
UFO TIMES

Number 15 September 1991

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Bluebook Reminiscd

INSIDE

Jemie Zeidman, assistant to J. Allen Hynek during the days of Project Bluebook, presents a telling account of what went on behind the scenes.

UFO wave in Gwent. J.C. Brogan examines UFO activity in South Wales during the early 1980's.

We continue our series of cases from the Belgium flap.

And Darush Bagheri offers an interesting insight into Iranian ufology.

Plus.... News from the world of ufology, readers letters and more.....

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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
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UFO TIMES

Number 15 September 1991 ISSN 0958-4846

Contents

4. **Editorial**
5. **News**
8. **I Remember Bluebook**
by Jennie Zeidman
14. **UFOs over Gwent: 1980-1982**
by J.C. Brogan
17. **Belgian Casebook part 2**
Edited and Translated by
Ken Phillips
21. **UFO Research in Iran**
by Darush Bagheri
23. **Readers Write**

Front Cover by Edward Clark

Apologies for the late delivery of this issue. Personal circumstances prevented the publication schedule to be met. Issue 16 will be published in mid December.

Mike Wootten

UFO TIMES

EDITORIAL Skeptical Flim Flam

Skeptics - those bold, relentless men and women who tirelessly expose 'flim-flam' and bogus claims of supernatural happenings are indeed an integral part of paranormal research. They are an important balance to those who believe without question the unbelievable and on occasions spotlight the downright fraudulent.

However, the skeptics have one fundamental flaw in their thinking - they refuse to accept that some human experiences cannot be explained within the current realms of understanding.

It is arrogance of the first degree to believe that science has come to the end of its learning curve; man will always continue to learn and expand his understanding of himself and the environment around him.

James Randi is a good example of this. In his recent ITV television series, he was able to uncover a large majority of bogus claims, including stage psychics, psychic surgeons and New Age crystal power. But when one particular person was able to successfully dowse a hidden ancient monument on a map and locate 'good' and 'bad' areas on the studio floor with 100% accuracy, Randi simply brushed these successes under the carpet in true and predictable skeptic style.

Randi was not able, in my opinion, to prove in his TV series that all psychic phenomena is bogus, but he did show to his credit that one must not believe all one sees and that some psychics are also very good manipulators and conjurers.

Generally skepticism is fine, I'm skeptical about certain areas of ufology, however room must be left to

accept that there is phenomena that cannot be explained by science. Indeed, physicists are having great difficulty in dealing with the subatomic universe, many unknowns and unexplained phenomena have shown up in abundance within this field which is putting the Newtonian/Einstein world of physical time-space reality into question. Some physicists are toying with the idea that psi is interacting at a quantum level which would account for the anomalies.

If this is the case, the skeptics may be wise to hedge their bets a little just in case they might be wrong. Heaven's forbid!

Congress Conquest

For those of you that did not attend the 6th International UFO Congress, you unfortunately missed the most successful UFO conference that Britain has ever staged.

The Sheffield formula of economic location offering reduced ticket prices was again a winner.

Sell-Out

Each day was a sell-out with delegates glued to their seats; listening to the latest evidence for the existence of the UFO phenomenon from speaker after speaker from around the world.

The media circus was extraordinary. Unlike the last international Congress, reporters gave positive and progressive resumes of the Congress and UFO research generally. The official press conference organised for the Thursday was scheduled to last for an hour, it finished after three. Congress organisers gave over 50 radio and TV interviews over the days leading up to the event.

The prestige and respect that BUFORA and the IUN have gained from this success will certainly foster greater co-operation and co-ordination with our counterparts abroad, which is extremely important.

The only problem is how will this event be upstaged by the next Congress in two years time!

Strieber Foundation Folds

After two unaccomplished years, Whitley Strieber has finally announced that he is to fold his Communion Foundation.

This decision has generated much comment from ufologists. Speculation as to whether Strieber's abductions were genuine are at an all time high. Some prominent researchers have stated that Strieber has tried to make as much money out of Communion and abductions as he can and is now moving on to greener pastures.

In an explosive closing statement Strieber states, "I am not a UFO researcher...and do not wish to endure the continued media attack that is associated with being involved in this field. In addition, the so-called 'UFO-ologists' are probably the cruellest, nastiest and craziest people I have ever encountered. Their interpretation of the visitor experience is rubbish from beginning to end. The 'abduction reports' they generate are not real. They are artifacts of hypnosis and cultural conditioning."

Strieber's relationship with the UFO research community has always been stormy, from the day he came on the scene. But this was natural as the world was not big enough for Strieber and ufologists to co-exist, in case the ufologists refracted some of the limelight from Strieber.

It is surprising that Strieber is now complaining about the media's attitude towards him and his story. He has made over 250 media appearances and so must be used to them by now and those appearances were made for a very good reason; to promote Communion, Transformation and Majestic. I remember when he appeared on the Wogan show as Communion was being published in the UK. Terry in his usual tiresome manner made

Whitley very small indeed. In addition the audience at the time helped the process along. But did Strieber care, no, he actually encouraged the laughter and stated that it was understandable. However, he portrayed himself as a crusader for other abductees; spreading the word that abductees are not crazy people but have had experiences which cannot be explained. His original sentiments were well received. Yes, witnesses should be treated with dignity. Yes, ufologists can be thoughtless in the way they treat witnesses. In retrospect, this one man crusade has seemed to be solely for the one man - Strieber himself.

Spencer UFO Shock

John Spencer has been in the UFO news for some time now, since the publication of his two controversial books 'The UFO Encyclopedia' and 'The UFO Casebook'. But this latest Spencer story will travel far and wide (myself and Andy Roberts are making sure it does).

John has now entered the elite world of personalised number plates and just guess what he's got: **J5 UFO**.

My first thoughts were 'flash *****' and to be quite honest those thoughts haven't changed!

German Circles

report by Manfred Cassirer

Crop Circles have just made their debut in "Die Welt" (22 and 23), which have previously reported the Belgian UFO wave.

These German Circles are confined to the far north of the Country, and have attracted more than their fare share of attention from the general public in that part of Germany.

If these circles are genuine after all (and nobody in the know thinks so), it is surprising that our old friends the Martians have taken so long to find a landing-space in such a large country. We can only conclude that Central Europe is not their favourite neck of the woods.

Meanwhile, there has been a confession to a UFO hoax by a student - German students seem to spend most of their time perpetrating UFO-related hoaxes with hot-air balloons. Newspaper hacks have rather predictably come up with the familiar exclusive alternatives: spaceships or stunts.

Member Meeting

If you are a member and live in South Wales, then this may be of interest to you.

Kerry Blower, a new tenacious addition to the BUFORA investigation team, is keen to get in touch with other members in her area in the view of holding informal meetings from time to time.

Kerry's address is:

10 Glaslyn Court,
Croesyciellog,
Cwmbran, Gwent,
NP44 2JE

Alternatively, if you would like to participate in this very good idea in your own area, then telephone the UFO Times news desk and we will help you to get the ball rolling.

Aerospace to Develop Saucer

British Aerospace are currently committing research resources on the possible development of a saucer shaped passenger aircraft.

This new aircraft of the future will have a conventional fuselage with the usual cockpit at the front and engines on the tail section, but the wings will be saucer shaped - comfortably accommodating up to 250 passengers along the rim.

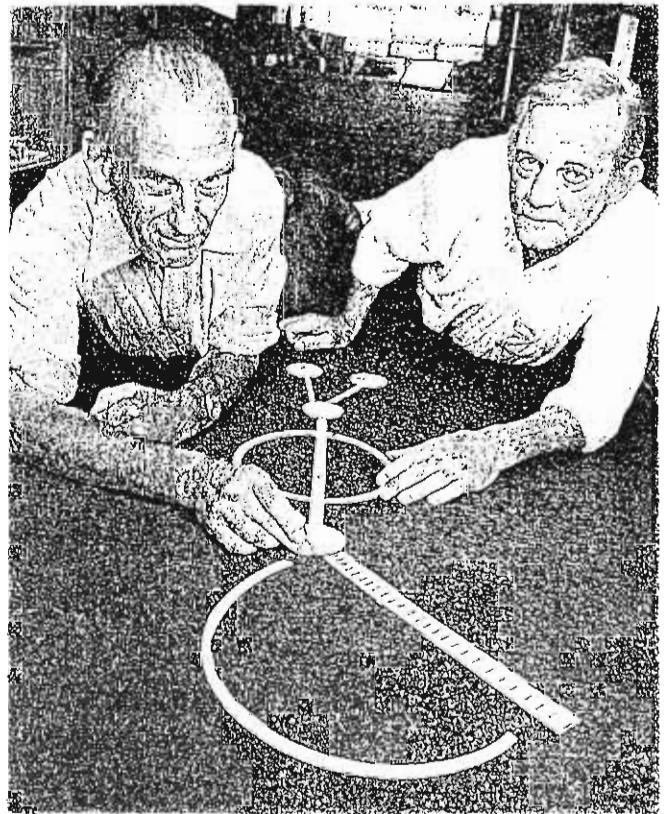
British Aerospace managing director, Robert Mc Kinlay said. "It has to be modified with engines for obvious reasons and with wings to provide us with an acceptable lift-drag ratio. We might not need the landing gear for, at its ultimate development, this device could hover on a cushion of air."

Corn Fakes

report by Mike Wooten

The Crop Circles season ended in an unprecedented fashion, stirring up dust devils left right and centre.

