

6th INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS
UFOs: THE GLOBAL VIEW



August Sheffield
16, 17, 18 South Yorkshire
1991 England

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Congress Organisers

BUFORA: THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Founded 1964. Registered office: 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RG15 9ST. Incorporating the London UFO Research Association (Founded 1959) and the British UFO Association (Founded 1962).

AIMS:

- 1) *To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of the UFO phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.*
- 2) *To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFO's.*
- 3) *To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.*

Membership is open to all who support the aims of the association and whose application is approved by the executive committee. BUFORA publishes a number of booklets as well as the bi-monthly magazine UFO Times. Application forms and general information can be obtained by sending an SAE to: BUFORA, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.

IUN: THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

The Independent UFO Network was formed in 1987 out of liaison between members of the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (WYUFORG), the Yorkshire UFO Network (YUFON), and several independent UFO investigators living in various parts of Britain.

The IUN holds no particular viewpoint on the nature and origin of the UFO enigma and seeks to disseminate its research and investigations via its magazine UFO Brigantia to help

give a further overview and perspective on the subject of UFOs.

UFO Brigantia subscription information can be obtained by sending an SAE to: IUN, 84 Elland Road, Brighthouse, West Yorkshire. HD6 2QR.

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The Mutual UFO Network Inc. is an international scientific organisation composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known as UFOs by combining their mutual talents, areas of expertise and investigative efforts.

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MUFON's board of consultants, most of whom are PhDs or MDs representing 45 areas of science, are readily available as an advisory group to apply their expertise to UFO cases under study and to conduct advanced research in their respective field.

A monthly magazine, the MUFON UFO Journal is our most significant means of sharing details of UFO sighting reports and vital information related to the UFO phenomena with our members throughout the world.

For membership and general information details write to: MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155, USA.



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Foreword

John Spencer, UK



John Spencer

On behalf of the Congress Organising Committee may I extend a welcome to all the speakers and delegates to this most important of International Congresses.

I am delighted to have been invited by the Committee to give this personal overview by way of introduction to the Congress, the theme of which is the Global Picture.

The scope of the subject has widened greatly since the Kenneth Arnold sighting of 44 years ago which triggered off the so called modern era. Perhaps more than any subject it is global in every sense of the word.

Global in the sense of covering the whole of the Earth. No continent of the globe has been devoid of UFO sightings and presentations are being made at this Congress from Europe, America, Australia, and Africa.

Global in the sense of embracing all of time. Although the modern era stems from 1947, research which must at least be regarded as thought provoking has looked backwards as far even as primitive man's cave paintings.

Global in the sense of touching people from all walks of life. Some research has shown that there may be 'UFO-prone' individuals but those characteristics are not confined to easily definable groups of people. From the less educated to the highly qualified, from the town drunk to United States presidents, reports of UFOs have been received. Policemen, airline

pilots, military personnel, doctors, factory workers and those working the land have all shared in this global phenomenon.

Global in the sense of embracing all cultures. The UFO phenomenon, in what might be regarded as the technological perception of extraterrestrial spacecraft, is to some degree a perception of the 'western world' but even a cursory glance at the experiences of other cultures such as aboriginal cultures, rural African and South American cultures, Eskimo cultures, native American Indian cultures and several cultures of the Far East all indicate something which, if it is not the UFO phenomenon, is so close a cousin that distinction is virtually irrelevant.

Global in its effect on people. The UFO phenomenon has been humorous at times, it has been awe-inspiring and beautiful, it has been terrifying and frightening and occasionally it has resulted in injury and death.

Global in the sense of types of events. The UFO phenomenon ranges from distant sightings seen by people to close encounters experienced by people. From the "I saw a light and it went away" right through to the "I saw a light and ended up inside it".

A great deal of effort has been put into studying the phenomenon but it has to be said that few results have been drawn from it, at least few results which are collectively agreed upon even by specialists in the field. Many good people all across the world are trying hard but they are hampered by a lack of involvement by many of the world's established 'communities'.

A small part of the involvement that is needed is closer work with the scientific community who must open up their minds to the possibilities that the UFO phenomenon will reveal; it will have far reaching effects on physics, biology, psychology, sociology, mythology, meteorology and a whole host of 'ologies' that even Maureen Lipman's television son has not yet dreamed of. I say a small part because this area has at least been tapped, with many scientists, sometimes clandestinely, working with us.

Almost completely untapped, but perhaps the most important part of the modern world in



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both the west and now the east, is the environment of industry and commerce which has much to offer UFO research and much to gain from its experiences - if only from its spin-offs.

The most responsible UFO groups must be looking towards a closer involvement and closer funded research from these institutions which have, often quietly, been happy to fund all sorts of research in past years but which are now more than ever actively seeking radical thinking at every level.

Most importantly, the subject must be opened up to the billions of people around the world that barely know of its existence apart from through sensationally biased media. In the 44 years since Arnold's sighting there have been a plethora of books written, but these have been mostly books written for specialists, books written within a small club, for the members of a small club. Very few have opened up the true phenomenon to the general public, yet, as the tabloid media shows, the public is fascinated by the UFO phenomenon.

We must learn to bridge a gap between the serious material and tabloid presentation if we are to speak to all people at all levels and widen the involvement of the world at large into the subject. We must have the subject viewed as respectable for discussion, without ridicule, in all walks of life and all social environments.

The subject must be not only on the academic agenda of every university but on every coffee table and bookshelf across the world.

As regards the work to be done, we have relied far too much on individuals to do the research. This one subject more than any other has suffered from a lack of synergy; lacking the extra abilities brought to research by well-motivated teams forging together towards common goals.

The UFO community must look towards building those teams so that research is not

simply the work of individuals as it has been in the past. UFO organisations must not merely be administration bodies for those individuals, but true working environments for motivated groups.

We need to be more open minded; we have reached a position where, far from being radical thinking and opposing the closed minds of self interested establishment science we have now generated just that same mentality within the UFO community itself.

Several groups across America, the UK and Scandinavia particularly have become so ultra-skeptic that rejection of the UFO phenomenon is their only way forward. We must not fall into that trap and we must be ready to learn from the phenomenon, whatever aspect of mankind it is touching.

Of course scepticism is vital, but it must be balanced, and not limited to predispositions to believe only 'to a certain level'. We do not know what the proper level is yet.

One thing is certain. The road ahead of us is longer than the road behind us. Let us make sure that the steps we take on the road in the future are more productive than the steps that we have already taken because, whatever the UFO phenomenon is, it serves no one to dismiss it lightly or make it the preserve of academics.

It does not need to be treated with awe, it does not need to be treated with reverence or solemnity, it certainly does not deserve to be treated with ridicule but it does need to be addressed and its importance recognised.

Perhaps it only holds the key to a few atmospheric phenomena or perhaps it holds the key to understanding Mankin's place in the Universe; mentally, physically or spiritually. Until we know for certain which, we must not be dismissive.



Major Sir Patrick Wall



*Major Sir
Patrick Wall*

Major Sir Patrick Wall has been president of BUFORA since 1989 and it is with considerable regret that we have had to accept his resignation at this Congress.

Personal circumstances and other demands on his time have forced Sir Patrick to stand down. BUFORA owes him a debt of gratitude for his close involvement with the company over the years and we wish him well for the future.

Never easily willing to lose a good man, BUFORA's plans are already afoot for us to persuade him to at least let us have the benefit of his wisdom in the future without his having to undertake the obligations of office!

Sir Patrick had a long career as Conservative MP for Humberside and in over 30 years in the House of Commons he furthered the cause of Ufology with a number of questions.

As a NATO consultant, security aspects of UFOs were a particular interest. Throughout the years his contributions to the subject have been most interesting and vital.

BUFORA'S 30TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

19TH SEPTEMBER 1992

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL
LONDON

For further details, send an SAE to:
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Visitors to last year's *Phantoms of the Sky* conference will no doubt remember that there was some difficulty in obtaining food and drink in Sheffield, especially on the Sunday lunch time. This year this problem has been overcome. THE SURREY public house lies just opposite the library's main entrance, just a hundred yards or so from the library theatre, and the proprietor, Colin James, has specially opened for Congress delegates on Sunday lunch time. Full pub facilities will be available plus a selection of Sunday lunches to suit most tastes. There is nowhere else open locally at Sunday lunch time so all Congress delegates are advised to use THE SURREY for refreshments as well as paying it a visit on Friday and Saturday.

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ENIGMAS

ENIGMAS is published five times a year by Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI).

This magazine regularly features articles on all aspects of the paranormal, including UFOs, poltergeists, hauntings, spiritualism, life after death and so on. To obtain subscription details, please send a large SAE to: SPI, 14 McKinlay Crescent, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, FK10 3RX.

UFORIA

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The UFO Phenomenon and its Meaning

Bertil Kuhlemann, Sweden



*Bertil Kuhlemann
(Project URD,
UFO-Sweden
ICUR)*

Bertil Kuhlemann represents Sweden. He believes the UFO phenomenon does exist. We must not ignore the importance of reported sensory perceptions during UFO experiences, he argues; although they elude scientific definition, they constitute vital world evidence.

Different Levels of Perception

Under the label of UFO phenomena, a wide spectrum of phenomena are assembled, including UFOs and flying saucers.

Basically, however, we are only able to study the (reported) characteristics of those phenomena on a very superficial level.

Scientifically-proved findings are unfortunately scarce and some of the experiences of the observers belong to domains where instrumented scientific investigations cannot be carried out (such as intuitive 'hints', extra-sensory perception, telepathy).

The psychological aspects of our 5+ senses is thus a very important factor in UFO research.

When observers report on their UFO experiences, it could be valuable to define the estimations of different characteristics in intervals rather than by definite figures, in order to make the data of the reports on the UFO phenomena more comparable and compatible internationally.

Another psychological factor is the detrimental effect of the 'official' attitude to the existence of the UFO phenomena, with regard to the willingness of the observers to report on their experiences.

'You do not want to have your sanity questioned by reporting something which does not exist,' is the attitude.

We need to compile and summarise our findings in appropriate ways and communicate them to scientific authorities, mass media and to the general public, so that the message hits home: *UFOs are for real. The UFO phenomenon does exist!*

The Phenomena and its Meaning

What is the meaning of the phenomenon?

In order to come to an understanding of this question, and the answer to it, we must elevate ourselves to a 'lofty' position, and, from here, dig through all the bits and pieces of the different types of phenomena (assembled, perhaps incorrectly, under the label of the UFO phenomenon) and search for and test possible patterns. What do we then find?

Well, an invitation to work on the development of our own consciousness (individually and collectively) for the refinement of humanity and its relations to nature, toward a cosmic brotherhood including of course a new attitude toward peace. A truly esoteric and spiritual invitation!

My Life with the Phenomenon

My life with the phenomenon started very early (without including any specific UFO experiences) and went on all throughout my late adolescence and into early adulthood with successive consciousness development steps leading to a comprehensive and coherent cosmological world-view and philosophy of life.

A Brief autobiography

Bertil Kuhlemann was born in 1931, and is married with one child. He has held different



positions in scientific and industrial R & D since 1950.

His areas of involvement include: industrial applications of radioactive materials, semiconductor R & D and production, industrial investment and profitability analysis, scientific and industrial information services in different fields and for different branches of production, international liaison for bilateral R & D support and, during the last 12 years, he

has held the post of project manager for a comprehensive computer installation.

He has been involved in UFO research since 1961 – particularly in the application of scientific methodologies for the investigation of the UFO phenomena.

He is co-founder of Project URD and UFO-Sweden and ICUR. He served as the first chairman of ICUR.



To believe or not to believe

Cynthia Hind, Zimbabwe. Africa



Cynthia Hind

Cynthia Hind, from Zimbabwe in Africa, relates her assessments of two African cases – that of Elizabeth Klarer, who claims she met and fell in love with an alien scientist from another star system, both bearing his child and spending time with him on his home planet, and the story of Edwin, who claims to be in regular radio contact with an alien civilisation.

An assessment of Elizabeth Klarer

I first met Elizabeth Klarer in 1967, towards Christmas. I was not particularly involved with UFOs at the time, but had written an article on the subject for a local magazine in Zimbabwe.

There was a surprising spate of letters as a result of this article, one of which mentioned Elizabeth, and I decided to pursue the subject at the first opportunity.

She lived in a rather 'olde worlde' apartment in a good area. She was then in her late fifties, extremely elegant and charming and I could immediately see that she had been a beautiful woman and was, in fact, still a very attractive lady.

She told me her story very matter-of-factly;

she spoke quietly and in an unemotional way.

Elizabeth has very exotic almond-shaped eyes; they are a lovely shade of green and an unusual feature. Despite the fact that I found her warm and friendly and an immediate rapport flowed between us, she never reveals her feelings through those enigmatic eyes.

She started by showing me photographs she had taken of the UFO.

I was impressed. Not being involved in the subject at the time, her story appeared too way out for me to accept. But the photographs were a puzzle; I could not believe this cultured, gentle woman would fake the pictures, and if she had, then how had she produced this strange disc-shaped object with a smooth metallic surface, darting among the clouds in almost playful defiance of gravity?

Elizabeth's first contact, she alleged, had been in 1957. She had a favourite hill not far from her sister's farm in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains which she would visit regularly on her own.

It was here that she first saw the sun brightly reflected off the metal surface of the unknown craft. She was awed, but not afraid.

She watched as it came to a metre above the ground, hovering silently. Soon after I met her, she showed me a book she had written about her experiences. It was entitled *Beyond the Light Barrier* (in English) and was also published in German by Karl Veit. In the book, she writes, "A pulsating hum filled the air which caused my eardrums to pop. The circular hull was at least 18 metres in diameter with a rounded dome in the middle with three large portholes facing me" through which she could discern the figure of a man, watching her.

She says of the spaceship: "There was a dazzling brightness from the smooth, glass-like surface... a bright haziness that came from the ship itself" and was not the reflection of the sun.

She also noted that the hull was 'spinning in a clockwise motion', while the 'rounded dome remained stationary'.

She goes on to say that the ship lowered



itself and the 'brightness began to hurt my eyes'.

Then it rose again, her head aching from the vibrations in the atmosphere. She notes 'a haze of white mistiness surrounding the ship' when suddenly it was gone.

Her hat flew off her head and a strange feeling of weightlessness made her sit down on the grass.

Bearing in mind that this was 1957, are not the descriptions peculiarly familiar to all modern UFO investigators?

Months later, Elizabeth maintains that she felt a compulsion to visit her 'Flying Saucer Hill' again.

She drove up from Durban in her MG and, early the next morning, rushed to what she felt was the assignation point.

The silver spaceship was resting on the ground in a dip at the top of the hill. Standing there was the tall man whom she had seen before.

He said, "Not afraid this time?"

He took her into the ship and she was seated at a half-moon bench in the middle of the cabin, encircling a bubble-like lens in the centre.

A second man at the controls acknowledged her. Then she noticed the doorway closing soundlessly. The walls and doors fused and for a moment she felt agitated. Covers also closed over the portholes.

Where were they taking her? Would she be away from her family forever?

"The whole cabin was alight with a soft reflected light, the effect of light without shadows," she writes.

Fresh air filled the cabin and a gentle humming sound, accompanied by a slight vibration, came from the ship.

"There was no sense of movement."

The man told her he was Akon, a scientist in his star system. The other pilot was called Sheron.

Akon said, "We come from a double-star system."

Elizabeth described him as having aquiline features, high cheekbones, a high forehead and fair golden hair.

"He wore a plain, close-fitting garment, shimmering with a silvery sheen."

Akon told Elizabeth that the ship was shaped like a galaxy. "A spaceship is created from pure energy into physical substance, and

we do this in space," he explained. When the craft's system is switched on, 'a unified field of light instantly encircles the spaceship, an electro-gravitic field which acts on all parts simultaneously, including the atoms of one's body'.

On the propulsion system he stated 'the minimum temperature around the spaceship allows her complete mobility and velocity without limits of stress or strain. There is also feather-light landing in a state of weightlessness on any surface of the planet'.

There is no doubt that Elizabeth was physically attracted to Akon. In her book, she describes their love affair as starting on this first trip, but I recall her telling me, it took a while before he declared his love for her and they became intimate several trips later.

In fact, Elizabeth's initial report to me did not include her sexual intimacy with Akon, nor the fact that she eventually became pregnant with his child.

Akon had told her, "We rarely mate with Earth women. When we do, we keep the offspring to strengthen our race and infuse new blood."

Elizabeth remained with her sister May and her brother-in-law Jock on the farm in virtual seclusion. Apart from these close relatives, both of whom are now dead, there is no-one to confirm her pregnancy.

The children who were then growing into adults, were away: her daughter specialising in London and her son at boarding school in Natal.

She was constantly in touch with Akon telepathically. He advised her to move to Cathkin, a high plateau and she went to stay in a small hotel there for a while.

Then, on her way back from the farm, she had one of those encounters which ally her story and her book closely to a Mills & Boon type of novel.

On the way home, she encounters two Russians (or so she says) who are travelling in a spaceship of Russian origin, and who are aware of her involvement with Akon. They want to find out the secrets of the spaceships.

Miraculously, and with some ingenuity, she escapes on her horse and evades capture by them.

Later, Akon is in touch again. She goes to meet him, driving in her MG. When he takes



her abroad, she points out that she cannot leave the car behind, exposed to all the exigencies of the weather – and for how long?

Akon immediately rectifies this. A ramp slides out of the ship.

“Suddenly a brilliant beam of white light enveloped the MG and she was lifted and suspended within the beam and drawn swiftly forward onto the ramp...”

On the voyage to Akon’s home, Elizabeth is brought a delicious meal. They are vegetarians and live off things like fruit juices; one with the flavour of ripe pomegranates. The salads consisted of bright green delicate leaves and various cut vegetables mixed with crisp nuts and a creamy dressing sprinkled over, flavoured with almonds and spices.

Crispy juicy fruit like large apricots with thin slices of bread, moist and very fresh, make up the rest of the meal.

It all sounded a bit like a light lunch at the Dorchester!

After they land, Elizabeth describes the planet Meton. But all this is in too great detail for me to describe apart from the fact that although Elizabeth writes well, it is in a too flowery, romantic sort of way which is totally unsuited to the story she is trying to put across, and one of the criticisms which she has had to endure over the years.

I recall when she gave me her book to read at first, this was also my reaction: if she was telling the truth as she saw it and wanted to convince people of her integrity, she needed to use far less description and change the highly imaginative language.

During her stay on Meton, Akon presented her with a ring, which I have seen and held in my hand but of which no examination has been made.

Akon told Elizabeth that his home planet was Proxima Centauri. He maintained that they moved there from Venus which might excuse Elizabeth’s earlier claim that the spaceship and Akon *were* from Venus!

On Meton they have cattle with no horns and pure white in colour. They are bred only for milk as the people are vegetarians. They also have horses (almost inevitably, because one must remember that this was one of Elizabeth’s first love of all animals), and they have birds, more beautiful than she had ever seen on Earth.

She has kept a small piece of rock which

dropped near her during her stay on Meton and one wonders what its composition might be. Again, I have seen no geological analysis of this material.

When Elizabeth realises that her baby is about to be born, she calls her sister-in-law Pleia, and of course Akon too is present. They help her through her painless birth. Akon’s magical hands rub her back and he tells her when to bear down; she feels no tension, no pain, no straining. She then gives birth to Ayling, her half-alien son.

But Elizabeth’s happiness is marred by her poor health; her inability to regulate her heart-beat to the higher vibratory rate of Meton, and it becomes inevitable that she must return to Earth.

Finally, Akon brings her back in his spaceship and their farewell is poignant and moving.

Shortly afterwards, both Jock and May die and Elizabeth decides to return to her life in the city. She has many difficult times, financially and health-wise, but even though she has never been robust since that time, she still survives today, aged 81.

During various alleged investigations of her story, she becomes friendly with a Major, an ex-British intelligence man, who was charming and kindly, and who remained her close friend until his death a few years ago.

But he never replaced Akon, she told me. Elizabeth always maintained that Akon was the only true love of her life. And who is to say if this was some dream-man conjured up by her imagination, or a reality which we can neither understand nor accept?

Edwin’s story – an ongoing radio contact

Richard’s Bay in South Africa on the Natal Coast, was still largely undeveloped in 1960. This was the beach on which George had chosen to say goodbye to his friend Edwin.

Nothing unusual about that, except that George claimed to be a spaceman from another planet and was now leaving Earth for his home-planet Koldas in an extra-terrestrial spacecraft.

Only minutes before, George had changed from his everyday clothes into a one-piece overall and hardly had he done this, than they became aware of the approaching craft.

“Stand well back,” George commanded, “behind that sand dune and before the craft



arrives and when it takes off. You are not geared to its effects like I am."

Edwin did as he was told and soon after the disc-shaped craft landed on the beach.

It was about 50 metres in diameter with a dome on top and an observation window where Edwin was able to see a figure standing inside.

As the craft landed, a column extended below it which pushed the disc up, raising it about 2 metres off the sand. At the bottom of the column, a sliding door opened, with a sort of platform-lift.

It was on this platform that George stood, disappearing into the craft. Soon after, the craft took off at tremendous speed and within seconds, it was only a dot in the sky.

Edwin was extremely sad to see his friend leave. Edwin worked as a radio mechanic on a fairly large factory in Durban. During his apprenticeship there, he was introduced to George one day as the new foreman in his section.

They took an immediate liking to one another although there were many things about George which Edwin found strange. One occasion while working during his lunch hour unbeknown to George, Edwin watched while George, single-handed, moved a machine to its correct position. Only minutes before the machine had been brought into the workshop by five men who knocked off work when the lunch whistle blew.

George lived alone in a Durban Hotel and Edwin often collected him to go fishing and took him to work on the back of his motorcycle.

One evening while fishing at Patterson's Groyne, they saw a light moving across the sky.

Edwin said, "I wonder if that is a Sputnik or a UFO?"

Subsequent to this they discussed the matter and one Saturday evening, when Edwin called for George, he noticed he was carrying a black leather bag.

There were many people fishing that night but by 2am in the morning, everyone else had gone.

When they were alone, George told Edwin he wanted to show him something. He opened his bag and Edwin could see it was a radio set.

George pulled out a telescopic antenna, consisting of two vertical rods joined by a horizontal piece, forming an H-shape which stood about 1.5 metres high. George switched on the instrument and after a few moments, a strange

language was heard.

George told Edwin that this was a spacecraft homing in on his radio. A moment later, a voice spoke in English. The voice was that of Wy-Ora, commander of the craft.

Wy-Ora explained that George was one of them and that they were from the planet Koldas in an Anti-Matter Universe.

George's real name, he said, was Vladar. They had come to Earth to find a suitable person to spread information about beings from outer space. They invited Edwin to form a group for them.

Edwin was overwhelmed. He was only 18 at the time and he felt he was too young, too inexperienced, to do anything like that.

Over the months, Edwin and George became even closer friends and George had many questions to ask about Earth's religions, about why we were so violent to one another, and as to why we were destroying our environment.

George had read a great deal in the library but always seemed to be an unbiased and uncritical observer.

Finally the day came when George told Edwin that he had to leave and he asked Edwin to take him to Richard's Bay, to a lonely beach, so that he could return to his planet Koldas in the Confederation of the 12 planets.

Edwin's impression was always that George came from somewhere in the Johannesburg area as he seemed to know that part well. But the only forwarding address he left was that one of the 'K' Hotel in Durban.

George had left Edwin with his radio 'tuner' and he told him to tune in on a specific day and at a specific time. At the appointed time, Edwin took the tuner with him into the sugar cane fields near his sister's home where he lived at that time.

Soon the voice came through as George had told him. They told Edwin that they were a benevolent and advanced civilisation in another universe.

Their disc-like craft can travel so fast that Time becomes irrelevant. They use magnetic fields which run in streams throughout the universe.

These magnetic fields have been mapped and are used as highways, about 1.5Km to 5Km in width. The fastest speed is reached at the outer edges of the magnetic stream, whereas in the centre, there is no movement at all.



Since the first broadcast, some time in 1962, hundreds of broadcasts have been made and I have actually been present at one of them.

It was the 28th June 1977. I arrived early with a friend as we were told most messages came through between 6pm and 8pm. It was winter in Durban, and Edwin's home stood high on a hill in Pinetown, above the usually steaming humidity of Durban.

