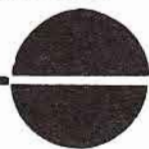




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British UFO Research Association

November 1986 No. 23

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THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION BUFORA LTD.

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

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NOVEMBER, 1986

No. 023

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CONTENTS

<u>UFOs in Poland</u>	2
Bronislaw Rzspecki	
<u>Not Coming Through The Glen</u>	6
Steuart Campbell	
<u>The Clapton Event</u>	8
Robert Moore	
<u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u>	15
Agenda/Minutes/Report to Council/Accounts/Chairman's Report/Treasurer's Report.	
<u>Tribute to Allan J Hynek</u>	26
<u>Pre 1947 UFO Bulletin</u>	29
Nigel Watson	
<u>Letters to the Editor</u>	30

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IN PRESENTING THIS LITTLE ARTICLE FROM THE POLISH OBSERVATIONS OF UFOs I WISH TO MENTION THAT IN OUR COUNTRY UFOs ARE ALSO OBSERVED AND INVESTIGATED AS IN USA, LATIN AMERICA OR WESTERN EUROPE. ALSO IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE THE UFO PHENOMENON IS NOWADAYS ALMOST 'NORMAL' PHENOMENON AND THEIR OBSERVATION AND INVESTIGATION ARE AS INTERESTING AS ELSEWHERE.

B.R.

Article translated by JMB.

THE day when American pilot Kenneth Arnold had observed unknown flying objects - the famous June 24th, 1947 - became the 'official' beginning of the contemporary UFO era. Soon after this incident there were established the first ufological organisations, and the ufological movement extended to almost all the world. Its arrival in Poland took place in the 1970s.

Speaking about the Polish UFO movement it is impossible to omit earlier attempts to create an interest amongst the Polish people. In 1958 in the magazine WIECZOR WYBRZEZA and also in SKRZYDLATA POLSKA appeared articles by Andrzej Trepka that seriously informed readers about ufological matters, presented facts and built the foundation for the future development of ufology in Poland. Three years later there was edited the first Polish book about UFOs, written by Janusz Thor - LATADAJE IALERZE - FLYING SAUCERS. In the early 1970s many leading Polish journalists began to write popular articles about the subject of UFOs - their occurrences, hypotheses of their origin and propulsion. These were based mainly on Western scientific material. Some of the writers became famous as a result: Lucjan Znicz, Andrzej Donimirski, Arnold Mostowicz and Zbigniew Blania. In those days also many UFO 'hobbyists' started to gather in groups in various Polish cities. Of course the range of their activities were very much limited and took the form of mainly private meetings for the mutual exchange of information.

In 1976 in the weekly FAKTY there began a steady cycle of ufological articles "The Guests From The Space" by Lucjan Znica. This series caused a large correspondence from readers with the author, thus was born the idea of establishing a full-range ufological club.

On July 8th there was established KLUB KONTAKTOW KOSMICZNYCH/Space Contacts Club, a non-formal organisation bringing together people interested in UFOs from all parts of Poland. This organisation still functions and the date of its birth remains the official date of the beginning of the Polish ufological movement.

In December, 1978 a similar organisation - UFO SONDA was formed in Wrocław, but this lasted only a short time.

On June 24th, 1981 there was registered in Warsaw the first legally authorised ufological organisation - VARSOVIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY - UFO VIDER established by its first Chairman Janusz Marczak, MS.

But earlier, in January, 1980, there appeared in the Polish ufological movement another organisation - UFOLOGICAL SECTION OF CRACOVIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN CLUB. At first there were only a few members but this has been growing following the publication in November, 1981 of the first Polish ufological magazine WIZJA PERYFERYJNE/Peripheral Visions. In January, 1983 the group became independent and changed its name to CRACOVIAN CLUB OF UFO RESEARCH AND POPULARISAT OR. The founder of the ufological section and then the Chairman

is the author of this article.

In February, 1983 there was established in Lodz another similar organisation "SPACE CLUB OF LODZ - PARA UFO."

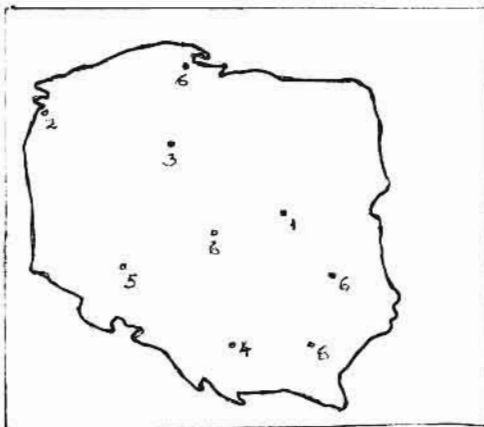
The year 1983 was a milestone in Polish ufological history: in February the re met representatives of SPACE CONTACTS CLUB, UFO-VIDEO PARA-UFO and CRACOVIAN CLUB OF UFO RESEARCH AND POPULARISATION in order to discuss possibilities of mutual co-operation and to look at further developments in the Polish ufological movement. It was decided that the Cracovian Club would organise new clubs in other Polish cities, an rules were drawn up on the observation of UFOs and encounters and a date was decided for the first meeting of the Polish Ufological Congress.