It would have been hard not to miss the recent whirlwind of media activity surrounding the two corn artists, Douglas Bower and Dave Chorley who have claimed that they hoaxed hundreds of crop circles since 1978. But how the likes of Pat Delgado, Colin Andrews and George Wingfield have squirmed and tried unsuccessfully to duck the embarrassment.



Doug Bower and Dave Chorley

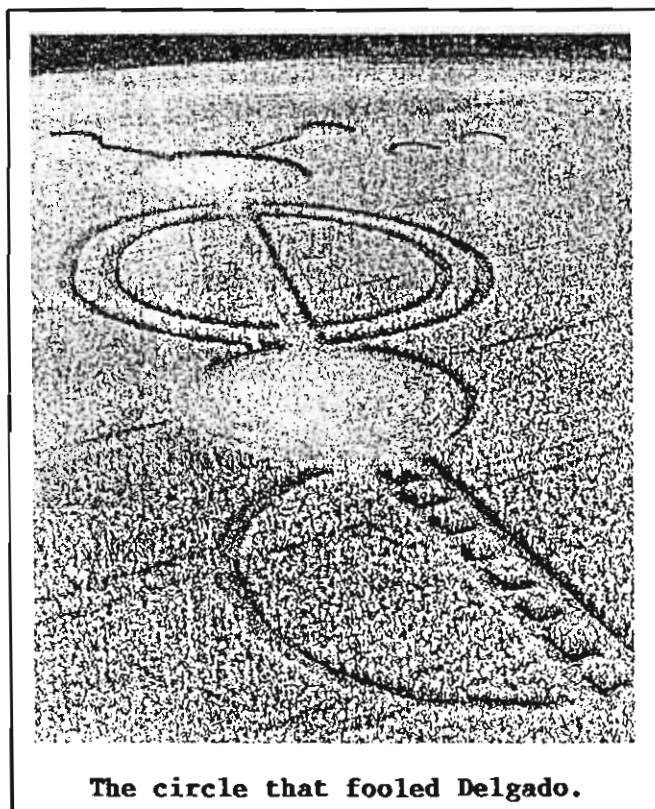
A Plot a Day Keeps the Explanation Away!

Wingfield has even gone to the extreme lengths of claiming that Doug and Dave are Government agents involved in a crop circle disinformation plot - the MJ-12 of cereology! He stated on Granada's 'Up Front' programme that under the Thatcher regime, ministers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defence and the Department of Environment held top level discussions concerning crop circles. Apparently, the plasma vortex theory was rejected, (George would say that) and

that it was agreed that disinformation would be the only action to take. Hence Wingfield has hastily put two and two together and come up with something dissimilar to four and suggested that Doug and Dave were assigned to the case. What utter rubbish! Wingfield hasn't, as far as I'm aware, a shred of evidence to confirm the existence of governmental discussions let alone the deployment of the two most unlikeliest agents I have ever seen. It's all pure speculation similar to his cereological theories.

Looking behind the story for a moment. Our two circle hoaxers seem to be able to produce quite convincing and intricate patterns, convincing enough for Pat Delgado to be fooled by their handiwork. Which leads me to the question: if these hoaxers are the creators of hundreds of phony circles, how many other 'experts' have been fooled by what seemed to be genuine circles, including Terence Meaden? How much of Meaden's plasma vortex theory has been bent and twisted to accommodate these hoaxes? To put it in perspective, Meaden comes off fairly lightly from the egg-on-the-face stakes, others haven't, however. Some will be washing egg from their faces for months, especially those who have made it their life's long work deciphering pictograms into meaningful New Age messages. But did Doug and Dave sense these messages from some Tibetan spirit guide? Or was it Herne? We may never know.

At first Doug and Dave were quite keen to admit that every circle was produced by them. Now this stance has changed and become seemingly more focused. They are now admitting to the fabrication of between 20 and 30 circles every year over a 13 year period (between 260 and 390 in total). This figure includes all of the pictograms, insectograms and laddergrams and every other kind of '...gram' which have always seemed to be dubious to say the least. This total amounts to approximately £200,000 of damage to farmer's crops over the 13 years. It will be interesting to see whether Mr Bower and Mr Chorley stick to their stories once the farmers or the police start to press charges for criminal damage. But do Doug and Dave care? I doubt it, as they are presently on an all expenses paid world tour.



The circle that fooled Delgado.

It has to be said that BUFORA commentators have accepted and proclaimed the probable existence of hoax circles from the early 1980's and have therefore been proved right. But is it safe to assume that there is no longer a phenomenon that requires any further explanation? Have Doug and Dave successfully ploughed up circles for good, leaving us with a barren field of research? I don't know. However, over 2000 circles have appeared since 1980. Several pre-1980 accounts have been unearthed and of course there are those ever increasing eye-witness accounts. The evidence for the existence of a genuine circle phenomenon is overwhelming and the acknowledgement of a calculated hoaxing scam will only sift the chaff from the wheat, so to speak.

Once the dust has settled, and the agricultural cliches are exhausted, we have a winter ahead of us to take stock and have a fresh look at the crop circle phenomenon and see it in a new light. This pitch fork in the side of cereology can only be for the good. A sobering reassessment and a clearing out of some of the pointless mythology that surrounds a phenomena that still requires further explanation (despite the revelations of the past few weeks) will reap rewards.

I Remember Bluebook

by Jennie Zeidman

The dark recesses of the CUFOS archives have yielded upon a paper titled Report to Stork on Blue Book Henry. The by-line is my own; the date is August 1953.

The document is a compendium of 148 "FLYOBRTS" (flying object reports) and their cursory analyses as they passed from the Air Technical Intelligence Centre (ATIC) through the hands of J. Allen Hynek (and me) between January and July 1953. (See illustrations 1 and 2 for examples). The report also summarizes correspondence with the 35 amateur astronomical societies, 19 Ground Observer Corps Filter Centres, and 48 CAA (now FAA) Control Towers which were contacted with the objective that they would or could provide corroborating (or disconfirming) information for the official reports, specifically with regard to phenomena such as bright meteors/fireballs, normal aircraft, or meteorological phenomena.

The report itself is of little importance. The Air Force favoured astronomical answers, and Hynek was able to provide many from the selected raw reports presented for his analysis. (See bar graph). The extremely high number of unknowns (22 percent) and cases of insufficient data (another 10.8 percent) reflect not so much the high strangeness of the information presented as the inadequacy of the reporting mechanism. One paragraph of teletyped titbits was supposed to provide enough information for a justified, probable, or at least possible identification. Of course it couldn't be done. I don't recall our criteria for differentiation between "unknowns" and "insufficient data". The only certainty I can see in perusing this report is that Venus was in eastern elongation during that time period and that lots of people, even those from college physics departments, couldn't identify it.

Of greater interest than the report may be some associated memories of those heady times: the convolutions of funding a UFO research, the desperate emphasis on hush-hush amid an environment of ludicrously slipshod security, and the unfolding mystery of where Hynek's consultancy to the Air Force on Project Blue Book really fit into the larger scheme of the UFO hierarchy. Enlightening discussions of these matters appear in Hynek's *The Hynek UFO Report* (1977) and David M. Jacobs' *The*

UFO Controversy in America (1975). The remarks that follow reflect my personal involvement and interpretations as Hynek's assistant between 1953 and 1956.

Project Stork

Let us start with Project Stork. I doubt, 38 years later, that I'll ruffle any feathers with that name. Heaven knows, it's been mentioned in print, and from time to time I've come across persons (there must have been thousands of us, worldwide) who worked on various phases of it. The fact is that the mission of Stork was to ascertain the capability of the Soviet Union to engage in technological warfare. The specific interest for our purpose is that the group at Battelle Memorial Institute which provided the (in)famous Project Blue Book Special Report 14 was associated with Project Stork. Okay, let's not beat around the bush. Special Report 14 was a product of Project Stork.

Does that mean that the government thought UFOs might be Soviet technology? Or does it mean that the government already knew (five years after the Roswell incident) what UFOs represented, wanted to see what the Stork statisticians came up with, and then made sure that the "analysis" met with government "standards"? (Shades of the Condon Committee 15 years later).

Project Henry

The answer is: probably not. The Condon Committee's blatant objective was to pacify the public, whereas Special Report 14, within Battelle/Stork, was Top Secret. It didn't need to be created (for public consumption) if the answer was already known - in other words, that the empirical characteristics of UFO reports were statistically different from those of reports that were ultimately resolved into mundane phenomena. Or was Stork perhaps merely a convenient funding vehicle for 14, a legitimately asked question, a relatively small effort that could be justified (or hidden) under the scope of the Stork mission? Regardless, Battelle was the right place for the work to be done. It is a superb group of scientists and engineers scrupulously devoted to excellence.

Battelle's involvement with the fringe subject of UFOs was therefore a source of great embarrassment to it - a family secret, a skeleton in the closet equivalent to Grandpa's alcoholism or Uncle Ray's penchant for little boys. One absolutely did not mention Battelle in connection with UFOs. And since I had no need to know, the fact of this involvement (in spite of my Secret clearance) was kept from me for over a year.

In the spring of 1987 I found myself at a dinner party seated next to a Battelle executive - an old timer who I knew had worked on 14 as a member of Project Stork. I asked him if after 34 years he had anything he wanted to say about it.

My question made him uneasy. "We were concerned," he said. He was referring to the data and to the Battelle scientists' interpretation of those data. He was referring to the thoughts of his fellow scientists on the question of "What are UFOs?" "We were concerned," he said, and he would say no more.