However, as time went on, and 8 o'clock drew near, it became unpleasantly cold in the room. My friend wanted to go home to dinner and I had just stood up to say we would have to leave when suddenly the radio activated itself and a voice boomed out across the room.

Subsequent analysis of this tape-recording was completed by a linguistics professor at the University of Zimbabwe and he stated that the voice was definitely Japanese-American.

The name of the commander on that occasion was given to me as Herranoah.

He spoke at length about Earth people's destruction of the environment and that, in the end, we would finish off our planet and have to be moved elsewhere to live.

They were preparing such a planet for us, and it was called Epicot. There was a climate similar to Earth, but there were still prehistoric animals abounding there and some of the areas had such extremes of climate that people would not be able to live there.

They could not guarantee who would be saved but a percentage of Earth people would definitely be rescued.

Today, 29 years after commencing these broadcasts, they are still on-going. But now less and less frequently on the radio and, more often than not, using Edwin as a channel through which the messages are transmitted.

They tell of the happenings in this Anti-Matter Universe, of wars which are never started by them, and of new developments.

They discuss what is happening on Earth and they cannot interfere because they cannot

intrude in the evolution of our planet.

They speak of the 'good guys' (themselves) and the 'bad guys' who are from other planets.

Sometimes the broadcasts are filled with technical data and appear to be beyond the understanding of those listening; at other times their pronouncements are almost puerile and tell of the simplest things, like the wedding of Commander Valder, or the celebration of *their* kind of Christmas!

They also have a liking for music and although some of it was classical, sung by church choirs, they also professed an enjoyment of Jim Reeves' country music.

One wonders how much Edwin's own taste has influenced what they say they prefer.

The point one has to consider, and which to me is the most important point of all, is: what's in it for Edwin? Or indeed for his mentors?

Has Edwin gained anything? Did his first mentor Philip Human (now deceased) benefit from all the messages? And what of Carl van Vlierden? What is the point of it all and if, as I suspect, there is a greater 'con' going on (if indeed, 'con' it be?) who is perpetrating it all, and to what purpose?

Conclusion

All these factors need examination and it is time we stopped casting aside cases like Elizabeth Klarer and Edwin which, although sounding like hoaxes, are not obviously so.

Could it be that a higher level of intelligence which we have not even dreamt about does *exist*, and that it is here where these strange cases emanate?

And on the other hand, if this is some psychological aberration which we don't understand, is it not time that the basic facts were examined, if only to prepare us for the future?

*Cynthia Hind, PO Box MP 49,
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On the Edge of Earth

Kathryn Howard, USA



Kathryn Howard

(related in exact words, punctuation, spelling and diction, as requested by the writer, Kathryn Howard)

Kathryn Howard is from the USA. She relates her own unusual and powerfully emotional experience, the meaning of which she believes is vital, yet still remains undiscovered. Was she really on the edge of the Earth? Is it a true abduction experience?

Following is a summary of the one-hour account I will give in Sheffield regarding a presumed UFO-abduction in southern Sweden, in the last month of April, 1969, two months before the Apollo moon landing.

The following story is true. I have not changed anything, not even my name. For some reason, it seems very important to hold the truth. I still don't understand everything that happened and continue to work on it. I am presently working on my book with the help of Dr. Brian Weiss, the author of *Many Lives, Many Masters*. Dr. Weiss was the head of the psychiatric department at Mount Sinai in Miami Beach for many years until he resigned from his post recently to work full time giving seminars, open a private practice, and write.

It was in Sosdala, a small village in southern Sweden. I had taken a very long walk into

the woods and meadows with a close friend, Melcker, and a friend of his, Harry. Melcker had the same experiences I did. Harry experienced nothing. We had walked for about two hours when we came to a beautiful spot overlooking meadows as far as the eyes could see. A strange train passed by, one of those old choo-choo types with only one car. A very healthy and beautiful man waved to us. He had a visor-type hat on. We waved back. To this day, I don't know if there is a train track going through that meadow.

We decided to sit down and have our picnic there. We talked about Viet-Nam and Biafra. We had all seen television in our homes the night before: the Viet-Nam war was escalating, and little black children had swollen stomachs and blonde hair, starving to death. It was horrible. I started to cry. I didn't understand how such things could happen without anybody doing anything about it. I felt very confused about the world that I lived in. We were all young and very depressed about what was going on in our world and we felt helpless.

Just then, for some inexplicable reason, Melcker and I both looked up to the sky. As we did, we saw something, suddenly, immovable, and soundless, above us in space. It was metal-gray in color without windows. I can't describe the size of it. How could anyone measure the distance in space when the eyes meet an unexplainable object out there, an object one has never seen before? Your senses are so heightened with childlike curiosity. And there is usually fear of the unknown. But we were not afraid.

It is hard to describe the form, because it was so unbelievably fast. It was like a giant helicopter with legs. When I draw it, it looks like a disc, but it was oval-shaped. We were looking at it from its side. It was above us. We didn't notice any windows, only the object itself in space. It was so strange, because I can't describe the distance between myself and it, either. It seems like it was above us, but at the same time, it seemed to be very far away, or in another light in some way. We looked at it, and



it is something we only looked at and before we had time to really study it, it was already gone. Just like that. Poof. We noticed how they, the "legs," vanished into the flying "machine," or whatever it was, and then when they went in and up, it disappeared, inaudibly. Straight up and out away from the earth. So fast.

I was so shocked and noticed at the same time that it had disappeared, the sky also disappeared. There wasn't any blue color. The word "sky" disappeared. Everything was just space. If one had to give it color, one would say that it was a transparent grey. It was like a TV screen when it isn't on. No color.

I asked Melcker, "did you see that, too?" He said, "Yes." I asked, "what was it? It didn't fly like an airplane. An airplane goes around the earth, not straight out. And it didn't make any noise. It just disappeared straight out away from the earth. That must be what people call a UFO." We continued to talk about it like we didn't know what was happening.

We turned our heads and looked in front of us. There, right in front of us in space was, what I called at the time, the moon, exactly like the film footage and photographs from the Apollo moon landing.

It was just like that, beige, completely round, three-dimensional. It was right in front of us, in the space, and we could see how it moved, sailed in space. We saw it revolve. And then there were really enormous craters, big holes in the moon. On the left side of the moon there was a light space, and then it was black, completely black. This is the only way anyone will understand what I saw with my own eyes here on earth.

There wasn't any light coming from the right side of the moon. I don't know where the light came from. I have no idea, because I never turned my head around. It's almost like somebody had taken something like this on my head that prevented me from looking around, and then had gone all the way out into space, on both sides, as far as the eyes can see, and the only thing I could see then, was in front of me and all the way around to the sides of my head. Like a pie cut in half and I was able to see everything for 180 degrees. A perfect parabolic curve. Nothing behind me at that time. It was like looking through an optic lens that brought the universe with it, so big, as if one were in space with them.

We were very confused. "We must stand up," I said. "We must walk on the earth." I got the feeling that I had never experienced what it was like to walk on the earth. The moon was there the whole time, until something happened that I don't remember for the rest of the entire day and into the night.

I have always remembered what happened for what I guess to be about thirty minutes or less. I thought perhaps we had died. "Has something happened to us? Have Melcker and I died here?" I asked Harry. "Do we look normal to you?" He said "Yes. But the way you behave and talk, I don't understand. What are you talking about?" He thought we were joking at first, and we couldn't believe that he didn't see what we did. It seems that from that point on, Harry wasn't involved in any way. I have no memory of him. It was only my voice talking to Melcker the whole time, asking questions, making comments about everything. I felt that if I didn't talk, I wouldn't remember it. Melcker didn't say much either. I talked the whole time. I sat with my knees bent up and my arms around my legs. I felt as if the earth was expanding and it became so incredibly large...

It seemed to grow in front of us. I saw the meadows and the trees, so large. I said, "How strange. Look at the earth. It's so huge. I can see the curvature of the earth. It's like the whole universe, right here. We're sitting right on top of the universe."

I felt this very strongly. I felt that we were so little, but at the same time, we were so large. I got the feeling that the earth was just like a marble. I looked down and around, but at the same time, the marble was just as large as the moon I saw in front of my eyes, in its natural size, in space.

I felt like I moved also. The sensation of moving very fast in space was enormous. I felt like I was sailing in space. Everything had the feeling of sailing in space. Then, we heard a sound like the sound of a heartbeat through a stethoscope. The same echo, the same static, the same breath. I said, as if I knew what it was, "Listen, it's the rhythm of the universe. Listen to the rhythm of the universe pulsating." It was so powerful. It permeated the entire space.

I stood up and started to walk on the earth. I don't think Melcker ever got up and walked. I did, and felt the grass under my feet. "If we walk over to the trees in the distance, to the



edge of the earth, we could fall off," I told Melcker, "and land on the moon there." And then I laughed and understood for the first time that we could fall off right where we were, that we were actually on the very edge of the earth. And then I understood that I stood in the edge of space, precisely in it – where the space ends and the earth begins. I experienced gravity completely.

I said, "I feel like a puppet on strings," as I lifted my arms above my head. "I'm upside-down on the earth, sideways, forwards, backwards – every which way at the same time!" Melcker felt it, too. I asked him the entire time, "Do you have this feeling?" and he answered, "Yes."

Then we experienced something within our minds, not outside of us. It was amazing and frightening. We saw the evolution of the human race from beginning to end. It happened very rapidly. It was like watching a movie reel. You know how people who think they are dying say they sometimes see their life unfurl before them in seconds. It seemed to be all in just a split second. And then everything became very clear to us. I can't remember now what happened, but I saw that the human race would annihilate itself. I started to cry and asked Melcker, "did you see that, too," and he did, and also cried. I felt the deepest compassion and love for the whole human race and the planet earth. I felt this in a way I have never felt before or since. I said, "It doesn't have to be like that, you know. If everyone could experience this, what we are experiencing right now, none of that would happen. There wouldn't be any starving people in the world. There wouldn't be any wars. Everything could be beautiful, like it is here now." And then I said, with feeling, "but, it doesn't matter. There is nothing we can do." And I was weeping, but with such deep love and compassion. The feelings of indescribable love started to take me over completely. If you can imagine, the feelings of love were just as powerful as any of the visuals I have already described. I looked at my body and felt that it was one with the earth, one with the human race, one with the universe. I can't explain it, but it was like experiencing that you are one with everything, but that the experiencer in you is what the difference is. That whatever is was that was seeing all of this was the very meeting of the edge of space. It's very hard to express in words.

I realised that there was no time. That time did not exist, except in our minds. I felt all of this and then I said, while I cried, "If Hitler stood in front of me now, I would put my arms around him and tell him that I love him." I turned around to look at Melcker and said with incredible emotion, "because he didn't know. He didn't know what he was doing. If he had known, he never would've done it." This is still extremely hard for me to swallow and to believe that I could ever say such a thing, since I am half Jewish. My feelings about violence and bigotry were always very negative. It seems to me that it was exactly at this point, just at this moment, when I felt total love, without judgement of any kind, for everyone and everything, that the experience ended. At least my consciousness seemed to end here. This was approximately noon.

Then, we were back in Melcker's home in Sosdala late at 11.00pm. We sat on the sofa talking. The three of us sat there and talked about nothing. Suddenly, I asked, "How did we get here?" Melcker and I remembered everything up until the time I feel we lost consciousness. We had no idea how we got back to this house so far away. We know that we didn't walk back. Not even Harry knew how we got there. We don't remember that we walked back. I don't know why it ended with the moon. Why I didn't stand there longer and walk more on the earth.

The strangest thing of all is that I never wrote about it at the time. I, who wrote everything, did not write the date down. We just continued to go about our business not understanding what had happened to us.

About one week later, Melcker and I were driving in my car to his house. He suddenly said, "pull the car over. There is something in the sky." I parked the car and we got out to look. The sky was still very dark, which in Sweden means that it couldn't have been much later than April. Filled with millions of stars, there was one light that was circling the earth. We stood there and watched it, and then Melcker said, "Let's drive down to the beach where we can see it better." We did so, and stood on the sand looking up. There it was, moving with such incredible speed. Then, suddenly, it stopped and all the stars in the sky disappeared at the same time. It was pitch black, except for that one light so far away in the darkness.



Melcker, who hardly spoke English, said, "look, it's our eternity," with tears in his eyes and full of emotion. I agreed, as if I knew what he was talking about. And then we were walking back to the car, sort of in a daze. Just before we got into the car, these strange things appeared over our heads. They were small, rectangular-shaped objects. They zapped around, making a strange noise, like "zip, zip" – and when I went to touch them, I felt nothing. They looked like a solidified, colorful plasma. There was something fluid about them. Again, this is very hard to describe. We got into the car and drove away.

I did nothing about any of this until sixteen years after the experience. I had moved back to America in 1982 and was visiting Stock-

holm in 1985.

Bertil Kuhlemann, who had become a very dear friend of mine, thought that I should meet Dr. Nils-Olof Jacobson, a psychiatrist in southern Sweden, to do hypnosis and finally try to find out what happened to me during those many hours of supposed amnesia.

The original plan was to continue hypnosis for one week, but due to a very serious chest cold that I had, we only worked together one day. I became too ill to continue and had to return to America on a ticket that couldn't be changed.

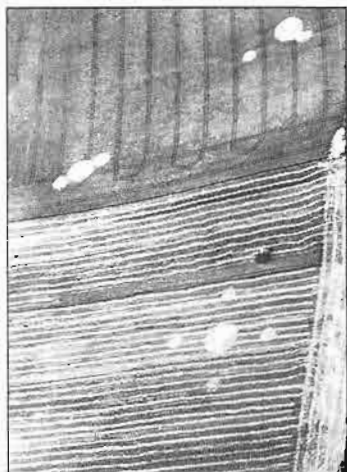
I prefer to read the important excerpts from that four-hour recorded session. Therefore, they are not written here.



Crop circles: the search for an answer

Jenny Randles, United Kingdom

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Dyslexic Martians, randy rabbits or the O from the ozone layer? These are just some of the wild explanations put forward to explain the mystery of the crop circles. But can any of them be correct? The UK's Jenny Randles, BUFORA's director of investigations, discovers that the whole issue has gone full circle!

Once upon a time, not so long ago, there was a strange and distant land known as Wessex. Although mostly a happy place where merry lights danced in the skies and strange folk came from many miles to worship at the great temple of Warminster; at this moment in history all was not well.

Indeed, the wicked witch of Westminster and her minions (the Heselteenies from the land of Mod) had decreed that the merry lights should no longer dance because they were illusions. The folk flocked no more down the yellow brick motorway to see the wondrous sights and the people of Wessex were very sad.

But, as in all good fairy tales, there was to be salvation. One day, a farmer, (having just exchanged his Volvo for a bag of beans) was surveying his fields and speculating about things that climb high into the clouds, when cast down before him he espied a strange round hole in the ground.

Overjoyed that the great emperor Eee-Tee had sent them a new sign the people of Wessex rejoiced. For here was the way to make everyone happy once more.

The munchkins, in particular, were very pleased and announced to their friends the glad tidings through song and dance and the printed word. They were very grateful and so were all the bank managers in Wessex.

But the story was not ended. For dark clouds loomed on the horizon in Wessex. A group of meanies known as the Blue Meadens were gathering under the spell of a wise magician mentor.

He spoke forth that the round circles in the farmers' fields were not what the people of Wessex desired. That they were not magical at all. That they did not even belong to the people of Wessex, but that other magical circles had appeared in many lands. Disaster!

Down came a tornado from the sky to whisk away the magic circles.

This is, of course, a purely allegorical legend. It bears no relationship whatsoever with the truth of what has happened in the land of Wessex (the English counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire) throughout the past 12 summers.

It should not be confused in any way with real people or real events – especially not those who can afford to employ lawyers.

Well – not very much, it shouldn't anyway.

In fact, I trust that nobody will be offended by this little tale. No disrespect is intended against any individual, who all simply and honestly reacted in the way they felt was correct – and since, at the moment, nobody actually knows who really *was* correct, this is fair enough.

However, whilst the allegory has meaning in a deeper, more generalised sense, the true story of the magic circles is one that is highly illuminating for those of us who are intrigued by the study of strange phenomena.

There is no need to discuss here what the so-called crop circle phenomenon is because this has done extremely well in the books that



I list as an appendix at the end of this article.

However, for anybody who has been holidaying on Pluto over the recent past, a very brief resumé as it follows.

In August 1980 a couple of roughly circular, flattened areas of crop appeared suddenly and inexplicably in Wiltshire fields. The crop was not dead, but layered and banded gently by unknown energies.

Over the years since then, more and more have appeared (from three in 1981 to almost 700 in 1990). Most were basically round (but not exactly circular). Others were in formations of usually three or five. There were rings, combinations of rings and circles and – especially in 1989 and 1990 – a few highly complex patterns including bars, rectangles and arms which are termed pictograms.

At first, it was assumed that this was both a new and an escalating phenomenon. The latter is clearly true from the figures; although dispute rages over how many of the recent explosion of cases are the result of an epidemic of hoaxing triggered by the mass media interest.

As for the circles being new, this is apparently disproven. Examples have been traced back as far as 1503 (in Holland) and there are now dozens of documented examples, and some photographs, pre-dating those first finds in 1980.

Plenty of these are not from Wessex. Indeed, virtually all of the pre-1980 British cases come from other counties sprinkled liberally around the land.

Some 24 overseas countries are also known to have generated cases and the total regularly increases as reports (both old and new) are traced.

In a sense the study of crop circles (now termed 'cereology' by some of its proponents) is a mirror to the history of the UFO.

We have an opportunity with all the hindsight and expertise of our modern UFO knowledge to effectively go back in a time machine to 1947 and watch the mystery start anew, escalate rapidly and then spread out into the complex web of physical, psychological and social factors such as we can see today.

For that reason alone – irrespective of the solution to the crop circle riddle – it is invaluable to look at how we as a society have investigated the mystery.

When the first circles appeared there was an interesting split.

The media quickly saw the potential of a 'good story'. For them an answer was the last thing they wanted as nothing sells paper better than an unsolved mystery.

As time went by, this factor became ever more important, but a new twist was added. At first only a few media sources were sporadically interested. It was easy to just repeat the myths each summer, with pictures of the latest patterns, and pretend as if it had never been covered before.

However, once the subject went beyond the occasional item and became mass media coverage, nationally and internationally, it was vital to inject controversy. So the answers were set up, shot down, debated and then discarded. The desire to avoid complete solutions remained.

Aligned with the media were many of the UFO and occult groups and researchers who still lived in Wessex and thought fondly of the days when the stone circles, mystic legends, UFO skywatches and other paraphernalia during the swinging sixties had made this 'the' place to be.

It was inevitable that they should boost the image that circles were created by UFOs, even though there was never any real evidence for this. When the first major national publicity in several tabloids spread over a five day period in 1983, the hype did not generate one single UFO sighting that was reported to tie in with circle creation – despite the then popularity of the Spielberg movie *ET* and the media fascination with the idea that circles were the result of a landed spaceship.

I spoke with one journalist who was instrumental in this publicity at the time and he assured me that spaceships *could* create the circles, even though the marks were always different sizes and never symmetrical, because they 'skidded on impact'. He was being quite serious.

Other fringe ufologists were quoted as explaining the lack of evidence for a UFO link as due to the spaceships 'coming at night' or 'being invisible'. These were desperate rejoinders, but they satisfied both the media and other ufologists because this was the sort of answer they *wanted* to hear. As they say, never let the facts get in the way of a good legend.

For the general public things were rather different. It is often forgotten by those of us



ensnared by the UFO mystery that some 90% of the population couldn't give two hoots for a UAP or daylight disc.

Whilst many of us go around as if it is the most important thing in the cosmos, much of humanity finds it nothing but a quaint eccentricity practised by the intellectual equivalents of the dodo.

However, it was inevitable that they should debate the crop circles – in pubs, bars and round the dinner table. The greater the influence of the publicity, the more this effect has occurred.

These people were responsible for two things – the hoax theory and the silly hypotheses that pepper the middle ground of cereology.

In fact, if we examine the records we find that hoaxing was never taken all that seriously by the farming community. Although some farmers thought the marks were the result of jokers intruding on their land (and in the early days cereologists were more likely to have a close encounter with a shotgun than with a UFO when surveying a field), in the main they dismissed the idea.

This is demonstrated by an enquiry *before* the massive publicity of 1988/89 which was made by Paul Fuller, BUFORA's circle specialist.

Paul asked the police in Wessex how many reports of vandalism they had received from farmers in the years before this. He was hoping to trace cases of circle markings that may have occurred before the term 'crop circle' was invented to offer a pigeon hole into which to slot cases.

He found that there were no such reports. In other words, farmers had clearly not been concerned by the marks that allegedly did sometimes appear and there was no sign of a belief in widespread hoaxing as the answer.

Having said that, once the image that circles could be faked was put into the public eye, there was inevitable pressure to live up to it. The number of hoaxed circle cases which we *know* about (from admissions, suspicious features or pure logic) *has* risen steadily year by year.

The first one we are certain of was the quintuplet (just about the most complex pattern that formed in the first five or six years) which appeared alongside a second real (?) quintuplet at Westbury in 1983.

This, we now know, was a hoax by the Daily Mirror hoping to fool other national newspapers into producing a silly story.

As time has gone by, such media hoaxes have continued but they have been joined by an increasing level of 'fun' hoaxing by those who just want to revel in the publicity without financial reward, plus, more rarely, 'commercial' hoaxing (ie. to advertise products or sell to the media methods on how to hoax circles) and a good deal of the 'I'll show you dummies' type of hoaxing – generated to prove that whilst everyone seems impressed by the circles they ought to have considered trickery a bit deeper.

Everything from rings, ringed circles and right up to at least one complex pictogram – so good that some cereologists now speculate only a precision army team could have done it! – are the result. Many have *not* been spotted right away, despite frequent claims by cereologists to the contrary.

Frankly, the only true arguments against hoaxing as *the* answer to the entire problem is that the phenomenon is now proven to be so widespread, both geographically and historically, this does not work.

It is most unlikely that a 500 year hoax could have such international appeal and staying power. Far more likely is that there is a simple, consistent and recurrent phenomenon that causes these circles to appear, but which may be growing more 'clear cut' in appearance due to changes in our environment.

The public enjoyed the game of 'what do *you* think the circles are?' and this in itself was the only reason why endless speculation commenced.

At first it was fairly moderate – with ideas like hedgehogs mating (based on real habits of hedgehogs who do create rough circular areas during mating).

Other types of animals were soon introduced when this theory failed to catch on; ie. amorous rabbits, foxes making lairs and – easily the daftest – the cattle produce circles when they have wind (ie. 'bovine flatulence', as the theory was termed with typical British modesty – one can only boggle at what the Americans might have called it!)

It soon became necessary to be very inventive when finding a solution. It had to be sufficiently original to warrant mention. These could fall into several categories.



There was the superficially scientific – such as the idea that the circles were the result of fungal growth – a load of rot, in other words. Some rings are formed in this way, but the extension to the phenomenon of layered, complex patterns was never on and achieved attention not because of its credibility but because it was seemingly novel and so made some news.

Then there was the conspiracy theory. The usual trick here was to blame the government. So we found accusations in the early days that it was the result of remotely piloted drones on tests from Wessex military bases.

We had a wonderful image of German bombs from World War II lying under ground for decades and now suddenly detonating to implode the earth in circles as their chemical constituents decayed. And in 1990 a leading French scientist upgraded this brand of solution when he suggested that the circles were the product of a secret weapon utilising energy beams fired against target aircraft and bouncing back to earth.

Finally, we have a whole host of purely amusing theories, which range from the content of aircraft loos falling out of the sky and melting, to one bright spark's image of the hole in the ozone layer (a letter 'O' naturally), falling to earth and producing the rings.

It is not clear where this will lead – possibly nowhere. The number of new ideas is not infinite and the fact that silly theories are beginning to run out could contribute to the decrease in popularity of the circle mystery amongst the general public.

If there is nothing to speculate about then the attraction will soon wane.

As for the farmers – whom you might expect to be the ones most likely to have the best answers – oddly they aligned themselves very early and in large measure with two odd bedfellows.