The Congress took place in Cracow on September 23rd-25th, 1983, and participants came from the organisations already mentioned as well as from some of the newly-formed societies based in Szczecin, Lublin, Gdansk, Rzeszow. The second Congress was held in Szczecin in November, 1984 and the last one in Lublin in September, 1985.

The second, legally authorised ufological organisation in Poland, CRACOVIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY was registered on January 27th, 1984. It was a continuation of the Cracovian Club and its chairman is the author of this article. Unfortunately its history was rather short, and the Society was disbanded in October 1985. Cracovian ufologists once more arrived on the stage of the Polish ufological movement, and established on October 27th, 1985 a non-formal organisation called UFO RESEARCH GROUP. Again, the author was the founder of this body, and his work involves the co-ordination of research activities.

Of the 10 organisations existing at the end of 1983 seven now remain, these are now much stronger, with active and enthusiastic members, who collate reports from all over Poland. The most active are SPACE CONTACTS CLUB, UFO-VIDEO and UFO RESEARCH GROUP.

The map shows all the existing organisations in Poland who work, scientifically and seriously, on the UFO enigma.



1. VARSOVIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY
UFO VIDEO
2. SZCZECINIAN CLUB OF UFO
RESEARCH AND POPULARISATION
3. CO-ORDINATION CENTRE OF SPACE
CONTACTS CLUB
4. CO-ORDINATION CENTRE OF UFO
RESEARCH GROUP
5. WROCLAVIAN CLUB OF UFO
RESEARCH AND POPULARISATION
6. THE CITIES WHERE CONTEMPORARY
UFOLOGICAL GROUPS ARE
WORKING.

Although the Polish ufological movement began in 1978 observations of UFOs are known to have taken place over many years, but they were neither documented nor investigated. Therefore the list of previous observations (pre 1978) is incomplete. But even fragmentary data does show that UFOs have not by passed Polish territory, and is similar to reports from other countries.

The observations from the 16th and 17th century can be omitted because of the lack of exact data - what was observed. (high)

more can be said about some 20th century incidents:

- 1908 June 29th. Zalesic; Four witnesses observed a flight of bright yellow objects.
- 1922 Summer. Warsaw Many witnesses observed a silvery object - two hemispheres divided by a rotating ring - the object 'shot' a beam of light and then lifted up with a loud noise.
- 1953 July 31st. Wolin Island, Baltic Sea. Time 7pm. On a field near the railroad track five Poles and two Germans observed the landing of a disc-shaped object about 22 metres in diameter, with numerous port-holes around it. After several minutes the object flew off at great speed.
- 1958 December 22nd. Muzzyna. Time about 3pm. A doctor of medicine, Kowalczewski took the first Polish photograph of a UFO - dark, disc-shaped object.
- 1959 March. Koloborzeg Polish soldiers observed that, from the sea, near the coast-line, there appeared a strange, triangular object, the length was about four metres. It flew up into the air and began to whirl in circles above the surface of the water. It then accelerated rapidly and vanished.

None of these incidents were investigated scientifically. There is, therefore, a lack of witnesses' statements and precise data. Two cases which have been looked at in more detail date from 1979-81 during a UFO flap in Poland.

May 22nd, 1979 Waldemar R went out from his home to a cafe situated in the town park at Piastow, near Warsaw. The evening was cold so he walked quickly, reaching the park at about 10pm. There was complete silence around and, about five metres away from him on the concrete path there were two bright yellow beams of light. He stopped, and saw that the beams came from beneath a dark object floating above the ground. Under the silhouette of the object, and placed a little towards the back, was a third beam of light shining out at about 15cm. In the glow of the yellow lights the object resembled an ice hockey disc. It was almost three metres wide. The witness moved towards the object, stopping about three metres from it when the object started to shine green, geometric bodies, triangles, squares, circles and trapezoids, subsequently they were extinguished and lights glowed all over the surface at the side of the object. On the upper surface of the object red lights, illuminating an 'H' shaped sign appeared, occupying almost the entire area. At the end of the 'H' sign a red light appeared blinking with a frequency of about 1Hz.

Suddenly all the object became to glow with a white-blue light, with a scarcely visible aura surrounding it. The witness felt the heat burning his face and neck. He turned around and ran, not looking behind him. In the morning, when he awoke, he felt that there was something heavy pressing on his head. Two weeks later small, sore abscesses appeared on his face. Inside the abscesses were jelly-like hardened blood droplets. There were no other traces of the incident.

August, 1979 Czlachow. This could be classified as a CE11.

It was a fine summer evening when one of the inhabitants of Czlachow was rowing his boat on a lake when he suddenly noticed a "dark, oblong object" moving on the surface of the water. It resembled slightly a fishing boat, but moved much faster, without sound or creating any disturbance on the water. After a few seconds it vanished behind a peninsula.

A second witness, on the land, noticed the same object moving on the water at almost the same time as it disappeared from the first observer's view. The object disappeared into canes growing on the lake edge. The witness called his dogs and they went in the direction of where the 'boat' might land. He made no more than 20 steps in the general direction when he noticed, 20 metres ahead two beings in dark suits going towards the forest. The dogs, sensing strangers, ran in their direction. The reaction of the two beings was to turn in the direction of the dogs who barked, stopped and turned back. Then the beings also turned back and looked as if they were about to leave. The witness's description of them was that they were about one and a half metres tall, hermetically sealed in what looked like diving suits, on their eyes were plates resembling 'glasses'. Their hips were unnaturally wide and each of them had something like a 'hump' on his neck between the back of his head and his shoulders.

