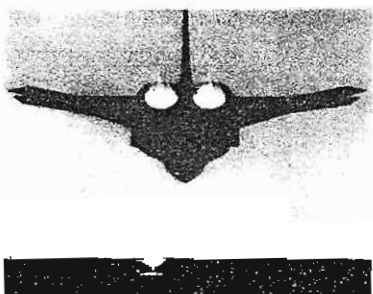


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# BUFORA BULLETIN

Bi-Monthly Journal Of The British UFO Research Association



**In This Issue:**  
**Roswell Autopsy Movie; Latest!**  
**Sturrock Report.**  
**The Howden Moors "Tornado Pilot".**  
**Devon Paranormal/UFO "Link" Case.**  
**1959 Papuan UFO Wave.**

**No: 6      October/November 1998.**

# before BULLETIN



## EDITORIAL

Robert Moore

On the 29th June, 1998 a report by a group of academics from a body called the **Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE)** created notable excitement both within and without Ufology. The **SSE** had conducted a review of the UFO phenomenon and concluded that UFO reports **were** worthy of science's attention, and that the study of UFOs offered the prospect of **real** scientific breakthroughs. This has awoken among many - probably for the first time since the death of Dr. J. A. Hynck - hopes that our subject will finally gain scientific respectability.....

If we are fortunate, this so-called **Sturrock Report** will engender a new interest in the "scientific" approach within our subject, as opposed to one dominated by the concerns and desires of the commercial sector. Throughout the 1990's our subject has had a protracted flirtation with populism. Although this offered our subject endless opportunities to empower and strengthen ourselves, I personally feel this chance was squandered. Many within this subject seemed to work vigorously to render Ufology into a analogue of the **X-Files!** As a result we hear of people being described as "**the real life Mulder**" or as the "**real life X-Files couple**". Furthermore, is it a coincidence that the topics stressed by this programme (abductions, conspiracies, cover-ups and saucer crashes) are ones which have come to virtually dominate Ufology in recent years.....?

It is, of course, a matter of considerable debate whether the **X-Files** actually thrust these concepts into the public domain, or whether it merely reflects pre-existent (if publicly unstated) undercurrents of popular UFO belief. Whatever the case, it must be rare for a work of fiction to **so** markedly influence the public conception of a **factual** subject, as this programme has in regards to UFOs. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the **X-Files**: but in it's **proper** context, as a work of **fiction**, expressing ideas through the medium of contemporary beliefs and fears. But **why** has our subject seemingly allowed this programme - with little overt opposition - to dominate popular conceptions of Ufology? There is very little **any** of us can do to alter the media's whimsies concerning this subject. Ufologists have long recognised the media as a beast of Lovecraftian proportions, that often blindly stomps across our agendas like a rampaging B-movie monster! But could we have tried harder (as a collective unity) to keep a serious and objective treatment of our subject in the public domain? Who can really tell, after all this time.....

Although once deemed the "royal road" to true understanding, many within Ufology today appear subconsciously fearful of the scientific approach. This may be due to the realisation that applying science to UFO reports leads to the vast majority of them being explained as **IFOs!** It also means that many fanciful notions and unproven assumptions - which are common ufological currency within our subject today - would no longer be acceptable. But a scientific approach should **never** equate to an overtly sceptical attitude, only one of honesty. An honesty that must cut both ways. An honesty that accepts a sighting account as either explicable or as a possible genuine anomaly, based **only** an objective assessment of it's salient details.

What, then, of the other way? Blind belief leads to a ghetto of self delusion, in which "answers" of a sort are found, but only ones derived from subjective ideals. Such "answers" probably bear little (if any) relation to objective reality. The scientific approach is not an easy path for our subject to take. But it provides an unflinching bright light of reason, capable of protecting all who **truly** revere it from stumbling, blindly and headlong, into the dark, deep abyss of the unknown. But, very soon, we may have to decide whether we wish to master the UFO problem, or let the various beliefs associated with this subject master us!

# BUFORA BULLETIN No. 6.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1998.

## Editorial Address:

83, Church Road, East Huntspill, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 3NG.  
email: [engima9@compuserve.com](mailto:engima9@compuserve.com)

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## - Contents -

	Page
UFO NEWS	4-5
STURROCK REPORT:	
It's Contents & Implications	6-10
CASTING DOUBTS ON THE ALIEN	
AUTOPSY FILM	11-15
DEVON UFO/PARANORMAL "LINK" CASE	15-17
THE PAPUAN UFO WAVE OF 1959 -	
A RE-EXAMINATION.	17-22
Investigations Diary Special	
THE HOWDEN MOORS INCIDENT (PART 2)	23-27

**DEPARTED SOULS.....**

Ufology has lost two notable figures over the recent months....

**Hector J. Quintillia, Jr.** Lt. Col (USAF ret.) died on the 18th May 1998, aged 75. He was the last director of the USAF's Project "BLUE BOOK", holding this position from 1963 to 1969.

**Phillip J. Corso** (U.S. Army, ret.) died on the 16th July, 1998 aged 83, following a heart attack. Corso's book *The Day After Roswell* (published in 1997), claimed he was involved in introducing into our culture various items of alien technology allegedly recovered from the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico "UFO" crash. His claims were generally greeted with scepticism by the UFO community.

**MORE FIREBALLS  
OVER THE U.K.**

Hot on the heels of the June 11-12th 1998 events, another major fireball meteor (or **bolide**) event manifested on the night of Friday 12th July, 1998. On this date, coastguard stations and police from Scotland to Cornwall were flooded with calls from concerned witnesses, many reporting lights in the shapes of the letters "Z", "Q" or the number "2". Many calls were centred around the Isle of Man where a large explosion in the sky was reported. A pilot said he watched as winds formed the trail into shapes resembling letters which had been reported

on the ground. Bungy Williams (watch manager at Belfast Coastguard) said the "Z" shaped lights were in the sky for 45 minutes. *"I can say I've never seen anything like it before,"* he said. *"It was a larger shape than the moon but as we were unable to measure the distance it was impossible to judge its actual size."* RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, noticed "no undue activity" reported on radar.

Meteor specialist Alastair McBeath passed the following comments regarding this particular holide event:

*"..It seems .. a very bright fireball ... pass[ed] over western Britain, possibly on a south-north/north-south track, with witnesses spread over from the south-west of England to the Glasgow area. This left a train, .. perhaps visible for three quarters of an hour, which distorted into a typical Z/S or Q shape (different observing angles) over time. [It's]... duration and appearance are rare, but not unexpected.... The train consist[ed] of ionised gases excited by the meteor's flight (and still waving flags half an hour later!)."*



**NEXT BUFORA SKYWATCH:  
19th-20th DECEMBER, 1998**

BUFORA is currently organising it's next scheduled Skywatch event. This will be held on the 19th to 20th December 1998, starting early Saturday evening and continuing into Sunday morning. If you wish to be involved please contact the skywatch co-ordinator, Philip Walton at least three weeks beforehand. Philip will be able to inform you of the nearest skywatch to you and will be able to provide general advice.

His contact details are:

Email: [skywatch@assap.org](mailto:skywatch@assap.org)

Phone: 0181-313-1556

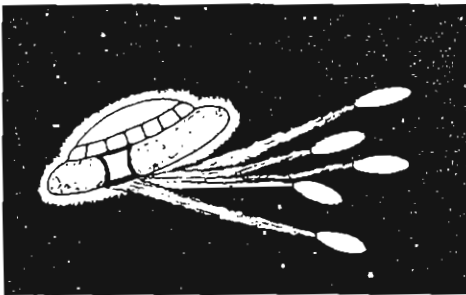
Skywatches are generally held in open areas with good views of the sky, where shelter and other facilities are (usually) non-existent. BUFORA or it's officers cannot be held responsible for any loss or injury to any party taking part in these events.

**NEW BUFORA  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH.**

John Spencer has replaced Steven Gamble as BUFORA's designated Director Of Research. He is interested in hearing of any proposals for new official BUFORA research projects or details of any independent research effort. The research department is also looking for someone willing to regularly write up the on-going results of it's work, both for publication in **BUFORA BULLETIN** and for general dissemination.

Equally important are the services of someone with a good knowledge of statistical methodology, to help produce quarterly and yearly statistical breakdowns of the sightings reported to BUFORA.

For further details please contact  
**BUFORA RESEARCH.**  
c/o 16, Southway, Burgess Hill,  
Sussex. RH15 9ST.



**John Spencer**

# STURROCK REPORT:

## It's Contents & Implications Robert Moore

In July 1998 newspapers from around the world reported the astonishing findings of an American scientific panel. A scientific panel which had seemingly concluded the unthinkable; that UFOs could well exist and that their study may result in the advancement of human knowledge!

But were these startling newspaper headlines justified? Is it correct to herald the so-called "**Sturrock Report**" as a breakthrough? Will it really result in the regular unbiased study of UFOs by the mainstream scientific community? Or is it just another false dawn, a transitory glint of forlorn hope along the dusty path of tears that is Ufology? This article aims to examine the background to this report, it's findings and it's implications for the subject.

### Establishment Of The Sturrock-Rockefeller Panel.

The establishment of this scientific review of UFO evidence was masterminded by **PETER A. STURROCK**, professor of applied physics at Stanford University, and the main founder of the **Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE)**. This body was established in 1982 as an "*interdisciplinary organisation of scholars formed to support unbiased investigation of claimed anomalous experiences*". The SSE aims to "*encourage and support objective scientific research into these subjects*", but entertains no desires to either control or direct it. To further this end it publishes it's quarterly peer-reviewed periodical *The Journal of Scientific Exploration (JSE)*.