These were Dr Terence Meaden and his maverick band of meteorologists, who suggested that the weather was to blame, and a growing body of 'serious' ufologists, of which BUFORA has been the most prominent.

In fact, Dr Meaden was on the scene of the first circles and published reports on a regular basis from then on. He has done excellent field study work whose value cannot be (but often is) underestimated.

His real problem stems from the understandable desire to modify his theory at a prodigious rate to try to fit all of the facts.

At first, he postulated a 'fair weather stationary whirlwind' – ie. rather like a dust devil in a hot place which sucks up rubbish in a shopping mall or sand in the desert.

He devised a combination of meteorological and geographical factors that matched what we were seeing and seemed, by 1983, to many (me included!) to have the whole thing sewn up. His support from the two very different quarters came for two very different reasons.

Farmers were generally impressed because they were long familiar with whirlwinds on their land picking up loose hay or corn. Many reported in the first days of cereology that they, or their fathers, or their fathers' fathers, had occasionally found swirled areas which it was long accepted were the result of the wind.

The modern ones were more regular-looking, but so what?

Ufology, on the other hand, was in a phase of rationalisation which saw itself keen to become more scientific. For this reason it regarded the whirlwind theory as a perfect antidote to the excesses of both the media and their extremist colleagues and possibly tended to over-emphasise its impact because of that; although many honestly felt it fitted the facts.

But which facts?

These seemed to change with time. As more and more complex circle patterns formed, the whirlwind theory (as its critics loved to call it in derisory manner) began to drown amidst the evidence. At this point (circa 1987) a crucial crossroads arrived.

It was possible that Dr Meaden and his supporters could have said 'our theory works in the simple cases' (of which virtually all historical and most foreign cases are, incidentally) – but *fails* for the recent complex formations.

It fails because these are the result of something else – very likely hoaxing that is occurring in the wake of widespread publicity and perhaps, at times, from the hands of some folk who desperately want to shoot down the mundane explanation so effectively offered by whirlwinds.

Frankly, this is a view to which I, personally, subscribe.

However, it was instead decided to upgrade the theory, bringing in ionisation and



explosive vortices that could split on impact and produce virtually any pattern you choose.

This had two effects; one good, one bad. The good news was that it offered a way of completing the circle, as it were, and finally bringing UFOs back into the picture. Any strange lights seen near circles were now plasma vortices.

In fact, many strange lights seen nowhere near circles were plasma vortices as well, according to some ufologists (one not a million miles away from this sheet of paper).

But there was bad news too. The steadily accumulating eyewitnesses who had seen what appears to be the wind producing crop circles were not very obviously describing plasma vortices.

Instead they were describing what sound for all the world like those boring old fairweather stationary whirlwinds which had been discarded when the circle mystery turned nasty on its would-be reductionists.

This rather leaves the suspicion that a good idea was in danger of being squandered by leaping a vortex too far.

Of course, the pictograms and the problems facing the whirlwind theory were a blessing for those long forgotten alien spaceship worshippers.

In my view, the problems with the vortex that they foresaw are more apparent than real and due to over-elaboration and a pointless attempt by the moderates to squeeze in all the complex patterns ever found.

By sticking to what they do well – resolving the basic circles – trouble is limited. Nevertheless, there has been a dramatic resurrection of the ‘alien intelligence’ school.

Admittedly it is in its new guise. After all those invisible spaceships were getting less and less credible, so this was inevitable.

Now we find a new breed of theory which suggests that some alien intelligence is spelling out messages in our crop, perhaps warning us to mend our wicked ways.

Unfortunately, these Martians seem a little dyslexic. The only message they have so far managed to spell out in English (We are not alone) had one of the ‘N’s the wrong way round – so they have seemingly decided to resort to cryptic symbology instead.

The great new game of cereology is decoding the messages and we have already had

suggestions that we should employ school children to solve the message with a few computers or else carve up a field with a copycat pictogram to send a reply back to whence it came from.

Trouble is, if we don’t know what they are telling us, one shudders at the prospect of what we might, as a consequence, be telling them!

A whole new direction for the 1990s – a sort of cosmic ecology, which sees the Earth as a living conscious entity and the crop circles as psychosomatic zits, responding to our destruction of the biosphere, is emerging from the maelstrom and seems destined to be the next great phase.

As this brief survey of the sociology of the crop circles illustrates, from humble beginnings the world of cereology has rapidly become as combative, riddled with dissent and paranoia and just plain daft as the wonderful world of ufology.

It is illuminating to look at these past 12 years alongside the 44 years of the UFO movement. The parallels are striking.

UFOs appeared out of nowhere when the world was in need of a new distraction. Instantly they were invested with alien connotations to fit the mood of the era, despite the rather awkward drawback that there was no evidence for this within the phenomenon.

Increasingly odd ideas were proposed to explain away the UFOs (ie. ‘debunk’ them, as all explanations are called). Gradually a school of rationalist ufology arrived, proposing that UFOs were real *and* novel phenomena but caused by nothing too exciting.

This rang immediate alarm bells in the minds of the diehards and lo and behold the phenomenon changed its spots – generating evidence that simply could not fit in with reductionist UFO research.

Abductions with their messages to a decaying Earth were so emphasised by the media and ufology alike that it was soon forgotten they represented less than 1% of the mystery.

The other 99%, which remained just as simple and mundane as before, got swamped and was ignored. It was possible to pretend that the majority was now irrelevant. Only the abductions (for which cereologists should read the pictograms – less than 2% of circles) were significant.

Meanwhile the rationalist ufologists forsook their efforts to deal with the basic



phenomenon and started scratching about ever more convoluted ways of making the abductions fit their logical explanations.

As a consequence, people stopped taking the rationalists seriously and instead listened anew to those who held up the abduction as proof that the mystery truly was mysterious, and the cause far more alien after all.

Out of this came the wellspring of a new breed of ufology – another sort of cosmic ufology – where the aliens were now deeply concerned about how the biosphere of our Earth was being upset and as a consequence passing messages

and putting marks in fields to warn us to mend our wicked ways.

In other words, we're back where we came in. Now what do we make of that?

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UFO update from down under

27

Paul Norman, Australia



Paul Norman

Paul Norman from Australia discusses the latest findings on the Fred Valentich case – the lost pilot who disappeared, along with his light aircraft, in mid-flight. Is abduction a possibility? Similar cases exist of pilots who have lived to tell the tale. A comprehensive update including close encounter investigations, and a link between water, crop circles and UFO sightings.

During 1990, the most positive evidence to emerge concerning the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich was ended associated with the presence of an unidentified flying object.

Although the greatest mystery in Australian aviation history occurred twelve years previously, the witnesses did not discuss their sighting except with close friends and relatives because of the ridicule barrier constructed by uniformed sceptics of 'The Australian Kind' and misinformation generated by the anti-UFO lobby groups.

The information came to the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) from three observers, two of whom reside in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales and the third witness is from Victoria.

Four people, one now deceased, were

rabbit hunting two miles west of Apollo Bay, Victoria, just after 7pm on that particular evening, when they observed a large bright green light above an aircraft flying from the southwest toward the Cape Otway lighthouse.

They recognised the aircraft by its lights. (The Cessna 182L was the only aircraft near Apollo Bay at the time.) The witnesses assumed the aircraft was flying in to land at a nearby airstrip although they could not identify the green light.

Next morning the news broke on front page headlines that an aircraft was missing over Bass Strait. The incident was being treated as an ordinary airplane disappearance and a search and rescue operation was in progress.

Several other pilots flying at the time were tuned to the same radio frequency. The UFO connection became public when one of the pilots tipped off the press.

From that time the details began to unfold and still continues as other information comes to light.

VUFORS has been reconstructing the UFO activity through the years, using reports as they came to hand. Briefly, that particular period of UFO activity commenced around Bass Strait, six weeks prior to the pilot's disappearance.

We were receiving an increasing number of phone calls from people who reported erratic moving lights in the sky until the sightings reached a peak the very weekend of the disappearance. One of the most outstanding daytime sightings witnessed by 35 people who reported two large cigar-shaped objects latched together by two silver beams, appeared at 3pm near Geelong, 45 miles west of Melbourne.

There were other daytime sightings of silver-coloured objects in the sky the same day, (mostly daytime disks).

Prior to the most recent report which came to our attention, we had twenty reports from witnesses who had observed a bright green light out over Bass Strait, in the same direction and at the same time the pilot was reporting by radio to Melbourne Flight Service.



Locations of the observers ranged from Portsea, Frankston, Brighton and Geelong to motorists along the Great Ocean Road near Lorne.

We know from witnesses camped along the Parker River, five miles east of Cape Otway lighthouse that the blue and white Cessna 182L circled over their heads and headed toward King Island at 7pm, confirmed from an official radio transcript between the pilot and Melbourne Flight Service and the Australian Department of Transport.

We know from the same transcript that at 7.10pm, the pilot reported that he was orbiting (turning) and the object was orbiting above him, although, at the time we did not know the direction in which he was turning, apparently trying to get away from the object.

We know the pilot was describing a long shaped metallic craft with a green light and it was affecting his engine. We now know, thanks to the witnesses who have recently come forward, that he had turned to his right and headed back toward the Capeway lighthouse, possibly to pick up his heading to proceed to King Island, which was his intended destination.

That night, one of the witnesses told his wife about the sighting. She only laughed in disbelief. Next morning he told his friends who believed he saw the aircraft but laughed at him when the green light was mentioned.

He realised then the useless effort. Who would believe him anyway?

If we had known of the sighting at that time, the search operation could have been confined to a more specific area with a better chance of success, if the plane had crashed.

The description of the object was identical to other cigar-shaped UFOs reported from all over the world, at various times, by people from all walks of life.

The large objects have been reported in various stages dispatching or launching smaller and/or receiving them back much like aircraft carriers launch airplanes at sea, only the UFO operations are in the sky.

To give some examples, let us review some of the cases from the past.

On 29th January 1954, the well-known encounter of Captain James Howard, while flying a Boeing Stratocruiser from New York to London, sighted a large cigar-shaped object with six smaller objects flying in formation,

three in front and three behind the larger object.

He called the passengers' attention to the objects and then reported the strange traffic to Goose Bay, Labrador, from whence an interceptor was sent to investigate.

As the interceptor drew near, the six smaller UFOs returned to the large one which then disappeared at fast speed.

This case is mentioned specifically because scientists at the American Air Force sponsored project in Boulder, Colorado, headed by Dr Edward Condon, were unable to explain the incident.

In Dr Condon's report, possibly the only book ever written with the conclusions at the front to discourage people from reading any further, states:

"This is an unusual, natural phenomenon, so unusual, in fact, it has not been reported before or since."

Colleagues at the project said they doubted Dr Condon ever read his own report because over one third of the cases studied remained unexplained. We know for a fact that Condon's statement was mis-information.

We were requested to visit the project and present examples of Australian cases. Three cases from Australia were presented, which had not only been reported but were investigated by both private and official investigators, and we know of at least 28 other such cases presented from various sources to the project. *Such cases indicate that the capability to abduct an ordinary aircraft may be real!*

Another such incident occurred on the evening of 22nd August 1968, above the Nullarbor Plain of Western Australia, described by Captain Gordon Smith, pilot for the Murchison Air Services-Southern Airlines of Western Australia. The interview was conducted by a psychiatrist consultant of VUFORS.

The Captain's report:

"Captain Walter Garden and myself were returning from Adelaide to Perth on a charter flight. The aircraft was an 8-place Piper Navajo, registration VH-RTO, returning empty from Adelaide.

"At first sighting, I was asleep in the cabin. Walter was at the controls. We were cruising at 8000 feet with a true airspeed of 190-195 knots and tracking 270 magnetic.

"At 0940 GMT (1740 WST) Walter abruptly wakened me in great excitement and asked me



to come to the cockpit quickly. I did so and he asked me if I could see what he was looking at. I could see what he was excited about.

"Some distance ahead, at the same level and about 50° to my right, I saw a formation of aircraft. In the middle was a larger aircraft and formed to the right and left and above were five smaller aircraft.

"We were on a track of 270 magnetic and these aircraft appeared to be maintaining station with us. As we had not been notified of this traffic, I radioed Kalgoorlie Department of Civil Aviation communications centre, asking them what traffic they had in the area. The answer was none.

"So I then notified Kalgoorlie that we had this formation in sight and they, in turn, notified some east bound traffic of the danger of unidentified traffic east of Kalgoorlie.

"At about this time we lost communications with Kalgoorlie on all frequencies. We were receiving Kalgoorlie carrier wave with no voice propagation, only a hash and static.

"In the next ten minutes I transmitted about seven times and I believe Walter transmitted about five times with no results. Also, at about this time, we noticed that the main ship split into two sections still maintaining the same level, and the smaller aircraft then flew out left and right but staying at the same level and coming back to the two main halves of the bigger ships.

"At this time there appeared about six smaller aircraft taking turns of going out and coming back and forming on the two halves. Sometimes the two halves joined and split, and the cycle continued for ten minutes.

"The shape of the main ship seemed to have the ability to change, not drastically, but changed from, say, spheroid to a slightly elongated form, with a colour maintaining a constant dark grey to black.

"However, the smaller craft had a constant cigar shape and were a very dark colour. Their travel out and back had a peculiarity not associated with normal aircraft in that they appeared to travel out and come back without actually turning like a normal aeroplane.

"At 1750, the whole formation joined together as if by a single command, then departed at a tremendous speed."

To emphasise the capability of UFOs to

possibly abduct aircraft and crews this paper would not be complete without a brief mention of at least two other similar cases: the Larry Coyne helicopter encounter and the Kenross incident.

The helicopter encounter over Ohio occurred on 18th October 1973 and is almost a carbon copy, step by step description of the Valentich encounter that occurred five years later, including cigar shape, green light, manoeuvrability and electromagnetic effect.

During that encounter, the helicopter was pulled from 1500 feet to 3500 feet with the controls in descent position. Commander Larry Coyne and his crew got back to tell their story, but Frederick Valentich did not. Full details of this encounter are available from the Allen J Hynek Centre for UFO Studies.

During November 1953, another aircraft and its two-man crew disappeared without trace when an unidentified flying object was detected near Kenross Air Force Base in Michigan.

An interceptor, flown by pilot Felix Monclea, was vectored to the proximity of the UFO. Lieutenant A Wilson was in the rear seat.

At first, static restricted their radio transmission. Moments later, communication failed altogether, probably due to the familiar characteristic – electromagnetic effect – when UFOs are nearby.

Even though radio contact failed, the blip of the interceptor and the blip of the UFO were still visible on the radar screen. The two blips merged for twenty seconds before disappearing.

Although the area was searched for a period of time, no wreckage or airmen were ever found.

The Mundrabilla Incident

The identity of objects which have terrorised motorists while crossing the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia remain unexplained.

One widely publicised incident concerns the experience of the Knowles family on 20th January 1988, when the mother, Faye Knowles, and her three sons were travelling east to visit relatives in Melbourne.

There were several sightings reported by motorists and residents during the nights of the 19th and 20th describing mysterious lights pacing cars and trucks along that remote area of Western Australia.



When the family arrived in Melbourne, they were interviewed by VUFORS, on the evening of 25th January.

All four were still visibly shaken by the experience and in need of medical attention. The right hand of Faye Knowles was swollen. This was the hand that touched a warm, sponge-like object when she opened the window and reached up to determine what had landed on top of the car.

Members of the family and the two dogs had diarrhoea and other symptoms requiring medical treatment. Excessive amounts of black dust and soot were still evident in the hair of the dogs.

Truck drivers who first checked the car and heard the family's story confirmed the presence of excessive amounts of dust. Also, police at Ceduna, South Australia, confirmed the excessive amount of dust on the car and inside the car as well.

Information revealed from the interview indicated a follow-up investigation was essential.

Dissatisfied with debunking attempts by Adelaide sceptics and others, the TV Channel 7 management decided to request assistance of VUFORS to follow up with extensive tests and investigation of the incident.

This required on the spot investigation of the car and travel to the scene where the action took place for interviews with truck drivers and residents of the Nullarbor Plain.

From the 1st to the 4th February, the car was thoroughly checked out for evidence which was placed into the hands of doctors, engineers and scientists in Australia and America, including the high tech, state-of-the-art Phillips Laboratory in the United States, submitted by Dr Richard F Haines, where tests revealed peculiarities in the dust samples.

Scientists in Australia became interested in the case and made follow-up tests.

Whether cover-up attempts were made by Adelaide sceptics or some other reason is not known. However, the tests proved the dust was not from the brake system of the car which is probably the reason why Adelaide sceptics ignored the excessive amount of dust inside and on top of the car – the excessive amount did not agree with their debunking attempts!

Perhaps the most amusing and obvious attempt by the Adelaide sceptics was the state-

ment that the right, rear burst tyre was caused by running at high speed on the rim. A 10 year old youth could have recognised that this could not be true because the rim was not damaged.

However, an Adelaide professor of impossibility publicly claimed this as the 'explanation' on an Adelaide television Channel 7 news programme.

It is interesting to note that the dents on three corners of the car top were not on the right rear corner, the same side of the burst tyre. Did the object lose its grip?

Another point that verified the driver's report was, while trying to get away from the object, his speedometer was full scale, 200Km. That speed is beyond the capability of a 1984 Ford Telstar. However, when VUFORS investigators jacked the car off the ground for a test, the wheels did spin at full scale as documented by Channel 7 TV in Adelaide.

With regard to the debunking attempts by the sceptics of the 'Australian kind', within 48 hours, at least four additional 'explanations' came from the scientific community, all contradictory, none satisfactory.

These additional debunking attempts were as follows:

- 1 They saw the rising sun – *False: the sun was not up at that time.*
- 2 The lights were caused by lightning – *False: no storm was in the area, confirmed by other motorists, station owners and other people in the area.*
- 3 The lights were meteorites – *False: the lights were not burning out as meteorites do.*
- 4 Military test – *False – military tests of missiles were not being conducted at the time.*

One conjecture which crops up more regularly than any other attempt, not only concerning this case but most other incidents, is the mirage caused by temperature inversion, even at times and locations where the climatic conditions make temperature inversions impossible. This is a favourite sceptic 'explanation' of the American kind as well.

Several months after the incident, this guess was put forward by A T Brunt, former regional director of the Bureau of Meteorology, at Adelaide, and spokesman for the South Aus-



tralian Sceptics Society.

Brunt suggested that what the Knowles family saw were the lights from a west-bound vehicle reflecting off a temperature inversion when the vehicle was descending into Eucla, 70 miles to the east.

Well, this is an important clue indicating his lack of knowledge of the area; either the Australian sceptic has never been to the vicinity where the action took place or if he visit the area, he was not very observant of the details.

West-bound traffic passes through Eucla *before* descending onto the lower level of the basin. Secondly, the headlights of a west-bound vehicle shine into a cliff when heading toward the spot where the action took place, and, as it turns towards the south, the headlights shine toward the ocean. In fact, the Eyre Highway does not turn towards Mundrabilla, until three miles after the descent.

I have pointed out repeatedly that arm-chair 'experts', especially the sceptics, must get further away from their seats than the nearest teapot to investigate the UFO phenomenon.

It cannot be done by looking at a road map. Road maps do not give an accurate picture of the terrain. However, it is questionable that the sceptics have a motive other than to distract attention away from uncovering the facts due to a subconscious fear, or other reasons.

I have noted that the Australian Sceptics Society expended only \$102.68 (about £50) two years ago and only \$115.94 (roughly £57) last year for analysis, whereas VUFORS expense is more on just a single case (over \$3000 on the Knowles family case). The cost is practically nil when investigations are done from armchairs, and are most inaccurate.

In trying to keep his mirage theory in focus, the sceptic states that truck driver Graham Henly was also driving east ahead of the Knowles car when he saw the unusual light. True, but Mr Brunt does not state that Henly saw the light in his *rear vision mirror* which means the unusual light was back to the west where the action took place.

This is solid evidence that the object was not a mirage and breaks the theory into bits and pieces. Besides, there were other motorists in the area who saw the strange lights as described by the Knowles family and Graham Henly.

I understand that the Australian Sceptics are anti-everything but if they are doing no

better in other fields than the field of ufology, they will find themselves competing with the flat earth society for the wooden spoon.

Australian rings and circles

According to published reports, England has circles with swirls and double rings not associated with UFOs, whereas, Australia has circles and rings and swirls associated with UFOs, but no double or triple rings.

One of the most publicised incidents occurred near Tully Queensland, at about 9.30am on 19th January 1966, when a farmer, George Pedley, was driving his tractor near Horse Shoe Lagoon.

At first, he thought his tractor motor was misfiring after which he heard a hissing sound. Looking to the direction from which the sound was coming, he observed a grey-coloured round-shaped object rising up from the lagoon.

It ascended to tree-top level, tilted to one side and sped away toward the southwest at "unbelievable speed".

George then went to the spot from whence the object had risen where he found a swirl in the reeds on top of the water. When he returned later with another farmer, the reeds had turned brown on top but remained green underneath.

The water was clear so the two farmers swam underneath the floating swirled reeds and found the root matter had been pulled up from the bottom. The diameter of the swirl was about 30 feet.

This case was investigated by the Brisbane researchers headed by Stan Seers, President of the group at that time. Full details of this case are covered by Stan Seers in his book *The Case for Scientific Myopia*. The address for Seers is: 290, Hawksbury Road, Winmalee 2777, NSW, Australia.

Samples of the reeds from the centre were taken to the laboratory of Queensland University, where Stan was employed at the time, and found the small increase in the beta range, when compared with surrounding reed samples.

Orange lights

One of the more recent incidents when an unidentified flying object was seen rising from the ground, leaving a circle at the spot, occurred 9th October 1989.

At 9.15pm, two ladies were driving along



Churchill Park Drive, near Melbourne. The weather was clear. As they turned a curve in the road, an orange-coloured light rose from the ground and passed low over their car.

When the object was directly overhead, they could see the outline was ball-shaped. It then flew away at high speed toward the north-east.

The ring was covered with wild grass and assorted native plants; unlike wheat stems, the vegetation was too stiff to swirl. The technical analysis was done at Monash University by personnel using a scanning electron microscope.

Tests performed at the laboratory with a particle detector on the soil and vegetation samples from within the circle indicated abnormal levels of alpha radiation in comparison to readings taken from a control sample outside the circle. Yellowing of the grass and the surrounding material was caused by an intense amount of ultra-violet radiation.

The grass cell walls on the upper sides were ruptured, while the bottom side cells were still alive. The yellowing extended through the whole leaf width. The yellow ring started to disappear two weeks after the incident. Reports of UFO activity were extensive within a 50 mile radius over the week in question.

Fifteen reports were received for ten months leading up to the incident. Details of this case are covered in the VUFORS publication, *Australian UFO Bulletin* March 1990 edition.

Another UFO/circle related case reported by four credible witnesses occurred on 25th September 1976, when a discoloured circle was left on the ground by an unidentified flying object at about 11.20pm when Mr and Mrs Bert White and two teenagers, Joe Schirripa and Kim Williamson, of Mildura, Victoria, were returning home after a visit with relatives of the Whites.

As they rounded a curve near a locality known as Karawinna South, they observed a group of red lights on the ground in a roadside paddock.

They, at first, thought the lights were on the rear end of a spot shooter's car until the lights began to rise in the air. Mr White stopped the car and rolled the windows down to get a better look.

They could hear no sound, ruling out the

possibility of a helicopter. The object went straight up to about a 40° angle from the ground where it hovered a few seconds, before flying toward the east.

It hovered the second time for a minute or two before the lights suddenly blinked out. The driver noted the spot where he had stopped. Mr and Mrs White went back to the property where they contacted the owner and went back to the paddock where the sighting took place. They found a 72 foot circle at the spot from whence the object arose.

The vegetation within the circle was discoloured to a brown and orange colour. Some bush near the circle had been scorched although no fire had been in the paddock and no car tracks were found.

VUFORS investigators took soil samples from the centre, rim and 100 feet away for control samples and gave them to Dr Geoff Stevens, who carried out thermoluminescence tests which showed no abnormalities.

Nevertheless, seeds were planted in the soil taken from the centre, rim and 100 feet away, and the seeds from the centre-sample barely germinated. The seeds from the rim sample grew but were stunted, and the seeds planted in the control sample of soil grew normally.