During the first month (January 1953) I worked for him, Hynek went to Washington to attend the meeting of the Robertson Panel. He was an associate member, a second stringer, which was odd because he had been working directly with the data for about five years. I remember his return on a cold, wintery day. I expected him to announce there would be a major scientific undertaking on the subject. Instead, he told me, "They're not going to have a scientific investigation. For some strange reason they voted it down. They didn't even take a decent look at the data, and they decided to discredit them."

Perhaps he needed some levity that day when he looked up from his coffee and crackers and suggested that we should have a name for his consultancy project, "something that captures the idea that these things flit around the sky". An old-time popular insecticide was called Flit, and its trademark showed a hand-pumped sprayer and, I believe, a harried woman who had just been scared by a bug. "Quick, Henry, the Flit!" she is shouting. Hynek latched on to the word Flit, and thus Project Henry was named (Flit being too obvious and Project Insecticide somewhat cumbersome). Readers familiar with Hynek's sense of humour know I couldn't possibly have made this up.

*21 Apr 53
0915*

ATIE

*data
&
2. data
H.C. files*

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ACTION

CLASSIFICATION NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

AIR 008
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INFO JEDEN/CGADC ENT AFB COLO
/ C O N F I D E N T I A L / FROM AFOIN 54365 CGAMC PASS TO CG ATIC
ACTION ON MESSAGE QUOTED BELOW FROM HQ ADC ENT AFB COLO IS TRANSFERRED
TO ATIC CMA THE ORGANIZATION HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR UFO
PROGRAM. NO ADDITIONAL INFO AVAILABLE THIS HQ. MESSAGE READS
CMA NUMBER COC 86 DTG 20053Z. OUR AP RADIO NEWS SERVICE MSG
AP 182 5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY CMA TENTH ITEM CMA 'SLUGGED' DISC/
STATES THAT LUMINOUS OBJECTS TRAVELING AT SPEEDS FASTER THAN SOUND
HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AND TRACKED ON RADAR WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS IN
PORK CHOP AND OLD BALDY HILLS AREA WESTERN KOREAN FRONT.
/5TH 15 MIN SUMMARY SIGNED BY 1028 PES 19Z. IN VIEW OF RADAR
SIGHTING OF POSSIBLY SIMILAR SUPERSONIC OBJECTS LAKE SUPERIOR
AREA 20/2135 TO 20/0200Z APR FURTHER INFO OR EVALUATION OF THIS
AP REPORT IS REQUESTED
20/2314Z APR JEPHQ

*W. J. ...
4-24-53*

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753-4794-1

This is the way Henry worked:

About once a week a courier from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (I assumed he was from Wright-Patterson) would arrive at Hynek's office at Ohio State University with a manila envelope stuffed with TWXs - teletype UFO-sighting reports received from military facilities around the world.

Were they all of the reports Blue Book received - the total number it took in? Surely not. (Hynek often said he knew the best cases were withheld). I usually looked them over before Hynek did. I had a Secret clearance by then (mid-1953), but only a few were ever classified beyond Restricted, and the sensitive material usually had to do with the installation or facility of report origin, not with the contents of the report per se. If Venus was in western elongation, there would be a whole slew of reports of a bright white light in the predawn east, and Hynek would chuckle and mutter about how darned uneducated the public was. When we would get a report of high strangeness, he would scratch his chin - beardless until the fall of 1953 - and say this might bear looking into. We would outline the information we wanted to have, and we would pass that on to Blue Book. But it hardly ever followed up for us. If we really wanted some information we would have to go out and try to get it ourselves.

Hynek was paid to investigate only reports allocated to him by Blue Book. That meant that if we heard of a case in some other way - if someone called the observatory, say, or there was a newspaper story - we could not count it as an official case, and any expenses incurred by Hynek or me were not reimbursable. Many times we asked people to send a report into Wright-Patterson so that a case we were already working on (privately) and had spent money investigating could become "official". Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't.

Hynek went to Wright-Patterson two or three times a month, and about once a month I went along. The Blue Book facility - building 263, not Hangar 18 - consisted of three cramped, crummy little offices. The paint was peeling,

and the file cabinets were warped. There were a United States map with pins stuck into it, a sergeant gofer, a gum-cracking, beehive-haired secretary (a civilian), and a dried-out coffee pot on the window sill. This was before computers, of course, so the cases were filed chronologically. If you knew the date, fine. If you knew only the location, try the card index, and lotsa luck. No wonder I never saw Capt. Ed Ruppelt, the Blue Book head, smile. (I remember him as a by-the-book sober-sides. I don't recall a human side of him, even when we were having an informal lunch. But I seem to remember intense blue-gray eyes).

In the early days of my association with Hynek, my title was research assistant, OSU department of physics and astronomy. I worked a few hours a day, spending about half my time on UFO matters and the rest as teaching assistant for Hynek's undergraduate astronomy course and general Girl Friday for OSU's McMillin Observatory. (I was also carrying 15 hours in my second-to-last undergrad quarter). As the year progressed I graduated, my Secret clearance came through, I worked full time, and my UFO work increased proportionately.

The 1954 flap was underway, and one day I asked Hynek how it was that OSU was willing to keep me on as research assistant when most of my work was for ATIC.

"You're not working for ATIC," Hynek said. "You're working for a contractor."

I had no idea what he meant. "A contractor," he repeated. "A contractor who doesn't want to be known. But don't worry about it. I've already told you too much."

But I did worry about it. My paychecks said Ohio State University. The phrase "laundered money" was not in common usage in those days.

I stewed over this for a few days - not more than a week or two - and then the courier came with the weekly reports. Same man, same car - a Chevy that bilious shade of GI green. For some reason I walked him back out to his

SECRET

RESTRICTED

30 Mar 53

FM CG 47TH FTR IPTCF SQ DOW AFB BANGOR MAINE
TO JEPHQ/HQ USAF WASH 25 CC
INFO JEMAF/AIR TECH INT CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

*March 8, 1953
Maine*

RESTRICTED / FLYORBIT / ATTN DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE,
HQAF. ATTN ATIAA-26, AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER
INTEL 3-35. Unidentified object sighted at 0202Z, 8 March, 1953
near Kent, OHIO, Ohio. It was described as a big red ball of fire
going vent-north-west and was observed for about 12 minutes until
it disappeared beyond the horizon. A similar object was observed
at 0400Z, 1 Mar, 1953. High speed, no maneuver, no exhaust. It
was a visual observation from the ground with no electronic equip-
ment used. The observer, Lt. Van Ebben, Physics Department, Kople
HLLI Academy, was located at 70 degrees west and 44 degrees 24 minutes north.
He estimated that the object was 40 to 60 miles away and low in the sky.
The object was observed by three faculty members and ten students of the
academy. The weather was cold and clear with no wind. No physical
evidence available, no interception action taken and no known air
traffic in the area.

09/2200Z MAR 53/W

paid for it myself). Tombaugh, who in 1930 discovered the planet Pluto, had himself experienced an extraordinary UFO sighting in 1949. A large, transparent fuselage with lighted windows had sailed across his view as he enjoyed the evening in his backyard.

I arrived at White Sands after a cold and miserable pre-dawn bus ride from El Paso, and Tombaugh sent someone out to the gate to escort me to his office. We walked through hangars and offices and laboratories. "Oooh, what's that?" I asked. There were rockets and fancy instruments and equipment lying all over the place. "That's the new Nike," my escort said, "and that one over there's the Honest John." I was carrying no documents to identify myself as affiliated with ATIC. No one asked what kind of clearance I had. And at that time, December 1952, I had none.

The Fifth Horseman

SECURITY INFORMATION

RESTRICTED

car, and did an incredible double-take as he drove away. It wasn't a government car. It was his own car, with Ohio plates. The man's initials were V.E., and the car license plate was VE-29. What a stroke of luck: a spook with vanity plates!

Furthermore, he was from Columbus. The local Chevy dealer's name was on the license-plate holder.

Within five minutes I had raced over to the main OSU library, pulled down the Columbus city directory, and found the man's name and his place of employment: Battelle. Confronting Hynek with my intelligence coup resulted in a few days of negotiations with Stork followed by an increased work load.

I went on a number of field trips for Henry, and the security situation was almost invariably deplorable.

Hynek arranged for me to visit astronomer Clyde Tombaugh at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, during a trip I had previously planned for winter break 1952. (This was a private trip; I

Hynek also arranged for me to meet with Lincoln LaPaz, the eminent meteoriticist at the University of New Mexico. LaPaz had been consulted by the Air Force during the spate of green-fireball sightings over the Southwest. It was common knowledge that he was interested in UFOs. (LaPaz is mentioned prominently in Ruppelt's The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects [1956]).

I found LaPaz in his office at the university. I remember the formality of the room, he behind a large wooden desk, I in a straight chair at right angles. In contrast to the easy-going Tombaugh (and his family, who treated me to a Mexican lunch), LaPaz was a formidable presence, and I felt a bit uncomfortable. We discussed UFOs in general terms. He chose his words carefully, suggesting that the U.S. government knew plenty about UFOs. I brought him up to date on Hynek's work and the general skepticism that I felt pervaded Hynek's philosophy (and mine, too).

LaPaz listened to what must have been my naive jabberings. Then he pinned me with a solemn stare, "UFOs are the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse," he said, and I was soon dismissed.

Pestilence, War, Famine, Death, and ...? As the years have passed, LaPaz's chilling pronouncement has caused me growing concern. His name is not listed on the controversial MJ-12 document. But if such a group, or its equivalent, existed, he would have been a logical candidate for membership.

