

Investigations Diary 30

by Gloria Heather Dixon

After a rather long absence from an update on investigations, I want to give our members a summary of what has been happening with investigations, beginning with the investigators training course and some relevant comments regarding this course and investigation in general

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE AND INVESTIGATION

On behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to congratulate Malcolm Stroud, who completed and passed the Postal Training Course to an excellent standard. Welcome to the BUFORA National Investigations Committee Malcolm!

We have ten other PTC trainees who have been on the course, some since 2001. Unfortunately many of them have not completed the course as yet and have left it at varying stages of the modules. However there are two members in the initial stages of the course at the present time and I hope they will hold out until the examination module!

This brings me to make a significant comment. UFO investigation is not a glamorous ride to the idea of abduction investigation. It is a far more mundane journey of exploration and knowledge of what can be seen by someone as a UFO and which so often has a rational explanation when examined with accurate and objective information. The fundamental idea of this training course is to encourage potential investigators to look very specifically at the options that encompass working towards identifying an object or light in the sky that has been reported as a UFO. How to follow up claims of UFO photographic evidence and high strangeness reports are incorporated as separate modules. Active investigation after passing this course is the ultimate guide to the flaws and complications that arise when 'out in the field'. All is not always as it seems in UFO investigation, in fact it is often not at all as it appears, with witnesses' beliefs and perceptions influencing how they record their sighting, thereby creating misleading information. The investigator has to take this into account when trying to identify a sighting, and even more seriously when being asked to investigate a claim of an experience which involves high strangeness events. Here we are knee deep in muddied waters and investigators need to be acutely aware of the wide-ranging areas that should be studied in order to help a witness understand and possibly come to terms with an experience for which they have no known way to define in terms of the models and images accessible to them. It is unfortunate perhaps that because of the pervading imagery surrounding us, witnesses so often use alien imagery to interpret their experience. This is just one of the reasons that the BUFORA National Investigations Committee (NIC) hold a moratorium on the use of hypnosis to gain an objective account of what occurred during a high strangeness experience. To gain an insight into some of the problems that can arise when investigating high strangeness cases, I would recommend that potential and accredited investigators read an interview which Judy Jaafar (BUFORA Vice-Chairman, AI and secretary to



the NIC) did two years ago for Strange Times magazine. For readers on email, I would happy to send this to them as an attachment. My email address is stheatherd77@aol.com.

To conclude on this section, there are enormous difficulties with the whole area of UFO investigation with the exception of sightings reported within twenty-four hours with reasonably accurate information. Trained investigators can then often identify the cause of the sighting by recognising the salient points contained within the completed BUFORA Questionnaire, such as observation time, movement, shape etc.

SIGHTINGS

Sighting have fluctuated during this year, but appear to be increasing. Again there is the problem of email related sightings, which often do not generate a response after the initial email has been dealt with. A prime example here would be an email sent to BUFORA on 14 February 2003 documenting an incident in Iceland in 1994 from someone who served in the RAF. In the email he states the following...

In 1994, I was in the R.A.F employed as a movement controller with the mobile air movement squadron based at R.A.F Lynham. In April that year, I got an order to fly at very short notice with two other military personnel to an air base in Iceland in a C 130 Hercules to pick up and return to R.A.F Mildenhall a class 'A' cargo. When we arrived in Iceland, I was amazed at the amount of security on base. I served in the R.A.F for 12 years and was in the Gulf war but I have never seen security like this, even for royalty. After the C 130 had come to a standstill no fewer than 8 armed military police bordered the aircraft. As you may well know, an aircraft is sovereign territory so this break with protocol was very unusual to say the least. The MPs secured the C130 and we were escorted by bus to a small hanger while the C130 was re-fuelled. In the hanger I was briefed as to what I had to do which again is very unusual as normally all work detail is handed over at the beginning of the shift. There, waiting for me and two Icelandic movers, was a standard Hercules pallet with a wooden crate on top. What I could not understand was the level of security that surrounded the movement of a wooden crate into the back of a C130. Once I had secured the crate into the aircraft four military policemen armed with SMGs and Browning 9mm weapons guarded the crate on the return trip to England. Once we had landed the military police shadowed my every move until the crate was safe in a hanger. Waiting in the hanger were ten staff of U.S.A.F to take charge of the crate and this is where you could have knocked me down with a feather. In the exchange of paperwork with my American counterpart, I asked what was all security about and he told me in such a matter of fact way that we are transporting "Non – terrestrial material." As in a crashed satellite I asked. No he said satellites originate on Earth, the material in that crate does not come from this planet he said.

Any other time I would have thought it was a joke but not this time, it was a very bizarre trip and not one I ever repeated in all the days I was in the R.A.F.

I responded to this email and gave my telephone number and also asked BUFORA investigator Malcolm Stroud to become involved if a response to my email was forthcoming, but no further contact was resumed.