Two years later when wheat was planted in the paddock, the wheat grew normally only outside the circle but was stunted inside the circle.

One of the best cases in Australia took place during the wee hours of the morning on a farm at Kilmany, near Rosedale, Victoria, on 30th September 1980.

The witness was awakened by the noise of his horse galloping around the pack and commotion among his cattle. When he went outside to investigate he saw what he thought to be an aircraft about to crash.

But to his surprise, the object levelled off and flew within 500 feet past his house to a 10,000 gallon water tank nearly one mile from his house. He watched the object hover over the tank and then settle to the ground 100 feet from the tank.

He then considered the possibility that a helicopter was making an attempt to rustle cattle. He then jumped on his motorcycle and sped to the scene.

When within a short distance of the object, he could see it was no known aircraft.



From the light of the moon he could tell the craft was bell-shaped, with the main body orange in colour, topped with a white dome.

As the UFO gave off a blast of heat and began to rise slowly in the air, he noted a larger circular rim, like an inner tube. As the object rose from the ground he thought it was falling apart, objects were falling to the ground. When he went back after daylight, he realised what he had seen falling from the UFO were small stones.

The witness was left shaken by the experience and sleeping difficulties which persisted for three weeks thereafter.

The 10,000 gallon water tank was usually kept full in case regular water supply from the windmills failed, but the tank was found to be nearly empty with only one foot of water left in the bottom.

Algae which was normally on the bottom was found pulled to the sides around the top of the tank. Rocks which had been thrown up against the tank out of the way of mowers had also been pulled by the force in a path from the tank to a 30 foot circle left on the ground, where the object had been resting. Smaller rocks that had been falling from the object as it flew were found on the ground directly below the flight path.

The physical evidence, on the ground, consisted of a circular discoloured brown ring, 14 inches wide around the circumference, with a diameter of 30 feet.

It was noted, after a rain, that water stood on the 14 inch ring like beads of oil indicating the composition of the soil had changed. The condition persisted for only a few days after which water was absorbed normally. Cows would not go near the circle for several days.

VUFORS investigators submitted soil samples to a scientist who did a thermoluminescence test which indicated abnormal results. The laboratory requested more samples. We were unable to return to the area for samples until several days later. By that time the soil was normal, although the circle remained for several months.

At 12.12am on the night of the incident, a neighbour was awakened and saw an orange coloured light moving toward the farm and noted the time on her wall clock. The farmer at the scene of the incident had noted that the time he was awakened was 1.00am.

There are many world wide reports where

UFOs are near fresh water sources. This may be the reason why more UFOs are reported from South America than any other continent, due to both abundant fresh water supply and isolation. Whereas, Australia is the driest continent with the fresh water supply very limited and where the UFO/water-related cases may be more obvious.

It has come to our attention that water levels in ponds and dams have dropped during UFO activity over farms as well as water tanks found empty after UFOs have hovered nearby. Some of these cases have been mentioned in the VUFORS publication *Australian UFO Bulletin*.

Only 15 miles from this farm where the above-mentioned incident occurred, the property owner contacted us when he discovered five circles within a paddock near his natural billabong. Three of the rings were about 18 feet in diameter, with one clearly defined circle 30 feet in diameter.

Before he found the circles he remembers when he was awakened by a high-pitched sound of rushing air and the cattle and dogs making a "terrible fuss". His son had watched a green light out over the paddock.

About the same time another dairy farmer watched a UFO hovered over one of his tanks before landing a few feet away from the tank, leaving a 12 foot circle where it had rested. Although that incident occurred during the same period as the above-mentioned cases, it was nearly two years afterwards before we learned of it. The farmer had previously reported a close encounter but was ridiculed.

He reported the later incident to us after a friend told him of VUFORS where researchers seriously investigated reports. When a colleague, Patrick Gildea, and I arrived for a visit to his farm, the circle was still there and we noticed cracks in the concrete tank which had been repaired. We asked the farmer for the reason behind the repairs. His reply was that he assumed the initial crack was due to an earthquake tremor although he knew of no such tremor. Water was being pumped into the tank at that time and he was not sure whether or not any water was taken.

During December 1977 and January 1978, dairy farmers in and around Leitchville, Victoria, were buzzed by mysterious lights. We interviewed several of the farmers who had sent



reports (names in VUFORS' files), however, the interest was far greater than the few residents of that small township, so great, in fact, that the VUFORS president was requested to give a lecture at the town hall.

People came from a 100-mile radius. The hall was packed leaving only standing room. It was decided a repeat lecture should be given the following night. Later, we learned the reason for the keen interest. Many of the farmers who were either buzzed while irrigating, sighted UFOs or knew of friends and relatives who had experiences but had hesitated to report the for fear of ridicule, but they were eager to know more about the phenomenon.

What was there around that area to attract UFOs? Why, of course, it was the centre of Northern Victoria's irrigation system.

Another location where experiences are more than average is Tully, Queensland. So many, in fact, that some of the residents regard them as only a part of the scenery! Tully receives the highest rainfall on the Australian continent. Please note: Tully is the home of the Tully nests.

At 7.15pm on February 1989, a large, cigar-shaped UFO appeared over a farm located near Horsham, Victoria. The object was described as dull silver in colour. It was observed for about five minutes while stationary over a shed where irrigation pumps were located.

It disappeared when the farmer's wife started her car to go to tell her husband, who was working some distance away. This was the same area where all the water in a small dam disappeared overnight and where a small circular object was seen to merge with a larger cigar-shaped UFO, while irrigation was in progress.

The frequency of UFO/fresh water related cases are too many to be classed as coincidence and raises many questions such as:

- Is hydrogen being extracted from the water for some means of propulsion?
- Is water being taken out of Earth's recycling system?
- Is this the reason entities are evasive, following the same characteristics as thieves who avoid detection?
- Are they stealing water?
- If so, where are they taking the water?

Martian water thieves?

It is interesting to note that the latest photos of Mars reveal a large number of dried-up river beds and proves that much water existed on that planet in the past. How about the face on Mars?

Was there once vegetation on Mars and as water diminished did the priority shift to survival by going underground?

Recent remarks from individuals associated with the Mars probe have made puzzling comments about mysterious structures revealed in photographs. These vague comments have appeared in science publications such as *New Scientist* magazine. Are orthodox scientists beginning to think as ufologists have been doing for decades?

Since my early years when I was taught that the atom could not be split, I have observed that orthodox scientists continue to prove themselves to be wrong.

Since I have been involved in UFO research I have lost more confidence in orthodox scientists. Only a small percentage will arise from their armchairs to study the reports or, better still, do the on-the-spot investigations. Orthodox scientists continue to insist that UFOs are against the laws of physics.

The statement is precisely word for word the same as their forefathers' statements that the airplane would be against the laws of physics.

The Wright brothers, in their elementary education, did not know it could not be done – so they did it.

Carl Sagan refuses to recognise any intelligence unless it first contacts him through his radio telescope, while he is reluctant to examine the evidence below his dish.

In closing, I would like to mention another example of attempted debunking by sceptics of the Australian kind.

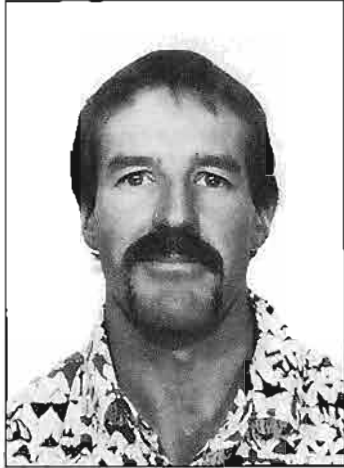
An incident occurred while an aircraft was flying over Long Reach, Queensland, when seven UFOs circled the aircraft and left the area in three minutes.

The Australian sceptics 'explained' the objects as migrating pelicans. To have circled the airplane and left the area in three minutes, they would have had to be supersonic pelicans equipped with boosters, after burners and asbestos feathers!



The Jamestown Incident

Thomas A Coote, Australia



Thomas A Coote

Jamestown.

In July 1987, events occurred which were to change forever the life of this man. I have, for simplicity, denoted these events 1, 2 and 3, but it is probable that they are all interconnected.

Event 1

On the night of July 6th, 1987, Mr L awoke. He felt freezing cold, could see no light at all (not even from the digital clock), and was totally unable to move. Even to breathe was difficult.

Not unnaturally, he thought he had had a stroke during his sleep and was now paralysed.

He recalls drifting off to sleep and reawakening several times. He later likened it to going under anaesthetic.

One time he awoke to feel something touching his cheek. Unable to reach it, he blacked out again. Later, when he awoke, he was able to move one finger, but quickly went to sleep again.

The next time he awoke, he has regained use of one arm and, as the mystery object was still attached to his cheek, he reached up and pulled it off.

To his amazement, it tugged at his hand, moving back and forth across the room, as if he had a dog on a leash!

Eventually it broke free, and he immediately fell asleep again. When he later awoke, he was able to move normally in all respects, and turned on the light to search the room thoroughly for what had been on his face. He found nothing, and returned to bed to sleep, noticing that his wife, normally a light sleeper, had failed to stir at all.

The following day, whilst shaving, he noticed two pin-pricks on each cheek, and recalled his night-time ordeal.

Within a day the marks were 1cm across; within a week, they were large red blotches. Urged by his worried family, Mr L saw his local doctor who referred him to a specialist.

Several weeks later, the specialist indicated that he had 'no idea what the marks were'.

Tom Coote assesses the story of an Australian farmer who encounters a strange craft near his land and is stalked by a being on his property. The experience is 'supported' by physical markings on the farmer's land and skin marks on the witness's face where he was touched by something he could not discern. Tom Coote investigates whether the evidence upholds the story.

About 200Km north of Adelaide, South Australia, the land is gently undulating, with a few trees.

The local farmers grow mainly wheat and raise sheep on the land which, although green in winter, is baked brown by the relentless summer sun.

Due to the vast areas sown to crops, farmers spend a large amount of time driving tractors; often at night.

Visibility can extend for miles.

The area is developing a reputation for being the site of strange happenings. Unexplained lights are often seen in the sky.

This reputation was enhanced following the experiences of one of the area's farmers; Mr L.

He is a large, easy-going man who lives with his wife and two sons a few miles from



Treatments were to no avail and the marks, which constantly change both size and shape, are still present.

Event 2

Three weeks later, at dusk, Mr L and his son-in-law were seeding a paddock. Suddenly they both saw a brilliant red light shine down from a point in the sky onto a clump of trees about a kilometre away.

The beam lasted some seconds, then vanished. The younger man became uneasy about this and left to go home shortly after. Mr L stayed on to finish the job. He did another couple of laps of the field, looking about all the while.

He recalls that he felt very nervous for a reason he could not define. Suddenly, the beam appeared again; this time much closer, and again over the top of a clump of trees. Mr L decided to head for home.

He arrived home to find the house empty; his wife was at his son-in-law's house, and his son, Gary, had gone to the golf club.

He left the tractor running with its lights on, went inside, and turned on some lights.

Event 3

He had been home only a couple of minutes when he was alerted by the frenzied barking of his three dogs. He went outside to see what was causing them to bark. Under some trees, about 40 metres from the house, he thought he saw a parked car, and recalls being momentarily amazed at how a car could be parked in that (fenced off) spot.

Walking closer, he suddenly realised that this was no car, but a type of spacecraft! It stood quietly, with no movement or light.

After a brief inspection, Mr L hurried back to the house to fetch a torch, only to find that all the batteries were flat.

Suddenly the dogs began to bark again; this time at the front of the house. Mr L hurried out and saw that the dogs appeared to have someone cornered, and were leaping and snapping at them.

Due to the house corner, he was unable to see what the dogs were attacking, and began to edge round in order to get a better view.

As he did so, the dogs' attack changed, in an instant, to abject terror. One ran yelping, into the middle of a paddock, one hid in a pile

of old boxes, and the third cowered behind its master.

Seeing the reaction of his dogs, and feeling fear himself, he retreated inside and locked the door. He decided to call his family for help but, amazingly, they refused to come.

It appears they were also afraid.

As he hung up the telephone, Mr L heard slow shuffling footsteps go from the house corner past the front door, a sound he says he will never forget.

When the sound had faded away (in the direction of the craft) he went to the bathroom. Whilst inside he heard the back door open and assumed that his son Gary had come back from the golf club.

He walked into the corridor and, looking along it, he saw "a sort of speckled blur, like a shadow but not like a shadow" standing there.

Still thinking it was his son, he walked towards it, but it retreated towards the front door, and he could hear the latch being turned.

He arrived in the entrance hall just in time to see a dark shape drift out into the night. He ran outside but found himself standing where he was when the dogs ran away, so he quietly went back inside.

Locking the door, he felt somewhat tired, and sat in the chair in the darkened room to plan his next move.

The next thing he knew, it was 1.30am, he was laying on his bed (in another room) and was being awakened by members of his family, who had overcome their fear to return.

All were too afraid to venture outside to see if the craft was still under the trees.

As it turned out, it was, as a shower of rain fell at about this time (the only one that night), leaving an outline of the craft on the ground.

In the morning, as well as the outline, several lines of round footprints could be seen radiating out from one point of the craft (the door?).

The Aftermath

Following these traumatic events, Mr L recalls that he (quote) "didn't feel myself for about two days".

After discrete enquiries revealed that none of the neighbours had noticed anything unusual that night, the event was reported to the police.

The police were quite enthusiastic and



helpful but it was a case of “shutting the door after the horse has bolted”.

Determined to find out more about what happened to him, Mr L contacted Colin Norris, and now attends as many meetings of the South Australia UFO group as possible.

In his presentation, Thomas Coote goes on to examine the three following areas:

- 1 Reasons to believe this case is genuine.
- 2 Conclusions which may be drawn from it.
- 3 The direction which future research should take.



Mr L with the mystery skin disorder subsequent to his experience

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Thomas A Coote: an autobiography

Name: Thomas A Coote

Date of birth: 1 March 1957

Nationality: Australian

Present address: Department of General Microbiology, University of Helsinki, Mannerheimintie 172, 00300 Helsinki, Finland.

Present occupation: Research worker

Academic/work history:

1974; Matriculated from St Peter's College, Adelaide.

1975-1987; Combined work and travel over much of eastern Australia, including six years in ski resorts.

1988; Enrolled at Flinder's University, Adelaide, in Science. Represented Flinder's University on the ABC TV series *University Challenge* (based on the Granada Television series of the same name).

1989; Coached Flinder's University team for *University Challenge*. Awarded a Chancellor's Letter of Commendation (for academic results).

1990; Completed requirements for BSc. Awarded a Chancellor's Letter of Commendation. Graduated in top 1% of all graduates.

Non-academic pursuits: Chess, coin collecting, cricket, investigating unexplained phenomena, skiing.



The Gulf Breeze sightings

Walter H Andrus Jr., USA



Walt Andrus

The much-publicised Gulf Breeze sightings in America, a year after the case was reopened, still remains as much of a mystery as it was. Walt Andrus gives an update on pending 'final' reports.

With the publication of Ed and Francis Walters' book *The Gulf Breeze Sightings* in England, Germany, and other countries, the events, photographs, sightings and experiences of the Gulf Breeze residents are detailed through 1st May 1988, when Ed was 'whited out' in Shoreline Park.

Commencing November 1987, there have been than 260 reports of UFO sightings in the Gulf Breeze, Florida, area, involving perhaps three times as many witnesses.

Ed Walters and his family have been involved in only a small fraction of these sightings. This paper will concentrate on significant sightings and events that occurred after the publication of the book.

The Gulf Breeze case is unique in historical ufology in that it has been an ongoing event in which continuing investigations are being conducted, experiments in UFO photography are performed, and feedback analysis is incorporated to further enrich the study of the UFO phenomenon.

Bruce S Maccabee titled his speech at the

MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium *Gulf Breeze without Ed*, which is an oxymoron.

It is self-contradictory because it is impossible to discuss the Gulf Breeze sightings without Ed. If it had not been for the photographs that Ed had taken between November 1987 and May 1988, the outside world would never have heard of Gulf Breeze.

Over three and a half years have elapsed since the original photos were made, however, the sightings, still photographs and video-camera tapes continue to occur in ongoing investigation.

Some of the most talented photo analysts in the world have scrutinised Ed's original photographs, using the most modern techniques available, including computer enhancement, without finding any evidence that the photos were hoaxed or trick photography was used to produce them.

MUFON plans to publish the analysis of two additional photo analysts when their final reports are submitted.

There are investigators on the fringe of the Gulf Breeze case who are screaming 'Hoax!', but are not offering any evidence to substantiate their claims.

After personally working on the Ed Walters case for several years and reading the UFO sighting reports submitted by the Pensacola MUFON investigators by 100 other witnesses, I find it very difficult to accept the later reports as credible and reject Ed's photographs and experiences as a hoax. His limited knowledge of cameras and photography precludes any elaborate hoax.

It would not be feasible to list all of the sightings since May 1988 through June 1991 in this paper, so I have fulfilled this goal with a bar graph by week, month and year.

Many video-camera tapes of the red lighted objects are in the MUFON file, however converting these tapes to British standards for viewing at this Congress was not feasible due to time restrictions.

A few of the still camera 35mm slides will



be shown as examples. Due to the fact that some of the photographers were not using tripods for their cameras, some of the photos show 'squiggly' lines. This paper will present only a few of the unique sightings that add significantly to UFO research and photography.

Dr Fenner & Shirley McConnell sighting

One of the most interesting and convincing sightings took place during the early morning of 8th July 1988. Dr Fenner McConnell, the Escambia County medical examiner, was sitting on the edge of his bed at 4.45am, putting on his running shoes, preparing to indulge in his favourite daily exercise – long distance running.

He has received many medals and trophies in marathon events throughout the USA in competition with his own age bracket. As he sat there, he suddenly saw something unbelievable.

Looking out of the large picture window in their master bedroom westward over the Pensacola Bay, he saw a lighted craft hovering over the water.

The distance to the craft was subsequently estimated at about 300 feet. He quickly awakened his wife, Shirley, and they both determined that the object was round with illuminated 'windows' and a large white glow on the bottom, estimated to be 8 feet in diameter, shining on the water.

The UFO was clearly discernible because of the internal lights reflecting through the 'windows' and the reflection of the white glow off the water. As the light got brighter, he thought the craft was coming closer, because now it was only lighting up the water below but it was also illuminating the damaged pier pilings extending 300 feet out into the bay from their home.

Fenner's first thought was that it was a plane that was going to land on their house. His wife, who has better distant eyesight than her husband, realised immediately that she was observing the "exact object that we had seen pictures of in the newspaper here in Gulf Breeze".

They observed the soundless craft for 2 to 3 minutes before running to another part of the house in an attempt to view the craft from their backyard which faces the bay.

At this time the craft changed direction and started moving away from them toward the Pensacola Naval Air Station across the bay about three miles away.

They did not observe any conventional aircraft during or after the sighting. They estimated that the lighted object was 30 feet in diameter and flying about 30 feet above the water.

The UFO party

A few months before their UFO sighting on 8th July, the McConnells had invited about 500 guests to their annual party scheduled for 10th July. The theme for the party was *UFO Watch* and the invitation featured a Gary Larson UFO cartoon to set the tone for the party.

Dr McConnell and Shirley planned to have guests pose with Martians printed on a backdrop, then eat Mars candy bars and Moon Pies for dessert. The McConnells did not mention their sighting to the 200 guests who came to their party two days later.

Later, they 'went public' with their sighting and even appeared in the *Unsolved Mysteries* TV show that was broadcast in September 1988. They have also been features in newspaper stories in which they have reiterated their claim that they saw the object in Ed's photos.

When I visited Shirley and Fenner McConnell in their home to re-enact their sighting, I inquired about any possible photographs. Shirley disclosed her Polaroid camera on the windowsill behind the drapes in their master bedroom. She was now prepared for any future sighting.

Stereo photographs of red light

After numerous sightings of the red light during April 1990 in which witnesses with 35mm cameras and video-cameras recorded the events, the Bridge Bay Watchers, members of Pensacola MUFON, resumed their nightly vigils in November when the intriguing red light returned for nearly nightly visitations.

Several nights a week, various members would decide to meet at Shoreline Park or Bay Bridge Park. On 4th February they decided to try a new place, the Naval Live Oaks Reserve (a Navy park).

Although Ed didn't attend all of the previous skywatches, he decided to join the group



this night and brought his SRS, Self-Referencing Stereo camera, in order to determine the distance of the red light. The SRS camera consists of two Polaroid Model Sun 600 LMS cameras separated by two and mounted on a tripod with a camera calibration rod protruding forward.

Ed misunderstood the exact meeting place in the park, therefore he was alone when he scanned the sky over Santa Rosa Sound from the edge of the bluff.

He was startled to see the red light to the east over the water. He immediately took his camera down the stairs to the beach to get a clear view and positioned it for his first photograph.

After aiming his camera toward the light, he activated both camera shutter buttons simultaneously. He then noticed that the light was moving slowly southward and that there was now a green ring around the red light.

He took another set of photos before the light started to fade out. It either faded or scattered clouds blocked the light out.

After several minutes, the other MUFON people arrived and Ed showed them the developed pictures. They sat and talked for a few hours while Ed was taking some calibration photos of distant lights so that the parallax angle of the cameras could be determined.

Ed called Dr Bruce Maccabee the next day and forwarded both the original red light photos and the calibrating photos to Bruce for analysis.

Unfortunately, the various test photos showed slightly different amounts of parallax in the camera. The axis of the camera lenses crossed at distances from 500 to 1500 feet in the various test photos.

This means that the cameras were slightly loose in the camera mount or that slight rotations of the frame were taking place when Ed depressed the camera shutter buttons.

Hence an exact distance to the UFO cannot be determined, only a range of distances. (Note: this was not a problem in the 1st May 1988 photos since distant lights on the Bob Sikes bridge appeared in the photos along with the UFOs, providing calibration.) Bruce then measured the parallax of the UFO and calculated the probable distance range.

Ed had two UFO photo pairs. The first left-right pair shows an elongated red image which

looks as if it was stretched slightly by camera motion.

The second pair shows a nearly circular red disc with a touch of orange that is surrounded by an ellipse made up of small blobbed green dots or beads. According to the parallax it was between 240 and 350 feet away. At this range of distances, the size of the red disc in the second photo is about 1.3 to 2 feet in diameter. The major horizontal axis of the green ellipse was about 6.3 to 9.3 feet and the vertical axis was about 3 to 4.5 feet high.

The red disc is sufficiently off-centre vertically in the photo that it contacts the lower part of the green ellipse (it is slightly off-centre horizontally as well). If the red disc were exactly the same altitude as the green ring and if it were centred in the green ring, then the image should appear centred.

The observed 'off-centreness' could therefore be evidence that the red disc was actually at a slightly lower altitude than the green ring.

This photo is particularly notable because

- 1 a really unusual light/object was seen (certainly not a simple light source or flare suspended by a balloon)
- 2 it was not very large, and
- 3 it was quite close to the witness who heard no noise.

Re-opening the Ed Walters Case

A few days prior to the MUFON 1990 International UFO Symposium in Pensacola, Florida, two spectacular announcements occurred that impacted seriously upon the credibility of the Ed Walters case in Gulf Breeze.

First, a paper plate UFO model was found in the attic above the garage in the Walters' former home by the present owner. And seconds, a young man named Tommy Smith telephoned the Gulf Breeze mayor, Ed Gray, and the Police Chief, Jerry Brown, telling them in a recorded call that he was a participant in hoaxing UFO photos with Ed Walters and the others.

Tommy claimed that Ed had told him how each of the photographs was produced at the time when they were being made. Mark Curtis of WEAR-TV in Pensacola and Craig Meyers, a reporter for the Pensacola News-Journal newspaper, were present during the telephone call to the mayor.



This disturbing news prompted the Mutual UFO Network to officially reopen the Ed Walters case in order to investigate the validity of Tommy Smith's claims and to determine if the model was the object photographed by Ed.

Rex and Carol Salisbury had been selected by Dan Wright to receive the 1989-90 award for the most outstanding UFO investigation or investigations. Recognising the honour bestowed upon them and the fact that Rex was not part of the initial investigation team, Charles D Flannigan, the lead investigator and Florida State Director, recommended to Walt Andrus that Rex Salisbury spearhead the reopening of the case. Your International Director concurred with Mr Flannigan.