In December 1996, Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller (Chairman of the "**LSR Fund**") approached Prof. Sturrock with a view to him undertaking a general assessment of current knowledge concerning UFOs. Sturrock replied

to Rockefeller's request by stating (among other things) that "*the problem is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion*"; a viewpoint with which Rockefeller concurred. Because of this, Sturrock felt that a true understanding of this problem would only come about through an "*extensive and open professional scientific investigation*".

It was evident to Sturrock and others that scientists shy away from this subject for a variety of reasons. This is a great obstacle in reaching an understanding of UFOs, as a true comprehension of this phenomenon will only be attained through subjecting it to balanced, scientific enquiry. For this to be possible (to quote Prof. Sturrock) "*an essential prerequisite..... is that more scientists acquire an interest in this topic.*"

Rockefeller, his associates and Prof. Sturrock himself felt that a good sound initial step towards this goal would be to hold a "workshop", where "*prominent investigators of UFO reports would meet with a panel of.....scientists with wide-ranging interests and expertise*". Sturrock agreed to serve as director of this initiative, with the Society for Scientific Exploration giving administrative support and the LSR fund supplying the necessary financial backing.

### THE WORKSHOP.

After some organisational effort this workshop was eventually held at Pocantico Conference Centre, Tarrytown, New York, commencing on the 29th September 1997 and ending on the 4th October 4, 1997. During the tenure of this workshop, the scientific panel focused on incidents involving some form of **physical** evidence. This included UFO photographs, radar traces, vehicle and aircraft interference cases, apparent gravitational or inertial effects, ground traces, injuries to

vegetation, physiological effects on witnesses and instances where supposed "UFO" debris had been recovered. The "recurrent" UFO events in the Hessdalen Valley in Norway were also discussed. Interestingly, the Roswell incident (and many other "classic" cases) were not mentioned, either in the discussion of "UFO debris" or elsewhere in the report.

This emphasis on UFO-related physical evidence was due to the panel recognising the dangers of *"relying wholly on the testimony of witnesses and of the importance of physical measurements for distinguishing among hypotheses."* These events were reviewed by the panel *"with a view to assessing whether the further acquisition and investigation of such evidence is likely to help solve the UFO problem, namely the determination of the cause or causes of these reports"*.

This data was presented by various members of the UFO community, who were asked to present their strongest data to the review panel. The ufologists who presented evidence to the panel were:

Richard Haines (photographic cases & aircraft interference), Illobrand von Ludwiger (radar evidence), Mark Rodeghier (vehicle interference cases), John Schuessler (biological effects), Erling Strand (Hessdalen), Michael Swords (gravitational/inertial effects), Jacques Vallee (luminosity estimates & UFO debris cases), and - representing SEPRA/ GEPAN - Jean-Jacques Velasco (ground traces & radar evidence).

On hearing and assessing all this data, the Sturrock-Rockefeller panel came to the following conclusions:

1. **[That] the UFO problem is not a simple one, and it is unlikely that there is any simple, universal answer.**
2. **Whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying them.**

3. **Studies should concentrate on cases that include as much independent physical evidence as possible.**
4. **Continuing contact between the UFO community and physical scientists could be productive.**
5. **Institutional support for research in this area is desirable.**

As to the UFO cases presented to the panel, it was felt that *"a few reported incidents may have involved rare... phenomena such as electrical activity"*.

However the report also stated that some of the UFO cases presented to the panel were *"not easy to explain in this fashion"* even through (in their view) *"there was no convincing evidence pointing to unknown physical processes or to the involvement of extraterrestrial intelligence. A few cases may have their origins in secret military activities"*.

In regards to the evidence presented at the workshop the panel stated "

*It appears that most current UFO investigations are carried out at a level of rigor that is not consistent with prevailing standards of scientific research .....The panel concluded that further analysis of the evidence presented at the workshop is unlikely to elucidate the cause or causes of the reports. However, the panel considers that new data, scientifically acquired and analysed (especially of well documented, recurrent events), could yield useful information.*

The workshop committee also made the following important observation:

*"The panel nevertheless concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these*

**observations. ...such evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypotheses. The best prospect for achieving a meaningful evaluation of relevant hypotheses is likely to come from the examination of physical evidence.**

The panel felt that a good model for such a scientific UFO initiative was France's GEPAN/SEPRA official UFO study programme, stating that there **"is no doubt that the best prospect for real advance in our understanding of the UFO problem would be the creation of similar projects in other countries....."**

An important aim for such a study-effort would be to gain total access to data such as police and radar records. It would (to be effective) obviously require technical support in terms of **"a network of laboratories and consultants [and also] a central database."** A further objective for such a study-effort would be the establishment **"of one or more mobile observatories... equipped with cameras ... optical, infrared, spectroscopic, acoustic, magnetic and radiation instruments."**

However they stated it was

**"necessary to be realistic and look for more modest approaches that could be initiated without government action... We therefore inquire into what small positive changes could be made by scientists and by private institutions such as societies, journals, universities and foundations."**

The panel felt that the scientific study of UFOs is hampered by the lack of reliable information on UFOs, due to the reluctance of peer-reviewed scientific journals to publish articles relating to this subject. To remedy this situation they recommended that **"a change in policy on the part of journal editors"** would be helpful in rectifying this situation. They also believed that

**"scientists at universities would take an interest in this problem if they felt that their**

**activities would receive the same recognition and level of support as their more conventional research".**

In regards to the UFO subject, the following statement is particularly telling;

**"Whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying those observations. What is learned may bear no relation to the concepts that were entertained when the research was undertaken. We venture to hope that more scientists will take an interest in this curious subject so that there will be more progress in the second half century than there has been in the first half century. There could hardly be less."**

The world's media were officially informed of the findings of the Sturrock-Rockefeller panel via a Stanford University press release issued on the 29th June, 1998.

The Sturrock-Rockefeller panel itself consisted of Von Eshleman; Thomas Holzer, High Altitude observatory in Boulder, Colo.; Randy Jokipii, professor of planetary science, University of Arizona, Tucson; Francois Louange, managing director of Fleximage, Paris, France; H. J. Melosh, professor of planetary science, University of Arizona, Tucson; James J. Papike, professor of earth and planetary sciences, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Guenther Reitz, German Aerospace Centre, Institute for Aerospace Medicine, Cologne, Germany; Charles Tolbert, professor of astronomy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; and Bernard Veyret, Bioelectromagnetics Laboratory, University of Bordeaux, France. Eshleman and Holzer served as co-chairs of the panel.

The full text of the **"Sturrock Report"** is freely available on the SSE website (<http://WWW.JSE.COM>). The report itself consists of some 50 pages of information detailing the conclusions of the Sturrock workshop and summaries of the various papers presented to the panel.



## **Sceptical Commentary on the Sturrock-Rockefeller report:**

Although the UFO community were generally happy with the "Sturrock report", sceptic organisations were much less impressed. The following comments are taken from CISCOP's (Committee for Investigation Of Claims Of The Paranormal) press-release of July 6th, 1998, in which various members of that body critically assessed the Sturrock Report. Here is a selection of comments from their press statement:

**" Why is [the conclusions of the Sturrock Report] .... news? .... Some cases do remain unexplained. But that we should now devote government resources to further research is questionable. ....The government should not divert funds and time from other more fruitful scientific projects. Given limited resources for scientific research, the evidence to date regarding UFOs does not merit such strong attention.." - Paul Kurtz CSICOP Chairman.**

**"The SSE recommends the creation of government funded UFO research projects like the one called GEPAN. [This body] .... strongly endorsed the Trans-en-Provence case... which GEPAN/SEPRA director Jean-Jacques Velasco described to the SSE's panel of experts. Velasco did not inform the SSE panel of scientists that a recent investigation by..... Eric Maillot indicates that the Trans-en-Provence case is a hoax. It is unfortunate that the SSE did not assemble a more balanced roster of UFO investigators to present evidence to the panel of scientists. The whole evaluation process appears suspiciously weighted to one side of the UFO debate."**

- Philip J. Klass, CSICOP.

**"I have serious doubts there is any real scientific paydirt in the UFO question..... Most of the prominent and active members [of the Sturrock Panel] are strong believers in the reality of such phenomena. ...The eight people who provided the testimony and evidence are all**

**strong UFO proponents..... There are no skeptical researchers among them. This is very curious if one is to contend this is some kind of balanced assessment."**

- Kendrick Frazier (Editor, *Skeptical Inquirer*).

### **THE STURROCK-ROCKEFELLER REPORT: A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT. (Robert Moore)**

So, at the end of the day, has the prospects for ufology been radically changed by the publication of this report? Certainly not in the short term. All of the Sturrock Panel's statements re UFOs (and also it's various recommendations concerning their implementation) have been made many times before in the past.

However, the "Sturrock report" has come at an interesting time for Ufology, when the subject's mass popularity is on the wane. It is effectively the epitaph of the populist era, with it's **"must try harder"** message for the UFO movement. It may, then, hopefully mark a new chapter (and beginning) for scientifically-oriented interest in this subject.

It has been claimed by some commentators that the composition of the Sturrock-Rockefeller Panel (and the selection of those asked to present papers) favoured a positive assessment of UFOs. It is clear that no sceptics were asked to present negative evidence for UFOs, only Ufologists, many of whom are advocates of the ETH. Furthermore, it must be noted that the panel was comprised of members of an academic organisation championing the **positive** scientific examination of paranormal phenomena.