Between their knees and the ground their legs were invisible. They moved untypically as two-legged beings, seeming to glide over the ground which was very rough. Their hands were supported by elbows on their hips, and half-bent towards the side. The witness shouted to them to stop but they started to run and then vanished. The witness began to search for them and, looking towards the direction of the forest, noticed a brightly shining object floating above tree top level. It was 100 metres from him, about 30 metres above the ground where the object had stopped. It looked like a smooth, rectangle wall with rounded off corners. It glowed bright, blue/green light on its sides, changing frequently to a bright white in the middle. Then the object flew away.

On the spot where the object probably 'landed' no traces were discovered, nor did the beings leave any traces. The behaviour of the dogs was strange, advancing towards the beings then suddenly, at a distance of two or three metres, running away in fear. Within six months of the encounter both dogs developed paralysis in their paws and had to be destroyed.

The Most Important Dates in the Polish Ufological Movement.

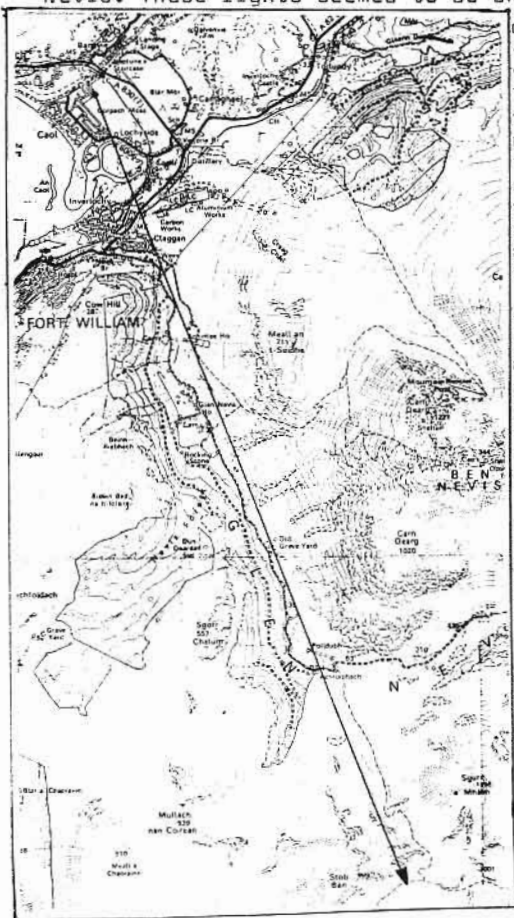
1958	First serious articles about UFOs in Polish magazines by A. Trepka
1961	First Polish book about UFOs
July 6th, 1978.	First non-formal Polish ufological organisation established SPACE CONTACTS CLUB
June 24th, 1981	First legally authorised Polish ufological organisation registered VARSOVIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY - UFO VIDEO
November, 1981	First Polish UFO bulletin produced by GRA-COVIAN CLUB OF UFO RESEARCH AND POPULARISATION.
September 23rd-25th, 1983	First Ufological Congress in Cracow.

Continued on page 14

In her journal NORTHERN UFO NEWS (no.119) Jenny Randles chides me for (allegedly) declining to investigate (beyond a telephone call) a UFO report from a family in Fort William. Also she could not easily understand where I got the idea that the object was a star, and she encouraged Scottish readers to undertake their own investigation (so usurping me representing BUFORA's investigation network, which she is supposed to co-ordinate!)

Since she has the wrong date and time (even the wrong year) her Scottish readers will make little progress. The case is one I referred to in my article ASTRONOMICAL UFOS in BUFORA BULLETIN 21, and it was originally reported in BUFORA BULLETIN 7 (April 1983) pp 7.8 (reference 80-113).

The F family were going to bed early on the morning of Saturday, May 3rd, 1980, after watching a late night film on television. The BBC1 film ended at 0110 BST, and they give the time as 0130. They saw flashing lights up Glen Nevis (see map) which stretches 10-11km south south east before turning east around Ben Nevis. These lights seemed to be on a squat, cigar-shaped (cone-shaped)



object, orange at the bottom, which (they thought) came slowly down the valley towards Fort William.

Through binoculars they could see a triangular shape with three panels of orange light and 'revolving' flashing lights. They claim that after about 15 minutes it flew over their house (silently) and disappeared to the west. It was certainly not an aircraft with which they were familiar.

Jenny suggests that readers check the records of mountain rescue or air bases in the area, but Mrs F had already reported the matter to the police, the RAF and Civil Defence. None took her seriously, so clearly it was not an activity known to them. There were no other reports that night.

On April 22nd 1982 Mrs F reported the incident by telephone to Pam Kennedy, who passed details to me. An RI form was sent and returned, and I spoke to Mrs F on the telephone several times. In August, 1982 whilst camping in Glen Nevis I called at the F home, but found them away on holiday. In November, 1985 I realised that the object may have been the star Antares and so informed the witnesses (who rejected the idea).