At a private meeting on 5th July 1990, Mr Salisbury accepted this responsibility with one stipulation. He would accept the assignment only if Walt Andrus would be willing to accept the disclosure based upon Rex's investigation that the Ed Walters case could be a hoax.

Walt Andrus replied in the affirmation, because he had issued a press statement that MUFON had reopened the case based upon the incredible claims being made.

It was the consensus and agreement by these three gentlemen that the reopened investigation was to be confidential until a final report was prepared and released. As of this writing, Rex Salisbury has promised to complete his investigation and submit a final report to MUFON.

Several months ago he provided a 'question and answer' format of his findings to both the Pensacola News-Journal and the Gulf Breeze Sentinel for publication without advising Charles Flannigan or Walt Andrus beforehand. This act was in direct contradiction to the conditions under which he accepted the assignment.

Mr Salisbury has now written 'A Letter to the Editor' elaborating upon his personal viewpoints of the case reopening. I must make it clear that Rex still has not submitted his final report to MUFON with the documented evidence substantiating the assertions made in his letter.

His letter has been published, as he requested, in the June 1991 issue of the MUFON UFO Journal for the perusal of the readers. We hope that he will produce and submit a final report in the near future.

In the event that Mr Salisbury fails to submit a final report, a second investigation team under the leadership of Gary Watson, the Chief Investigator for Pensacola MUFON, was authorised and assigned the same task and will submit the results of their reopening of the Ed Walters case.

Each of these reports may be very revealing and even contradictory. The case has developed into a very controversial subject in ufology, both pro and con.

Like any other UFO sighting, the authenticity of the Ed and Frances Walters' experience must rest upon the documented facts, not hearsay and rumours by 'armchair ufologists'.

Infrared photos taken

The 12th March, 1991, marked a significant breakthrough when infrared photos were taken of the red light. The Pensacola MUFON group met at the Unity Church in Pensacola just north of the Bay Bridge. Ed Walters arrived late at the meeting as he had on the night of 12 September 1989.

As he was driving north toward the church, he saw a red light in the sky north of him. It was below the heavy cloud cover but he soon lost sight of it. Ed contacted Gary Watson when he went into the meeting concerning the recurring red light. The meeting was abruptly adjourned as everyone dashed out into the parking lot to try to view the reported red light. They saw nothing so returned to the meeting.

Ed, Mary Hufford, Bruce Morrison and a few others stayed outside a little longer still scanning the sky. Suddenly it appeared again to the north, apparently over Pensacola or beyond. Ed had his 35mm camera with a 50mm lens (Canon AE-1) and it was loaded with infrared-sensitive film.

This type of film produces black and white photographs, like conventional panchromatic film, but is sensitive to 'near infrared' radiation that is beyond the colour sensitivity range of human vision.

Ed's camera was not set for infrared focus, nor did he use a blue filter. Therefore his film recorded all of the visible light as well as the near infrared. He and Gary Watson had prearranged that Ed would use a wide-angle lens (50mm) on his camera and Gary would use a telephoto lens, both using infrared film. Again, Gary did not have his camera at the meeting.



Bruce Morrison had his video camera but decided not to tape the sighting because nearby lights were causing excess glare in his viewfinder (a small black and white TV set) preventing him from seeing the red light.

Ed got his camera out of his vehicle and took five photographs as the red light object moved upward and to the east a small amount before disappearing. The wind direction and velocity that evening was south at 12mph. There were two cloud layers, the first a broken layer at 2100 feet and an overcast at 7500 feet.

According to the witnesses the light started as bright red and then dimmed and turned white. A short time later it simply 'turned off'. Ed took three photos while it was red and two photos after it turned white. The first three photos show a small dot image (0.15-0.2mm wide) indicating that the light had a small angular size comparable to distant streetlights. By comparison the images created by nearby streetlights were round discs about ten times larger.

The surprise occurs in the last two photos. Although the witnesses reported that the light decreased in brightness when it turned white, the images in the last two photos are much larger and brighter.

The UFO image in the fourth photo is about 1.4mm in diameter, comparable in size to the images of nearby streetlights, and the image in the fifth photo is nearly as large and higher in the sky.

The implication of the large size of these images on infrared film is that, when the light turned to a dimmer white to the naked eye, it was actually emitting far more near infrared radiation than it was when it appeared red to the eye. (This is not a characteristic temperature. If an incandescent source, such as a heated piece of metal, were to appear red at some temperature, then when the temperature was raised enough for it to appear white, it would be very much brighter.)

The distance to the light is unknown, however, it was definitely below the overcast layer of clouds at 7500 feet, and probably below the broken layer at 2100 feet. The highest recorded angular elevation of the light was about 15 degrees just before it disappeared. If at that time, it were at the altitude of the lower layer then it was about 1.5 miles away, and if it was lower, it would have been proportionately

closer.

At that distance the size of the small image in the first three photos corresponds to a diameter of about 24 feet. At closer distances, the calculated size would be proportionately smaller. (Of course, the large images in photos 4 and 5 would correspond to a much larger object. However, it must be remembered that the large size of the image in this case is not attributed to the object size but rather to object brightness.)

Hence the size of the light source may reasonably be estimated to have been in the range of several feet to perhaps 20 feet or so. I am indebted to Bruce S Maccabee, PhD MUFON Consultant in Photo Analysis, for his computations and to Ed Walters for the use of his photos to illustrate my lecture.

Conclusions

Even after over three years of sightings, investigations, research, and photo analysis in the Gulf Breeze sightings, there is still no final conclusion about what is happening.

Some researchers feel that sufficient evidence exists to prove that alien visitation from an extraterrestrial origin has been occurring.

Without a doubt, the Gulf Breeze incident has provided the investigators more challenges and evidence than any modern UFO case, because it has been ongoing.

A number of preliminary conclusions can be reached at this time as they regard testimonial support for Ed's original sightings and conclusions regarding all of the sightings that have been witnessed and reported.

One firm conclusion is based upon the testimony of other witnesses is that Ed and his family are not the only ones who have seen the UFO that Ed photographed. This testimony is strong support for Ed's claims to have seen and photographed an actual UFO, whatever its origin..

Another conclusion may be borrowed from an editorial published by Ms Jackie Brooks, associate editor of the *Pensacola News-Journal* when she said: 'In the midst of all the speculations and investigation, debunking and debate, we have reputable reports of UFO sightings in our area'.

This conclusion is supported by more than 260 sightings, of which more than 150 have been investigated by Pensacola MUFON inves-



tigators and by the over 500 witnesses who made these reports. The Mutual UFO Network has not reached a final conclusion on this case for two reasons:

(1) It is still ongoing as we speak in Sheffield, England, and

(2) The two teams of investigators who have been assigned the responsibility of a final report have not submitted their separate reports.

Preliminary indications are that final reports are going to be contradictory as it relates to the Walters family sightings and Ed's photographs. The authenticity of Ed's original photographs rest with the individual professional photo analyst's forthcoming reports, which are independent of the prime investigators' final reports.

The Gulf Breeze case was reopened in July 1990 for the specific purpose of determining if the paper plate model found in the attic of Ed's former home was used for his original photographs and to check out the validity of Tommy Smith's allegations that he was knowledgeable

of how the photos were hoaxed as they were being made. These items are to be resolved in the two final reports.

To my knowledge, no other UFO case in history has created such a degree of controversy in the UFO community as the Ed Walters case (with the exception of the Billy Meier photos in Switzerland).

The Mutual UFO Network has been condemned by both the debunkers and the 'armchair ufologists'. It has even been said that if the Ed Walters experience is proven to be a hoax, this will destroy MUFON. On the contrary, the Gulf Breeze sightings are being treated as any other major UFO case.

Gulf Breeze will either collapse as a magnificent technologically orchestrated scam or be recorded in UFO history as the most authentic investigated case with evidence surpassing any comparable event in modern times.

Personally, I feel reasonable confident that the facts and evidence will substantiate this incredible case.



Folklore as an explanation for UFO abductions

Thomas E. Bullard, USA



Thomas Bullard

Are abductions simply modern folklore, religion-like belief or current-day mythology? Although there are similarities drawn between these and the abduction experience, there are also vast differences, points out Thomas 'Eddie' Bullard from the USA. These differences, he says, cannot be ignored. But how can they be explained?

Many ufologists have noted extensive parallels between UFO abduction reports and the phenomenon of religion, folklore and mythology.

Can so many similarities exist and abductions still be real?

The majority verdict among European researchers has been an emphatic 'no', whereas American researchers dismiss similarities as unworthy of serious consideration.

For Americans these comparisons are mere literary exercises and irrelevant to the issue of alien visitation.

Such differences have led to an intellectual alienation of nearly extraterrestrial proportions between European and American ufologists.

Folklore scholarship cannot resolve these conflicts, but it can offer some standards to set the debate on a firmer foundation.

Unhappy past experience with comparative studies warns that a search for analogies will never fail, but the appearance of similarity between two cultural phenomena is insufficient to establish a genetic connection.

An appeal to narrative dynamics and narrator psychology may provide important additional evidence.

The findings presently available on these two counts point in opposite directions; abduction reports behave more like accounts of real events than folk narratives, but the psychology of abductees is not unique, as we might expect if these people had shared a strange and traumatic experience.

The evidence on hand cannot throw our convictions toward one theory or the other about the origin and nature of these reports, but ongoing discoveries still give good reason to believe that something unusual is going on.

Abductions: a comparative study

(Dr Bullard holds a doctorate in folklore from Indiana University, where he wrote his dissertation on UFOs. The following contributed paper, summarising a study carried out for the Fund for UFO Research, was presented at the Washington Symposium.)

The most remarkable thing about UFO abductions is that they happen at all.

The second most remarkable thing about them is that they happen so often.

If the Betty and Barney Hill case had remained unique it would stand isolated as a mere curiosity, a freak with little bearing on the UFO mystery as a whole. Instead hundreds of other cases have surfaced and forced the conclusions that abductions are actually common, thought never commonplace.

Next to the inherent strangeness of the reports, their major attraction is the amount of information they contain. One abduction reveals more about UFOs than a thousand lights in the night.

In quality and quantity abductions best



fulfil the meaning of J Allen Hynek's phrase 'an embarrassment of riches'.

Most abduction research has concentrated on in-depth investigations of individual cases. Thanks to the diligence of Jerome Clark, Ann Druffel, Raymond Fowler, Budd Hopkins, Leo Sprinkle and others, the results of these investigations are some superbly detailed reports.

With so many reports now on hand, a study in breadth rather than depth offers a chance to look beyond cases in particular and draw meaningful conclusions about the abduction phenomenon in general.

The Fund for UFO Research has sponsored a project with this goal in mind. The first step was to catalogue reports from printed sources, mostly from book-length treatments and articles from leading UFO periodicals.

In this way I gathered about 300 cases, and over 200 of them are 'true' abductions, where a witness is captured and temporarily detained by apparently alien beings aboard an extraordinary flying machine for purposes of a medical examination of some kind.

The second step calls for a comparative analysis of these cases: line them up and see where they are alike or where they differ, and the findings will tell how consistent the abduction phenomenon really is.

No-one familiar with abductions will be surprised to hear that the consistencies are many, but few have guessed just how consistent abductions prove to be.

An outline of the results now follows. Elements unusual enough to be distinctive while recurring from case to case qualify as significant constants of the abduction phenomenon.

Consistencies of form

A striking but seldom-noticed characteristic of abduction reports is the sequence of events that unfolds.

The abduction story consists of a maximum of eight episodes - capture, examination, conference, tour, otherworldly journey, theophany, return and aftermath.

Not every case contains every episode, and some episodes are quite rare; but those that do appear follow this prescribed sequence with remarkable fidelity. Out of 193 cases with two or more episodes, 163 show the 'correct' order.

Exact arrangements order the event of some episodes as well as the overall story.

Capture consists of four distinctive parts intrusion, where a UFO appears and stalks the witness; zone of strangeness, where odd things happen to the physical world; time lapse, when the witness suffers some form of mental impairment; and procurement, when the beings take the witness into custody.

When two or more of these parts occur in a report, they follow this order in 77% of the cases.

Procurement has the complexity of a sub-episode unto itself, with a sequence of eight recurrent events: a beam of light may strike the witness, a force may draw him, beings appear, and a conversation follows. The beings pacify or otherwise control the witness, the escort him to the ship and float him on board. He enters with a momentary loss of memory, or doorway amnesia.

Again 77% of the cases with two or more of these events arrange them in the prescribed sequence.

The examination episode breaks down into eight distinct activities: the beings prepare the witness by undressing, cleaning and positioning him on a table. Then the actual examination moves from general to more specific concerns as the beings first subject the witness to a manual exploration, apparently to gauge gross external characteristics. A scanning device like an eye or light next passes over the witness, followed by instrumental investigations aimed perhaps at internal structure and physiological functions. The beings then take specimens of skin, hair or body fluids, and an examination of the reproductive areas comes next. At the close of the examination the beings show interest in the neurological system, often by implanting a tiny device into the brain or spine of the witness. A behavioural test may complete the process, perhaps to check performance after the insert is made.

A total of 69% of the cases follow this pattern.

The return episode begins with a farewell, and thereafter reverses capture. The witness exits and experiences doorway amnesia once again as the beings float him outside. After watching the departure of the craft, the witness reenters the normal world as he resumes his previous activities and memories of the abduction fade away. The four parts of this episode stay true to form in two thirds of the cases.



What matters about the order of these events is that the pattern is not inevitable.

A conference could precede the examination or specimen taking, or the scan, and the change would make no difference to the story. It would still make sense one way or the other.

The fact that witness after witness sticks to one arbitrary order suggests that the experience itself is structured that way.

The inner episodes

Less common than the episodes discussed above, the inner episodes lack a fixed internal order as well. The commonest sequel to the examination is a conference, a more or less formal period of conversation between the witness and his captors.

Four topics raised in no particular sequence characterise the conference: the beings may interrogate the witness about topics of interest to them; explanations of where the beings come from and why they are here are common; they may make a request of the witness, often to forget the experience but sometimes to learn or improve himself, or bring them information on a future date; warnings that certain human behaviours are dangerous and prophecies of coming events are also common. The prophecies usually predict coming disasters and even apocalyptic changes on earth, events the aliens or an enlightened witness may mitigate. A few cases include a tour of the ship, apparently as a courtesy to the witness. This tour may include a glimpse of the engine room, where several witnesses report crystalline globes attached to a rotor device.

Now follows perhaps the most bizarre episode of all, the other-worldly journey. The witness may be placed in an immersion chamber or other protective environment before the trip begins, then almost instantaneously the ship arrives at its destination. Calling this place another planet may be a mistake, because the place often seems underground or under water, associated with caverns and provided with a luminous but sunless sky and an indistinct horizon.

The witness often sees a bustling city and ample signs of alien civilisation, but barrenness typifies the physical environment. Either the landscape is desert-like or devastated, or the sky is dark and the vegetation looks unhealthy. The only fertile scenes appear in subterranean

environments. These impressions repeat with almost unchallenged consistency.

Rarest among the episodes is the theophany, where the witness encounters a divine being or sees something the beings appear to regard as sacred. Betty Andreasson's meetings with a presence she interpreted as God are the most familiar examples of this incident.

After the witness returns, his abduction experience still may not be over. Its consequences often dog him for weeks and even years. An aftermath of some sort frequently follows an abduction, and while formless, this episode consists of distinctive aftereffects of immediate, intermediate and long-term onset.

The immediate aftereffects are mostly physical in nature and include eye irritation, sunburned skin, gastrointestinal upset and cuts or puncture wounds.

Mental effects take over in a week or two as the physical injuries heal. The witness may be troubled by nightmares or anxiety as partial recollection of a strange and upsetting experience creeps back into consciousness.

Longer term changes may involve major reorganisation of the witness's personality, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. New interests and a desire for learning may grip the witness, extrasensory powers may develop, and he may become a more sensitive, humane person.

In other cases, the witness may turn from reliable to erratic and his entire personality unravel. Paranormal experiences with Men in Black, apparitional and poltergeist-like phenomena may follow.

The commonest aftereffect is further encounters with aliens. One abduction sometimes leads to another, and a few witnesses report a lifelong history of abductions, UFO sightings and meetings with unusual beings.

Craft, occupants and effects

Not all the consistencies in abduction stories are limited to the form and content of the episodes. The craft has a discoidal shape in 136 out of 162 cases. In some cases the disk is thick, in others thin, sometimes a dome or projections differentiate the craft, and sizes vary so much that witnesses compare the ship to anything from a small car to football field. The craft are clearly not carbon copies, but a few cigar or



other shapes challenge the general discoidal pattern.

Once inside the witness usually finds himself within a circular, domed room without sharp corners. Lighting is uniform and diffused without a specific source visible, the atmosphere is usually cold and clammy and the air difficult to breathe because of its heaviness, or, less frequently, its noxiousness.

The beings may be human, humanoid, or monstrous. Humanoids make up two thirds of the 203 cases where witnesses describe the beings, while humans appear in 52 cases. The standard humanoid is of short to average height, has a large rounded head and enormous, compelling eyes. The nose and ears are small, even vestigial, while the mouth is no more than a hole or a slit. No hair grows on the grey, ashen skin, and the beings dress in a tight overall uniform.

Some clues to the personality and concerns of the beings emerge in abduction reports as well. Most crews have a leader who converses with the witnesses, using telepathy to address humans but a rapid mumbling verbal speech to communicate with others of his own kind.

The beings are polite in speech and behaviour, but their courtesy often proves false, a mere front to manipulate the witness and win his cooperation. In fact, the beings seem clinical and aloof, indifferent to and perhaps uncomprehending of human pain and fear.

One emotion they express is surprise, judging from the excitement they have shown over such discoveries as false teeth and surgical scars. Evasiveness typifies much of the beings' treatment of captives. The beings seem to resent a witness watching them and may influence him to keep his eyes averted and closed during the abduction.

When the witness questions them, the beings may refuse to answer or give out disinformation, absurd replies that satisfy the witness but reveal nothing to him. Then the time lapse effect robs him of even the memory that he was abducted at all.

Emotions seem to hold particular interest for the beings. They may question a witness at length about his human characteristics, also about the individuality and separateness of humans. Time and ageing seem like complete mysteries to the beings. Their interest in repro-

duction comes to the fore during the examination, but other hints reinforce the impression that matters of reproduction and fertility command a central place in the beings' concerns.

In the conversations the beings may state outright that they have trouble reproducing, desire to reinvigorate their stock by combining with humans, or come from a dying infertile planet. Observations of the otherworld confirm this admission.

A preference for youthful captives is striking in comparison of the ages of abductees, while the beings rejected one witness as too old and another because of a vasectomy. These choices make sense if interest in fertility is what motivates them. The samples, tampering with witness's genitalia, and scale of the abduction program suggest beings in serious biological trouble exploiting human captives in an effort to survive.

A number of strange phenomena associate with abductions, and these events can gather under the rubric of 'effects'. Some effects apply to the physical world and others to the mind. Physical effects include a vacuum-like stillness surrounding the abduction site and influences on motor vehicles, some the traditional electromagnetic effects familiar in UFO reports, others a seemingly external control over the operation of a vehicle.

The best known mental effect is time lapse, a gap in witness memory during the period of the abduction. This phenomenon occurs in 164 cases, while other forms of mental impairment such as unconsciousness or lethargy boost the total even higher. The witness may behave in uncharacteristic ways while under the beings' influence, and they seem to have a number of mind control techniques by which they pacify the witness, relieve pain, and induce compliance with their wishes.

Other effects lie in a shadowland between the physical and mental. The witness floats to the ship, but does he defy gravity or only feel as if he floats? Evidence points both ways. Cases of passing ghostlike through a solid wall and an isolation effect whereby the abduction takes place in an inhabited area in plain view, yet no one else intrudes, raise similar questions.

Meaning what?

Comparative analysis of abduction reports piles up a mountain of data to reach only a



molehill of conclusions. The ultimate nature of abductions eludes this study because its real subject is not the experience itself but the abduction report.

All truths found here are truths about texts and not necessarily about the phenomenon responsible for them. This literary Neverland excludes consideration of the witness, his sincerity and emotional involvement, and any physical evidence the experience leaves behind. Similarities in form and content are important to know, but ultimate answers demand exterior evidence to bridge the gap between report and reality.

Three explanations may account for the similarities among abduction reports:

1 The reports may be alike because different people share the same kind of objective experience.

2 The reports may be alike because different people share the same kind of subjective experience. This explanation assumes some sort of universal (or transpersonal) psychological phenomenon capable of generating the mental

images and feelings of abductions.

3 The reports may be alike because different people share the same story tradition. Narrators then merely repeat the form and contents of stories heard from other narrators, or more plausibly, a well-publicised report influences the perceptions and descriptions of subsequent witnesses so that they distort their own experience to conform to their expectations.

A case can be argued for each interpretation with the evidence from this study. If this study cannot settle once and for all what abductions are, the effort proves one thing about them beyond a shadow of a doubt: abduction reports as a body show far more similarities than accident, random hoaxes or purely fantasies can explain.

The consistencies in form and content down to numerous minute details demonstrate that abductions make up a coherent phenomenon, whatever its ultimate nature. Any skeptic who dismisses this unity relies on hope rather than evidence to support his case.



Computerising UFO data: Applying low-cost computing to UFO research

Stephen J. Gamble, United Kingdom



Stephen Gamble

Anthony Pace, Raymond Shaw, Stephen Smith, Ernest Still, Arnold West, and Michael Wootten.

At the first International UFO Congress held at Mount Royal Hotel in London in 1979, a series of behind-the-scenes meetings were held between ufologists from many different countries. These led to the formation of ICUR, the International Committee for UFO Research (*2). As part of the BUFORA contribution to these meetings, a paper on the potential use of low cost computing was presented by Malcolm Bull, Bob Digby and myself (*3). This paper examines the progress we have made since that presentation.

The growth of low cost computing, following the introduction of home computers, has made this technology accessible to the ufological community. This paper examines the uses of computers in UFO research with particular reference to how they have been utilised by the British UFO Research Association.

This paper deals with some of the work currently being undertaken by the BUFORA (*1) Research Department in the uses of computers in UFO research. During the 1988 SOBEPs Conference in Brussels, one of the speakers made the comment that UFO research was not done by organisations but rather is carried out by individuals.

Perhaps the work I describe here will refute this claim. I take this opportunity to list, as an acknowledgement, the people who have contributed over the years in this aspect of BUFORA's work; it has been very much a team effort : Malcolm Bull, James Danby, Robert Digby, Paul Fuller, Peter Hill, Michael Hudson, Michael Lewis, Robert Moore, Nigel Mortimer,

This is not a general review of the use of computers by every UFO organisation in the world, but focuses on the work of BUFORA. For an indication of other groups' use of computers, refer to two recent publications (*4, *5).

BUFORA's use of computers can be split down into two broad categories, namely Research Applications and, secondly, Office Automation Applications. Each of these categories will be examined in turn.

BUFORA'S Research Applications

The computer index – background

Work on this project started back in 1984. Originally the system ran on a Sinclair Spectrum 48k computer using an early version of the Masterfile database system produced by Campbell Systems (*6). More recently the database has been transferred to an Amstrad PCW 9512 computer.

Before I get into detailed discussion of the database, I will outline some of the background which made it necessary.



Originally, and I am going back now to the 1960s, all the case reports for a given year were just placed in a large file. The papers relating to any particular case were pinned together, but otherwise there was no order.

When I use the term case reports, I use this as a very loose definition. Many of the early case reports (perhaps as many as half) consist of only a newspaper clipping or a witness's original letter; there is no apparent attempt at full investigation.

To some are appended a comment, a very preliminary evaluation. In latter years we have become more selective about what we are prepared to consider as a case report.

I well remember a TV interview the late Dr Hynek gave around 1972. The outline of his comments was that science works on patterns of the relationship between events. The reason scientists were not interested in UFOs was that there were no apparent patterns. So it is with computers; they need to work with structured information and cannot bring order to chaos.

In the early 1970's soon after Tony Pace became Director of Research, a numbering system was introduced which at last gave an easy way to uniquely identify a given case.