Additionally, some of the case-studies presented to the panel are fairly weak in terms of evidential quality. Some (such as Mansfield, Ohio) may be explicable as IFO phenomena (such as bolides). Others (such as Trans-En-Provence, Maury island, Aurora, Texas, and Ubatuba, Brazil) have a very strong likelihood of being hoaxes. It is surprising that the flaws inherent in these cases were not mentioned by the report, as

as they are fairly well-known (even, in some instances, accepted) by many within the UFO community. The remaining cases, although interesting, are relatively obscure. The difficulty with these obscure events is that any flaws in their evidential quality are unlikely to be widely known.

Although the UFO community have been fairly content with the findings of the Sturrock report, the panel had some less-than-favourable things to say about contemporary ufology! For example, it stated that the study of UFO reports deemed to have a high evidential value by ufologists will **not** bring about a resolution of the UFO problem. Such a judgement strikes at the heart of most current UFO research-efforts, which attempt to understand UFOs through these very means.

It also criticised the UFO community for producing work below the standards expected by most scientists and academic bodies. This is often the result of poor funding, but it is also due (in many cases) to a lack of objectivity by many within this field.

Lastly, it also deemed the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) as lacking in any conclusive supporting evidence, although it seems to accept that some UFO events have an anomalous cause. This view is (again) nothing surprising, although many American researchers were probably (in private) unhappy with the Sturrock's panel less-than-enthusiastic support for the ETH. It is, on the other hand, a boost for those in the subject who feel the importance and influence of the ETH in this subject should be lessened.

However, this report has clearly defined the UFO problem for the scientific community. It has outlined - to high academic standards - the nature of the UFO problem and also (more importantly) the ways in which this problem can be tackled in an objective and structured manner.

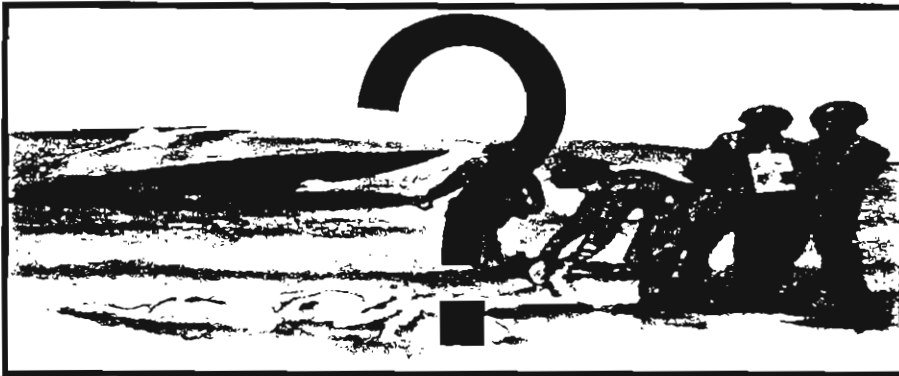
As such it may well act as a springboard for other scientific enquiries relating to UFOs in the near future.

#### LIST OF UFO INCIDENTS PRESENTED TO THE STURROCK PANEL:

- Vancouver Island, Canada. 1981 (photographic evidence).
- McCleod, Alberta, Canada. 27th Aug, 1956 (luminosity estimation).
- Fort-De-France, Martinique. Sep 1956 (luminosity estimation).
- Paris, Jan 28 1994. (Radar event).
- Haines City, Florida. Mar 1992 (Vehicle interference).
- Adelaide South Australia. 1977 (Vehicle interference).
- Liverpool Creek, Queensland, Australia. 1997 (Vehicle interference).
- Thaxted, Essex, UK. 1977 (Vehicle interference).
- Mount Rouge, Quebec, Canada. Sep 20 1992 (physiological effects).
- Eggardon Hill, UK. (physiological effects).
- Tyler, Texas, USA. Nov 1976 (physiological effects).
- Anderson, Indiana, USA. Aug 12 1981 (physiological effects).
- Barnsley, Yorkshire, UK. Aug 15 1986 (physiological effects).
- Dayton, Texas, USA. 29 Dec 1980. (physiological effects).
- Trans-En-Provence, France, Jan 8th 1981 (ground effects ).
- "Christelle". Nov 27 1979 (injuries to vegetation).
- "Amarante". Oct 21 1982 ( injuries to vegetation ).
- Joe Le Taxi. Sep 7th 1987 (injuries to vegetation).
- Mansfield, Ohio, USA. 18 Aug 1973 (gravitational-inertial anomalies).
- Council Bluffs, Iowa, USA. Dec 7 1977 (anomalous debris).
- Maury island, USA. Jan 21 1947 (anomalous debris).
- Campinas, Brazil. Dec 14 1954 (anomalous debris).
- Vaddo Island, Sweden. Nov 11 1956 (anomalous debris).
- Aurora, Texas, USA. April 17 1897 (anomalous debris).
- Washington, DC, USA. 1952 (anomalous debris).
- Ubatuba, Brazil. (anomalous debris).
- Maumee, Ohio, USA. 1967 (anomalous debris).

# CASTING DOUBT ON THE ALIEN AUTOPSY FILM.

PHILIP MANTLE



(c) Henrik Pedersen.

Much has been said and written about Ray Santilli and his famous (or infamous) 'Alien Autopsy' film. Released in 1995, this film is undoubtedly the most controversial piece of film in the entire history of UFO research.

Ray Santilli still to this day contends that the footage is authentic while others have denounced it as a special effects hoax, a scene from a South American B-movie, or even a 'snuff' movie supposedly showing the dissection of some poor unfortunate genetically deformed human being.

If one was to look at any of the arguments either for or against the film, it is quite clear that proof positive for any 'faction' does not exist. Evidence from a variety of people, myself included, has been put forward to either support the authenticity of the film or to show it to be a fraud.

On March 30, 1998, information came to me that eventually lead, in my opinion, to cast serious doubt on Ray Santilli's film. This doubt would not be cast on the autopsy sequences, or that allegedly depicting debris from the UFO crash, but on the not often seen 'tent footage'.

The tent footage was the first film shown to anyone outside of Ray Santilli's company. I myself saw it along with my wife in early 1995. According to Santilli, this film depicted one of the alien creatures being attended to by medical staff in a field tent of some kind out in the desert of New Mexico at the crash site. Unlike the autopsy and debris footage, the quality of this film is poor.

Although two people in white coats are visible apparently handling some kind of 'tissue' from the prone alien lying partially covered on a table in front of them, the film's poor quality does not allow their faces to be seen clearly. A further third, dark clothed figure appears in the film from time to time, with his back always to the camera. The camera itself seems to be fixed in the same position all the time and the film runs for only a few minutes.

The tent footage, along with the autopsy and debris film, was sold to many broadcasters in many different parts of the world who would eventually show the film in their respective countries. To date, only one TV company to my knowledge has shown the tent footage and that was in Japan in 1996. It could be that the tent footage was of such poor

quality that many of the broadcasters decided not to use it, but this is pure speculation.

I personally have shown the tent footage sequence at meetings and conferences in many different parts of the world including the UK, USA, Italy, Germany and France in order to give people the opportunity to view it, as it has not been released on TV or video.

On March 30, 1998, I received an email message from a gentleman called Keith A. Goodyear. The two line message simply read "Ok, I know something about the Santilli footage. I can identify without a shadow of a doubt.....Call me. Keith A.Goodyear" (telephone number omitted).

Quite naturally I was intrigued by this message and I replied via email but got no further response. I phoned the number given a few times but got no reply. I was about to give up but decided to phone again, this time the call was answered and I spoke to Keith Goodyear. In this initial conversation Keith informed me that he knew that the Santilli film was a fake and that he could identify one of the actors in it. I took some notes and asked Keith if I could call him again, this time to tape-record a formal interview. He agreed.

Out of the blue, and before I had the opportunity to record an interview with Keith Goodyear on tape, I received a telephone call late at night from American TV producer Bob Kiviat. Some will know Bob Kiviat for his documentary 'ALIEN AUTOPSY - FACT OR FICTION?' which was broadcast on the Fox Network in the US in 1995 and has subsequently been released on home video. This documentary came out in favour of the Santilli film being possibly authentic. This time, however, Bob Kiviat was making another documentary for the Fox Network labeling the Santilli film as an out-and-out hoax. Bob would not give me too many details but I mentioned that I had spoken to this chap Keith Goodyear who claimed to have some information that the film was a fake. Bob Kiviat's company spoke with Keith Goodyear and have a filmed interview with him, which is to be used as part of the documentary in question. To date (September 1998) this latest production by Bob Kiviat has not been broadcast in the USA.

It took me a while to reach Keith Goodyear again on the phone as I found out when I spoke to him again that he was very busy setting up a new company. After a few more phone calls I eventually set up a date to interview Keith on the telephone, on June 11 1998. The whole conversation was tape recorded. I will not use here the whole transcript of that taped interview but Keith Goodyear went on to inform me that he was primarily a video games programmer and was part of the management of a company in Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire, England.

Keith at one point used the services of another company in Milton Keynes for some music for some video games he was working on. This company was called A.R.K. Music. Keith spent a lot of time at their studios in Milton Keynes and became well acquainted with the people who owned it and their staff.