Back in Ohio the summer of 1953 produced a changing of the guard. For a few months Ruppelt was away, and Lt. Bob Olsson was in charge of Blue Book. At some time in that interval Hynek was going out of town, and he told me to expect a visit from some people from Wright-Patterson. Olsson (whom I already knew) came in, with the sergeant gofer and another man, probably also a lieutenant, to whom I was not even introduced.

It was a hot, stuffy day sans air conditioning. The soldiers took me into Hynek's inner office at the observatory, and the lieutenant arranged the chairs: a straight chair in the centre of the room - for me - and three other chairs at 10, two and six o'clock positions. The anonymous lieutenant and Olsson faced me, and the sergeant sat out of my vision with a clip board and pencil.

They asked me how things were going with the project. What was Hynek's attitude? What was my attitude? How did I like the work? What did I think of this case or that? My utter disingenuousness carried me through this ordeal. In my naivety I was probably even flattered to be the object of so much attention. In retrospect the third man reminds me of that nutty CIA man in the M.A.S.H. television series - the ludicrous paranoid who was forever finding devious plots in the most innocent situations.

I liked Bob Olsson. He often included his own evaluations and a friendly note on the reports sent to us, and I felt he was genuinely interested and conscientious in his work. Perhaps that's why he lasted only a few months at Blue Book.

By mid-1956 Hynek had moved to Harvard for his work on the International Geophysical Year, and I had moved to the main Battelle campus (about a mile from

OSU) where my work for Stork also involved the IGY. The subject of UFOs was never mentioned.

Blue Book and Beyond

Though I was officially removed from Blue Book business, Hynek and I continued to communicate regularly about UFO matters.

At midnight on March 26, 1966, my husband got me out of a shower for a call from Hillsdale, Michigan. It was Hynek, pleading with me not to get upset when I saw the morning papers. The Air Force had backed him into a corner. Say something, he was told. So he had said something. He had said that swamp gas was a possibility as a natural explanation for some lights over a marshy area, and the press jumped on it. The swamp gas incident distressed him terribly because in effect the Air Force had forced him to compromise his scientific integrity.

Blue Book folded the end of 1969 following the publication of the Condon Report. Within a few months of the start of the Colorado project, Hynek had told me he knew it had been decided that the findings would be negative. For years he had understood that he was

- 3 -
RESTRICTED

BREAKDOWN OF THE 11,8 FLYOVERS
RECEIVED FROM ATIC
15 Jan - 15 Jul

VENUS J	17
VENUS P	11
FIREBALLS J	10
FIREBALLS P	6
BALLOONS J	6
BALLOONS P	13
MIRAGES	1
INSUF DATA	14
BTUS	2
REFLECTIONS	1
OTHER ASTRO.	12
METEOROLOG.	1
RADAR ANOM.	1
UNKNOWN'S "	53
HOAX	1
UNCONVEN A/C	2

* Follow up requested
J Justified by data
P Probable

being kept out of the inner circle, that even with his high security clearance it was judged that he had no need to know what was really going on. He knew he had been used. He seemed actually relieved, then, when his Blue Book work was over. Now he was free to pursue the UFO research from a purely scientific viewpoint without the restrictions imposed by his government contract.

But was Hynek's government UFO work really over?

In October 1973 he called me to pick him up at Wright-Patterson and bring him to Columbus. It was the height of the Yom Kippur war, and Wright-Patterson was on highest security status because supplies for Israel were being flown from there. I took a wrong turn near the Air Force museum entrance and wound up driving out onto the perimeter of the field. I drove half a mile out on a taxi strip before I could turn around. No challenge. No one came after me.

I finally got reoriented and drove up to where I was supposed to pick up Hynek. It was a small one-storey building, and Hynek was standing in the doorway as I drove up. Another man appeared from the building. He was in a dress uniform and may have been a major. I got out of the car, and Hynek made it a point to introduce me. Of course Hynek was always polite, but he easily could have just got into the car with no introductions. It seemed to me that the introduction was a purposeful act which I assumed had something to do with the fact that I was a UFO associate.

On our way to Columbus I asked Hynek in general terms what was going on. He would not tell me anything about what he was doing at Wright-Patterson. In face of his reluctance to explain, I felt I could not pursue the subject. But he was agitated on that trip and seemed preoccupied with whatever had occurred earlier that day. Of course Wright-Patterson housed other projects than those under the Foreign Technology Division.

But Hynek was working for FTD. Researcher Brian Parks has recently obtained, through the Freedom of Information Act, Hynek's record of employment as FTD consultant from 1970

to 1974. He worked only a few days each year, but it was an ongoing consultancy, an executive appointment, beginning in April 1970, less than six months after Blue Book's official closure. Was this work related to UFOs? At this point we still do not know.

On December 26, 1976, in the front third-floor office of the Hynek home in Evanston, Illinois, Hynek and I were talking theory as we had so many times over the years. Hynek was not a man to make bold statements, and I recognized the remarks of a man whose thinking had evolved with reluctance and deliberation over 28 years.

"It's very definitely connected with intelligence somewhere," he said, not with excitement and awe but with acceptance and resignation.

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UFOs Over Gwent

1980-1982

by J.C. Brogan

UFO activity in the county of Gwent for the years 1980-82 began quite suddenly in July of 1980 with reports of an object with red and white lights which was seen over the towns of Newport and Blackwood.

About six weeks later two women reported seeing unusual lights in the sky above Cross Keys, a small village some eight miles north-west of Newport. Police enquiries subsequently revealed that these were probably the landing lights of a medium-sized aircraft that had been flying over the area at the time. Seven days later, on Wednesday 16th. September, a group of workers from the Avana factory at Rogerstone, three miles south of Cross Keys, watched a peculiar black cloud move over a local hill fort know as Twm Barlym. As it dissipated they were amazed to see a massive white object resting on the ground. It was positioned just to the right of the ancient encampment and was described by one witness as being oval-shaped and having a dome on top.

UFO Fever

By this time there was a certain degree of UFO 'fever' in the district, and on December 2nd an article appeared in a local newspaper, the South Wales Argus, detailing many of the already well documented aspects of the subject. Particular reference was made to the possibility that those who had seen a UFO could expect a visit from the so-called "Men-in-Black". It was perhaps because of this that the subject lapsed into a period of silence for just over twelve months.

The first report of renewed activity came when a Gwent policeman, P.C. Stephen Gamlin, reported seeing a circular pattern of flashing blue and white lights in the sky over Blackwood. The mystery object had changed direction

and moved off towards Oakdale, two miles to the east, where the lights changed to a red colour. His sighting was independently confirmed by telephone calls to the police later that evening. Within twenty-four hours a sighting of a similar object took place at Croesyceiliog, a housing estate in Cwmbran, lying some five miles north of Newport. Sixteen-year-old Anthea Bailey was astonished to see an aerial object with revolving red, blue and white lights, travelling slowly down the valley from north-west to south-east. She was particularly intrigued by the way the object moved in a series of jerks. As it moved out of sight, a report was received by the police in Newport that a mystery object was hovering above Beechwood Park in the town. Mrs. Monica Joyce described what she saw as, "A bright light in the sky that gradually got larger". Both she and her daughter Nicola noted that the object was grey in colour and shaped like a cone with the pointed part at the top. She said that, "It had about five red, amber, white and green flashing lights around it, and it was a fantastic sight".

Bright Fragments

By the end of March there had been a total of eight confirmed sightings over Gwent, and on the 31st. an object was seen early in the morning above Caerleon, two miles east of Newport, by Mr. Steven Jones of Ponthir. He described the object as being white coloured, cigar-shaped and exhibiting a flashing light that burst into bright fragments.

Two weeks after the Caerleon sighting a similar object was seen by Mr. Steven Gowerton, a member of the Abergavenny Air Training Corps. He informed Gwent Police that just before midnight on the 13th of April, he saw a star-shaped object with a red light on top and two red lights at each point. It remained in the sky between two well-known hills, the Little and Big Skirrid, for some twenty minutes before moving off. A similar sighting occurred two weeks later when Mr. Steven Garton, a twenty six-year-old member of the Territorial Army Reserves, saw an object hovering over the Little Skirrid at eleven-thirty in the evening. Both he and his wife, Angela, watched the object, which had three revolving white lights, slowly move around the hill before it disappeared.

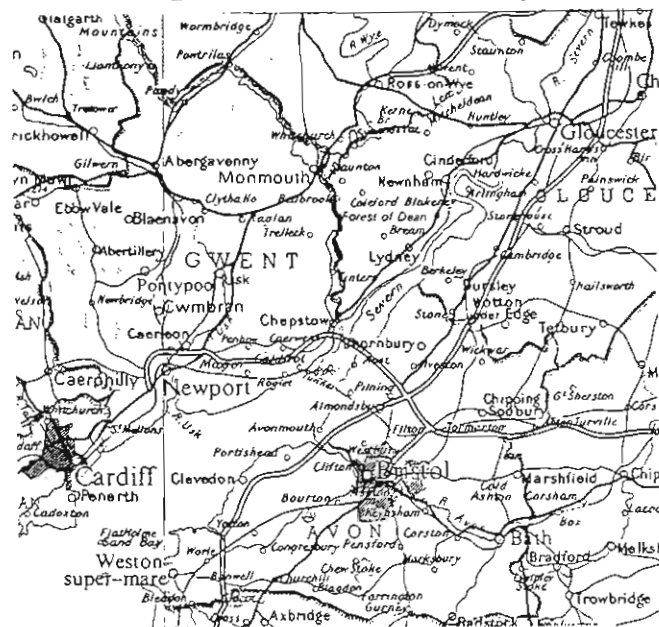
Police Report

A second short period of inactivity occurred between April and August of 1982, then in September two policemen reported seeing a UFO land in a field near Monmouth. Police Constables David Holder and Graham Banks were fascinated and flabbergasted as they watched a strange pulsating object appear to make a landing. "It was about the size of a star, and flickered blue and white with occasional red flashes". It was briefly seen to split into three separate white lights which then moved back into a single light. "It moved from left to right, up and down, and in both clockwise and anti-clockwise circles", they said.