At the time Scotland lay in an area of high pressure centred to the north of the UK. It was warm with little wind and a clear sky, conditions in which temperature inversions can form. The nearly full Moon lay 12° above the horizon on an azimuth of 151° (surely visible above Glen Nevis), and Antares lay only 4° up on an azimuth of 159° (see map, where the pointer shows the direction of Antares at 0030 GMT) straight up Glen Nevis! The mountain over which Antares must have been seen (Stob Ben) subtends an altitude of just under 4° and the witnesses could hardly have been able to tell whether the star was above or below the horizon (they claim that it was below).

Because of the rotation of the Earth, Antares would appear to move slowly to the right at the rate of $15^{\circ}/\text{hr}$ (equivalent to 2.8 km/hr at 111 km), a speed which might have been interpreted as 5.7 km/hr towards the witnesses. Antares can have appeared to approach if its brightness increased as it rose.

It is possible that what was seen was a mirage of Antares caused by its light crossing a temperature inversion in an adjoining valley (I do not know which one). This would account not only for the unaccounted brightness, large size and individual lights, but the fact that it could be seen at all (a superior mirage is always elevated). The strong orange colour is consistent with Antares, a predominantly red star. Refraction put all the orange light to the base, due to the star's lack of blue light, blue was not seen at the top. The flashing was due to scintillation, which is prominent at low altitude.

The sudden disappearance of the mirage (due to the rising elevation of Antares or a cut-off by higher mountains) led the witnesses to the conclusion that the object had raced away in the direction they thought it was travelling. Looking west (down Loch Eil) they must have seen a close conjunction between Mars (also red) and Jupiter at an altitude of $21-22^{\circ}$ and azimuth of 261° ; they concluded that these planets were the same object, which they presumed must have gone over their house.

Clearly the case is (contrary to Jenny's conclusion) explained; the problem is that the witnesses will not accept my explanation and Jenny has sided with them against me!

CORRECTION: The text of Stuart Campbell's first letter in BUFORA BULLETIN 21 contains an error which readers may like to note. The paragraph in BUFORA's Investigations Handbook that prohibits his case being explained as a 'UFO' should read 8.B(9) and not, as shown, 8.89.

UFU BRIGANTIA is the journal of the West Yorkshire UFO Research. This bimonthly journal covers UFO activity in the Yorkshire region plus articles from leading ufologists. A typical issue features case histories, research, speculative articles of the highest quality, plus news reviews and much more. The JULY/AUGUST a special historical issue featured articles by Jenny Randles, Nigel Watson and David Clarke. Annual subscription is £5.50 or 90p for a sample copy. From: 84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 2QR.

BUFORA CASE REF 82 030 (IFO)

INVESTIGATION LEVEL A

TYPE MEDIUM DEFINITION

ON Wednesday, June 9th, 1982, at around 21.15hrs BST Mr B.W. (aged 24), Ms E.P. (aged 28), Mrs W.M. (aged 33) and Miss L.P. (aged 8), were leaving a field which is located between Clapton and Midsomer-Norton, Somerset. They had just finished haymaking for the day. They then became aware of an object in the eastern sky (Azimuth 060-090), which appeared to have an elevation of around 15°-45°. Its angular size was reported as being akin to an old penny held at arm's length. Its luminosity was described as being 'very bright.' It was said to be coloured pinky-red-orange or red-orange. The object's form was akin to a ball/vertically orientated round form, according to Mr B.W. and Ms E.P. Mrs W.W., however, reported that the object was oval in form, and appeared to have narrow, lightly curved lines like antennae protruding from the object's body. Ms E.P. reported that the object was sharply defined. Mr B.W. stated that there seemed to be a 'halo' or 'shine', narrow and irregular in appearance, around the object's edge. Mrs W.W. stated that the object appeared 'hazy' in definition. None of the observers noticed any sound associated with the object. It seemed to be at some distance from the observers, about 1.6km, according to Mr B.W. All the witnesses stated that the object seemed to come towards them. Mrs E.P. believed that the object was going to land at a location opposite, but at some distance, heading in a north-east direction along a road located on the left-hand side of the field. Mr B.W. stated that they ran towards the object, but Ms E.P. and Mrs W.W. stated that they 'jumped' into Ms E.P.'s car, and drove towards it. Mr B.W. stated that the object seemed to move very slowly. They moved about 91 metres, and then stopped when the object appeared to drop down to the ground. As it did so it seemed to be obscured by trees. At this time Mr B.W. estimated that, at this juncture, the object now seemed to be much further away than was first imagined, now being about 8km distant. Mr B.W. stated that the object's Azimuth was around 040, at this point of the observation.

FLASHING LIGHT

A short time after the object had apparently dropped to the ground, it then seemed to rise vertically above the trees, hover briefly above them, and then dip down vertically behind the trees once more. Accounts differ as to what then occurred. Mr B.W. reported that he observed a flashing light (rate around 1-2 times/second) behind the trees thereafter. They observed this light for around 10 minutes and then left the sighting location. Mrs W.W. stated that they waited some minutes for the object to reappear after it had dipped behind the trees for the second time. When it failed to do so they left. Ms E.P. stated that they observed the object continually rising, hovering and dipping for about 10-25 minutes, before leaving. This gives the observation the possible duration of from 21.15hrs (initial) to 21.18 - 21.40hrs (final). The witnesses left in Ms E.P.'s car, and headed directly to Hudson Farm, near Clapton, the home of their temporary employer Mr A.W. When they arrived they discovered that Mr A.W. and his wife had also observed an object in the sky at around the time of their own sighting. Some 10 minutes later Ms E.P. returned to the location in her car together with some friends. She stated that the object was still

present, rising, hovering and dipping in the distance. The object was observed for around five minutes. They then left at around 21.33-21.55 hrs BST.