Sometime in 1997 (Keith does not know the exact date) Keith went to visit the owners of A.R.K. Music on a purely social visit. He had not seen them for quite a while. On the day in question, while in the office at A.R.K. the phone rang and the owner had a conversation with a chap called Ray Santilli. After this conversation was over (Keith does not know the content of it) he said "**Is that the Ray Santilli, the guy with the Roswell film ?**" With that the people at A.R.K. began laughing and went on to inform Keith that it was actually them who had made the film in question. They even went on to say that one of their employees by the name of Elliott could be seen in the film.

Keith was somewhat bemused by all this and he was eventually taken into the studio and shown some film which had not seen before but he could now clearly identify Elliott, he was one of the sound engineers at A.R.K. What still puzzled Keith was the fact that he still did not recognise the film as anything to do with the Santilli film. He was given a copy of the footage on video which he was allowed to keep and for quite a while he forgot about the whole episode.

Some 18 months or so later, Keith was in his office at home surfing the Internet and out of boredom more than anything typed in Roswell in his search facility to see what the latest news was.

Keith eventually came across a web site that was scrutinizing a segment of the Santilli film called the 'tent footage'. Keith had never realised that there were other parts of the film as he had only seen the autopsy and debris film on TV. He was amazed to discover that the film on the screen now before him labeled Santilli's 'tent footage' was in fact the film given to him by A.R.K. featuring Elliott, one of their technicians, a copy of which he had been given some one and half years earlier.

Keith dashed off to search through his video collection and eventually found the video given to him by A.R.K. Music. Matching it with the images on the web site there was no doubt that they were the same. It was at this point that Keith thought that he should inform someone of this and he sent a few emails out, one of which was to me.

Keith went on to inform me that A.R.K. Music had gone out of business in 1998 and that its owners were Keith Bateman and Andy Price Watts. It was Keith Bateman who had given Keith a copy of the tent footage and claimed to have made it. Keith had no information on A.R.K.'s dealing with Ray Santilli but was under the impression that the tent footage was made for another company for a video called "Penetrating The Web". Keith had very little interest in the Santilli film and had no objection to his name or any of this information being made public.

Locating Keith Bateman and Andy Price Watts was very easy and I wish to thank my colleague Tim Matthews of the Lancashire UFO Society for doing this for me. Tim contacted Companies House and obtained the company records of the now defunct A.R.K. Music. On the records were the home addresses of these two individual and the addresses and phone numbers of other companies that they were still directors of.

Despite several letters, faxes and phone calls to the two gentlemen in question (Keith Bateman & Andy Price Watts) they never replied. An edited version of the transcribed interview with Keith Goodyear (removing peoples names) was released on the Internet by me and a copy was sent to Ray Santilli for comment. Before Santilli could comment I was telephoned by a former colleague of Santilli's who informed me that the tent footage was

indeed a fake. According to this person (name omitted) Ray had given A.R.K. some original film to 'clean up'. They gave Ray the film back and a copy on video.

Ray took this video copy back to the USA to show the alleged original cameraman and collect the autopsy film. The cameraman apparently stated that he was unsure of this film (tent footage) and could not remember much, if anything about it. Upon return to the UK apparently A.R.K. admitted faking the film claiming that the original film (celluloid) given to them for cleaning by Santilli was blank so they concocted this all as a bit of a joke. According to Santilli's colleague it was now too late as people had seen the tent footage, so Ray quite naturally decided at this point to distance himself from this segment of film without admitting that it was faked as a joke by A.R.K. Music. Apparently Santilli was extremely angry over this matter. Santilli's colleague went on to add that the autopsy film itself was still authentic.

In response to my release of the Keith Goodyear interview on the Internet Ray Santilli Internet Ray Santilli issued a reply on June 17, 1998:

#### **THE TENT FOOTAGE.**

*Philip Mantle has informed me that he has secured an interview from someone claiming to have information regarding the 'Tent Footage'.*

*As a great deal has been made of the so-called 'Tent Footage' I would like to clarify the situation and place the following on record:*

*The Tent Footage was the first material I collected from the cameraman, it was in the form of 16mm film and in very poor condition. I brought it back to England and asked a studio facility in Buckinghamshire to retrieve whatever image they could from it. A few weeks after delivery the studio presented me with the film which has become known as the 'Tent Footage'. I was told that this was all that could be retrieved from the film.*

*I had informed the cameraman by telephone that we were able to retrieve some image and indeed showed the film to Philip Mantle and other interested parties.*

*I returned to the States later to collect the main film and showed the 'Tent Footage' on VHS to the*

to the cameraman. At this point he stated that he DID NOT remember either the image being portrayed or the style in which it had been filmed. I was concerned but collected the remaining film (which was in better condition) and returned to the United Kingdom.

Upon my return I contacted the studio to find out more about the images from the 'Tent Footage'. I got the impression that as a joke the film had been interfered with, but nobody was owning up. This meant that with regard to the 'Tent Footage' I was uncertain as to what was real and what was not, and if the film had been interfered with, I could not use it.

**THIS IS WHY I COMPLETELY PULLED BACK FROM USING THE FILM.**

As a result I INFORMED ALL PARTIES that had come into contact with the Tent Footage (and I am sure they will confirm this) that I was NOT CONFIDENT with regard to the Tent Footage and further that it should NOT be used in conjunction with the autopsy film, this instruction went to all broadcasters including Fox (Bob Kiviat).

Indeed when Kiviat wanted to use the Tent Footage for a subsequent program I was totally against it. However, he still wished to use it and to that end he provided me with a written disclaimer dated November 1995 which was to be used. The situation regarding the Tent Footage was known to all, it was not appropriate to use it as it may have been interfered with.

It was the only thing I could do, as I did not want it to compromise the main autopsy film. I believe I did the responsible thing in removing the Tent Footage from circulation at the very beginning. My position regarding the Autopsy film and the reels recovered remains unchanged. Any discussion regarding the Tent Footage is completely irrelevant.

**I DID NOT USE THAT STUDIO AGAIN, AND NEITHER THE STUDIO OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDIO HAD ANYTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE AUTOPSY FILM. THE AUTOPSY FILM IS WHAT IT IS, AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT."**

Ray Santilli.

Later that same day (June 17, 1998) I received another email from Santilli in response to me informing him of his colleague's phone call detailing that the Tent Footage was indeed a fake. Santilli stated:

"Dear Philip,

The information G— gave you was not quite correct. I mentioned to him my feelings about what may have happened to the Tent Footage when he first got involved but the statement I have already sent you (above) is what happened. I asked him to call you as I was with someone for most of the day. I didn't realise he would go into detail regarding my thoughts on the film.

In any event my position does not change. If you want to talk to any of the people at the studio please go ahead, indeed it will prove nothing more than what is stated above.

Do you really think with all the money that was on offer for people to come forward years ago, the studio people would have kept quiet if they were involved? Of course not...I am sure the guy you interviewed will enjoy his short moment of fame, but it cannot go any further.

Best Regards,  
Ray Santilli."

If what Ray Santilli says above is true then has someone simply made a mistake here? The truth in fact lies in Santilli's own statement. If, as Ray has stated, that he suspected that the film (tent footage) had been interfered with upon his arrival back in the UK with the main autopsy film, then he would have simply not sent the film out to the various broadcasters as this did not happen until much, much later.

Could it be instead that he later tried to withdraw the film when he discovered it was indeed a hoax and that Elliott could be identified as he indeed was by Keith Goodyear? Why, for example would one of Santilli's former close colleagues telephone me (at Ray's request) to state quite categorically that the tent footage was indeed a hoax? This same colleague was involved with Santilli and the film right from the very beginning and was therefore in a position to know what had happened.

I myself attended a meeting in London with a TV production company called Union Pictures who

were making a Roswell documentary for Channel Four in the UK. Many senior Channel Four executives were there that evening to see the autopsy film presented by Ray Santilli. Not only was the autopsy film shown that evening but also the tent footage.

This was of course long after Ray's return with the main autopsy film as Ray showed it that night. Why therefore would he show the tent footage to Union Pictures and senior Channel Four executives he if already knew, by his own admission above, that the tent footage had been interfered with by A.R.K. Music?

The only conclusion I can draw from this is that Ray Santilli has been somewhat liberal with the truth and that the tent footage is 100% fake. A sequence of the tent footage did appear on the video *Penetrating the Web 2* produced by Bruce Barlow. Barlow has now dropped out of circulation but when I spoke to him in 1995 he would not tell me from where he obtained the tent footage. When Santilli was asked by me how his tent footage was used on a video his answer was vague to say the least.

When one considers all of the above the only conclusion can be that the tent footage is indeed a complete fake, probably manufactured by A.R.K. Music in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England. Although I have been one of the alien autopsy film's biggest supporters over the last few years, I have no option but to state that this evidence now casts serious doubts on the remainder of Santilli's film.

Bob Kiviat's claims to have more evidence which will be revealed in his up-coming program and yet another American UFO researcher is working on other information that might shed light on the autopsy film itself being a fake. Only time will tell if this proves to be correct or not.

## DEVON UFO/PARANORMAL "LINK" CASE.

### Malcolm Robinson.

The following case not only has information concerning UFOs, but also contained elements relating to ghosts. Due to witness confidentiality, I cannot disclose in which particular town in Devon these incidents took place, nor am I at liberty to disclose the true identities of those individuals involved. What I can do is give a brief outline of what happened. At a later date, I shall be doing a full write-up of this case. For now though, here are some of the salient details.