This was a five digit code where the first two digits indicated the year in which the case occurred, ie. 75 would indicate the year 1975. This was followed by three digits which represented a sequential number, the first case received in a year would be numbered 001, the second 002, and so on.

It is important to note that the numbers were allocated in the order the cases were received *not* in any chronological order of occurrence.

Prior to this numbering system BUFORA reports had been given a sequential number which started at one for the first report ever received by BUFORA and continued from there. There was no attempt to separate the reports into individual years or any other more sophisticated classification.

The only way to find a specific report was to start at the front of the filing cabinet and work towards the back, examining every report on route!

Card index

The renumbering of the case files was necessary for an early attempt to organise the

data. This was an edge-punched card system devised by Stephen Smith. These cards are described in detail in the BUFORA Investigators Handbook.

The card is approximately 8in x 6in and has a row of small holes parallel to, and quarter of an inch from, each edge. The top surface of the card is printed with data fields for information such as case number, date, time and location. Each data field corresponds to a specific group of holes.

The number of categories which could be described were limited by the number of holes around the card. This could lead to such things as 'object made a noise' which could either be present or absent, there was no opportunity to be more specific.

If a particular characteristic was present the edges of the hole were cut to meet the edge of the card making it into a slot.

To analyse the data a steel needle was passed through the stack of cards. If we were interested in the 'presence of sound' then the needle would be passed through the hole corresponding to sound.

The pack of cards would then be picked up by the needle and those reports in which sound was present would drop out of the stack.

Although now somewhat crude, it was BUFORA's first real attempt at data analysis. Experience gained with the card system primarily identifying the shortcomings helped in the design of later systems.

The computer index

As previously stated, this originally ran on a Sinclair Spectrum computer using an early version of the Masterfile database program.

In this form, approximately 300 cases were coded and entered onto the system. This work being done primarily by Mike Wootten, Mike Lewis and Nigel Mortimer.

The original 300 cases included all the reports from 1980, 1981 and 1982. This represented just over 200 of the original cases. A preliminary discussion of these cases was produced by Mike Wootten (*7).

In 1989 we transferred the existing index data from the Spectrum to a similar database system running on an Amstrad 9512 computer. This runs the CP/M operating system, and a more advanced version of the Masterfile database program is utilised.



It is this system which I will describe. At the time of writing (July 1991) the main BUFORA Index has 1500 cases on it.

Since the beginning of 1991, Mike Hudson has been running a similar database system using Dbase III (*8) on an IBM compatible computer. This currently contains around 650 case reports and work is in progress to exchange these with the reports on my database.

Together with additional reports coded by Ernest Still and Raymond Shaw this will give us a combined database in excess of 2500 reports. The database will be developed to run in parallel on the Amstrad PCW/Masterfile and IBM PC/Dbase systems.

The computer index system is essentially a reflection of the BUFORA R1 investigation form. It records the reference number (important for being able to access the original written report) and basic parameters such as date, time, location, colour, shape, angular size and duration. There are also estimates of the degree of investigation, the quality of the witness and a field to describe the principle characteristics of the case, eg. is it a visual sighting, landing, were occupants reported, were photographs taken, etc.

As a result of experience and suggestions made by Robert Moore, we have been examining extensions to the report characteristics field to more explicitly explain certain characteristics, for example, 'objects changing shape'.

Altogether the system currently stores information in 19 fields. This constitutes a basic catalogue of our UFO reports. However the Masterfile system allows us to relate information in up to 8 (or more if correctly structured) additional files to this master database.

The best way to think of it is that each record (or report) in the database is a small index card. On the first card we write the information described in the paragraph above. We can then have an additional 8 cards with supplementary information on it. The next card we are working on for each case describes if the case has been published anywhere and provides a short free text abstract of the case. Further extensions might include cards for each of the supplementary investigations questionnaires shown in the Investigators Handbook (*9), eg. photographic data, physiological effects. This is the first step to obtaining completely computerised records.

But what is the use of such a system?

The first point is that by translating our information to the computer we are able to make copies. With our existing paper files they are stored in one place. This not only makes access difficult, it also makes us vulnerable. By this I mean that if the building they are stored in becomes flooded or burns down then potentially we lose 30 years worth of data.

Apart from securing our data, the computer system is a valuable research tool.

As Robert Moore pointed out in a recent article (*10), computers can be used to rapidly produce catalogues. This would be best illustrated by some examples. Recently I was contacted by a researcher who was giving a lecture in Leicester. He wanted to know what cases there had been in that area. Within a few minutes it was possible to generate a list of Leicestershire cases. Previously it would have taken several days of solid work to read each of the paper files to check for Leicestershire location.

Not only was it possible to generate the list in a few minutes, it is now possible to arrange for the list to be on somebody's desk in a few minutes. By connecting a fax machine directly to the computer the results can be directly transmitted to the user no printouts, no post office and no delay.

It is possible to combine searches on up to seven different parameters. As an example, say investigator Ken Phillips came to me and said 'I investigated a case of a red object when I lived in Buckinghamshire, the only other thing I can remember is that it occurred on a Tuesday, can you help me track down that case?'

We have four pieces of information: the investigator was Ken Phillips, the location was somewhere in Buckinghamshire, the colour was red and the day of the week was Tuesday. No problem.

If we ask the system to find all the cases where Ken Phillips was the investigator (in our sample of 1500 cases) it replies with 81 reports. Ken could scan through this list to see if he could identify the case.

What of our other parameters? The system tells us that there were 166 cases on a Tuesday and that there were 297 red objects and there were 23 objects reported from Buckinghamshire. Can we narrow the number of cases down by combining searches? If, for example, we ask



the question 'identify reports where Ken Phillips is the investigator *and* the day was Tuesday' then only 9 cases are identified.

Similarly if we ask for 'investigator was Ken and colour was red' then 8 cases are identified. For 'investigator was Ken and location Buckinghamshire' we find 10 cases. This is much better.

By combining three of these searches we can do better still. If we search for Investigator, Day of Week and Colour, we can narrow it down to just two cases, similarly for Day, Colour and Location we find only two cases. But if we combine searches for Investigator, Day of Week and Location we hit the jackpot. Only one case fits this description. That case is 80-020, a red object seen over Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire on Tuesday 26th February 1980 and investigated by Ken Phillips.

We can combine searches in a variety of ways. In the example above we looked for cases which had Investigator plus Day of Week plus Colour. Equally we could have searched for cases where only one of a variety of parameters was present, for example, cases which occurred where Day of Week was Friday *or* Day of week was Saturday.

Also we can ask the system to find one particular feature if it occurs anywhere in the file. For example, 'LITS' for Light In The Sky might occur either in the description Shape or in the Notes field. We could do a single search, asking the computer to look for LITS in any field.

The answer is 210 out of our sample of 1500 cases. Returning to Ken Phillips. He has operated two numbering systems of his own for cases he investigated; these are his TPL and his Philcase numbering systems. Some of his cases are numbered in both systems. However, if Ken wanted to retrieve one of his cases, BUFORA could not find it just by being given a Philcase or TPL number... that is, up until now.

Where Ken's own case number is known this is entered in the computer system either alongside the BUFORA reference number or in the Notes field. By asking for a search anywhere in the data for, say, TPL219 *or* TPL 219, the correct BUFORA reference number can be found and the report retrieved.

As well as being able to produce catalogues relatively easily and identify individual cases, the database system can be used as a

research tool in its own right. For example one thing which researchers have looked at a number of times over the years is: does the day of the week have any bearing on the number of reports. Rather than spend days going through the filing cabinet checking reports in a few minutes the computer system can produce totals for each day, or each month or year.

We are also starting to use computers in the statistical analysis of data. For example, the statistical package Minitab has been used extensively in analysing UFO data (*11).

Bibliography index

At the start of any scientific project it is usual to carry out a literature search. Unfortunately in the field of ufology there are none of the major computer databases, such as Index Medicus. We have set about the production of an index of ufological publications starting with indexing BUFORA's own material.

Again the system is based upon the Masterfile and Amstrad PCW system. It is important to stress that once the data is entered into one system that some method can be devised to transfer it to any other computer and database system.

In the bibliography index, information about the authors, the title of the paper, the journal, dates of publication and keywords can be entered.

The keywords are important as they allow the indexer to give an indication about the content of a paper which might not be obvious from the title. For example, in the first issue of *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena*, Bob Digby and myself had a paper entitled *Handling of Physical Evidence*. This dealt with photographic and trace case material. If you were looking for papers which dealt with photographic cases a search for the word 'photo' in the titles would not identify this paper. If the word 'photo', or 'photographic', is entered as a keyword then the paper would be retrieved by searching for the word either in the title or as a keyword.

Image processing

Amongst my other jobs within BUFORA I am a member of the photographic team. It would only be natural that I should combine my twin interests of photography and computing.

The field of digital image enhancement is



one in which we have recently been able a little bit of work. So far we have only been able to do a small amount of work to assess the capability of such techniques. Unfortunately the project whose equipment we were using has now been disbanded. But it provided valuable experience for the future.

The power of digital image enhancement techniques has been harnessed extensively by William Spaulding and his colleagues in Ground Saucer Watch in the United States of America.

Electronic Communication

We have been able in recent months to start exchanging information with other researchers throughout the world using electronic mail.

I personally am a contributor to Paranet (*12) based in Denver. I also exchange information regularly with people in various countries, particularly the United States and Australia. To a limited extent we can also obtain information via the worldwide UNIX Newsnet.

Contributors are able to mail to this system on more or less any subject they like. The main use of the system is exchange of research information between universities, government establishments and company research groups.

The system carries a small amount of what is best described as recreational matter which includes UFOs. If something major occurs then someone somewhere will post a message, for example, recently it was thought that the famous missing Flight 19 had been found. This information was passed around the world within two hours!

Because of time differences we can often arrange turnaround of less than a day. For example, recently Mark Rodeghier of CUFOS asked me for some information one morning (US local time). I was able to read the message in the early evening (UK time) and reply. Because of the time difference, when he arrived home that evening, the reply was waiting for him.

One of the future developments we are looking at is to establish a bulletin board system of BUFORA's own. This would allow a central information database to be made directly available to registered researchers and would allow the exchange of electronic mail. It is possible that we could arrange to link either to Paranet, the MUFON bulletin board or other similar

systems to allow for wider exchange of information.

Office Automation Applications

There are two areas in which BUFORA has made very extensive use of computer technology. These are in the field of administration and in the field of publication. It would be worth pointing out at this stage that BUFORA is registered with the UK's Data Protection Registrar to hold computerised data for research and for administrative purposes. This places on us an obligation to handle information in a responsible manner.

Publications

Between 1979 and 1989 BUFORA published the *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena*, which alternated with the *BUFORA Bulletin*. In 1984, I became editor of JTAP and began experimenting with the use of computer based wordprocessing.

These early experiments involved the use of the Sinclair Spectrum computer and a wordprocessing package called Tasword 2. One of the limitations of Tasword was that, unlike more expensive systems, it did not have a spelling checker. Unfortunately spelling is not one of my stronger points, as evidenced by JTAP's postbag!

The early experiments, however, proved the viability of the system. After production of the first issue of JTAP, using a dot matrix printer, it became clear that a better printer would be necessary for long term use. This problem was solved by obtaining a daisy wheel typewriter with a computer interface. When Mike Wooten took over as editor of the *BUFORA Bulletin* he adopted a similar production method.

In 1988 we started to move the production of BUFORA publications onto Amstrad PCW 9512 type computers. This has the advantage of more flexibility. Also the popularity of the older Spectrum computers was decreasing and the PCW range becoming widespread. A number of regular contributors to BUFORA's publications own PCW computers which means that they can send their contributions directly on disk and save the retyping of material.

I have developed systems to transfer text from a variety of machines and wordprocessing packages including Tasword (on the Spectrum), Microsoft Word (on IBM PC's and Macintoshes),



Wordperfect (on IBM PCs, Macintosh's and Unix systems) and Wordstar onto the PCW.

Administration

There are many tasks in the running of BUFORA which, although time-consuming, are of a routine and repetitive nature. These involve such things as dealing with requests for books lists and routine enquiries about membership and so on. Arnold West has been working on the automation of these tasks using an Amstrad PCW9512 with Locoscript and Locofile.

Many enquiries can be dealt with by the combination of several standard paragraphs from a selection of a little over a dozen. These standard paragraphs are inserted into the body of a standard letter together with the enquirer's name and address.

Although not strictly part of BUFORA's own use of computers, I should include a little about the use of computers to maintain the records of ICUR, the International Committee for UFO Research, of which I am secretary.

Again using Masterfile of the PCW, the ICUR systems for the International Directory of Organisations and Publications is maintained. A similar system is used to maintain an index of conferences and other meetings. The database system has the advantage of being readily updated and entries can be sorted on any field. For example in the Organisations List, the organisations are stored in alphabetical order by name. It is also extremely useful to be able to have a list ordered by country. This can be created in just a couple of minutes.

Membership Records

James Danby has developed a membership records system for BUFORA. Initially this was developed on an Apple IIe computer, but more recently he has transferred it to an Apple Macintosh computer.

The membership record system can be used for a variety of purposes. Probably the most regular use is the production of the labels for mailing of the magazine. However it is possible to produce lists of members in a given area, or members who have offered to help with specific types of project, for example, translation.

In 1985 Paul Fuller carried out a survey of computer users within BUFORA. From this survey we found that computers were widely

used by UFO researchers. We intend to carry out a similar survey later in 1991, under the direction of Robert Moore, to see how things have changed.

In conclusion, I hope this paper has shown that low cost computing power can be used in many varied ways by the ufological community to great effect.

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About the author

Stephen J Gamble joined BUFORA in 1971.
1971-1973 skywatching at Horsenden Hill.
1973-74 skywatching as Brent Aerial Research.
1973 onward - investigator. 1974 joined the BUFORA research committee.
1975, together with John Shaw, Robert Digby and Terry Brewis formed the Photographic Analysis and Investigation Department.
1976-77 deputy to the National Investigations Co-ordinator.
1977 Traces Co-ordinator.
1977 joined BUFORA Council.
1979 JTAP Editorial Board.
1979 Secretary to the first meeting of PICUR.
From 1983 to date- BUFORA Director of Research.
1984-1989 Editor of *Jlap*.
1984 BUFORA Vice Chairman.
From 1986 Chairman and Director of Research Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre.
From 1987 ICUR Secretary.
From 1989 BUFORA Chairman.



Project Hessdalen

Odd-Gunnar Roed, Norway

55



The Hessdalen set-up

Hessdalen is a valley in the middle part of Norway. It lies south-east of Trondheim and about 30km north-west of the town of Roros. The whole valley stretches 12km in length, and only around 150 people inhabit the area. But it has been a popular location for mysterious lights.

In December 1981, unknown lights suddenly started to appear in the skies above Hessdalen. These lights could sometimes stand still for more than an hour. They were also seen to move around slowly before stopping, and sometimes they were observed travelling at a fast rate of speed.

At one time the lights were tracked by radar and were estimated to be travelling at approximately 8500 metres/second.

These lights were observed just about everywhere and more often than not they were below the horizon down in the valley and not high up in the sky. It has to be said that the vast majority of the lights were reported to be below the tops of the nearby mountains.

No one in Hessdalen could offer an explanation for these strange lights.

The lights appeared to have several different specific shapes. This was something that became quite apparent when the lights were photographed. The main shapes were: bullet

shape, with the sharp end down; a round football shape; and upside down Christmas tree. There were other shapes, but these were the main ones.

The colours of the lights were mostly white, or yellow/white. Sometimes a small red light could be seen amongst the white. On a few occasions the lights were made up of every colour in the rainbow.

The lights could be observed several times a day, but they were seen more during the night. At the most, they could be observed around four times a day.

There were more reports of the lights in the winter rather than the summer. One reason for this might be the fact that in summer Hessdalen has almost perpetual daylight. The lights could be split into three groups:

1 Small and strong white or blue flashes which could show up everywhere in the sky.

2 Yellow or yellow/white lights. These lights were, more often than not, observed in the valley and below the horizon. Sometimes they were just above rooftops and even down on the ground. They could appear stationary for more than an hour before slowly moving off around the valley, and sometimes they could show extremely fast accelerations and very fast speeds. They were also observed high up in the sky.

3 Several lights together at a fixed distance from each other. Mostly these were yellow or white lights with a red light in front. These lights could move slowly around the tops of mountains.

The reports of the lights carried on throughout 1982, but suddenly in the spring of 1983, reports dropped off dramatically. In the summer of 1983, we had no reports at all. However, in the autumn and winter of 1983, reports started coming in again, but much fewer than in previous years. But in the autumn of 1984, reports again increased.

As no official institute with governmental



support seemed bothered about the lights, five individuals started their own research project: Project Hessdalen.

The aim was to find out what this strange phenomenon in Hessdalen and nearby areas was.

The project consisted of a 'working committee' which had the responsibility of running the project, and an 'advisory committee' to help the working committee in the theoretical part of the project; the advisors were also there to act as an 'expert' group to answer questions from the workers.

The fact is that the advisory committee got very little work from the working committee because we (the 'workers') managed to build up a local expert group which consisted of people from: Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE), the University of Oslo, and the University of Bergen, and on occasions, the University of Trondheim.

The project first went public on 3 June 1983. On 27 August 1983, it was presented to the third BUFORA International UFO Congress in England.

During the autumn of 1983, a research programme was established. On 19 November 1983 the project was presented to the inhabitants of Hessdalen and surrounding areas. During the first part of January 1984, an information bulletin explaining the project, together with a simple report form which people could return to us, was sent out to 3,300 households in the district.

The work in the field, with all the instrumentation, started on 21 January 1984 and ended on 26 February 1984. The purpose of the study was to determine what the Hessdalen phenomenon was, or, at the very least, discover something more about it.

Hessdalen observations

Numerous observations of the lights were made, photographs taken, and other instruments used to record the phenomenon. What follows is a brief summary of some of the observations.

On 27 January 1984, the phenomenon was both sighted and recorded on radar, at 5.32pm. An oblong-shaped light was observed, to the south-west of Finnsahogda, which moved in a northerly direction and could be observed until it disappeared over the horizon.

The light had a white and red colour which blinked at uneven intervals. Radar returns were made as the light passed directly to the west of the observation point, but this phenomenon was not photographed.

It was on 28 January 1984, at 3.49pm, that something was detected by radar. An oval-shaped echo moved in a south-westerly direction to the west of us. The echo signal appeared in size to be about one third larger than a single-engined aircraft. The object on the screen moved quickly and divided into two parts on the north side of Rognefjellet. One part moved toward the mountain, the other toward Hessdalen valley.

As this happened during daylight hours, and in good visibility, it is reasonable to assume that something could be seen with the naked eye, but nothing was detected. Nevertheless, 14 single-frames of film shot in the direction of the echo, but nothing showed up on the developed film.

On 29 January 1984, 4.19pm, radar contact was made with something moving north; this time on the east side of the base station. The distance was about 500 metres and the shape of the echo seemed to indicate that something was descending.

On 31 January 1984, there was again an echo on the radar, from Rognefjellet, passing on the west side of Aspaskjolen. Nothing could be seen with the naked eye. Long hours of observation ensued, with nothing unusual registered, resulting in the observers becoming tired and turning their attention to something less boring. But when an occasional glance was made back at the screen, something was there. This repeated itself on many occasions, but we cannot explain why the source could not be seen by the naked eye.

On 1 February 1984, at 3.49pm, there was regular radar contact with something travelling north, from Varhushjolen, along Finshoga, towards Hammerkneppen. Nothing was seen with the naked eye. The next day, I realised that many observations were made at 2.05pm and so I checked the radar screen; right on time, three strong echoes were registered east of Aspaskjolen, moving north. Exactly 30 minutes later, there were more echoes, this time on the west side of Aspaskjolen, but moving north also. These last three echoes were detected on every alternate sweep of the radar. Could this be caused by a wave movement which we had



observed earlier?

More echoes were to come; 3.46pm: 2 echoes south of Kjolen, 3.49pm: 1 echo west of Kjolen, 3.51pm: 1 echo south of Kjolen. Then, at 3.53pm, the electric power supply suddenly went off for about 15 seconds.

It gradually returned to normal after about a minute or so. The local farm from which we obtained our electrical supply was contacted, and the farmer admitted to having pulled a switch which might have cut off the electricity, but he insisted that it was closer to 4pm when he did so, as he observed the time when he arrived at the farm. He arrived at the farm at 3.50pm but carried out several tasks beforehand which could not have been done in three minutes alone. Besides, the power should have come back on immediately when the switch was turned back on. None of the neighbours noted any power failure.

At 4.30pm that day, 2 echoes were registered travelling north. Later that evening a well-lit oblong light, yellowish in colour and red in front was sighted, passing on a northerly course.

The time was 8.11pm. The object moved with a wavelike motion and was observed by at least nine people, from three different locations. Photographs were taken but were not too successful.

On Friday 3 February 1984, 31 radar echoes were registered between 3.12pm and 5.04pm, at distances ranging between 450-2000 metres. Although observers were stationed at two locations in the mountains, nothing was observed. The next day, echoes were observed between 1.40pm and 2.29pm. As time passed, we noticed that any hours of surveillance seldom produced results - rather the phenomenon was often spotted by accidental glances out through the caravan windows.

Since the autumn of 1982, I have been through a number of odd 'coincidences'; on 4 separate occasions, when we came to the top of Varuskjolen, stopped the car and went outside, there 'it' came, immediately, and passed by us. The same thing happened once in Aspaskjolen.

All these instances happened at different times of the day, and most of the time it was an 'impulse' trip which made us take an evening trip to Hessdalen by car. We also cancelled some trips.

Personally I have certain reservations

about believing that a possible 'plasma phenomenon' can appear 'on order'. Other observers have looked for hours without success.

'Coincidences' also happened with the video equipment which we used to record the radar screen; one evening the pen of the magnetograph failed to work. At the same time, the video tape came to an end, and the phenomenon appeared less than one minute later.

The next evening we made certain that the pen had sufficient ink and turned on the video recorder 10 minutes later than the night before. We thought everything was ready for the usual 10.47pm 'message'.

The video tape ran out at 10.57pm. At 10.58pm, 'it' appeared. Such occurrences may be coincidence, but at the end of the project period, almost everything started to happen by coincidence. Perhaps these coincidences point to the Hessdalen phenomena not being of natural origin.

There is another interesting example. A person living in Aspas suddenly got the idea or feeling that she should go outside, and as she did so, she observed a light spheroid passing by. What causes a person to stop what they are doing and go outside to observe something strange? This should strengthen the case that Hessdalen cannot simply be explained by plasma theories.

The instruments used

The instrumentation used for the project included seven different recording methods. A camera with gratings was used to analyse the spectrum of the lights which were appearing and to answer such questions as: is it a continuous spectrum phenomena? Is the light generated by a thermal process? Possibly a gas combination? What kind of energy if the light source?

A seismograph was set up to measure any activities in the Earth's crust, but none registered during the observations. A history of local small tremors, prior to 1984, appear unconnected with the 'sightings'.

Radar recordings totalled 36, three of which were witnesses with naked eye observations. Photographs taken of the sky at the time of radar activity revealed nothing. On two occasions, we managed to photograph the returns on the screen, which showed up very clearly; such a return can be caused by a solid object,



also by temperature inversions, or by humidity or pressure. The radar photographs were analysed by a radar expert from the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (NDRE). He stated: "If this isn't a reflection of a solid object, but only some kind of gas in the air, the gas has to be locally and strongly ionised. Otherwise it would not give such a strong reflection".

On the three occasions when the radar registered something and this was backed by lights observed in the sky, the radar was adjusted for a wider radius than usual.

A spectrum analyser connected to a wideband antenna meant that all radio signals could be monitored on a screen; at no time did we see anything on the spectrum analyser while the lights were 'in view' but we did get some unknown readings at other times when no lights were visible.

A magnetometer measures the strength and direction of the Earth's magnetic field. Our FM100 model can measure magnetic activity high in the atmosphere; magnetic storms give high readings. This instrument was connected to a continuous graphic printer, but we could find no correlation between the readings and the lights' appearance.

A laser was pointed at the lights a total of nine times, and on eight of these occasions, we managed to obtain a reaction from the lights. There was a regular flashing light, slowly moving toward the north, on 12 January 1984, at 19.35 hours; the light flashed very regularly all of the time until we pointed the laser at it.