THE SECONDARY OBSERVATION

At around 21.15hrs BST on June 9th, 1982 Mr A.W.(56) and Mrs A.W.(57) while out on the lawn of Hudson Farm, observed an object in the eastern sky (Azimuth around 090) which was estimated to have an elevation of around 30. It was described as resembling a sharply defined ball/vertically orientated round form, with an angular size akin to a half penny held at arm's length. It was reported as having a bright orange/red colour. It was soundless. The object seemed to be moving away from witnesses, and disappeared behind trees after being observed for a maximum of two minutes (termination of sighting thus being around 21.17hrs BST). Mr A.W. was informed of the main observation some 5.30 minutes later.

WITNESSES DESCRIPTION OF WEATHER CONDITIONS

Little or no cloud, warm with no rain, mist or fog. A slight breeze was noticed. Some of the observers stated that dusk was falling at around the time of the sighting. No observers noticed the presence of sun, moon, planets or stars.

WITNESS DETAILS

Mr B.W. Aged 24. Then living at Clapton, Somerset. He worked as a leather cutter around the time of the observation.
Ms E.P. Aged 28. Then living at Clapton. Sister-in-law to Mrs W.W. and mother of Miss L.P. Worked as a car cleaner/driver around the time of the observation.
Mrs W.W. Aged 33. Then living at Clapton. Sister-in-law to Ms E.P. Aunt to Miss L.P. She was a housewife at the time of the sighting.
Miss L.P. Aged 8. Daughter of Ms E.P. Did not fill in report form.
Mr A.W. Aged 56. Then living at Hudson Farm, near Clapton. A Farmer.
Mrs A.W. Aged 57. Then living at Hudson Farm. Wife of Mr A.W. Did not fill in report form.

THE INVESTIGATION

The discovery of the observation. Sometime after the sighting Mr B.W. wrote a letter to a mysteries magazine giving the basic details of the events. The magazine gave his BUFORA's address and he then wrote to it, again giving the basic sighting details. This letter was then passed onto PROBE UFO Group (based in Bristol) for further investigation.

PROBE wrote to Mr B.W. in early August requesting further details of the sighting. This information was received and a date fixed for an on-site investigation.

PROBE visited the site in early September, 1982. The interviewed Mr B.W. but discovered no new facts about his observation. They took a number of on-site photographs and some measurements. The prints of the photographs were sent to Mr B.W. in order for him to mark the object, to scale, on them. Other prints were sent to the other witnesses. These were posted to them in mid-October and were returned, duly annotated in early November.

RESULTS OF FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Weather fine. Visibility around 16-12km. 1 Oktar (1 Oktar= $\frac{1}{2}$ cloud cover) low level cloud, around 1 Oktar of middle level cloud, and 1.5 to 7 Oktars high level cloud. Temperature around 22-21c. Light SSE-SE breeze, speed around 6-7 knots.

Checks on any other observations.

The local police, PROBE, SCUFORI, BUFORA and NUFON had no record of any UFO being observed on June 9th, 1982.

ASTRONOMICAL DATA

Sunset took place around 21.24hrs BST. Elevation of sun around time of sighting = 0. Moonrise took place around 23.45hrs BST. No reports of observations of re-entries or fireballs were received by the relevant authorities.

Venus was not visible. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were all evening objects approximately located in the south-west sky.

The stars Antares (+0.99 Mag.coloured red, Azimuth 138 (SE) elevation 02) and Altar (+0.80 Mag.coloured white, bearing approximately NNE, elevation very low) were in the eastern sky.

AIRCRAFT AND BALLOON MOVEMENTS

There were three (at least) civil aircraft airborne around that time. Their exact location is not known. There were no known air-balloon flights, but their presence during the time of the observation could not be totally ruled out. There was a display of powered hang-gliding on the 6th and again on June 12th-13th at Midsomer-Norton (1.6km from the location) and Camerton (about 6km from location) respectively.

CONCLUSIONS AND EVALUATION

When all the accounts of the observation are compared many minor and major inconsistencies become apparent. This makes evaluation a little difficult as the stated behaviour of the object differs quite markedly with every account.

But, for various reasons, it seems unlikely that these reports were caused by a misperception of a fireball, a re-entry, aircraft or a balloon. Therefore, is there any other known phenomena in existence which could have caused these observations?

It is felt that the Clapton object has many characteristics akin to a low-elevation light source which has been distorted by its light passing through layers of hot and cold air. These layers of variable density air are technically known as Temperature Inversion (an effect commonly evoked by the USAF to explain UFO observations). First the conditions were right for such effects to occur, as the observation happened around sunset, thus allowing for the possibility of rapid ground cooling. The cold air created by this occurrence would then merge with the warm (21-20C) air above, thus creating an inversion. A light source shining through these layers may have been distorted, possibly being apparently 'increased.' The witnesses, observing the effect, just as the light's size was ballooned out by the effects, may have seen this as a large ball coming towards them (a very common mistake). The object's brightness may have been exaggerated by its 'increased' size. The observers move towards the light, possibly at an angle, causing it to, apparently, move via parallax (apparent movement caused by viewing an object at different angles).