Both myself and Ms. Judith M. Jaafar travelled down to Devon from our home in London on Saturday 11th July, 1998. It took us just under 5 hours to reach our destination in conditions that were wet and wild to say the least. Arriving at the location, we were met by witness, B.P. who made us feel most welcome, after which we sat down to hear a most fascinating tale of the strange goings on that have occurred in the witness' home. B.P. informed us that these strange events started in November 1991, and consisted mostly of ghostly manifestations in his home.

It was around this time that all family members found it hard trying to sleep. B.P. related the tune in which he woke up with 'something' pushing against his chest. He couldn't see what was causing this pressure. Most strange events tended to occur between the times of 03:00am and 03:30am, and all family members felt and sensed that 'something else' was in their room with them.

One night, B.P.'s wife woke up and saw what appeared to be four 'people' in her room. The only thing was, they were transparent and were wearing what appeared to be old fashioned clothing. Incredibly though, standing further back from them, was what she described as a tall 'grey' creature, similar it must be said, to the oft-reported greys of UFO lore. Footsteps could also be heard pacing the hallway during the night, footsteps which couldn't be accounted for by any member of the family. B.P. also stated that on some occasions he could smell the



faint aroma of tobacco smoke, yet nobody in the house smoked. (B.P. and his son used to be smokers but gave it up some years ago).

B.P.'s son also told us that on one occasion, in the early hours of the morning, he encountered a strange 'being' or 'thing' standing in his doorway. He could only describe it as looking something very similar to the children's cartoon character, 'Captain Caveman'. Unnerved, he pushed against this 'presence' and told us that it felt as if he was pushing against warm jelly, or warm air, but that there was a distinct substance to it. He said that it had long, straggly hair and looked decidedly hideous.

After a few seconds, this presence started to decompose, as if to frighten him even more, and then just 'melted away' and was gone. As the weeks progressed, more and more mysterious events unfolded in the home and deciding that enough was enough, the family sought out the services of a Spiritualist who visited their home and conducted some kind of 'cleansing ceremony'. This appeared to work for a few days, and things were decidedly quiet, but sadly events erupted again B.P. went on to inform us of the time when the family heard distinct moaning and screaming coming from the son's bedroom, noises which were full of cursing and obscenities. Their initial thought was that their son had lost control and was upset at something, then they realised that their son wasn't at home! Upon entering their 26 year old son's bedroom, the terrified couple encountered...nothing.

On another occasion, B.P.'s son was coming home when he observed that all over the house were streaks of light. "It was like a laser-light show", he said. He also saw these streaks of light in some of the rooms in his house as he approached ever closer. B.P. and his wife have also seen what they call 'balls of light' appearing in their home. They are the size of tennis balls, although on other occasions they appear to be the size of Ping-Pong balls.

These lights will move around the house and then suddenly 'pop' into nothing. At no time have any members of the family been able to touch these balls of light. They again called for the Spiritualist chap to visit their house, where he again conducted a cleansing ceremony. This time it appeared to work, for no more apparitions were encountered, although

the family did state, that although they have not encountered any ghosts over the past few years, they can still 'sense' them!!

It was around the time that the ghosts began to depart, that B.P.'s son started to encounter the typical small grey appearing in his bedroom. He said that on a number of occasions he would wake up to find this small head with those big black wrap-around eyes, looking at him. But it was the way in which this head looked over him that proved most interesting to him.

He stated that it moved in a very peculiar manner B.P.'s wife also informed us of the time in which she had a strange dream, a dream of meeting, (as she called it), 'aliens'. Upon waking up, she experienced a painful feeling on the side of her head. Over the course of the next few days, her hair all fell out on this spot, and she was left with a small circular 'bald spot' on her head. She went to the doctor about this, but he was unable to offer her an explanation. However, her hair did return, but incredibly, not as you would normally have it. It grew back pure white. Thankfully, her normal hair colour did come back eventually.

It was around this time that B.P. was in a situation which warranted the use of hypnosis. He couldn't recall where certain important documents were, and as they were vitally important to his legal 'situation', he felt that he should perhaps use hypnosis in an effort to retrieve those memories. And so he went along to visit a female hypnotherapist. However, this visit was to prove more incredible than he could ever imagine. For under hypnosis, B.P. related seeing 'alien creatures' with large cat-like eyes. He also told of seeing a saucer-like craft which contained a door or a hatch, and which was dark inside. He saw what looked like a radar screen in front of him, and then felt that he was travelling in this craft and seeing clouds passing below him as he looked out of a window.

This, and other recollections came tumbling out during his hypnosis session. I should point out, that prior to this hypnosis session, B.P. had never witnessed any what could be termed 'aliens' in or around his home, and he still hasn't. It was only under hypnosis that these strange events unfolded. The family had no prior interest in UFOs, hadn't bought any books, but admitted to watching the odd



T.V. show concerning them.

At one point, as B.P. was relating these events, he started rubbing his head and complained of a 'soreness' just above the eyes. This only lasted a few minutes and then it subsided. One of the most fascinating episodes that B.P. related, concerned the time in which the whole family encountered something strange in B.P.'s bedroom. Things had become so bad that the family had started sleeping in the one bedroom. The mother and father slept in the main bed, whilst the son slept on a mattress at the side of the bed.

This night B.P. woke up to find the whole room lit up by a shimmering glow. He awoke his son, and as the son diverted his gaze in the direction of the main source of light, he claimed to have seen a large grey 'being'. (B.P. did not see this being). They both looked at the mother, who was lying flat on the bed with her arms outstretched with her eyes shut.

She was mumbling something but they couldn't make out what. As it later transpired they found out that just prior to them seeing this strange light, the mother had in fact, been dreaming of seeing this 'alien' in her bedroom and tried to wake up to tell both her son and husband. Anyway, a few seconds later, this swirling, misty light-effect rolled up into a ball, as if a large vacuum cleaner was sucking at it. It then dissolved into a small funnel of light, and with a 'pop' was gone!!

These are but some of the points that came out of our investigation into this case, and as I mentioned earlier, I will be submitting a full report at a later date



**Malcolm Robison**

## The Papuan UFO Wave of 1959 - A Re-Examination

Christopher D. Allan.

In 1959, during which the US and Russia were hotly engaged in the early years of the space race, UFO sightings in the USA and Europe were at a low ebb. Abductions were still several years in the future, and interest in the contactees had tailed off from the halcyon days of the early 1950's, despite the fact that George Adamski was busy on a world lecture tour.

It was in this year that a unique series of sightings took place in a remote corner of the globe - the southeastern tip of Papua New Guinea. Unique because no similar UFO wave in Papua has occurred before or since, even though Australasia has had its fair share of UFO reports over the years.

In 1959 Papua, as it was then called, was administered by Australia. Most of its population were natives living in primitive conditions. Amongst them were a few European missionaries, doctors and teachers, plus a handful of District Officers.

The best resumé of the Papuan UFO wave is a report by The Rev. Norman E.G. Cruttwell of the Anglican Mission at Menapi, Papua. Prepared in March 1960 it had only limited circulation, but a full reprint (of 36 pages) appears in **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Special Issue number 4 (August 1971)**. Most of what follows is taken from Cruttwell's report.

Of special significance in the report are two remarkable CE3 sightings, wherein a UFO and its occupants were observed at close range on two successive evenings in late June 1959, hovering near a mission station and witnessed by no less than 38 people, including the principal witness, the Reverend William Booth Gill, a missionary stationed at All Saints, Boianai, Papua. Father Gill was an old friend of Cruttwell's, both of whom had come to Papua in 1946.

In duration these two sightings lasted, on and off, for several hours on each day, and seemed to climax the whole Papuan wave that summer.

I shall deal with these two close encounters later, but it should be stressed that although Cruttwell's report covers the period from October 1958 to November 1959 and lists some 75 sightings in all, nearly every one occurred either in the early evening or at night, including the two close encounters. Cruttwell attaches much weight to the eyewitness testimony in these reports, saying of the sightings "*Many others were as fantastic as the Rev. W.B.Gill's. One cannot be isolated from the rest, they stand or fall together*" (FSR, p.3).

Any informed modern investigator, on reading his report would, however, be bound to have their doubts. In fact none of the other reports are remotely comparable with the Gill CE3, and the majority are merely erratically behaving nocturnal lights. Had Allan Hendry's *The UFO Handbook* been available to Cruttwell at the time, he might have been far less enthusiastic over the significance of these lights, as we shall see.

Rev. Cruttwell was a staunch UFO believer (he had seen one UFO himself and had read several books on the subject) who, in 1958, had been recruited by the editor of **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**, Brinsley le Poer Trench (later Lord Clancarty), to act as local observer and investigator for New Guinea in the International UFO Observer Corps. He warmed to his task and within twelve months had amassed a huge file of sightings; his final report was submitted to Waveney Girvan, the new FSR editor, in March 1960, who welcomed it with open arms as some of the best evidence for the ETH then available. After all, Rev. Gill was a man in holy orders, of impeccable character and obviously not the sort to fabricate such a tale.

In fact Cruttwell's report was not the very first to appear, although it is by far the most comprehensive. There had been an earlier summary in the September 1959 issue of **Light**, a periodical of the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau. The **Australasian Post** of October 15, 1959 also had a feature article on the Gill sightings. Another report on the Gill encounters was by Peter Norris of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society in Melbourne. Norris' report was submitted to **APRO** in October, who embraced it much as **FSR** did Cruttwell's report. The other major UFO organisation in the US, **NICAP**, was somewhat less enthusiastic,

its Director, Major Donald Keyhoe, being adverse to accepting any UFO report containing accounts of 'entities'. However, in a privately published book in 1961 entitled **The Challenge of UFOs**, Charles A. Maney (a **NICAP** board member) and Richard Hall (its secretary), made up for this by devoting several pages to the Gill sightings.