There are obviously many problems with this report, which have to be taken into consideration, the most significant of which I will list below and will be apparent anyway to readers.

Why did he decide to report this incident now, nine years later and what was the trigger for him to do this?

Why would he take the risk of reporting classified information to a UFO organisation particularly via email?

Why has there been no response?

This report has a high probability of being a hoax, but a response was required by BUFORA initially to ascertain whether there was anything genuinely being reported. Therefore as we have received no further information from this email address, there is no real credibility or substance to this report and therefore it can only be logged with the limited information it contains.

Just as a footnote here I presume the military base he refers to in Iceland was Keflavik, the NATO rapid response unit.

Sighting from an aircraft returning from Tenerife to Bristol

An interesting report reached BUFORA this year from JR in Wales. He records the following...

Whilst on the 7am return flight from Tenerife to Bristol on 31st January 2003 and at approximately 36,000 ft, about 30 minutes from crossing the south coast of England, I observed through the left hand window close to where I sat a strangely shaped dense black object that appeared to resemble a cloud of smoke. I recall thinking if this was indeed a cloud of black smoke, it was completely out of place at that altitude, where the air was totally clear and the visible cloud layer was some 30,000 feet below. As I watched the object drifting slowly past the left side of the aircraft, it began to change shape into what I initially took to be the wings of a hand glider, slowly rotating in an anti-clockwise direction. In an instant the diamond shaped 'wing' changed into a straight flat line, orange/yellow in colour. At this point it did very much resemble other distant strands of high altitude cloud. The flat line then disappeared from view with the forward motion of the plane

At this point I clearly heard other passengers, some three or four rows in front of me, also remarking on having seen something strange.

On his Questionnaire JR records the time of his sighting as 10.15am and length of observation time as 30/40 seconds. For a visual impression please see witness drawing

I contacted JR about his sighting and enquired whether he had asked any of the aircrew about this sighting. His response was that it was a Spanish Airline and he had problems understanding what they said over the intercom to the passengers, so he felt

that it would be pointless trying to explain the details of the object he, his partner and other passengers had observed.

Isle of Wight

In October of last year we received a report from CT who lives on the Isle of Wight. He reports that in April of 2000 he and his girlfriend had gone for a walk during the early hours of the morning in order to see wild rabbits behind his house. Whilst returning over the golf course they stopped to admire a clear night sky when they both observed many light in what he describes as an 'invisible rectangle'. They watched these very bright star-like lights darting around at great speed (see drawing).

Although this sighting was two and half years ago, it seems very likely they were observing a meteor shower. The witness does not have a date for the sighting, but states it was April. If this sighting was around April 21st, this would be the date for one of the major meteor showers. His drawing indicates this possibility and the 'invisible rectangle' he describes is just that... actually not there. This is a common feature when witness try to describe lights in the sky, which they feel do not have an explanation. This has occurred with many witnesses, who have observed laser light displays. They often talk of an object from which the lights are emanating. This, of course, if not the case at all, but laser light displays can look very unusual when seen in remote areas particularly when the observer is a far distance from the actual source of the display.

Video Footage taken of an unusual light in a field

In a recent letter to BUFORA from Hampshire, KL describes both she and a friend observing a gold ball of light in a field, which then changed shape to become two balls with a violet coloured bar bell connecting them. It then became diamond shaped and then hexagon shaped. Apparently she has fifteen minutes of video footage of this light and describes it as 'really amazing and close' In her letter to BUFORA she states that her friend's face suffered burns, which were evident the following day. This may be completely independent of their sighting.

I talked with KL by telephone and also sent her a report form to complete. She mentions several strange incidents in her life, which include a poltergeist activity, a disappearing pregnancy and a friend with an implant. When I receive a completed report form together with details of the other incidents she mentions, I will try to ascertain whether this report should be investigated further.

Barry, Wales

On 11th December 2002 at 10pms, PO describes observing an object from her back garden whilst out having a cigarette. Her garden faces West and she observed some lights coming from the south east. There were three white lights and a red centre pulsing light. These lights came straight towards her and started to turn east. She ran to the front of her house and looked up. It was a black triangular shape with a white light at each point and a red pulsing light in the middle. It flew straight over the top of

her and made a roaring sound and turned to the east towards the Welsh Valleys and flew over RAF St. Athan. Her height estimation was 150-200 feet (see witness drawing).

It seems very possible that PO observed a military aircraft or UAV, which was similar to many aircraft seen with these particular navigational lights.