They had been watching the object for about twenty minutes when two red lights separated from it and fell towards the ground. Shortly afterwards the main object began to rise rapidly into the sky and disappeared. Two or three minutes later the policemen saw a bright flash of light in the ground area where the two red lights had appeared to fall, and after a brief pause for a minute or so, a bright-blue light soared into the air and moved off towards the north-west.

By late September local newspapers were carrying the headlines, "New UFO Invasion Reported". Three separate sightings occurred on the evening of September 30th, all taking place between

the hours of eight-thirty and nine-thirty, and localised to the New Inn - Pontypool - Cwmbran area. The first report was received from Mr. Stuart Blake of Griffithstown. He told police that he and a friend, Mr. Jason Rees, had watched some flashing discs moving across the sky above Cwmbran. An hour later, Mrs. Doreen Phillips of Croesyceiliog, reported seeing a bright-blue light above the same area. The third sighting came from New Inn, where Mrs. Mary Gauntlett, her daughter Joanna and a friend, had watched a narrow green band of light move across the sky.



October continued to provide a number of reports including one during the middle of the month from a British Transport Police Officer, Mr. Peter Griffiths. He observed two pulsating bright lights over Newport; one was positioned in the sky to the north of the town and the other to the south. After watching the lights for about five minutes he noted that the one to the south was changing colour to red and green. It finally appeared as a red glow, and after moving towards the other light, disappeared into a nearby cloud.

Climax

The climax of this period of UFO activity appears to have been around the end of October 1982. At that time a two-hundred-foot aerial disc was seen by Mr. John Clarke of Bettws, Newport. "I first thought that it was an aircraft at around ten thousand feet, but having

been trained in aircraft recognition while serving in the Army, I realised that it was like nothing I had ever seen before". Mr. Clarke said that, "It was a huge saucer-shaped object, perhaps two hundred feet across, with a blue flashing light and a steady green light on the top". Another witness was Mr. Clarke's wife Rosemary. She said that, "It was the astonishing size that impressed me". Unknown to the Bettws couple, Mrs. Marion Mason of Coed Eva, Cwmbran, was driving home a few minutes later when she sighted a long oblong shape in the sky. It had two small lights on each end and a small red light at the bottom.

It was after the late Autumn sightings that the subject seemed to fade into relative obscurity. There have been periodic sightings during the years since, particularly in the isolated hills to the north of Newport. However, nothing has taken place that compares with the sightings reported during the 1980/82 'flap'.

Places of Power?

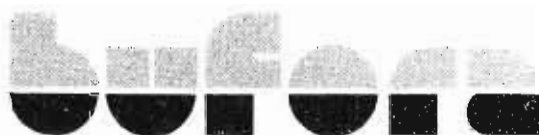
It may be coincidental that some of the areas most closely associated with the phenomena are characterised by names and legends that appear to be particularly appropriate. The Skirrid Hill, for example, is known locally as the "Holy Mountain", and the remains of an eleventh-century church can still be seen on the top. The area around Blackwood, where a large number of sightings took place, is close to Cefn Gola, "The Mountain of Light". The ancient hill fort, Twm Barlym, has a long history of associations with unusual phenomena. Many people claim to have heard strange music emanating from the ground beneath this prominent mound.

Finally, there is a particular need to consider carefully what happened to Mrs. Sharron Davies and her family on the night of February 27th 1982. They had been travelling across a particularly dark and lonely stretch of moorland near Cefn Gola when the following incident occurred:-

"We were driving over Bedwellty Mountain when these really bright lights

appeared above the car. They were reflected from the bonnet and lit up the whole inside. The lights seemed to be revolving around a large circular object which was about fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. It hovered a few feet above us, keeping pace with the moving car. The strangest part was that there was absolutely no sound coming from the object at all". Mr. Davies said that, "We were all terrified, and the children were crying. My wife was screaming at me not to stop the car".

The lights disappeared as suddenly as they had appeared, and when they reached Aberbargoed they stopped, and looked back. The lights were still in the sky hovering above the hillside. Mr. and Mrs. Davies' final comments on the experience were, "What we saw must have been from outer space. We've never seen anything like it before - not even in books or on the television".



EURUFON CONGRESS OF NAMUR COLLAPSES

Due to the main sponsor withdrawing support for EURUFON's UFO CONGRESS, which was scheduled for October 1991 in Namur, Belgium, unfortunately did not take place.

As an alternative measure, EURUFON is now negotiating with the French organisation, LDLN, in the hope that a new congress might be set up as soon as possible.

It is to be hoped that EURUFON will be able to salvage the situation because their congress would have entailed a massive de-briefing of the great European Lowlands Flap [still on-going at the time of writing this article], and in this endeavour BUFORA wishes EURUFON every success for the future.

Ken Phillips.

Belgian Casebook

Testimonies from EUROFON News

Part 2

edited and translated by Ken Phillips

Over the Motorway

This case originated at a standard motorway restaurant on the Barchon Autoroute connecting AARCHEN with LIEGE.

The date was the 1st December 1989 at about 18.45. The witness, MV, was driving his car in the direction of Liege. It was already dark. Outside, the weather was cold but dry; the sky was clear and the stars were visible.

MV was cruising at about 120/130 km/h when, a little before arriving at the Barchon Hill, he made out an aerial phenomenon which appeared to be coming towards him. This phenomenon was going along the left-hand lane of the motorway and, seeing this, MV slowed down and changed lanes in order to observe this strange spectacle at his leisure.

The altitude of the object was constant and was about 1000m away from the witness. This object appeared circular and its shape did not vary.

The witness was amazed and stopped his car on the hard-shoulder of the motorway a little before the service station; the object now being situated above the restaurant spanning the motorway.

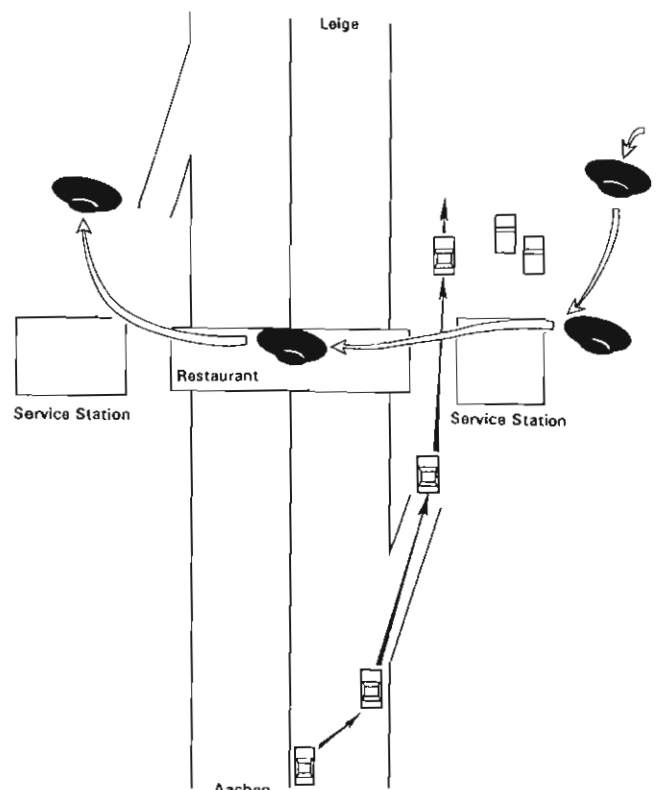
"Wider than the Motorway"

The object was immense ("Wider than the motorway", said the witness). It was about 20m above the restaurant. The outline of the object's shape was very clear cut and resembled nothing known: one would say a sort of 'reversed' hat. A weak, flickering, red glow was located at each extremity of the object. A light was likewise visible on top of the machine, as well as a row of lights or portholes.

This UFO remained for some moments in stationary flight above the restaurant, then slowly glided towards the right in the direction of the service station and parking area. There, it stopped again and maintained stationary flight for a short duration.

The witness, in the meantime, got back in his car and drove to the service station. MV stated he was not alone in observing the machine because two lorry drivers: one a Turk, the other a German, were gazing up at the phenomenon.

A little while later the phenomenon started to move along the motorway for about 150m, veered towards the right and glided towards Vise; finally disappearing from sight behind the





lights were advancing in the air.

At first sight, we would have said they were automobile lights, but between these two lights a flickering light-source was visible. We lowered the windows of our vehicle in order to perceive the noise of this machine because it could have been due to a tourist's plane flying too low; but we heard nothing at all.

The object was perfectly silent. Next, we followed it for a little while, then we had to interrupt our chase, because we received a call concerning a burglary. At this moment, the phenomenon went up into the sky.

trees.

The observation lasted for about 10 minutes and there were no electromagnetic effects on the motorway lighting. Unfortunately, neither the service station personnel nor those of the restaurant observed what was going on.

Patrick Vidal.