As far as I can ascertain, there was little or no mention in the contemporary newspapers, either in Papua or Australia, of the Gill sightings. Neither Cruttwell nor later writers mention any such press accounts. Considering the startling nature of the Gill reports, this is surely surprising.

To get to the sightings themselves, readers unfamiliar with them should read Cruttwell's report and make up their own minds. As I say, the great majority are nocturnal lights. These do not impress as much as Cruttwell would have us believe. Some of them are reported as resembling 'Tilley Lamps' (kerosene lamps used by Europeans and the better-off natives), others as 'kaleidoscopic lights'. Still others are described as meteor-like or as star-like, being stationary for many minutes, sometimes as colour changing or with a swaying motion. Others have dark bands surrounding them, sometimes with 'portholes', sometimes with shafts of light emanating from them. One is described as a rotating colored ball, another as a 'domed ship' and so on.

Nowadays a rigorous investigator would, or certainly should, be on guard against taking such reports at face value, but Cruttwell seems to go by the principle that the more sightings he can collect the better. There is no sign of any real investigation by anyone. No doubt the young natives of Papua were encouraged by Cruttwell to report anything and everything that could remotely be called unusual to enable him to swell his UFO file. And of course there was always the chance of 'catching a glimpse of an artificial satellite, an exciting new concept for the native inhabitants of a place like Papua. (I am not saying that any of the sightings are explainable as satellites; better explanations are available).

### **The Close Encounters**

The two CE3s occurred at Boianai during the evenings of June 26th and 27th, 1959. On the 26th the watching session lasted from 6.45pm to 11.00pm and involved four UFOs, including one large orange-

colored UFO in the northwest which descended to about 500 ft altitude

This "object" had 4 "men" on its "top deck", who appeared and disappeared over a 20-minute period. This vaguely boater-hat shaped UFO (which Gill called the "mother ship") also had "legs" jutting out beneath it. Blue spotlights were also seen emanating from this "ship". The UFOs slowly moved off one by one, the last disappearing at about 10.30pm. There were in all 38 witnesses to this spectacle, 25 of whom signed the report (the rest were children). Father Gill says that when he first came outside the mission house he glanced up looking for Venus (why?), saw it, then just above Venus saw the big "very very bright" UFO which began descending towards them.

On the 27th the events were repeated, starting from about 6.00pm. There were three UFOs, including the big "mother ship" seen the previous evening, which again had "men" standing on its "top-deck". This time Gill and others waved to the "beings", who promptly waved back! Again a blue spotlight came on for a few seconds. After the natives directed several flashes of a torch at the ship, the UFO made reversing motions, slowly got bigger and seemed to approach the watchers, then stopped.

Father Gill, who made notes, then says: "At 6.30pm: I went to dinner". When he came out again at 7.00pm the big one was still present but "appeared somewhat smaller". After Evensong at 7.45pm the UFOs had gone and the sky was clouded over again. Again, a number of others also witnessed these events.

These are only brief summaries. For full details, see Cruttwell's report (**FSR Special issue no.4, p.14-19**).

### **A Few Other Reports (In Brief):**

There was a third night of activity at Boianai on the 28th June, starting at 6.45pm. At one point, at about 11.00pm, eight UFOs were seen. The main UFO did appear but was somewhat smaller and no 'men' were observed. Some of the UFOs were still present at 11.30 pm.

On June 26 a witness at Giwa saw a bright "shooting star" at about 7.15pm. It glowed greenish-

white and had a dark band encircling it. It also had 'portholes'. Cruttwell says this sighting "is a remarkable confirmation of Father Gill's observations", despite the differing description. Cruttwell says "it was obviously equally out of this world"

In June 27 three observers at Baniara saw a "bright white spherical light in the NNW and high in the sky". It appeared "like a sparkler". It emitted shafts of green light. The UFO was stationary, then began moving towards the west. What appeared to be "a round, bronzed-colored disc below and to the right of the bright light" kept pace with it, until both disappeared in the west at 8.45 pm. Cruttwell says: "This sighting is a most remarkable one" and that the observers were "intelligent and observant men". In fact this sighting has an obvious solution which Cruttwell never considers.

On July 6 one of the above observers, Mr. R. L. Smith, Patrol Officer at Baniara, saw another very bright UFO at 12.50 am, long after Venus had set. This UFO was seen for almost an hour. There was no main disc this time, but Mr Smith was convinced the object was the same one he had seen on June 27th.

Also on July 6th at Dogura at least ten people saw a "brilliant spot of white light" moving in a circular motion at 8.40pm in the northwest. The witness signing the report, Rev. David F. Duric, is said by Cruttwell to be "a man of great qualifications", who served in the Royal Australian Air Force and who "knows a good deal about aircraft and a lot about stars".

However, it is here that we get a valuable clue in that one of the witnesses, a college chaplain, decided to get his camera. When he returned the UFO had gone but although he first thought the object was a UFO he later changed his mind and maintained it must have been Venus. The other witnesses, who included Father Gill, were convinced it was a UFO. This is indeed rare. How often does one of a group of UFO witnesses later change his mind and relegate the object to the ordinary? Why would this man have realised what, in all probability, the UFO was whilst the others did not? Cruttwell has a ready answer: the dissenter went inside briefly and thus, unlike the rest, did not see the UFO move.

There were many other cases during 1958-59, too numerous to list here. As I said, the majority are of the nocturnal light variety and therefore only of passing interest, but they help to add much "padding" to Crutwell's report, even though they are almost certainly not true UFOs but IFOs.

There are a number of clues in the Crutwell report suggesting that astronomical objects do indeed account for the great majority of the sightings, including just possibly (difficult I admit!) the close encounters of Rev. Gill.

Crutwell writes (p.20 of FSR, *ibid.*): *"The sightings at Boianai are at first sight so fantastic that it is not surprising that many people have refused to accept them as true, and consider that Father Gill, although obviously a sincere man, must either have imagined it all, or have seen some ordinary object such as Venus and misinterpreted it. Others admit that he may have seen some unidentified object in the sky but that his report is enormously exaggerated"*.

So it is clear that Venus was being seriously considered as the culprit at the time. It is also pretty obvious from the Dogura report (above) that Rev. Gill could not recognise Venus when he saw it. Crutwell is reluctant to admit this, understandably.

In September Peter Norris of the Victorian Flying Saucer Society contacted the RAAF Director of Intelligence about the Gill sightings. The latter replied that they would make enquiries, and in due course Squadron Leader D. F. Gibson interviewed Father Gill. Eventually, on Feb. 22 1960, the RAAF gave their official reply to Norris as follows:

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th January 1960. An Officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend W. Gill's report of UFO activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to appropriate authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201 (AAA) dated 14th February 1957, such reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the objects observed by the Rev. W. Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings

**and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers, and the unsettled tropical weather could give the impression of size and rapid movement.**

Yours faithfully,  
(sgd.) F. E. Lang, Squadron/Leader.

This reply is more astonishing for what it omits than for what it says. Why does Lang mention the planets Mars, Jupiter & Saturn but not the brightest of all, Venus, which was very conspicuous at the time? It is an extraordinary omission. Were the RAAF exceedingly ignorant, or were they actually implying that the "mother ship" was Venus but were reluctant to say so for fear of insulting Father Gill's intelligence?

Whatever the RAAF's motives, Crutwell takes Lang's letter to mean that the main UFO remains unidentified. He adds, however:

*"Father Gill says that he is quite prepared to accept the possibility that some of the smaller objects could have been planets, though from their apparent size and behaviour it is very hard to believe"*. (FSR, p.20 *ibid.*).

Here we have made a step forward. On June 26th and 27th, Gill and others reported all of these 'smaller objects' as UFOs. A few months later he was prepared to retract this and admit they were merely planets. Why the volte-face? In reality this is a considerable climbdown, implying that only the CE3 remained outstanding.

Crutwell adds that even by March 1960 nobody had yet done anything to determine the positions of these planets on the crucial days, but that Mr. Norris was now asking "the Melbourne Official Astronomer" to check into it. (This was some 9 months after the events).

Numerous writers have dealt with the Gill case, including Coral Lorenzen, Jerome Clark, J. Allen Hynek (in both of his books), Allan Hendry, Jacques Vallee and sceptics Donald Menzel, Philip Klass and more recently Martin Kottmeyer with a new angle in Issue 54 of *Magonia* (pp11-14).

Menzel, Klass and Hynek all raise the legitimate point about Gill going in to dinner just as the UFO was very close and seemingly about to land.

They ask: would anyone, genuinely believing he was about to witness possibly the first ever landing of an alien intelligence on earth, abandon his watch merely to satisfy his pangs of hunger? Was this really credible?

In later years Father Gill (who visited both the UK and the US) tried to answer this by saying that he had observed the UFO for four hours the previous night, that having remained stationary for a long time it still showed no sign of landing, and that anyway he had by then assumed the object was some secret American device.