At this point, the flashing sequence of the light changed to a more urgent double-flashing sequence: flash-flash.....flash-flash.....flash-flash.

After about 10 seconds, we stopped the laser and the light immediately changed back to its former sequence: flash.....flash.....flash. The exercise was repeated four times, each time with the same result.

Geigercounters were used to detect radioactive radiation, but no reactions occurred; perhaps this is not surprising because the we never came within 1Km of the lights.

On the two occasions when lights were observed through the infra red viewer, there was no infra red radiation visible. The viewer was used from a long distance; it is possible therefore that the lights could have been too weak to be detected.

Hessdalen photographs

Dozens of colour photographs were taken. Those on long time exposure showed the round or oval lights as elongated. The cameras were tripod-mounted to cut out blur, and overall, we believe they represent the Hessdalen phenomena well.

Two photographs of radar images were forwarded to Ground Saucer Watch in America for analysis.

We ascertained that:

- 1 The signal from the target appears to be solid, therefore, a return from a good radar-reflecting source.
- 2 The shape of the sound 'return' from the UFO is non-symmetrical, and more dense in the centre.
- 3 The return appears to be more indicative of one from a water-laden cloud, which could explain the shape of the targets.
- 4 The periphery of the return are tenuous. This could, however, be attributable to the photographic technique employed by the photographer, rather than attributable to the radar target.

Conclusion

If the weather report can be substantiated that the target is not connected to the environmental conditions during the time the photograph was taken, and if all tests were conducted by the equipment operator to verify that the image is not a radar 'ghost', then the radar returns could be connected to the sightings of strange aerial phenomena.

This is the best we can do with this type of photograph. An expert radar operator, from the FAA, or similar organisation, given sufficient data on this incident, should be able to provide additional insight into these events.



The Anamnesis Report

Ken Phillips, United Kingdom



Ken Phillips

The anamnesis test is a culture-free and time invariant method of studying the witness within the overall UFO experience. It was devised by Austrian psychologist Dr Alex Keul, in 1983. But how can it shed light on the UFO phenomenon?

Keul began his academic career in the fields of astronomy and meteorology, but in the late 1970s, he entered the fields of clinical psychology and psychoanalysis, later developing an interest in Jungian psychology and shamanism.

Having already been the Austrian representative for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, in America) in the 1970s, he began to realise after changing academic disciplines that vital data on the UFO percipient was virtually non-existent, therefore, equipped with the techniques of the psychological and sociological professions, Keul constructed a protocol which he called the 'anamnesis', that is, 'life memory'.

The anamnesis is a 60-odd questionnaire which gleans information on the UFO witness's life and covers such fields as demography, health, belief-systems, previous anomalous experiences and dream life, and so on.

In other words, instead of looking out of the 'window' with the witness in the direction

of whatever it was that had long since appeared and departed, we were now looking back through the 'window' at the witness in order to profile *who* is doing the perceiving and reporting.

Of course, such a method of investigation does *not* allow for the study of UFOs - whatever they may be - but the method does allow us to study the *relationship* between the UFO perceived in the environment and the 'inner' world of the percipient.

Moreover, because the anamnesis is a culture-free and time-invariant mode of enquiry, it can be applied in investigations all over the world and at any stage in the apparently developing nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Thus, the anamnesis will enable researchers from the 'softer' disciplines (sociology, folklore, theology, psychology, etc.) to evaluate both the social whereabouts of the human witness and in which direction the UFO report is directing society.

The anamnesis update 1991

Because much of the protocol in the anamnesis is based on feelings, opinions and anecdotes etc. - in other words, questions which simply have no right or wrong answer - a statistical appraisal of the overall anamnesis responses is never very easy.

However, due to the fact that there are about 30 yes/no prompts, an attempt has been made here to permit the viewer to make an overall evaluation of the UFO-reporters' life profile and thus target those responses giving the highest affirmative return.

The witness category consists of percipients living in Britain, aged between 15 and 65, from various social backgrounds slanted towards lower-middle to working class. These people were mostly interviewed during the second and third phases of the anamnesis study from 1987 onwards.

The following is a table representing responses from 35 cases, studied over the



1987-1991 period. The 35 witnesses consisted of 19 males and 16 females.

The bar chart represents the 'yes' responses to just 22 of the anamnesis questions. The vertical axis represents the number of positive respondents, and the horizontal axis represents the anamnesis question number.

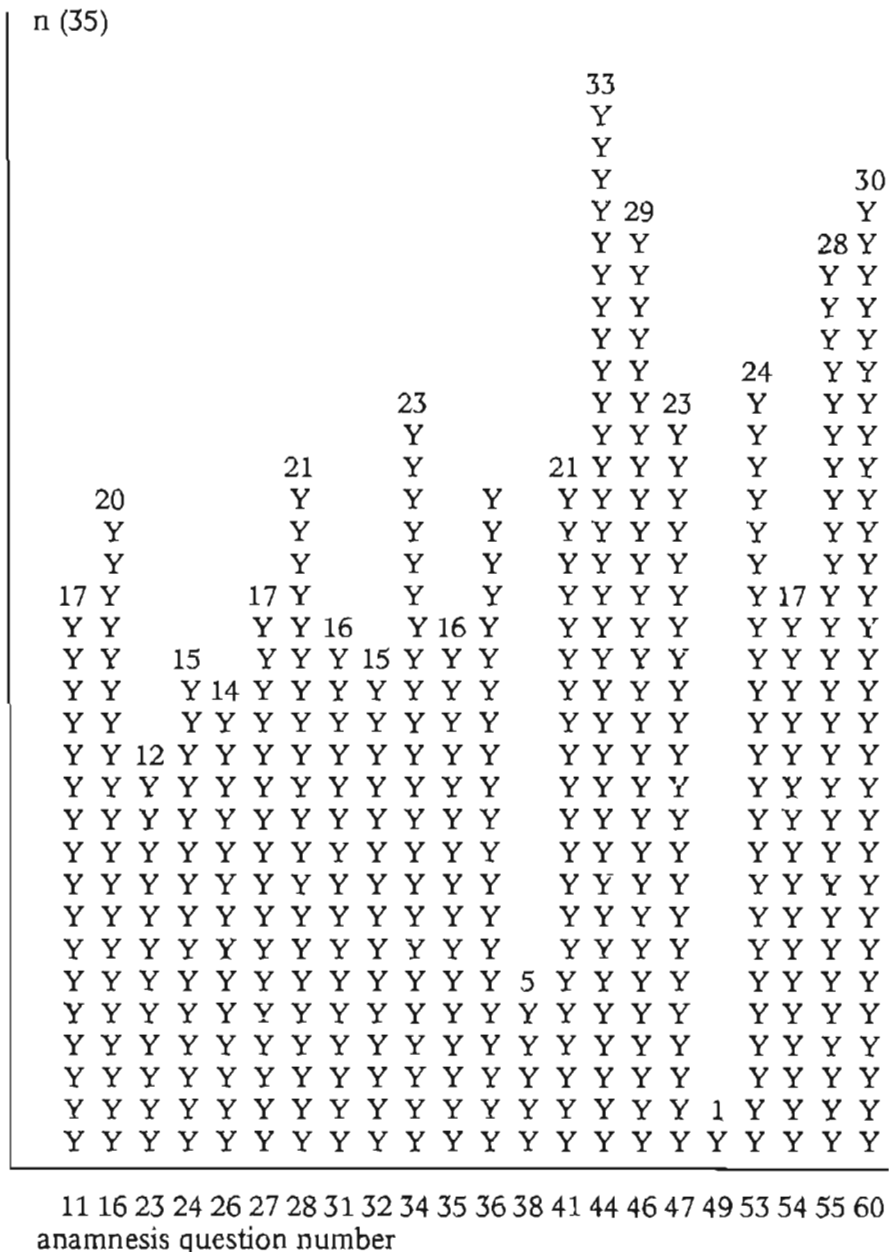
The questions and the analyses

11: Satisfied with your career? Y/N

The moderate status-inconsistency independently determined by Keul in Austria (Evaluation of British Anamnesis Project' June

1987 in BUFORA's *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena*) and Spencer in England (*UFO Times*, No 6, March 1990) seems to prevail 17 out of 35 (17/35), or 48.5% - nevertheless, it is worth mentioning here that of those witnesses who responded affirmatively to this type of question, and who had very close and/or repeated UFO encounters, experienced severe adjustment problems at virtually all levels of society; professional, domestic, social and marital.

For those witnesses who were able to assimilate their UFO encounters well, and who



made the necessary adjustments in life, vis-a-vis the UFO dimension, the outcome was almost always beneficial and attended by a strengthening of the 'inner self'.

16: Satisfied with family life and social life? Y/N

The social isolation and inter-personal difficulties within the family, the nature of which has already been referred to, and indeed noted many times by various authors over the years (Vallee, Keel & Jacobs et al), shows moderately - 20/35, or 57% - this result is very probably connected with the social dynamics outlined above in question 11.

23: Suffer from insomnia? Y/N

The insomnia question gave a weak response - 12/35, or 34.5%. Thus we have no way of knowing whether this is below or above the average of non-sighters.

24: Sleeping difficulties around the time of observation? Y/N

The response to this question is also weak: 15/35, or 43%. Once again there is no medical criterion by which any comparison can take place, eg. persons who have been upset by non-UFO life events.

26: Ever had dreams about UFOs? Y/N

When Keel first published his results ('Evaluation of British Anamnesis Project', June 1987, *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena*) this question was amalgamated with a prompt on flying dreams, and the overall outcome was significant. However, this question has now been separated into two distinct dreamscapes and consequently the significance seems to have dwindled: 14/35, or 40%.

27: Ever had dreams about flying? Y/N

As mentioned above, the significance of the flying dream has abated: 17/35, or 48.5%. Nevertheless, this feature of dream life is very persistent with those witnesses who have had really close encounters and/or repeated experiences. Taken together, the two results for questions 26 and 27 when added in the 'or' sense, yield a response of 14 + 17 out of 35, that's 31 out of 35, or 88.5%. This compares with Keel's 1987 evaluation of 8 out of 15, or

just over 53%.

Thus, the significance has increased, but again we have no potential criterion set by the non-sighting population.

28: Have recurrent dreams? Y/N

The recurrent dreamer features moderately in this outcome - 21/35, or 60% - and one would confidently predict dream recurrence in non-sighters.

31: Before or during the day of the observation, were any unusual events or effects noticed? Y/N

The result for this question is weak: 16/35 said 'yes'; that is 45.75%, and the investigator went out of his way not to lead the witness with any of the well-known, attendant secondary effects of the UFO experience.

32: After the day of the observation, were any unusual events or effects noticed? Y/N

Post sighting unusual effects holds about the same result - 15/35, or 43%.

34: Any religious or mystical experiences (eg. revelational)? Y/N

A moderately high value of witnesses having had 'religious/mystical' experiences could tie up with the responses obtained in question 55 (about the importance attached to spiritual quality of life), but there is a strange negative correlation here since only one subject gave a positive response to having attended church regularly; an elderly woman of the 'old school'.

Two immediate social scenarios parallel this situation: firstly, witnesses are following the trend of non-sighters in Britain by abandoning religion, or secondly, witnesses feel that mainstream religion does not meet their professed spiritual aspirations and needs - the result for religious/mystical experiences is 23/35, or 65.75%.

35: Any upsetting events within the family or environment around the time of observation? Y/N

This question might be expected to yield a higher affirmation rate in the light of question 16 (which asks about satisfaction with both social and family life), and the works of Keel and Spencer: the result is 16/35, or 45.75%. But it would seem that turbulent family and social



dynamics do not always surround the core UFO experience.

36: Any medical treatment for severe illness/injury/accident/handicap (describe problem, treatment, when)? Y/N

A moderate response of 20/35, or 57.75%, a very small proportion of which have been near-death or birth-trauma experiences.

38: Any prescribed drugs for illness/injury/handicap? Y/N

Prescribed drugs seem to have very little significance in the survey - 5/35, 14.25%.

41: Ever suffered from any of the following: (1) depression, (2) nervousness, (3) dizziness, (4) fainting, (5) high/low blood pressure, (6) fits, (7) chronic headaches? Y/N

The general health questions did not produce any significant values and only the highest values are shown here (depression: 21/35 (60%), followed by nervousness at 48.5%, and dizziness/chronic headaches at 40%. Epilepsy was the lowest at 5.75%).

It is worth mentioning here that both the medical and psychiatric professions in Britain do not recognise the trauma which some witnesses claim to have suffered as a result of their close approaches with UFOs. This situation is a formidable problem since it leaves the witness isolated and adrift with society, and thus it is probably no wonder that the witness finds him/herself unable to adjust to family, social and professional life.

44: Ever experienced what some people call 'ESP'? Y/N

Now we come to the most significant response of all regarding life memory - self-reported Extra Sensory Perception, 33/35, or 94.25%, and, in fact, this outcome was the strongest feature in the earlier Keul (1987) evaluation. Moreover, this feature probably has a strong tie with the significant results obtained in question 60 dealing with 'things' that are *not actually there*.

Now, as in 1987, it would be tempting to equate the total UFO experience with extra-sensory phenomena, but we have to be very careful about jumping to conclusions here. Firstly, we have no idea what is going on in terms of extra-sensory information which might

be potentially self-reported by non-sighters. Secondly, the existence of ESP is highly contentious in spite of the brilliant mathematical modelling by the late Dr Bell on how information gets around the universe ('ESP - Scientist's view of the Paranormal', by Dr K Pedlar).

Notwithstanding these two major objections, evidence is increasing from reports all over the world of an omnipresent, ESP-prone, close encounter UFO witness, who self-reports precognition, telepathy, out-of-the-body states, clairvoyancy and other conditions whereby information is received outside of the normal five senses.

46: Any relatives or friends seen a UFO? Y/N

47: Any relatives or friends ever experience ESP? Y/N

Questions 46 and 47 are taken in duality because there could be a certain amount of positive feedback here: 29/35 (83%) and 23/35 (65.75%) respectively. However it should be mentioned that in two cases of close-encounters which the investigator has personally enquired into, and when another member of the family claimed to be present at the CE event, that the secondary witness has simply refused to give evidence. This state of affairs is peculiar and needs explanation: what was it that the secondary witness found so shocking that they could not bring themselves to even speak about it!

49: Attends (church or religious) meetings regularly? Y/N

55: Do you consider the spiritual aspect of life important? Y/N

These two questions are being taken together for the reason given in question 34, that is, the former is 'negatively' significant with respect to the latter: 1/35 (3%), and 28/35 (80%) respectively. Perhaps these are spiritual people looking for a radically new spiritual posture - one can sympathise with the views of Vallee ('Messengers of Deception') when he believes that a new religion is in the making - probably 'New Age'.

53: Did something in life change after the observation? Y/N

The moderately significant response of 24/35, or 68.5%, supports the work done by Spencer where he noted that CE/abductee wit-



nesses tend to go through a profound (positive or negative), post-sighting life-change, and for those whom the change is negative, can experience severe inter-personal relationship problems, marital difficulties and career deterioration.

In the light of Spencer's observations, coupled with the findings of this aspect of the anamnesis, it is strongly recommended that question 53 be modified to embrace both the positive and negative aspect of post-sighting life-change, and furthermore, be included in basic sighting report questionnaires.

54: Any previous experiences similar to the observation? Y/N

This question is only weakly featured: 17/35, or 48.5%. From past investigations experience, this reference tends to be - though not always - a factor pertinent to the 'classic' CEI-III witnesses.

60: Have you ever thought that, when awake, you saw, felt, heard, touched or smelt something that was not actually there? Y/N

This 'visionary'-type question obviously has links with the ESP question 44, and as would be expected, its significance is very high: 30/35 (85.75%).

Conclusions

The main outcome then, of a self-reporting, extra-sensory percipient who is moderately status-inconsistent, continues to support Keul's earlier findings and the work of Spencer on post-sighting life-change (cf: Keul A, in *BUFORA International Conference Proceedings 1989*, also Spencer J, 'Witness Driven Investigations II', *UFO Times*, No 6, March 1990).

However, the significance of the percipient being a 'UFO-flying dreamer' becomes less significant when the two categories are separated. Nevertheless, the richness to be found in dreamscapes of some CE witnesses warrant further study by the psychoanalytical fraternity, when our subject finally becomes recognised by them.

In addition to these characteristics, we have a spiritually-oriented personality (very often artistically gifted) who does not seem to obtain fulfilment from conventional religious ceremony.

Now these conclusions are all very well and good, but as mentioned in the opening part of this summary, they suffer from one worrying uncertainty, and that is: we simply have no way of telling whether or not the characteristics described in this paper are present in the lives of the non-sighting population.

If they are present, then we are left with a distillation of utter nonsense and absurdity; if they are not, then we have truly stumbled upon something which will turn our current physical, social, theological and folkloric theories completely on their head.

Recommendations

Because of our total lack of knowledge as to what self-reported life-phenomena is present in the non-sighting segment of the population, it is imperative that BUFORA's Research Department allocates funds, at some convenient date in the future, in order to carry out a statistical survey (based on the salient anamnesis questions covered in this paper) on non-UFO-sighters, and compare the results of this survey with that already obtained from the on-going anamnesis tests which are already on file in BUFORA's archives.

Finally, because the anamnesis is a culture-free, time-invariant mode of profiling the lives of UFO witnesses all over the world, foreign delegates at this congress are invited to extend this scheme to other parts of the world by writing to the speaker for a copy of the Anamnesis Protocol (there is no copyright).

Delegates are strongly advised to take this action if only for the fundamentally important reason that the UFO enigma is globally extensive and affects widely varying cultures.

Who knows, we might just make that all-important breakthrough for which we have been desperately searching over the last forty years or more.



What they're doing to us

Budd Hopkins, USA



Budd Hopkins

*Budd Hopkins has reported on his investigation of the abduction phenomenon in *Missing Time* (1981) and *Intruders* (1987). He now draws some of his own conclusions.*

It is in the nature of human psychology that an event as dramatic as contact with extraterrestrial intelligence cannot be thought about neutrally, without deep-seated hopes and preconceptions.

Most of us, I'm certain, prefer to believe that extraterrestrials would arrive on our planet as friendly, helpful beings, eager to share their technology and aid us to solving our social and economic problems.

Upon this basic and very human wish certain people have erected a powerful set of interpretations of modern-day UFO reports. These hopes, hardened into a kind of theology, can be described as a modern religion, willed into existence after the decline of our more traditional deities. After all, we have been told more than once that God is dead.

On the other hand, our recent wars, both hot and cold, and the venality and deceit we have seen in many of our political leaders have also inspired an undercurrent of pessimism, global in extent. International chaos, terrorism and governmental incompetence have trained

many of us always to expect the worse. And so, if the majority opinion or hope, is that extraterrestrials would arrive as 'Space Brothers', a strong minority fears the opposite: that we would find ourselves taken over by a band of intergalactic conquerors.

Our popular scientific films spell out these hopes and fears quite literally: we have the kindly space brother, Michael Rennie, stepping out of a gleaming spaceship to help earthlings through their troubles, and then we have the Body Snatchers out to do us all in.

I've dwelled on these basic attitudes about extraterrestrial contact for an important reason: when we examine reports of actual contact, especially as revealed in UFO-abduction encounters, we must always bear in mind how our basic preconceptions might influence our reading of these events.

After twelve years experience investigating the abduction phenomenon, I will not deal with the validity of such reports in this paper. I've considered this issue elsewhere, in two books and a number of articles, so we will here assume that the abductees I've worked with, more than 150 in all, are telling the truth as best they recall it.

I will concentrate, instead, on what their accounts tell us about the moral nature of the UFO phenomenon. Are the UFO occupants, as they are described by their abductees, good or bad, friends or foes, or is the situation just not reducible to such terms?

The very first step, previously, is to analyse what the abductees say they feel about their captors, and that, every investigator knows is a difficult task.

My twelve years' experience leads me to a distinct conclusion: each abductees emotions are invariably intense and many-levelled and usually mutually contradictory.

First of all, confrontations with UFO occupants are generally experienced as frightening, so fear, at some point, is an almost universal element in the emotional mix.

Second, there is a kind of awe or wonder



at the power and seeming magic of the aliens technology. This often translates itself into a kind of affection, even love, that an abductee might feel for the captor with whom he or she senses a special relationship.

On the other side of the coin is an almost universal anger - verging sometimes on hatred - that abductees feel towards their abductors because of their enforced helplessness, their sense of having being used, involuntarily, and even, upon occasion, of being made to suffer severe pain.

According to every broad study of the abduction literature that I know of, and Thomas E. Bullard's is the most authoritative, fear, awe, affection and anger are the basic emotional components of almost every UFO-abduction experience.

It is safe to say, then, that powerful and confusing emotions follow such experiences, and that after their encounters, abductees do not believe they have been taken either by purely malevolent foes or by selfless, angelic Space Brothers.

The situation is far too complicated for either simplistic reading.

During the past eight years I have conducted an informal support group for UFO abductees in the New York City area and have kept in touch with others in many parts of the country.

These circumstances have allowed me to observe a number of men and women over an extended period of time and to see various patterns of response to their abduction experiences.

The weight of each component in the standard emotional mix varies widely from individual to individual and also changes with time within any one psyche. But the basic components always seem to remain, subtly at odds with one another, in each abductee.

Several things must be kept in mind, however, as we study the abductees emotional charts.

First, when one is abducted, he or she is in something of an altered state, not unlike a hypnotic trance. The abductee is controlled by the abductors and his or her behaviour is in many ways far from normal. The abductees may be told things, shown things, that may not be true or 'real'.

So in this context we must consider the abductee's occasional affection for his or her

captors. Psychologists have shown that this phenomenon, the 'Patty Hearst' syndrome, all too often appears in earthly kidnapping experiences.

Therefore, in evaluating the four emotions commonly described by UFO abductees, three seem appropriate but one must be dealt with wearily.

Fear is something one would surely expect if the aliens actually look and act as reported by their captives. Feelings of awe at the aliens' technological magic are an emotion that again seems appropriate.

Anger, often extreme anger, seems to be most abductees' reaction to being paralysed and controlled by their captors. The physically invasive and sometimes painful operations performed upon them underline this response, which is often deepened because the UFO occupants usually refuse to discuss the purpose of these disturbing procedures. One has no choice except to submit to needles, lights, knives, 'scanners' and so forth, with no power to protest or refuse.

"I feel like a lab rat," one abductee said, her anger entirely appropriate to her situation.

It is the odd affection that abductees often report feeling for their captors that seems suspect, under the circumstances. Is the feeling possibly an artificial emotion, induced telepathically through some kind of quasi-hypnotic control? Is it a version of the Patty Hearst syndrome? Is it a genuine reaction?

Obviously no one has an answer these questions satisfactorily, but it seems to me that affection is the one common abduction response that must be viewed with suspicion.

When one tries to tally up the pros and cons of an abduction experience as it immediately and visibly affects human emotion, it can be said that two reactions are essentially negative, or even damaging. Fear and anger, which are often felt as deeply as terror and hatred, are surely disruptive of anyone's life. The sense of awe, while basically neutral and sometimes tinged with fear, may enhance one's world view and thus contribute positively.

The fourth and most suspect emotion, affection for one's captors, if genuine, is a positive one. So the emotional 'score' after an abduction experience does not support either a simple 'Space Brother' or 'Body Snatcher' interpretation.



Judging purely by obvious surface reactions, we are still in ethically mixed territory, though to me and to many abductees the negative effects seem more powerful than the positive.

Moving away from the patterns of the abductees' immediate emotional responses, we can evaluate the ethical content of an extraterrestrial presence by considering another, larger plane. Is there any evidence that extraterrestrial intelligence has actively intervened in human affairs, either helpfully or destructively?

The modern UFO era of UFO activity begins in earnest in 1947, but many UFO reports surfaced during World War II in the phenomenon labelled 'foo fighters' by our airmen.

No force, either extraterrestrial or otherwise, put a stop to the Holocaust until Allied armies conquered Nazi Germany. By then it was too late for millions of innocent people, murdered by a system no one seemed able to stop.