Enigma in the Low Countries

The police, they tell us, never lie. Therefore, two Dutch gendarmes, as well as a good number of their Belgium colleagues, to have been present at an inexplicable aerial spectacle.

The Dutch gendarmes were driving in the region of Mill, a small town situated in North-Brabant - but let us allow the gendarmes, Frank Ten Broeke and Van Overdijk, to give their own account:-

"It was already dark, early in the morning of December 1989. My colleague, Van Overdijk and myself, were on patrol down the road when we saw two white lights appear in front of us; these

"No one believed you when you told them?"

"No, our colleagues did not respond to us for the first ten minutes - we were taken for fools - but a little after, doubt began to set in their minds: in effect, we were not both capable of being fools!

"And then, leaving aside our testimony, we received about ten calls from people who, themselves, had seen this machine in other areas and at other occasions. A woman residing in the region of Helmond declared to have seen a large, black machine advancing in the sky. Some smoke was being emitted from each side of the machine: no one believed their ears when she told them about it.

"No, we do not know what it could have been and we made contact with the Aeriennne base in Volkel which is located in the vicinity but they had nothing on their radars. Later, Volkel declared that their radar was not operational, but according to one NATO base here the latter statement by Volkel is impossible. No, really: am I not to believe that which I have seen - for me it remains an enigma."

Thus, belief in these two gendarmes and the different other witnesses to the manifestations of these machines is strong amongst those who have perceived such phenomena in the Belgium airspace.

It must be added that the vague Belgium observations of triangular UFOs remain very little known in the Lowlands; the Netherlands press has said little about the matter.

At the beginning of December, only the Maastricht paper, 'Limburger' had

mention the reported observations in the region of Eupen. The white lights, the flickering red ones, the absence of sound, everyone here is, apparently, astonished over the Belgium UFOs.

The public relations officer from the Aeriennne base at Volkel (where some F16s are based) confirmed that the base radar was not operational that night because there were no nocturnal flights: curious defence which does not function at night.....

REVIEWS

Portraits of Alien Encounters by Nigel Watson, Valis Books, 52a Lascotts Road, Wood Green, London, N22 4JN. illustrated, £10.00

It is a shame that I cannot review this book without a heavy degree of negative bias. But despite this (which I will explain later), I thought I would try and read this self published tome from page one with an open mind.

Leaving the Armchair

Watson, a member of the Magonia school of ufological thought, takes what is presented to be an in depth study of close encounter witnesses: Paul Bennett, Gaynor Sunderland, Jane Humber and Norman Harrison (proof positive that Magonia researchers do sometimes leave their cosy armchairs and interview witnesses directly).

The text for the book was written some 12 years ago in the hope that a publisher would take an interest. One can understand now why that interest never materialised. Dull is not the word.

My review of this book may have been more positive if I had not had the opportunity to check on Watson's work and sources directly. I am of course

talking about the Gaynor Sunderland case.

Firstly Watson has never met Gaynor to obtain a true insight of her experiences and more importantly, her psychological stability, which like the other witnesses focussed upon, is put into question by the book.

After interviewing Gaynor directly, I discovered over 20 factual errors relating to the Sunderland case within the text and several psychological interpretations that did not bare any true relation to Gaynor or her brothers. These gross inaccuracies would probably not have occurred if Watson had bothered to talk over the case with the witnesses involved.

One now has to ask the question of how accurate is his commentary relating to the other witnesses and their experiences? Paul Bennett has himself stated that he purposely embellished his statements to 'wind Nigel up'. Norman Harrison has also rejected Watson's discussion relating to him and his experiences, but to be fair is allowed to say so in the book

Qualified

Another question one must ask: how can

a copywriter by profession have the qualification and the experience to make psychological assessments of witnesses without ever meeting them?

We are told that he has a BA Open University degree and a BA Honours degree in film and literature. Not quite a practising psychologist's qualifications. Many of his comments are potentially damaging to the individuals spotlighted with the risk of placing careers and social standing into jeopardy. It must be clearly understood that witnesses come to us for help and an answer to their experiences in good faith. We should therefore treat these people with respect and not publicly humiliate them by branding them psychologically imbalanced, qualified or not. This is tantamount to tabloid journalism.

Watson's answer to this is simple, "These cases are in the public domain and are therefore fair game." This exhibits the researcher/witness relationship at its worst. When are ufologists going to grow up and realise the potential damage they can do? Or is self gratification too important?

Portraits could have been a good book. Most objective researchers would not argue that psychology plays an important part of the close encounter experience. And I would go further and say that some of his general assumptions may turn out to be correct. However, Watson does not in my opinion, present a definitive answer to high strangeness cases as his research base is obviously on very shaky ground.

The Unexplained is Back

Yes that 13 volume part work is back on the Newsagent's shelves again after an 11 year break.

But if you have already collected the 157 issues and placed them lovingly into those leather-look binders then save yourself a trip to the corner shop. One would have expected a re-write or at least an up-dated version, but from browsing though the first issue (free with the News of the World) the only difference I could find was the typeface and the titles. What a rip off, especially for the original contributors who I understand are not receiving any further financial remuneration for their efforts.

Interestingly, the original Unexplained cost 50p for the first and subsequent issues. Apparently the current issues are costing £1.50. That's inflation for you.

New Catalogues from Atlantis

The Atlantis Bookshop, one of the largest esoteric bookshop in the UK and home of the Psychic Press are currently preparing catalogues of past and latest books that are currently available within the paranormal/mystery field. Each catalogue will concentrate of particular topics including UFOs, Earth mysteries and magick, presenting informative dialogue for each title listed and notice of titles to be published in the future.

It is hoped that the catalogues will also include other information like listings of groups and events.

Reprint

We here that Timothy Good's latest book 'Alien Liaisons' has reached its second reprint. But will UFO Times get a review copy? We will have to see.

THE

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UFO Research in Iran

by Darush Bagheri

TEHRAN, 18 September, 1976.
27th SHAHRIVAR 1355, 11.00 pm.

Some citizens contacted Tehran Mehrabad Airport tower control informing them about an unidentified, bright object above SIED KHANDAN & SHARIEATI STREET. Tower control, after contacting an F4 fighter plane, which was patrolling in the Tehran sky, made sure that the unidentified object was in the air and then ordered the fighter plane pilot to follow it.

The report which came back said that the unidentified object was changing its position rapidly at high speed and changing colour as it changed in shape and profile.

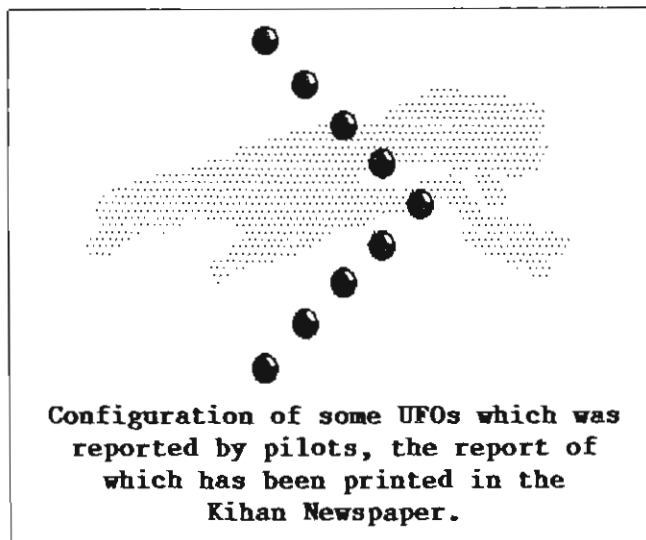
At 1.00 am, the unidentified object had gone to the south of Tehran and by 2.30 - 4.00 am had landed in the Tehran southern desert of Shahr Ray. The fighter pilot reported that the gunnery system of the aircraft was not working and some disturbance [sic] had been seen in the system.

This was the first and only UFO report which was investigated and compiled in the year 1355 [1976] in Iran. Before and after the above date there were many reports of people seeing UFOs, including some close approaches by some.

At Esfand in Feb. 1356 [1977], there was another UFO which went from the south to the north of Tehran. This object was detected by a commercial pilot on route from Tehran to Shiraz. On the 24th Tir, 1357 [15 June, 1978] the same [pilot] reported to NIRTV and Mehrabad Airport ATC of another unidentified object seen in the Tehran sky changing in colour from pink, blue, yellow to white and moving from one spot to another. Another report in a Kihan newspaper on 26th Ordibehesht, 1356 [16 May, 1986] a bright object was seen above the western part of the mountains

north of Tehran and to which occurrence I personally witnessed.

3 000 metres from my house in Shahr Ziba a large, bright object had appeared for about 10 minutes and, after loosing its brightness, disappeared, only to reappear some minutes later at an elevation of 20° in the north-west. Bright, enormous and changing colour from red, yellow to red and white whilst in motion. after a further 15 minutes it disappeared but perhaps this disappearance was due to the war situation between Iran and Iraq; the airforce, thinking this was an enemy plane, was ordered to fire upon the object.