This gave the illusion of a distant light source moving slowly in the direction of the observers. There is some reason to believe that the movement illusion was exaggerated by a nearby telegraph pole. A little time later the illusion ends, and the object size returns to normal (appearing to the witnesses as if "the object was further away than was first imagined.") and returns to its normal elevation (causing the "dropping" effect). About a couple of seconds later the effect occurs again, for a much shorter period, giving the object an apparent "rising, hovering and dipping" motion. The effect either ended there and then, perhaps with the light source responsible being visible behind the trees, possibly appearing to flash due to it still being slightly affected by the inversion, or it continued, the light appearing to rise, hover and dip continually. There is also the possibility that the movements reported by Ms E.P. may have been caused by involuntary eye movements (autokenesis). The secondary observation is also explainable using this theory (the enlarging effect lessening as the object was observed, giving the illusion of a receding object. The effect then ends, and the object seems to 'disappear behind trees') Mr A.W. reported no change in the object's direction. Perhaps this was because he was not moving as he viewed the 'object.'

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SIGHTING

The shape reported by Mrs W.W. may have been due to a sight defect (possibly astigmatism). Note that all the other witnesses stated that the object was round/ball shaped in form, and that two of the witnesses reported that the object had a sharply defined outline, whereas she described it as being 'hazy' in appearance. The 'halo' described by Mr B.W. may have been an optical effect (explaining why only he observed it) a meteorological effect (diffraction) or was caused by the 'distortion' of the image by the inversion.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Although there are some aspects of the observation that seem to contradict this explanation (such as the reported elevation of the object) it is worth stating that not only were these aspects estimated by people unused to estimating such factors (especially under conditions of stress/excitement) but these estimations were made some eight weeks after the observation. Thus the reliability of these aspects are suspect. Therefore, given the comprehensive nature of the explanation given, it is felt that this case should be treated and 'explained' and the case closed, with the proviso that its reassessment may be made if it is felt appropriate.

POSTSCRIPT

IN this article I was unable to state the origin of the light which was seen. STEUART CAMPBELL has put forward the theory that the Clapton object was the star Antares. His theory explained much of the observation, but there are some problems associated with it.

1. There is some doubt over whether Antares (under normal conditions would be observable 10 minutes before sunset (around the time the event occurred). Also, due to the density of the atmosphere at low altitude Antares (if visible) would have appeared to be about magnitude +3.0 (compared to its normal magnitude of approximately +0.9) or about 16 times less brighter than normal. A minor point, but worth noting.

2. The witnesses reported that the object was located at a bearing of around 050-090 (compared to Antares bearing (at the time of the event) of 138. Although this could be written off as witness error, it must be noted that the observers moved in a north east (Azimuth approximately 045) direction when attempting to approach the object. If it had been Antares, they would have had to have moved in a south west (Azimuth 225 approximately) direction (due to the direction of the road that the observers were on) to have done so. The annotated site map and photographs are consistent with the object being located where the observers reported it to have been.

Therefore, as the explanation could be refuted on these points (which have to be taken as the final statement on these matters, as the main co-operating witness has moved away from the area) it was decided (with good reason) that the observation was caused by a superior mirage of a low elevation light source. Quite a few aspects of the observation were consistent with this theory, not the least being the warm temperature of the environment, and the possibility of sudden ground cooling, these being the two main attributes for the formation of a temperature inversion, an effect essential in the formation of mirages. Other aspects of the event that were consistent with mirages was the apparent change in size (object appeared close, then distant) and the reported "rising, hovering and diving" motion of the object. Even so, there may be some problems with this theory also.

- (i) If an inversion was in existence at the time of the observation, was it severe enough to cause such spectacular effects? There is some evidence that June 8th (the day before the observation) was also quite warm (temperature of around 23°C). As a number of warm days in succession is an important factor in the creation of such events, it adds a little more weight to the mirage theory.
- (ii) Was there any light source on at 21.15hrs? (a question only relevant if the object could only have been a mirage of a ground light, and this is far from the only option as I will show later). One observer (Mr B.W.) reported that he saw a 'flashing light' behind the trees when the event (according to him) ended. Could this have been the light responsible?

With all the above considered, it is pertinent to note a concept put forward by Stewart Campbell regarding mirages and astronomical bodies. He states that a star (even in daylight perhaps) could be affected by a superior mirage in such a way that the body would appear larger and brighter than normal (the mirage acting like a lens in this instance). Does this effect have any bearing on the Clapton event? One notes that it occurred 10 minutes before sunset, just when it was starting to go dusky. Could it be that low light levels such as this are conducive to this effect? It is also interesting to note that there is a star located (at the time and date of the observation) where the Clapton object was reportedly positioned: Altair low north east magnitude +0.8, colour white. As can be clearly seen, the star's colour differs greatly from that of the Clapton object (which was reported to be red/orange in hue.) Could this be due to the 'mirage lens' being poor in optical quality, and thus causing

false colours in objects affected by this phenomena, rather in the same way as an uncoated lens does when viewing through it (say) a star (I must add that this is my theory and not Steuart Campbell's, add it may well be incorrect!) It is also interesting to note that the Clapton object was reported to be "very bright." A subjective-based description or another piece of evidence in support of the (ground light or star) mirage theory? Thus, given the above concepts, it is possible to present another hypothesis for the cause of the Clapton event:

A star (either Altair or Antares) is affected by an inversion. This acts like a lens increasing the brightness and size (and possibly in the case of Altair, an alteration of its colour) of the stellar body. Due to the increased brightness, the star becomes visible, and appears, to the observers, as a bright luminous ball approaching them. The witnesses move towards it, causing an illusion of movement via parallax. Then the mirage effect starts to weaken, and the object affected either decreases in apparent size or brightness causing the object to appear further away than was first observed to be. The effect then weakens even more, either causing periods of enhanced and normal brightness (i.e. when the star appears brighter than normal, it is assumed to be above the trees, and when it appears at its normal brightness (thus becoming invisible due to contrast) it is assumed to have gone below tree height) or the star mirage becomes unstable and appears to "waver" or vertically "oscillate." The effect either ends a short time afterwards, or continues for some time, with the object affected appearing as a flashing light (the brightness of the star increasing and decreasing in intensity). The second observation is explicable as above (mirage-affected star appears to recede from observers due to change in apparent size or brightness. Object then appears to vanish behind trees due to (temporary) cessation of the effect).

CONCLUSION

It is felt that the Clapton event was caused by the following phenomena (in order of probability):

1. STAR (Altair or Antares) plus SUPERIOR MIRAGE
2. Man-made light source plus SUPERIOR MIRAGE
3. STAR under normal or semi-normal conditions.

Given the findings of this article (i.e. that there is a good chance that the Clapton event was caused by an astronomical mirage. It is felt that this theory should be taken into account when investigating possible UFO observations, especially when such events occur during periods of low daylight (i.e. around sunrise and sunset). Although, at the moment, this concept is only a theory (but a very strong, and probable, one) it seems likely that case studies of events akin in nature to Clapton will show that astronomical mirages have a great deal of relevance to the UFO phenomena.

The author would like to thank the following for their assistance in the investigation of this event: Mr Steuart Campbell, Mr Phillip Taylor, PROBE, Miss Jenny Randles, BUFORA.

THE AUTHOR

ROBERT MOORE is an independent ufologist based in the Highbridge, Somerset area. He feels that the vast majority of cases have prosaic explanations, but that some events appear to survive IFO screening. He feels that the remainder may be explained by plasma and psychological effects. The possibility of craft-type UFOs should not, however, be dismissed entirely. The Clapton event is his first major case study.

SOURCES: 82-030(IFO) THE CLAPTON EVENT. BUFDRA case archives.

(Continued from page 5)

January 27th, 1984	Second legally authorised Polish ufological organisation registered CRACOVIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY.
November 17th-18th, 1984	Second Polish Ufological Congress in Szczecin.
September 20th-22nd, 1985	Third Polish Ufological Congress in Lublin.
October 21st, 1985	Disbandment of Cracovian UFO Research Society.
October 29th, 1985	UFO Research Group is established.

Bronislaw Rzepecki - UFO Research Group,
PO Box 71, 30-529 Krakow-14, Poland

T R A I N I N G D A Y

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 1986
TIME: 1pm - 6pm
VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY
 AMBROSE ROOM, ST. PETERS HOUSE,
 PRECINCT CENTRE, OXFORD ROAD,
 MANCHESTER
THEME:
 ANAMNESTIS - A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF
 THE PARANORMAL

Please book with:

Val Hone,
6 Pondwood Rise,
Orminston, Kent.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LTD.

THE ELEVENTH Annual General Meeting of BUFORA LTD will be held at THE LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, REGENTS PARK, LONDON, NW1 in the LECTURE THEATRE at 6.30pm on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1986 to receive the President's Address, the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management for the year ended August 31st, 1986, the Accounts of the Treasurer and to elect the Members of the Council for the following year and appoint the Auditor according to the Articles of the Association.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management.



CHAIRMAN
September 21st, 1986

NOTE:

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST, not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting. Members wishing to nominate persons for election to the Council of Management, shall give to the Secretary such nominations in writing, signed by the person proposed, stating his or her willingness to be elected, not less than four, nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the time appointed for the Meeting in accordance with Section 52 of the Articles of Association.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DECEMBER 6th, 1986

A G E N D A

- (1) Notice Convening the Meeting.
- (2) Minutes of the TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- (3) President's Address
- (4) Chairman's Report
- (5) Treasurer's Report
- (6) Director of Research Report
- (7) Director of Investigations Report
- (8) Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, of the Report of the Auditor and of the Accounts for the year ended August 31st, 1986
- (9) Appointment of the Auditor and leave for Council to fix his remuneration.
- (10) Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Members of the Council are retiring by rotation:
ROBIN LEEDSLEY, JOHN S EMDEN and ARNOLD WEST
Who, being eligible offer themselves for re-election.
Under Section 37 of the Articles of Association, the following Council member is eligible for re-election LEONIE WILKINSON.

MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday, December 7th, 1985 at the London Business School,
Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 at 6.30pm.

00000000000000000000000000000000

The meeting opened with approximately 28 members present.

1. The Chairman, Mr ARNOLD WEST read the notice convening the meeting. Apologies were received from the Honorary Secretary, Miss DIANE ROLLISON, the Librarian, Mr ROBIN LINDSEY and the Director of Investigations, Miss JENNY RANGLES.
2. The Minutes of the previous ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on December 1st, 1984 were approved.
3. The Chairman reported that a new President had yet to be appointed. He was hoping to make contact shortly with a possible nominee who would be named in the new year.
4. Chairman's Report. Mr WEST said that this had been circulated and that he had only a few comments to add to it.