Dr. Menzel proposed the fantastic solution that Gill was very myopic, had seen a distorted Venus without his glasses on and that the 'men' were merely the out of focus images of his eyelashes! He discounted the supporting witnesses. To strengthen his case Menzel said that Gill never reported seeing Venus and the UFO. In fact, Gill did report seeing both as Cruttwell's report makes clear (FSR p.17). So Menzel's answer goes out the window..... Or does it? Although Allan Hendry established that Gill was wearing his glasses at the time, and even displays Gill's optometric records (see "The UFO Handbook", p.275). It is still conceivable that Menzel got it partly right, even though it stretches the reported facts to the extreme. I decided to compute the positions of the four

**Fig 1: Planetary Positions for June 26 1959 (Papua).**  
 Papua local civil time is Greenwich Mean Time + 10 hours.  
 Latitude = -10:00 S, Longitude = 149:50 E.

Day = 1959.06.26		Venus (mag -4.3)		Mars (mag 1.4)	
Local Time	Azimuth	Altitude	Azimuth	Altitude	
18.00	302°	41°	301°	37°	
19.00	295°	28°	294°	24°	
20.00	290°	15°	290°	10°	
21.00	286°	Set at	287°	Set at	
		21.03 hrs		20.46 hrs	
		Jupiter (mag -2.4)		Saturn (mag 0.9)	
Local Time	Azimuth	Altitude	Azimuth	Altitude	
18.00	105°	43°	112°	3°	
19.00	107°	58°	110°	17°	
20.00	116°	71°	110°	31°	
21.00	164°	82°	112°	45°	
22.00	237°	75°	117°	58°	
23.00	251°	62°	132°	71°	
24.00	254°	48°	179°	77°	

**Sunset was at 17:50 hrs at an azimuth of 293 °.**

planets for two days during the UFO wave. (see above).

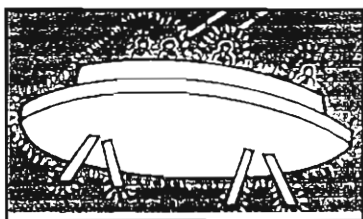
The proximity of Mars to Venus is apparent, with only a 4° gap between them. Mars setting just 17 minutes earlier.

for July 6th, the figures for Venus are virtually the same; those for Mars show it is slightly lower in the sky than before, the gap between the two widening to 7°.

The Jupiter & Saturn positions change a little, with Jupiter at its zenith around 9.00pm on both days and not setting until long after midnight. Saturn is at its zenith around midnight each day.

So the obvious question is: **had Gill mistaken Mars for Venus and Venus for the "UFO"?** Look at his description of the UFO positions. Look also at the Baniara sighting of June 27th. Venus and Mars again?

Look at the Dogura event. Venus was in the exact position as the "UFO" seen by over ten people, **including Gill himself.**



Father Gill's UFO  
 (John Rimmer).

R. I. Smith's sighting of July 6 sounds very much like Jupiter. After studying the reported approximate positions of the UFOs, almost all the "night lights" must be under suspicion either as Venus or other bright planets or stars. A few may be meteors. I repeat: if Hendry's book had been available in 1959 very few of Cruttwell's 70-odd reports would have passed muster.

If anyone thinks the Mars/Venus/UFO scenario too far-fetched let them read *The UFO Handbook* (p.28) where Hendry tells of four instances where Venus was seen at the same time as a claimed UFO (the UFO turned out to be Venus and "Venus" was in fact Jupiter), of another case where a woman had seen Venus, stopped watching for a few hours, then looked again but had not realised that Venus had set and Jupiter had taken its place! In yet another case a CEE event turned out to be Venus (Ibid. p85). Granted, this last one was a single-witness case and cannot be compared with Gill's multiple-witness one.

When all is said and done, however much we stretch the facts I still feel Gill's CEE remains an enigma. Was it largely the result of his imagination? Did Gill get overexcited and grossly exaggerate his report? Were the young native Papuans influenced by their leader into seeing things that were not there?

Another point: how much contact had Gill had with the subject before his sighting? Was he a reader of science fiction? How much was he, and others, sucked into the flying saucer euphoria and led into misreporting bright stars and planets as UFOs, especially when he later conceded the majority were IFOs? Why has the Papua wave never been repeated? The answers will likely never be known.

The **Cargo Cult** movement has been linked to these UFO sightings. The Cargo Cult is a religious movement of the SW Pacific characterised by expectation of the return of spirits in ships or aircraft bearing goods that will provide for the needs of the followers. But in an afterword to the FSR special issue, Gordon Creighton assures us that this cult does not operate in Papua New Guinea.

In these days of saucer crashes, autopsies of aliens, alleged cover-ups and the incessant stream of abduction tales the simple sighting of a UFO with occupants by primitive peoples in a remote corner of

the globe many years ago is almost forgotten; but it still remains an interesting and fascinating enigma. Maybe we could conclude by calling it a true unknown and leave it at that.

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# THE HOWDEN MOORS INCIDENT

## - Part 2 -

### DAVID CLARKE

Part 1 of this article (featured in Issue 5 of the **BUFORA BULLETIN**) relayed the widely-observed apparent "crash" of an object variously described as a fiery wingless cigar or a large four-seater aircraft with luminous windows near Howden Moors, Derbyshire, at around 10pm on Monday, March 24, 1997. However, despite an intensive and protracted search no trace of any aircraft was discovered.....

This event was soon to be given notable status by the British UFO community. Based on his enquires into this event, UFO researcher Max Burns stated the following;

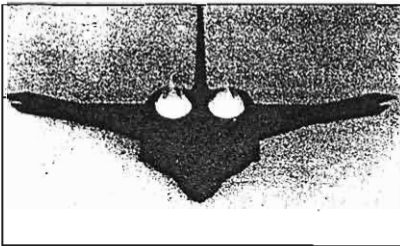
*"On March 24 1997...a UFO and Six RAF Tornado jets were in pursuit of a 300 foot Flying Triangle UFO, which hovered, at times, within feet of houses in Dronfield, Sheffield. The British Geological survey instrumentation at three sites on March 24, 1997 recorded two airburst explosions. It is believed a UFO conducted a hostile attack on aircraft that were in pursuit. Apparently, one RAF jet was lost and two bodies were recovered from a mountain reservoir the next morning....."*

If correct, this would indicate that the Howden Moors event was indeed the U.K's

answer to the Roswell Incident. It is also a view that is also supported by some of the known facts relating to this case. For example there **were** indeed two "airbursts explosions" recorded that night by the BGS (which they attributed them to aircraft moving (probably illegally) at supersonic speeds).

#### The Dronfield FT Event:

At approximately 2130 hrs, about half a hour before the Howden Moor "aircrash" event, several inhabitants of Dronfield (a town located on the outskirts of Sheffield) observed a huge triangular "UFO" flying at an estimated altitude of around 300 feet.



This UFO" had "pinkish" coloured lights around its curved edges and a blinding blue light on its underside which "*lit up the street as bright as day*". It also reportedly emitted a "droning" noise akin to an "*electricity substation*".

The UFO moved away in a northerly direction, followed a couple of minutes later by two fast moving "military jets", also flying at a low altitude. As to their identity, several observers stated they resembled Tornado fighter-bomber aircraft. These

proceeded to move away in the same direction as the "UFO". A very short time later they were followed by two more identical military jets, moving at the same altitude and direction as the previous group of aircraft.

One of the Dronfield witnesses was an ex-RAF officer. He reported how he distinctly heard both a single engine plane and, minutes later, two jets (possibly Tornados) "*flying so low that they shook the foundations*" of his house.

On face value these reports appear to bear out Max Burn's assertions. However, it later transpired there was a pre-scheduled military exercise occurring in that vicinity on the 24th March 1997. This obviously increases the likelihood of "fast-moving Tornados" innocently overflying the Dronfield area (UFOs or no UFOs)! Furthermore, none of the Peak Park witnesses described either seeing a triangular shaped UFO or one or more Tornados; only a single object more comparable to a four-seater plane – or luminous cigar – than a jetfighter or a "*flying triangle*".

Assuming a connection between the Dronfield sightings and the Howden Moors event, do we perceive the latter as involving the "crash" of a UFO or that of a Tornado jetfighter? It could be proposed that it involved a "UFO"; the lack of wreckage due to the UFO being totally vaporised by a critical malfunction of it's (hypothetically potent) "powerplant". However, (even allowing for this extreme possibility) how did any bodies survive the apparent total disintegration of this craft, to be (supposedly) recovered from the reservoir a short time later? That said, the rumours of "recovered bodies" are probably baseless,

as I will shortly demonstrate. Furthermore, **all** of the Peak Park area witnesses reported seeing either an aircraft or cigar-like form, **not a triangular shaped "UFO"**!

Claiming that the Howden event involved a Tornado crash makes little sense, either. To begin with, we have the total lack of **any aircraft wreckage or other telltale signs of an air crash!** We know from Brian Jones' statement (relating to a Tornado accident on the moors occurring in 1991) that the crash of a military jet-fighter – even in the Peak Parks area – would have been very evident.

One cannot escape this problem by postulating that an aircraft crashed into either the Broomhead or Strines reservoirs. These reservoirs were searched, but **no** aircraft (or remains of one) were discovered. There were no fuelslicks on the reservoir, and buoyant sections of the aircraft **would** surely have floated to (or on) the surface; as any footage of an air crash occurring over a body of water will clearly demonstrate.

Finally, it would be a very easy matter to show that the RAF lost two pilots during this period of time. But, to date, no-one has presented the names of the two pilots said to have been lost in this "crash". These aircrew losses **would** have been officially noted in **some** manner, regardless of how those pilots **actually** met their deaths.