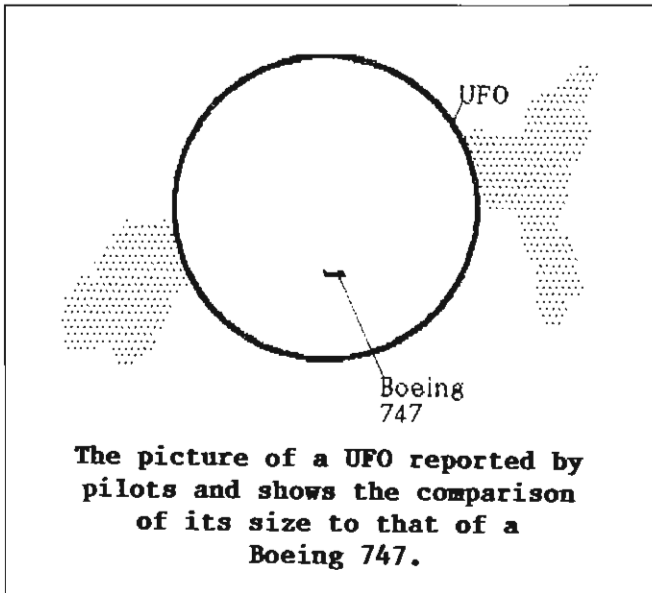
Configuration of some UFOs which was reported by pilots, the report of which has been printed in the Kihan Newspaper.

Revolutionary Disruption

Before the Islamic Revolution, the UFO phenomenon had been reported in the newspapers and other media sources but it was not commonplace for research and investigation to take place on behalf of the media into this subject. However, a TV programme called 'Danesh', under the direction of Mr. Mirfaghratti, two commercial pilots were invited to talk about the UFO phenomenon. They said that UFOs are a fact and went on to discuss sightings. Also, Djavanan Magazine ran a

series of documented reports and stories about UFOs and stated that most of those reports were translations from foreign newspapers and magazines and were baseless, imaginary and untruthful stories.

During those years there were no committees or organisations to investigate the UFO phenomenon as novel technology and, at times, due to the customary hostility, the people thought the subject of UFOs as an international joke coming from the European mind.



After the Islamic Revolution the subject of UFOs was forgotten and has not been mentioned in the newspapers or other media sources. The Iranian Government, in a TV broadcast on Channel 1, Monday 14th of Azar, 1367, [5th Dec. 1988] at 9.45 pm stated that any research on this subject is a waste of time as UFO stories are untrue and went on to say that the Danesh Group on Channel 1, Iranian TV which produced the programme and who call for research into the subject of UFOs, are making propaganda on behalf of the USA and USSR. It is a matter of interest that Mr. Mirfaghartti, who was the compere and producer of the programme, was the same person who, before the revolution, enthusiastically encouraged research into the subject and was the only person presented the NASA Memo to the two commercial pilots mentioned above, but today is refusing to have anything to do with the subject; why is he doing this?

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Conclusion

The fact of the matter concerning what the Iranians think of UFOs is related to the social and educational thinking status of the 'system'. Iranians are a people who possess a religious posture the effect of which, especially after the Islamic Revolution, has become enlarged and complicated. Moreover, due to the Iranian Government's attitude towards the subject of UFOs, the emphasis has been on the religious bias and propaganda. Thus, the reason why the Iranian people are so negative towards the subject is not too difficult to understand, having as they do no information as to the real situation of the matter.

In any way, the fact is that UFOs are an educational and technical phenomenon and is not the sole property of any special person or group. Consequently, you must agree that my colleagues and I have many problems concerning the research and investigations into the matter.

There may come a day when people will believe me when they see a UFO landing on their roof which will remove them from the sceptical frame of mind to that which I call the bravery of acceptance of actuality.

Readers

Write

Express your views by sending your correspondence to:

**The Editor, UFO Times,
Suite 1, The Leys,
2c Leyton Road,
Harpenden, Herts,
AL5 2TL**

UFOIN Files

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to Albert Budden's letter about the UFOIN files and the IUN's reproduction of Andy Collins and Barry King's 'Aveley' investigation file. I should explain that in the time period when UFO Investigators Network was active (1977-1981) I handled most of the administrative work so am fully aware of the background to this story.

I do not dispute anything that Albert says in the first half of his letter, but think it courtesy that original investigators should be asked by the IUN if they publish more. It would be useful to invite them to update the case also. Hopefully, the IUN will do this, but I see no other objection to making the material more widely available as they plan.

However, Albert's chronology of the UFOIN files situation needs correction as it is awry, possibly because the comments made about its genesis in the IUN Aveley publication were rather misleading.

In fact, UFOIN was formed by a group of investigators who simply felt that more effort was needed to improve standards. I was one of them. To do this it was decided to create the team on a self-governing basis (ie not a part of ANY group and without ANY trappings of administration or officers) purely to work on high strangeness cases in as much detail as possible.

The liaison with FSR came about thanks

to then editor Charles Bowen who was keen to see the standard of case investigations improved in what was in 1976 an unsurpassed journal. FSR never had (and to my knowledge never have) paid contributors. However, a small honorarium was agreed to offset investigation costs (petrol, photocopy charges etc) in exchange for FSR having FIRST publication of the case histories in their magazine. As Andy Collins said in his review of the IUN publication this was never a huge sum - but a decade ago the money involved was hardly insubstantial. This is particularly so when you bear in mind that no UFO investigators get paid today anywhere, plus, of course, that FSR only had the option on first publication. There was absolutely nothing to prevent any UFOIN investigator from selling an article on their case to a professional paying journal or newspaper or, indeed, to stop them writing books based upon them. Some did.

I should add that when UFOIN was initially dreamt up it was hoped to organise it THROUGH the medium of BUFORA. The plan was formulated by three council members (including myself as liaison officer, then Chairman Roger Stanway and then Director of Investigations Ken Phillips). Unfortunately, circumstances prevented this, notably when Roger bravely chose to quit UFOlogy in late 1976 because of his deep religious beliefs. As a consequence, UFOIN had to go it alone; although a high percentage of its 25 or so strong team were (and remained) BUFORA members and there were never any restrictions preventing them from filing copies with the parent group.

A couple of the members of UFOIN were part of a local group in Nottingham that was then affiliated with NUFON (the Northern UFO Network). They had the fortune to own a terraced house at which they stored much equipment. The NUFON files had been there and it was mutually agreed by the UFOIN team to house the collective files alongside these in the same room and - as with the NUFON files - allow free access to anyone who wished to use them for research. This was a fundamental principal of the UFOIN team.

In late 1981 BUFORA invited UFOIN to

effectively become its investigation team. UFOIN was to be allowed to operate much as before through Britain's premier group - indeed as had been the original intention five years earlier. Problems were developing at FSR (Charles Bowen was fatally ill and was soon to relinquish his editorship to a new man with his own views and style) . This meant the change was at the time considered beneficial by UFOIN. It was certainly to UFOlogy's advantage to reduce the number of 'competing' groups. A meeting was held and the team voted for the move (remember many UFOIN members were still BUFORA members anyhow).

There were a few dissenters, chiefly the two or three UFOIN members who were part of the Nottingham group. They could not accept the outcome of the meeting (which I don't think they even attended) and if my memory serves me decided to continue UFOIN on their own so as to retain the files. Although I did circularise the UFOIN members who democratically voted for the merger over what action we might take to secure the files, UFOINs great strength (its lack of bureaucracy) was now its greatest weakness (no rules to prevent a couple of people acting as they felt obliged to act). As they had promised to continue to let the files be accessible in Nottingham it was eventually decided that there was no point in a bitter wrangle and we should all just get on with the job in hand - serious UFO investigation.

From the March 1982 Edinburgh conference, the new BUFORA NIC effectively became UFOIN reborn, operating on very similar principles.

Later the Nottingham group quit NUFON and we 'evacuated' the NUFON files , rehousing at Manchester University; although today in another venue in the city centre and much more easily accessible to researchers. However, despite making an effort to do so when we went to Nottingham to collect these, we were refused permission to take the UFOIN files. Other than have a legal battle there was no alternative but to accept. Not long afterwards the Nottingham group split and then later handed the files over to the IUN, whc

accepted them despite having had no role at all in the original UFOIN team. Indeed, if anyone had claim to the files it was BUFORA as the NIC still contains a number of former UFOIN investigators - including both Ken Phillips and myself, two of the three who drew up the UFOIN scheme in the first place. There are now so far as I know few, if any, former UFOIN members still active as UFOlogists who are not associated with BUFORA.

Having said that, there is no point in bitterness and recriminations and I will be happy PROVIDED the IUN fulfil their promise of housing the files at a location where they are openly accessible. Such was the case in Nottingham. Such would have been the case had they been rehoused in Manchester, where researchers have come from as far afield as Australia and New York to study the NUFON records for various projects. I gather that the IUN plan to do this, but at present am unsure that the UFOIN files are anywhere other than in somebody's private house. If such a situation were true and to continue to be the case, it would - in my view - defeat the spirit of the UFOIN initiative and is not what the team worked so hard for.

Marketing the files for profit has its ethical problems also, but as Albert says, the IUN are at least doing this at reasonable cost. It goes some way towards fulfilling the UFOIN principle and provided they get their facts straight about UFOIN and check with investigators fair enough.

However, as was always the case, what matters is what the investigators who originated the files think of this controversy themselves - and if Andy Collins feels as strongly as he evidently does I hope the IUN will bear that fact in mind and act accordingly when they plan future uses for the files and organise wider access to this important UFO heritage.

I also think other ex-UFOIN members still with BUFORA (eg John Copsey, Terry Cox, Hilary Evans, Ken Phillips, Philip Taylor etc) should speak up.

**Jenny Randles,
Stockport, Cheshire**

Editor' Note

The following letters concerning crop circles were supplied and commented upon before the recent hoaxing revelations by Doug and Dave.