A339 between Hackwood House and Ellisfield

On Friday 15th November 2002 at 7.40pm KH was heading towards Basingstoke on the A339 and noticed blue flashes in the sky. As she turned the bend and came down a hill she observed the area appeared to be floodlit. There was a wooded patch in the road and hanging above the edge of the road was a large white sphere. She describes this sphere as being larger than a full moon because it hung so low in an easterly direction. All the cars slowed down to observe the sphere, so she turned off the radio and opened the window of her car, but there was no noise only the sound of the car engine. As the traffic moved, she headed home, but the sphere remained static. She describes the weather as foggy in place with some cloud cover, cold and dry with a breeze. She also states that she noticed the moon in her rear view mirror and that another friend driving on the Alton side of the A339 has observed the blue flashes. It should be noted here that her sighting took place on 15th November. The blue flashes may well have been due to a major meteor shower, which occurs at this time and may be totally independent of the white sphere. Should any readers recall being in this area at that time and observing this white sphere, please email me (address above).

To conclude this diary and give some definition to my comments regarding the wide-ranging possibilities that investigators should be aware of when entering into UFO investigation, I have added thoughts taken from an article I wrote last year for Strange Times magazine.

Alternatives to the Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH)

So what could be the possibilities in extending our thinking beyond the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships visiting our planet. There are of course many real alternatives and explanations beginning with unidentified atmospheric phenomena (UAP), such as ball lightning, a controversial, but very real possibility in a small percentage of cases and which have certainly been recorded by some UFO organisations as being a real possibility to explain an event. These translucent balls have been known to find their way through solid matter creating problems and physiological effects for those in their path. In fact in one report to BUFORA from the 1950s, the teenager felt the sense of a presence before he observed the ball of light moving slowly up his staircase. We then have the well documented area of earthlights sometimes reported prior to seismic activity and a prime example of these lights have occurred in the Hessdalen Valley in Norway. Researcher, Paul Devereux has conducted long term research into this area and written several books on the subject. The Longendale Valley in the Peak District has certainly many recordings of these lights.

Powerful electromagnetic fields (EM) are most certainly responsible in some cases for claims of inexplicable events. These EM fields are so powerful in certain areas that they interact with the brain causing hallucinatory effects creating perceptions of 'missing time' and many visual images that are internally generated when the brain is 'scrambled' and unable to code and present the correct visual images of the events that are occurring. Researcher Albert Budden has conducted long term research at the cutting edge of this particular area and I highly recommend his books, which will give the reader a real insight into the ramifications of electromagnetic fields and their possible effects. In fact Judy Jaafar investigated a case several years ago where she felt these EM fields were a strong possibility for the strange events which occurred to a family of four. There have certainly a significant number of other cases, some of which I have personally investigated, where EM fields may have been responsible for subsequent events experienced by witnesses. To gain some in-depth insight into this area, I would highly recommend Jenny Randles' book Time Storms.

Some high strangeness UFO cases very possibly lie within the paranormal field of study and have been misunderstood or misinterpreted by the witness to be associated with UFO/alien encounters. Sleep disorders such as hypnagogia/hypnopompia the altered state of consciousness between waking and sleeping can cause incorrect interpretation of an event, as this 'altered state' can allow visions or the sense of a presence, which appear very real indeed to the person who is having them. Another disorder is 'sleep paralysis', which occurs during sleep in order to prevent the person acting out their dreams and having a nasty accident. Unfortunately this condition can sometimes transcend into 'waking time' in some rare cases and this can cause severe panic for the person. Then there are what are known as 'awakening dreams' where people are convinced that their 'dream' has actually been a real event and it is difficult for them to accept that this has been a dream.. This is quite a common occurrence. The above alternatives to the ETH hypothesis give an idea of the extent of how wide-ranging the other alternatives could be.

In Conclusion – the questions that remain

Is there any evidence that we are being visited by aliens from 'out there'.? Well there is certainly no definitive proof in the form of artefacts or crashed saucers or any captured extraterrestrial entities, beyond rumour and speculation. There is however mounting anecdotal evidence from people across the world, who claim they have had a UFO encounter or experienced something not of this world and which they perceive maybe visitors from outer space. What do we make of these claims particularly those being reported by pilots, astronauts and sane, rational people? Could there be any truth in the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships and alien visitation? What proof in any form is there? Could some of these claims be the result of the alternatives to the ETH mentioned above and interpreted incorrectly? There are many questions without answers and that is if we are even asking the right questions. Without the researchers and people who report these sightings and experiences, there would be no UFO subject for articles, books or media coverage. The subject has extended way beyond what were understood to be the original parameters of the UFO field of study and as it has extended far beyond the threshold of this framework, so the resulting complexities have created a minefield of speculative thinking on what the reality of UFOs maybe. ? There are many mysteries for mankind to explore and possibly define in the future



whether these are created by alien visitation from outer space or something else from 'inner space' and the enormous unexplored potential of the human consciousness. We need mysteries to lie on the periphery of our lives in order give meaning to our existence and the nature of reality. And as we embrace our limited understanding of who we are and why we are, we reach out to a vast universe to develop and widen that understanding and hope that we are not alone. In the end that is all we can do.