#### **RESERVOIR "BODY-BAGS".....**

It was rumoured a short time after the Howden moors incident that some Yorkshire Water workers had seen body bags being pulled out of a reservoir during the operation, which were subsequently whisked away by a Sea King helicopter. The witnesses to these events had been told (in



true cover-up fashion) to keep quiet. However, David Clarke located the workers concerned; he found that - far from being "silenced" - they were only too willing to talk. None of them remembered any body bags, but they clearly recalled that (towards the end of the search) they had been asked to check the surface of the reservoirs for signs of debris or an oil slick, of which they found no trace of.

### **The Ladybower "Tornado Pilot".**

Although the claims of bodies being recovered from reservoirs appears to be baseless, things took an unexpected twist when another piece of evidence was uncovered, which seemingly added weight to the supposition that one or more Tornados had been "downed" by a UFO on the 24th March 1997 near the Peak District. However, the actual facts underlying this event point to somewhat more prosaic possibilities.....

Mr. E.V (a trainee RAF air propulsion mechanic) contacted the police on the night of March 24, 1997, to report seeing a man behaving suspiciously on the Snake Pass A57 road at Ladybower near Sheffield. This was roughly one hour after the various 999 calls to police reporting a "plane crash" on Howden Moor.

E.V had been returning with a group of friends on a minibus from an outdoor pursuits centre near Glossop at 11pm, which was travelling across the Snake Pass towards Sheffield. When crossing the Ladybower viaduct over the reservoir the bus was flagged down by a man who was acting suspiciously. According to E.V;

*"[This man] spoke little English and was West Indian or Asian in appearance, with short black hair and a round face. He*

*did not seem to know where he was and just said he wanted to get to Sheffield. The guy was covered in fuel of some sort and from the smell I thought it was paraffin or diesel, but since then I have joined the RAF and I can say it was a smell like aviation fuel. We didn't give the man a lift because the bus was full and we didn't like the look of him, but I thought it was odd because there were no parked cars anywhere near and it was a deserted spot....."*

When E.V returned home to Rotherham, his parents told him about the search for the mystery plane on the Derbyshire moors. The following morning (on the 25th March) E.V reported this incident to South Yorkshire Police, but heard no more about it. At no time did E.V connect this man with UFOs, aliens or Tornado fighters shot down over the moors.

Almost a year later he received a letter from UFO researcher Max Burns (who had obtained his home address from a copy of a log belonging to South Yorkshire Police, provided by a Sheffield-based UFOlogist). According to E.V, in the letter Burns identified himself as "a journalist working for a national organisation." After asking him to repeat his account of the events Burns asked if he could use his testimony in a story he was working on for a national newspaper (the Sunday tabloid **The News of the World**).

Permission was granted, but according to E.V's statement on May 12 *"at no stage in any of this conversation did Max tell me he was going to use what I told him in a story claiming I had seen the co-pilot of a Tornado which had been shot down by a UFO. Even when the subject of UFOs was aired in a later conversation all Max would*

say was that "he did not disbelieve in ETs". A few days later, E.V was contacted by a News of the World reporter who asked him "if it would be all right for them to use the story which Max had told them he had said."

E.V was subsequently contacted by David Clarke, who interviewed him on two occasions (on May 11 and 12, 1998 respectively) and also discussed this matter with his parents.

In the course of his interview E.V was appraised by Clarke of the nature of the story the News of the World were hoping to run, which was going to using his name and testimony as evidence. He was nothing short of horrified. He told Clarke that Burns had said nothing about any claims about UFOs shooting down Tornados, or RAF cover-ups. E.V stated; *"I don't know anything about that, all I told him were the facts I remembered from that night, I don't believe he was a pilot for one minute."*

Shortly after discussing this matter with David Clarke, E.V phoned Max, withdrew permission for the story to go ahead, and asked him not to use his name in connection with these claims as it could put his career in jeopardy. In any event it transpired that the **News Of The World** never used it.

Furthermore, Burns never sent E.V a copy of his report on the Dronfield/Howden Moors event, and when Clarke read him extracts from it he could not believe what he was hearing! In the light of Max Burns' claims, David Clarke questioned him about the clothes this man was wearing. To this question E.V. replied; *"They were just ordinary dark clothes. He was definitely not wearing the sort of uniform associated with*

*RAF pilots. I would have recognised that uniform immediately "I don't believe the man I saw was a pilot and if my name were to go in a national newspaper associated with such a claim I could get into serious trouble with my employers, the RAF."*

Asked how he would react if anyone claimed he had been "silenced" because he had "withdraw" his testimony, EQ responded; *" I haven't been silenced by anyone, I just don't want my name connected with a story like this, and that is why I intend to tell Max [Burns] not to involve me any further. I just told him what I saw that night and that is all I know."*

The statements concerning the "paraffin soaked man" made by E.V to Clarke concurs with the statement E.V made to the police, recorded in the South Yorkshire Police incident log of the incident dated 25th March 1997. Clarke was allowed access to this entry, which read as follows:

*[Call logged 1808]...*

*"just after 11pm last night he was a passenger in a minibus which was travelling across the Snake Pass back towards Sheffield. When crossing the viaduct over the reservoir at Ladybower, they were flagged down by a man who was walking towards Sheffield.*

*The man said he needed to get to Sheffield and wanted a lift. The minibus was so full it was declined. There were no parked vehicles anywhere in the area. The man smelled strongly of diesel. Said to be of eastern extraction, Indian/Pakistani, and dressed in dark brown clothing."*

The true identity of the man "covered in fuel" was eventually ascertained by David Clarke.

Initially, Clarke queried senior Peak Park Ranger Brian Jones about this event, who remembered the incident straight away. Details concerning a man covered in petrol or paraffin wandering on the Snake Pass that night had in fact been reported to him by the police the next morning. He stated

*"I do remember the incident as it was reported to the Peak Park Ranger service the next morning. I understand it was a failed suicide attempt. It was someone who had driven out to the country and poured petrol or some other inflammable liquid over himself. But he had not gone through with the suicide. It had been reported to South Yorkshire Police who had passed it to Derbyshire to deal with. It's the sort of thing that happens occasionally in a remote area like this."*

Clarke then contacted Derbyshire Police Inspector Andy Howard, the duty police inspector at Bakewell, Derbyshire (who was on duty on the night of March 24). Inspector Howard confirmed the incident had occurred as described by the Ranger, but due to its sensitive nature **no** Press statement had been released at the time.

David Clarke (in the course of his job) reports on upwards of 50-100 suicides per year, often by the most gruesome of methods - hanging, carbon monoxide poisoning and **overdoses** being the three most common in his experience. Every one of these cases obviously has to be handled carefully, considering the trauma of the victim's families and friends. Suicide by pouring petrol or flammable liquid over

clothes and then lighting the mixture is unfortunately quite common, with 2 or 3 deaths per year on average occurring in the Sheffield area. It is a well known fact that potential suicides often utilise isolated spots-like the Peak District - so as to avoid rescue attempts.

When a suicide is successful, police reveal details to the Press, a public inquest is held and is reported by journalists. Where a suicide is attempted but **not** successful, police (as a matter of policy) withhold details from the Press so as not to add to the trauma and suffering of the victim who is often disturbed or mentally ill, which was the case with the March 24th Ladybower Viaduct incident.

*(The final part of Dave Clarke's investigation into the Howden Moor event will appear in the next issue of BUFORA BULLETIN - Ed).*

## POSTAL TRAINING COURSE

The Postal Training Course (PTC) is compulsory for members requesting to become an investigator for BUFORA. All enquiries pertaining to the Postal Training Course should be addressed to:

**David Pointon.**

**5 Chapel Street, Mount Pleasant,  
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ST7 4NP.**

**(No personal visits),**

**Phone (01782)-522620.**

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# EVENTS CALENDAR:

## BUFORA EVENTS

All the following BUFORA events will be held at the University Of Westminster, 35 Maylebone Road, Central London. NW1 5LS, unless stated otherwise.

- 7th November 1998. BUFORA Lecture.  
Content To Be Announced.
- 5th December 1998. BUFORA Lecture.  
Content To Be Announced.

Admission price for BUFORA's lectures is £1.50 (members) or £3.50 (non-members). A full programme of BUFORA events for 1998-1999 will be submitted to all our members in due course.

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Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA)

### UFOs AND THE PARANORMAL CONFERENCE.

VENUE: THE UNITY THEATRE, HOPE PLACE, HOPE STREET, LIVERPOOL.

DATE: SATURDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 1998; 1100hrs-1800hrs

**SPEAKERS:** KEVIN MCLURE (Nazi UFOs), JENNY RANGLES (SHC), NICK REDFERN, (official documents). DR.CARL WILLIAMS (The paranormal). TONY ECCLES & MARK GLOVER (Merseyside UFOs).

**TICKETS; £6 (£5 CONCESSIONS).** Please contact MARK GLOVER on (0151)-4760356 for further information.

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### LAPIS CONFERENCE:

#### SAUCERS,SECRETS & SUPERPOWERS

VENUE: LOWTHER PAVILION,BLACKPOOL.

DATE: SATURDAY-SUNDAY 14TH & 15TH NOVEMBER, 1998

TICKETS; Both days: £20.00, Saturday or Sunday only £12.00

**Speakers:** Andy Roberts (Berwyn Mountain UFO Crash), Tim Rifat (Remote viewing), Jordan Maxwell (secret societies/the Vatican & UFOs), Pauline Delcour-Min (ET; questions & answers), Al Bielek (Montuk project, mind control).

For further information, contact Sam on (01253)-691301 or Paulette on (01253)-398410