Controversy of the Circles

Dear Editor,

I was sorry to read (UFO Times May 1991 pp 18) that Manfred Cassirer is, "Choking on a diet of vortices endlessly rammed down my gullet". Unhappily for Manfred I intend ramming some more vortices down his throat over the next few years, particularly cases like that of the Tomlinson's (Hambleton, Surrey, August 1990), who stood **inside** the wind vortex that created a crop circle **all round them**. We now have more than two dozen accounts by witnesses who report seeing wind vortices creating crop circles. We have also examined the weather conditions at 20 of Britain's best close encounter cases and shown that almost 75% involved cases that fit Meaden's theory superbly. What is wrong about promoting such evidence? Surely the whole point of responsible UFO research is to find explanations for anomalous phenomena?

Cassirer alleges that the chief proponent of the atmospheric vortex theory fails to debate his theory at a BUFORA lecture "for fear of contradiction". As Cassirer well knows, the reason why Meaden refused to lecture to the Association was because of the deeply libellous claims made against him by a paranormally-inclined speaker at a previous BUFORA lecture and because of the disgraceful behaviour of certain well known researchers at a lecture before that.

I was saddened to read Cassirer's claim that the crop circles are "basically a 1980's plus phenomenon of the West Country" and that despite his "many protracted visits to Downton" no reports were made at Pepperbox Hill. With claims like this it makes me wonder all the more why I bother publishing the original case reports of the Australian circles of 1973 in the Crop Watcher, let alone the other historic cases detailed throughout our published work.

Ironically Pepperbox Hill is one location where we have good evidence that crop circles have been appearing for many years. In 1987, the irate farmer Graham Sparks, claimed that circles have been appearing on his land for 28 years (ie 1958-87). He also claimed that he had chased hoaxers off his land and discovered an incriminating length of rope. But this evidence mysteriously never appeared in "Circular Evidence". I wonder why?

Cassirer falsely claims that Meaden's supporters have alleged that "there have been no changes in the morphography of the formations" and that we judge whether or not the formation is genuine purely on the basis of the pattern. In fact we have made our position very clear on this issue and have published important criteria to distinguish between hoaxes and genuine formations in all our published work. These criteria have been reinforced by the many hoaxes of 1991, but it is not true that the pattern is the only criterion used to distinguish genuine from hoax.

Although we accept that some of the 1990-91 formations **as yet** have no historical precedents we are continuing to uncover evidence of historic complex formations. For example a witness has reported her observation of a dumbbell formation at Cheesefoot in 1960, thereby proving that dumbbells are not "new" as alleged by the alien intelligence supporters. Another historical account of the dumbbell formation was reported for 1940 in the April 1991 issue of the "CPR Newsletter". In the Crop Watcher we have published an unconfirmed report of a dumbbell from pre-war Belgium. How does Cassirer explain these accounts? and why do the alien intelligence believers continue claiming that the phenomenon began in 1980 and then "spread out" to the rest of the world in the light of the photographs and case studies that we have been publishing?

Cassirer claims that he tends to be suspicious of writers who are "long on speculation but short on proven fact". We are publishing the facts precisely so that researchers like Cassirer can make a more informed decision about the evidence. When researchers simply cannot

be bothered to familiarise themselves with what we have published then what is the point in publishing material in the first place?

**Paul Fuller,
Romsey, Hampshire**

The Controversy Continues

Dear Editor,

In reply to Paul Fuller's illuminating letter I would like to make the following points.

The reason why I and others find the Vortex Theory in some respects unsatisfactory is because it seems less applicable to complex configurations like last year's at Alton Barnes. Admittedly there are hoaxes, but I fail to be convinced that these are the general rule rather than the exception; but even if they were, a small residue would have to be taken seriously.

As to Dr Meaden's refusal to come out of the woodwork, I resent the implication that I condoned rudeness. Dr Meaden may not welcome criticism, but he was not actually present at the time and had to rely on hearsay reports by people hostile to the speaker. Had he been there, we might now know **which** of several theories are to be considered inviolable!

Finally, a word about the editorial comment. It is based on the misperception that I had presented "speculations", and that I had been at fault at not backing them up. This is not so at all. On the other hand, more careful editing of the last page of UFO Times would not have come amiss.

**Manfred Cassirer,
London**

Editor's comment: There's nothing like a debate on crop circles to bring out a vociferous nature in people! Yes, pictograms are a thorn in the side of the plasma vortex theory if they are not hoaxes. But the evidence to support this hypothesis is overwhelming especially with the eyewitness accounts and the laboratory studies taking place at

present.

In answer to you Manfred. My point was simple: if your going to question the plasma vortex theory give us a plausible alternative that doesn't have 'some form of intelligence' somewhere in the dissertation. And if you don't like my comments to letters well its tough because I, like everyone else, I am entitled to voice my own opinion!

Circles and Altered States

Dear Editor,

Paul Fuller knows that I largely support his approach to crop circles and other matters, but may I make a mild protest? In "A Crop Circles Revolution" (UT, July 1991) he states that Ohtsuki was fascinated by "our suggestion" in his crop circles book with Jenny Randles "that cases involving meetings with entities... might be explained as an altered state of consciousness induced by the strong micro-wave energy fields inside the plasma vortex". Please! I have been promoting such an hypothesis (ASCs in close encounters with ambient energy fields associated with anomalous light phenomena) for the last decade! And Michael Persinger has done extensive theoretical and experimental work on that very topic! Fuller and Randles are, in reality, late to this theory.

Further, I should point out that as a result of work in the "Earth Mysteries" field, we have strong evidence of geophysical causes of ASCs, such as zones of enhanced natural radiation, and there is a rock outcrop on a Scottish island that sends people into trance! Natural magnetic fields too are implicated in this research. Fields of these types may in fact be the ASC-inducer in plasma vortices rather than the hypothetical plasma vortex microwave component (remember, Ohtsuki has only produced laboratory fireballs, which may not necessarily be the same as the naturally-occurring phenomena, and one set of those were was produced by electrostatic discharge not microwave excitation).

Also, I think we should be wary of going too full-tilt into an assumption

that everything has now to be a plasma vortex. If the plasma vortex hypothesis is correct - and I am quite happy to accept it as such myself - the vortices are only one form of potentially light producing phenomena. They draw their energy from atmospheric dynamics, whereas ball lightning draws its manifestation from atmospheric electricity, and earthquake lights and earth lights from geological/tectonic factors (see The ley Hunter 114 for a newly-published range of these latter phenomena), I suspect that although the energy sources are different, the phenomena produced are all closely related.

Paul Devereux,
Cornwall

Editor's Comment: A timely reminder Paul of where UFO/ASC thinking originated! The possible connection between earth light type phenomena and plasma vortices (albeit manifesting similar effects upon percipients) has not, to my mind, been mooted before.

To me, it is an exciting postulation that there are two, novel and naturally occurring phenomena that may have the potential to alter the state of one's consciousness. This is even more magical and important than the possibility of an 'alien intelligence' carving up the sown landscape with unintelligible messages.

Without sounding too 'New Age' this thinking adds life to the principle of Gaia. In my opinion there is probably no consciousness or communication behind the phenomena per se (with the effects to the human mind being more a bi-product of the phenomena rather than the reason for its existence), even so, it is an important part of the UFO phenomenon that must be studied further, because it is in this I feel we will find the key.

A Congress Thank-you

Dear Editor,

On behalf of this year's Congress Organisers, I would like to thank the following people for their first class

contributions to the Congress which enabled it to be the success that it was.

First of all I would like to thank all the speakers and the rock band CEIV for their many different presentations, especially those who were invited to speak at rather short notice. Without them there would not have been any Congress at all.

Secondly, I would like to show my appreciation to the numerous individuals who made the Congress work over the three days, this includes yourself plus: Andy Roberts, David Clarke, Rodney Howarth, David Kelly, Mike Alexander, Andrew Walmsley, Stewart Smith, Terry Jones, Clive Potter, Gordon Perkins, Onay Fiaz, Bob Digby, Robin Lindsey, Roy Rowlands, Simon Rose, John Spencer, and anyone else not mentioned above.

Last but not least I would like to thank the staff of the Rutland Hotel, Sharrow View Hotel and the Central Library Theatre for looking after us so well plus everyone who attended the Congress. On behalf of the Congress organisers, I would like to thank everyone for making this year's Congress a very memorable event and we look forward to the next one.

Philip Mantle,
6th international Congress,
Batley, West Yorkshire.

STOP PRESS

Crop Circle Latest

After an interview with the Liverpool Daily Post, Terence Meaden has finally conceded that all of the pictograms that have materialised over the past couple of years are hoaxes.

Sources have also whispered that there was a near punch-up between Dave Chorley and George Wingfield in the Green Room after Granada's 'Up Front' programme. George should know better than to meddle with Government agents, they maybe licenced to kill!

DIARY

<u>7th Dec</u>	BUFORA London Lecture Crop Circles Speaker Busty Taylor
<u>4th Jan</u>	BUFORA London Lecture Pie in the Sky Speaker Leslie Banks
<u>18th Jan</u>	BUFORA Regional Lecture Northampton Friends Meeting House, Wellington Street. Starts 1.30pm Speaker to be announced
<u>1st Feb</u>	BUFORA London Lecture Esoteric UFO Story Speaker Geoff Freed

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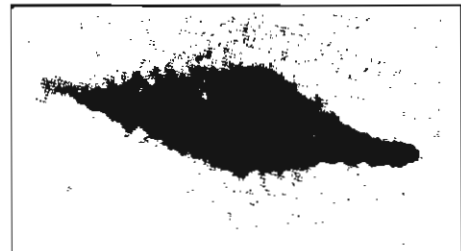
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