The United States developed nuclear weapons and used them to incinerate tens of thousands of children, women and men. No one, terrestrial or otherwise, prevented those bombs from falling.

Continuing Stalinist butchery, international terrorism, American intervention in a Vietnamese civil war - all meant that thousands upon thousands of innocent people lost their lives because of the cruelty or indifference of political leaders of every persuasion. No one intervened. Michael Rennie, alas, never stepped out of his spaceship to save us from ourselves.

We have polluted our planet, spreading cancer by industry's greedy indifference to the consequences of chemical 'bonanzas'. No one ever came to our rescue; the Chariots of the Gods evidently drew up just to watch the damage deepen. And now we have a new plague - the disease known by its ironic acronym, AIDS... something fresh and new that we apparently did not have before the advent of the modern UFO era.

Now all this means one thing.

As a moral presence the UFO phenomenon seems sublimely indifferent to what we do to ourselves. Intervention is evidently not part of the plan, as diving into the surf to rescue a drowning child is sometimes not part of an indolent sunbather's plans.

On the other hand there seems to be no evidence that an extraterrestrial presence has inflicted any excess pain upon us either. If Michael Rennie's alien saves us only in Hollywood films, the evil, intervening Body Snatchers seem to exist only there too.

I believe that the cruelty that mankind has endured in this century has an all-too-human origin; one doesn't have to look to spaceships for its cause. And we look to them in vain for salvation.

But how should we evaluate what seems inescapable evidence of extraterrestrial indifference to human tragedy?

I feel that the grades should be harsh. The power and technology revealed by UFO report upon UFO report indicate that investigation of some kind should have been possible; help should have been given. Apologists for a Space-Brothers theory use the same argument as Christian apologists: the UFO occupants, like God, tolerate evils such as the Holocaust because life is only a fleeting reality - the afterlife, or a reincarnated life, renders this question moot.

As a Humanist I disagree. The death of a child at the hands of gun bearing adult is an abomination, not a necessary learning experience. The only excuse I can offer for extraterrestrial indifference is some kind of flaw in their apparent power, some very real vulnerability that might provide them with an excuse to avoid moral responsibility, the way our indolent sunbather could avoid trying to save the drowning child because he, himself, might be unable to swim.

A few valid UFO cases contain accounts of healing, descriptions of wounds made whole, eyesight strengthened and so on, after UFO abductions or encounters. These rare examples of healing, however, raise more ethical problems than they solve. If the occupants of UFOs do have the power to heal, why is it used so sparingly, so arbitrarily? Why save one swimmer and let the others drown?

A woman I've worked with and know well was abducted along with her older sister. Each had had childhood abductions; each had lived uneasily with her memories. Last spring the older sister was murdered in a park, by an apparently deranged individual. The tragedy had nothing to do with UFOs, but my friend said this to me: "I've always thought, somehow,

.....



they were looking out for us, watching over the people they'd taken in these experiments. Now I know I'm no safer than anyone else. They don't seem to care."

And yet in one case I know about an abductee was apparently saved in a similar situation. The arbitrariness of it all undermines any attempt to accept a Space-Brother reading of the entire phenomenon. Amorality is the term that comes most quickly to mind. If the immediate emotional reactions to UFO abductions are usually more negative than positive and there is literally no sign of benign extraterrestrial intervention in world affairs, there is still one more area of examine, and it is extremely important.

It is the long-term psychological and physical after effects of UFO-abduction experiences. Dr Aphrodite Clamar, a clinical psychologist with whom I have worked in many such investigations, has stated that she feels almost every abductee she has dealt with has been psychologically scarred by the experience. This is surely my opinion also, and I believe that the psychological tests of abductees administered by Dr Elizabeth Slater, as well as the psychological histories taken through Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, all provide support for this thesis.

Though she points out that cause and effect obviously cannot be established with certainty, Dr Slater describes the psychological profiles of the nine abductees she tested as resembling those found with rape victims: a low self esteem, a distrust of their bodies, their physicality, their sexuality, and a hesitancy to trust others. Not a pretty legacy from our would-be Space-Brothers.

My case files include three instances in which individuals - all males and apparently somewhat depressed to begin with - committed suicide after what were described by their friends and family as UFO-abduction experiences.

And there is more on this debit side of the ledger, including what seems to have been an accident following a car-stopping incident and abduction; the driver, the only surviving parent of four children, dies later of complications suffered in this encounter.

Two female abductees I've worked with either planned or carried out suicide attempts when they were 10 years old, and another recent attempt involves a frightened, despond-

ent 14 year old girl.

No one who has had this experience regards it as an unmitigated blessing. Some live in perpetual terror. Some have suffered nervous breakdowns and as a result of their experiences and the chemical and shock treatments administered by baffled and incompetent doctors are living thoroughly damaged lives.

I have seen disfiguring scars on the bodies of abductees who have involuntarily been used in the UFO occupants' 'medical' procedures. Yet I have also seen abductees whose lives have been undeniably broadened by their bizarre experiences: survivors who have managed the human task of surmounting their traumas and gaining something from them.

The reports, again, are mixed, but the pain and suffering are immense. Deaths, injuries, terrors, and mental breakdowns must be weighted against a philosophical broadening in many individuals, an awareness that the universe is larger - and closer - than anyone has imagined.

The cost, of course, has been tremendous, and the gain due more to human resilience than alien kindness.

But there is, I believe, an explanation for the apparently callous and often destructive behaviour of the aliens who perpetrate these temporary kidnappings of innocent men, women and children. One vivid example should make the point.

Two years ago a Minnesota man whom I shall call Earl wrote to me about his partially remembered UFO experiences. Eventually I visited him on his farm and we began a series of hypnotic regressions. He recalled a time years before when his wife had been helping him harvest a crop of hay in a rather isolated field.

She lay down to rest on the wagon while Earl worked a few hundred yards away... but then he saw three small UFOs fly in at tree-top level and hover above his sleeping wife. One of them lowered to the ground as Earl put his tractor in gear and raced to her side to protect her from whatever was happening.

A normal-looking blond man, speaking English, stepped from behind the clump of trees where the UFO had landed and asked Earl to stop. "Everything is all right," he said. "She won't be hurt".

Earl ignored him and leaped off the tractor, continuing on foot toward the wagon where



his wife lay, surrounded now by small, grey-skinned figures. Earl suddenly found himself paralysed and helpless. He stood there, unable to move as the blond man continued speaking, assuring him "Everything is all right. Nothing will happen to your mate".

Earl watched in horror as his paralysed wife was undressed. A long needle was pushed into her abdomen as she lay on a bed of hay, crying out at the pain but unable to resist. Skin and hair samples were taken, and a thin probe was inserted into her vagina.

Still frozen in place, Earl cursed and raged, and the blond man seemed genuinely surprised by his reaction.

"We want you to see this," he said, "we're not hurting your mate. She'll be fine. Why are you upset? We're not hurting her."

The scene ended shortly thereafter, and the couple returned home, aware of a period of missing time but with no memories of the UFO encounter. In the days and weeks after this event, Earl's wife began suffering from nightmares, clawing in her sleep at the area near the bridge of her nose, between her eyes, and screaming for them to "take it out, it's hurting".

She dug deep gouges in her forehead while the nightmares continued unabated. Other symptoms of her terror appeared, half-understood recollections of the events in the hay field. Eventually she had to be hospitalised suffering from a severe nervous breakdown. She lives at home now, tranquillised, no longer herself.

The story is but one of many that I could present to illustrate a central point about UFO occupants and their relation to their human subjects: they simply appear unable for the most part to understand us, our feelings, our terrors, our love for one another.

They seem psychologically blind to basic human emotions. In *Intruders*, I recounted case after case in which women were artificially inseminated or endured ova-retrieval operations, but whose reactions of rage or terror surprised their captors. These impassive UFO occupants seem as remote from our 'peculiar' human emotions as they are from our obviously differing anatomy: perhaps more so. And their lack of understanding offers a kind of excuse for their callous behaviour.

It seems to me that we are left with but two possibilities, neither very attractive. If the UFO

occupants actually do understand us and can empathise with our needs and emotions, then they are morally deficient - even in their single-minded selfishness. Not malevolent or deliberately evil, but as callous as the sunbather who watches the child drown in the surf.

At some point, amoral behaviour becomes immoral behaviour. And the evidence suggests they really may not know what disasters they sometimes cause. A female abductee recently wrote me a letter which goes in part:

I was watching a show about animals, because I love animals. I don't know if it was Wild Kingdom or some National Geographic show, but these scientists were tracking some polar bears. They had all kinds of weird-looking equipment and were using a white board which rendered them invisible in the snow to the bears.

As I watched I got a real sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. These scientists were dressed in identical white suits, lured the bears closer, and drugged the one with the cubs. The whole time they were tagging her they were taking blood samples, measuring fat, checking eyes, mouth etc. And whenever the bear struggled they would pet her, talk to her, tell her everything was going to be fine.

The scientists placed a device on her that would track her movements for so many years. They even marked her with a special paint that could be spotted from the air. They when they were through with her they ran and hid behind the big screen so that when she woke up she wouldn't see them. She got up, looked around, and ran so fast her cubs could hardly keep up.

Imagine how she must have felt the other times when they followed her in a helicopter. She could run, but with the paint and homing device she could never hide! I think all we are is a bunch of animals to these beings. Some little experiment that has been ongoing for who knows how long. I don't like the idea of being something's lab animal.

I thought about her letter, her understanding of the animal's plight and traumas inflicted by the scientists upon the bear and its cubs. These zoologists - as well as the occupants of UFO's, one hopes - are all acting from decent, scientific motives. And yet in both cases pain is inflicted, paralysis is imposed, and traumatic



terror is the result.

Some animals might abandon their cubs after such an experience or die of a mis-measured dose of tranquillising drug or even die from pure shock, just as some humans, like Earl's poor wife, may never recover from the horror of their experiences.

Sad though this alternative seems, it is easier for me to believe that the occupants of UFO's simply do not understand what they are doing to us, what traumas they are inflicting, than to believe they do know and are merely indifferent to human suffering.

I have talked with many people who will not give up on the benign Space-Brother reading of these cases, no matter what. At the outset I said that our quasi-religious hopes dies slowly. And so, despite massive negative evidence, there are still many people who cling to the idea that somehow, some way there may be two alien groups, one bad and one good. The bad group according to this theory, does the abducting and experimenting while the good group really loves and understands us. Sometimes a kind of sub-rosa Aryan racism can be detected beneath these hopes, in that the 'grays', as they have been called, are the bad aliens, while attractive 'blonds' are good.

In my 12 years of investigation, however, the more human seeming aliens, whenever they are reported (as in the cases of Earl and his wife or the Travis Walton abduction), seem to be operating as a team right along with the so called grays, participating in abductions as usual. I am unaware of a shred of evidence that supports this simple-minded good guys, bad guys dichotomy - but there is plenty of evidence that this kind of wishful thinking is an all-too-common psychological habit.

The contactee phenomenon, discounted by almost all serious investigators, represents the triumph of hope against reality, of need against evidence. The abduction cases I've studied over the years can be defined as being, in effect, 'all evidence and no ideology', while the contactee cults are essentially the opposite.

Contactee messages, as passed on through helpful 'channels', reduce themselves generally

to soft entreaties to love one another, to make peace, not war, and to take care of our planet's precarious ecology - in other words, the kind of cliché even people like Reagan and Gorbachev routinely utter in their formal speeches.

(This kind of nebulous message, it should be said, is sometimes also reported in valid UFO-abduction cases. What we really need, one abductee said to me, is actual alien help in solving our problems, not just another newspaper editorial pointing them out).

In short, there is no reason to assume that any benign group of aliens anywhere has yet done anything truly helpful to our planet. Such evidence simply does not exist.

The final difficulty in the cultist view of a good alien-bad alien duality lies in the age-old problem of evil. If the bad aliens are hurting us by their abduction, why don't the good aliens prevent it? For centuries we've asked ourselves, if God is omnipotent, how can He permit, say, the torture of children?

Many of us felt that since no answer consistent with the idea of God's omnipotence could satisfy us, there was something seriously wrong with the theology. And so it is with this kind of alien theology, apart from the fact that no credible evidence of any kind indicates a struggle between rival alien groups.

If there are various groups of aliens from different places of origin in the universe, they are apparently all co-operatively doing the same thing to us - and I for one think that what they're doing is, in the short term at least, immensely destructive.

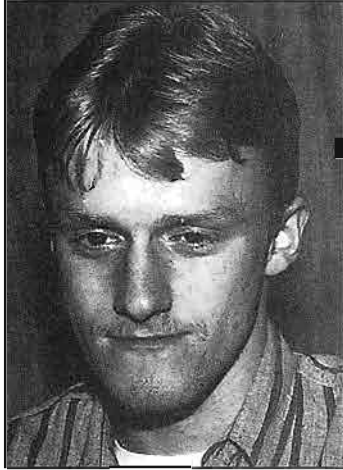
Once again we are back to the only two available alternatives. Either the UFO occupants have not grasped the psychological toll they are taking in these abductions and genetic experiments because they really do not understand human psychology, or they must be viewed as an amoral race bent solely upon gratifying its own scientific needs at whatever cost to us, the victims.

The question of which alternative is true cannot now be answered. There is evidence to support both interpretations, but I, for one, wish to choose the former.



The Belgian UFO wave

Paul Vanbrabant, Belgium



Paul Vanbrabant

Suddenly, on a November date in 1989, a huge wave of mysterious sightings of lights began across Belgium. Although they have been witnessed by people, recorded on radar and film, and even tracked by F-16 aircraft, the sightings largely remain a mystery. Paul Vanbrabant presents a synopsis of his investigation.

Case 1

November 29 1989, on the road from Eupen to Eynatten, about 17.45 hours, two state police officers noticed the appearance of a strange, strong glimmer in the sky.

It was situated on their right side (N-NE) while they were driving in the direction of Eynatten. They immediately decided to stop to observe it more closely. It moved very slowly in an inclined line toward them at a low altitude, flying almost directly over them.

The witnesses claimed to be almost blinded by three bright sources of light and they had to turn faces away. The object, which they believed to be solid, had a slow and soundless flight (although one reported a faint buzzing sound).

As the object passed over them, they observed a bizarre red-yellow glimmer in the middle of the object, formed by the three lights. At this

point they could clearly see that the object was a dark enormous triangle with a white light in each corner pointing downwards.

Despite the press reports, at this point, they did not recall seeing beams of light from the three sources. They also never saw any reflections on the ground or on other objects. They decided to follow the object by car.

The policemen took a route toward Eupen which both avoided traffic and led them to a higher ground vantage point from which they could observe the object. When they arrived, they could see the object hovering above the dam of the Gileppe, above an illuminated newly built watch-tower.

While looking at the stationary object, they thought they saw beams of light emerge from the sides of the 'triangle'. At about 18.45 hours, one of the witnesses suddenly saw some lights between a group of trees at about 250 metres to their right (west). The first impression was that these lights were coming from a farmer's tractor, who the policemen saw earlier that day. Suddenly, however, the lights rose up vertically and soundlessly (save for a faint buzzing heard by one of them) manoeuvred off in a NNW direction.

The object then followed the same altitude from the group while performing sharp turns, during one of which the policemen could see a dark, flat structure, with a platform structure on top with what looked like windows. This had a dark green colour or reflection. They described the windows as looking like those of a train at night.

The object then moved slowly in a north-eastern direction to start some kind of reconnaissance flight above the area. It moved in a spiral fashion above an area, N-NW of the witnesses. They moved to higher ground to observe more closely. The object moved further away from them during its circular movement; other witnesses have also reported this stage of the sighting from other locations. Once the object reached the 'centre' of its circular motions, it accelerated and flew in a straight line in



a N-NE direction, disappearing behind the horizon at exactly 20.39 hours.

Case 2

November 29, 1989, near Lontzen, 6km north of Eupen, at about 17.45 hours, two children of about 13 years of age were walking on a hilly road, with little traffic. Suddenly a strange object appeared in front of them from behind a hill. It flew slowly at a height of about 80 metres above them, made an 180° turn and accelerated to disappear behind the hill.

They were afraid and returned home immediately. They reported that they could hear a faint buzzing noise, like that of an electric engine, and the underside of the object had several lights. When it turned, they thought they could see some kind of structure but were uncertain.

Case 3

November 29, 1989, south of Limbourg, 7km west of Eupen. At about 16.45 hours, still in daylight, a man and his wife were driving home when they spotted an object hovering a few 100 metres above the ground. As they drove towards and underneath the object, they saw above them a triangular structure, with three bright lights.

The witnesses couldn't describe the object very well but reported its colour as grey, but non-metallic. The front light was reported to be larger than the other two, looking like a large globe. In the middle they saw a flashing orange light. On the right and left of the object, they observed two lines, which they assumed were some kind of landing skis. The witnesses estimated the size of the object to be similar to that of a Boeing 737 aircraft.

Suddenly the object moved off at a reported speed of more than 60km/hour, following a triangular route and stopping at another location. After two or three minutes, the object disappeared in less than 10 seconds, over the horizon. Calculations show that the object would have travelled at over 1000km/hour. The observation lasted for 15 minutes.

Later, at about 17.45, one of the witnesses noticed an identical object coming in his direction. It came at such a low altitude as to make the witness suddenly duck as the object passed over him in a N-E direction.

These are three cases out of hundreds; this was the day the Belgian UFO wave started, also known as 'The Eupen Case'. However, sightings took place all over Belgium, not in Eupen alone. Eupen had the largest concentration of sightings.

The case of the police officers is very important as this is one of the few cases where two objects were observed simultaneously, one above the trees and one above the Gileppe.

With the sightings areas pinpointed on a map, Sobeps concluded that at least three different triangles were spotted that evening.

The dimensions of the triangles vary in description, from a Boeing-sized object to a small triangle only 4-10 metres in length. Some reports compared the objects to the AWACS aircraft which flies regularly in that area, but, remarkably, some of these triangles flew backwards.

Confusion with these aircraft is possible as they feature the same light configuration as was reported. But the cases remain unexplained.

The 'triangle'

The most remarkable fact about the November sightings of triangles is that they didn't stop. They went on for more than a month. Many were sighted by people in the province of Luik.

Large triangles, little triangles, triangles with windows, with domes on top, domes on the bottom, triangles with sharp corners, some with rounded corners, triangles flying at great speed, some hovering above the ground... most of the observations were not detailed. Those that were didn't match the reports of others.

In another case, on the 15th or 16th January 1990, in the west of Belgium, a few hundred kilometres away from Eupen, a man left home to go to work at about 07.50 hours.

He drove along smaller roads to avoid traffic, with another car ahead of him. His attention was drawn to strange light ahead. The person in front stopped his car to observe the object. A bit further on, this man also stopped. A triangular object flew right over him; it seemed enormous and had three protruding lights at the front and one red light at one of the sides. The object was dark in colour and estimated to be around 20-25 metres long.

The witness decided to drive on to get a better view. From his second stop point, he



could see that the object was about 2-3 metres in height and that there was a pyramid-like structure on the top, but with the top cut off and a dome instead.

The pyramid was a light blue-grey colour and it seemed as if the three lights protruded out of the bottom of the object. Then it disappeared behind the horizon. This observation lasted for about 3-4 minutes.

Again this makes an interesting description because of the pyramid structure on top, but others describe a dome, or just a flat surface. It is also interesting to note that this sighting took place far from Eupen; towards the end of 1989, sightings in the province of Luik reduced drastically, although in general there were still many sightings in Belgium.

There were still reports of triangles, but they were showing up in other parts of Belgium. The concentration of sightings in one location reduced also. On rare occasions, two triangles could be seen at the same time, sometimes even in formation, but most of the time, far away from witnesses.

Other objects were also reported; a strange ball of light appeared several times.

The unforgettable night

On 30 March 1990, Sobeps refers to 'a unique occurrence in ufology', when everything seemed to happen at the same time; it encompasses eye witness accounts, radar confirmation and filmed footage. The story starts with the report of an air force witness.

On 30 March 1990, at 23.03, the air force observed strange lights in the sky. Several witnesses see three points of light, constantly changing colour and therefore distinguishing them from the stars; the colours change from red (dominant colour) to blue, green, white, without any set order. The lights form the points of an isosceles triangle with two sides of equal length.

The lights constantly, and suddenly, make short jerking movements in the sky, but sometimes with long stationary periods in between. The triangle then appeared to change shape, becoming an equilateral triangle, during these movements. The witnesses could not evaluate altitude, nor distance, or hear any noise.

Several witnesses confirm these reports and then a second set of three lights is spotted,

apparently closer by, and forming another smaller triangle. Between 23.45 and 00.15 hours, six points of light are observed.

The six lights intermittently send out very bright light signals. Later two more points of light appear, of less intensity than the other six. At around 00.30, two airplanes, possibly F-16s, describe circles in the centre of the big equilateral triangle. Then the three lights forming the smaller triangle fade out, and there is fast activity while two more of the lights disappear. The remaining light disappears by 01.00.

At 01.18, a similar phenomenon occurs, this time four lights forming a perfect square. They change position in short, sharp movements. By 01.30, the four lights decrease in intensity until they can no longer be observed.

The weather that night was cloudless, with no fog, and cold (+0°C). Stars were easily visible and the moon was in the first quarter, lying north west of the observers' location.

No photographs were taken, and looking through a telescope showed a sphere with one side more brightly illuminated in the shape of a triangle.

The original report has since been supported by further evidence. The air force confirms that it recorded blips on its radar screens and at 00.05, scrambled two F-16s to intercept. They could obtain radar 'lock-on' on several occasions, but could not sight the object. The objects appeared to manoeuvre out of the way within seconds each time a lock-on was set up. The longest lock-on was 20 seconds and was available for study.

One explanation offered by Professor August Meessen is that the objects were a meteorological phenomenon.

A film was taken at about 02.00 on the same night in Brussels showing an object approaching the camera and flying overhead.

Enlargements of frames were made to determine any structure, but none could be detected. Subsequent investigation pointed at the explanation of aircraft.

Conclusion

Three different methods of 'evidence' yet the mystery remains unsolved. The radar detection is very interesting and could probably teach us more about meteorological phenomena; I have seen for myself how mist and inversions can play tricks on people watching stars, giving



the impression of movement.

Regarding the film, there is no doubt for me that it was an airplane; what I find strange is the way it is filmed. The witness claimed there was no sound and he filmed a spot far away, as if he knew it was coming. Think about it; a man standing outside at 2am, just filming the night sky for fun? Maybe he knew a triangle would pass. This is, however, just my opinion; I didn't

get a chance to talk to the witness.

[Paul Vanbrabant has much more extensive information on this and other cases, to be presented at the Congress. He also seeks expertise on understanding radar detection, and bids any interested parties to contact him.]



A Close Encounter of the Musical Kind



CEIV in concert
Central Library Theatre
Sheffield, South Yorkshire
Saturday 17th August, 8.30pm

CEIV began in 1984, born of the founder members' interests in both music and UFO research. Because of their unique interest this first CEIV gig in England will form part of this year's 6th International Congress hosted by the British UFO Research Association.

As well as performing live over the years, the band have completed various recordings, one of which is a 60 minute tape with music, narration and effects portraying a UFO abduction - the CEIV (close encounter of the fourth kind) from which the band takes its name.

Although some past rock bands have chosen to dabble in the subject, with the odd song, CEIV are very much committed to what they do and have sustained their commitment over the years.

They believe there is a definite message to put across - no, not of doom and gloom, just an awareness of a baffling mystery and very probably an important message for the future. Music

is just another good medium to put this over.

There is no gimmick involved, and by being a band member you would be liable to find yourself as much involved with ufology as you would music.

Bring along a camera to the CEIV concert; the visuals are very interesting, backdrop 'aliens' on stage and fine artwork is used to great effect. The band wear black for their clothing, nothing to do with 'Men in Black', more a case of letting the music have the real effect. Songs to be performed include a number of tracks from the tape, some of which are being performed for the first time in public.

Band member Brian McMullan acknowledges the importance of the Congress performance: "Sheffield to us, is *it*. Playing to our own people. They'll understand every lyric, feel every sound. They'll know exactly what's happening".

Copies of CEIV's *Abduction* tape can be obtained at a price of just £6.00 from: Brian McMullan, 102 Ferness Oval, Glasgow, Scotland G21 3SE.



