 yrs. ago. Mrs. C.B. was lying in bed reading when the house was suddenly plunged into darkness. She got up to go and fetch a new light bulb for her bedside lamp, passing by the front-door on her way back, to check if there had been a power-cut. She opened the door only to be confronted by a huge, bright, white light in the street outside. She remembers nothing more, and woke up in her bed next morning, but there was a light bulb on the hall table where she had put it before she opened the front door.

On a night not long after this, the witness and her son David and some of his friends watched, for at least an hour, up to fifty lights "playing in the sky", displaying amazing aerobatic abilities.

About six weeks before the interview, and again four weeks later, this incident was repeated. Again the witness was lying in bed, this time watching TV. The lights and TV slowly started to dim, and again she got up out of bed to go to the door and see if the streetlights were out. Again she was confronted by a bright white light that filled her whole field of vision. The light was "crackling" and hurt her eyes, and she could see nothing of the street or neighbouring houses. The witness was aware of being in some kind of dissociated state, and having a telepathic conversation with someone unknown. Her next memory was of waking up in bed the next morning.

These experiences are disturbing and frightening Mrs.C.B., and she's now worrying that people will think she's out of her mind. She freely admits that she's always been a "strange" person. There's a feeling of anxiety and anticipation building up in her, and she believes that something is going to happen within the next year or so, not necessarily on a personal level, but something of great significance to mankind. This is a commonly held belief amongst many witnesses I've spoken to, and may well be linked, consciously or unconsciously, with the coming millennium.

The younger son, David, has been witness to several strange incidents over the years. He and his mother believe they have a strong emotional and telepathic link, and this may well be playing a part in his involvement. He himself witnessed the "ghost-cat" which took up temporary residence in their house two years ago. Various people, including the home help, saw the cat several times. The home help actually stroked this animal and was surprised to find how icy-cold it was. David almost tripped over it on the stairs, but on closer inspection found that it had just vanished into thin air. All the witnesses are adamant that it was not a real, live cat.

On another occasion, David and Sean witnessed with great consternation their mother go into an “out-of-time” episode, where she was 18 again and back at art college (witness is an accomplished artist). Mrs. C.B. has no memory of this incident, which lasted for more than an hour. There are no other reports of such “fugue” states in the witness’ life, but both she and David both admit to frequent feelings of dissociation.

The witness is a semi-invalid, suffering from chronic arthritis and more recently ME. Because of this, she has turned her living room into a bedroom, and spends a lot of time in bed. The “bright-light” experiences have all happened when she was in bed in a relaxed state before sleeping, and could conceivably be hypnagogic in nature. She suffers from many allergies and paracetamol is the only medication that she takes.

Dissociation, fugue states, folie a deux, sleep paralysis and imagery ----- all words on the tongues of psychologists, and all potentially relevant here. It is interesting to note that the witness and her son David have read up on the UFO phenomenon (she found BUFORA’s contact no. in “TIME TRAVEL” by Jenny Randles) and that she has a deep fascination for New Mexico.

As an interesting afterword, Mrs. C. B. called me a week after the interview. I had told her that her premonitions would hold much more weight if they were logged with someone (me) as soon as she received them, and before the event. Consequently she called to inform me that she’d had a waking vision of an impending disaster in a large, domed, glass building like a railway station. There was a lot of noise, blood and fire, and she felt that it involved a bomb. An hour later she called again with more details. She felt that it would happen at the Eurostar terminus at Waterloo, and that she could see a newstand or kiosk with a black briefcase beside it. She could also see a person with a piece of metal sticking out of his head. She had no time frame for this incident, but was afraid that it would be timed to coincide with football fans travelling to France. This information was relayed to me on 2/6/98 at 1.45pm, and I didn’t quite know what to do with it. Malcolm Robinson decided to call London transport police, and told them the story. They duly noted it, and thanked him for his concern. Nothing has happened, thankfully, as yet.

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

Although perhaps very politically incorrect, I believe I must mention the following, as it may give us a clue to the mechanisms at work in at least some paranormal cases.

The family are living in squalid conditions, the worst I’ve seen to date. I must note that this, in my personal experience as an investigator, is not at all uncommon, and is in itself an interesting part of the phenomenon. Does this phenomenon target poor people with little social or intellectual credibility, knowing that they will not be believed? Do deprived people, who learn to dissociate at an early age, open up portals to other realities? Or do they create their own realities as an escape mechanism, whereby such mundane things as cleanliness, hygiene and social acceptability have little or no importance?

The incidence of alleged ME amongst experiencers is higher than would be statistically expected. Many of these claims involve self-diagnosis, so cannot be taken

entirely seriously, but the symptoms experienced involve chronic fatigue, depression and joint and muscle pain. These are also the symptoms of a blood condition called haemochromatosis, where iron is not metabolised and excreted efficiently and is stored in excessive amounts in various organs in the body. The only treatment at the moment is regular “bleeding”. Under exposure to EM fields, this excess iron can coalesce into what appear under x-ray to be “foreign bodies”, and could conceivably be misconstrued as “alien implants”. The condition is more common than one would think, and is often not diagnosed, especially when the symptoms are mild and the sufferer can manage to carry on with a vaguely normal life-style. It is quite “ironic” that the symptoms are often mistaken for anaemia, and when blood iron levels are found to be normal, which they usually are, the sufferer is sent away none the wiser, thus leading them to make their own diagnosis of ME. It is the levels of ferritin (stored iron) that must be checked and monitored, and even then the condition can exist without detection.

I stumbled upon this condition quite by accident whilst researching something else. I immediately contacted a medically-trained abduction researcher in the States, and he informed me that the links between alien implants and this blood condition had also recently been made over there.