A conference was planned for August 23rd-25th, 1986. This would be a low budget event with a possible venue in London. Advice would be taken from a professional conference organiser on the arrangements. The financial risk to BUFORA would be minimal. 1986 would also see the computerisation of BUFORA's case histories, membership records and administration. The Association would be registered under the Data Protection Act.

He thanked all the current Council members for their hard work during the last year and emphasised the need for more voluntary Secretarial and Administrative helpers. He thanked Miss PAM KENNEDY who was retiring in March, 1986, for her work over the past seven years as Membership Secretary.

Mr WEST raised the question of rationalising BUFORA's publications, with the merger under a new title, of JTAP and the BULLETIN. This, it was hoped, would lead to a better publication, retaining the best of both magazines. Members raised no objection to this idea being pursued.

5. Treasurer's Report. This had been circulated. Mr WEST reported that he had acted as Honorary Treasurer since Mr PEARSON's resignation in August, 1985, and was prepared to continue in this role pro tem. The Association had reluctantly parted with Mr PEARSON and it wished him luck for the future.

The Association's finances were healthy, allowing subscription fees and admission charges for lectures to be held steady until August, 1986. The Association planned to produce a YEAR BOOK to coincide with the 1986 conference, the sales of which should serve to boost BUFORA funds for 1986-87. The current budget allowed for an investment of the Association's reserve for future eventualities.

6. Director of Research. The Director, MR STEPHEN GAMBLE, outlined the work which MIKE WOOTEN was currently putting into the computerisation of BUFORA's UFO case histories over the last 20 years. The results would be of great value to future researchers. Helping him in this work were: PAUL FULLER, MICHAEL LEWIS and BERNIE HUSBANDS. KEN PHILLIPS, BUFORA's Director of Training had been working with Professor ALEX KEUL of Salzburg University, on Anamnesis cases, and a small

funding from the research budget had been made available for this work. Reports on the Department's work had appeared in JTAP and the BULLETIN.

Mr GAMBLE expressed his disappointment that, despite his appeals, so far few volunteers had come forward to help the Department in its work. It was important that the membership be involved in the Association's work. He also urged all members to fill in the Home Computer Survey form (BULLETIN, November, 1985, page 33) even if it was a nil return. A new editor was also wanted for JTAP and more articles for that journal and the BULLETIN.

In reply to questions Mr Gamble outlined the method of indexing BUFORA files and commented on their accessibility. All the files were stored at Peterborough and researchers would have to travel there in order to consult them. There was no facility for their being removed for study or for having case histories photo-copied. This, for the foreseeable future, would remain the case.

In reply to a questioner who asked on what the 40 per cent increase in Research Department funds had been spent, Mr GAMBLE said that it had gone on computer software, stationary and re-furbishing files.

7. Director of Investigations. In Miss RANGLES absence, Mr GAMBLE outlined the main highlights of investigations during the last year.

8. ADOPTION of the Reports of the Council of Management, Report of the Auditor and of the Accounts for the Year ended August 31st, 1985.

Mr WEST said that the report had been circulated. Membership now stood at 289, this represented a loss of about 50 members over the year.

He wished to thank Mr JOHN BARRETT who had arranged the 1984-85 lecture programme and Mr BEN PHILLIPS who was organising that for 1985-86. His thanks also went to Mr CHRISTOPHER PEARSON for his work as Honorary Treasurer and to Miss MARY HORN for her hard work in mailing the Association's publications.

The Reports and Accounts were formally proposed by Mr WEST for acceptance, seconded by Mr JOHN SPENCER and formally adopted.

9. Appointment of the Auditor. It was formally proposed that Mr. N. O'BRIEN be reappointed as Auditor and that the Council be given leave to fix his remuneration. The resolution was carried unanimously.

10. Election of Directors to the Council of Management. It was proposed that the following officials being eligible for re-election under SECTION 52 of the Articles be re-elected.

Mr JOHN BARRETT Mr LIONEL BEER Mr STEPHEN GAMBLE

The resolution was carried unanimously.

There being a fourth vacancy it was proposed and seconded that Mr NORMAN OLIVER be elected to Council. This resolution was carried unanimously. The Chairman announced Mr OLIVER had agreed to accept the post of Membership Secretary from March, 1986.

11. There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR TWELVE MONTHS
ENDING AUGUST 31st, 1986

1. THIS report and the attached set of documents cover the period from September 1st, 1985 to August 31st, 1986.
2. The attached set of accounts show the state of the Company's affairs at August 31st, 1986. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for details.
3. The principal activities of the Company during the financial year have been to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) phenomena throughout the UK and to co-operate with others engaged on such work throughout the world.
4. The membership of the Company at August 31st, 1986 was 282 (289 at August 31st, 1985). The registered membership of the Company is 550.
5. PUBLIC MEETINGS. Nine lectures organised by KEN PHILLIPS were given between September, 1985 and June, 1986, at the London Business School, London, NW1. In July a special presentation MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES was given by PAUL FULLER, JENNY RANGLES and MIKE WOOTEN with guest speakers, at the same venue. Our gratitude is due to the speakers and organisers who sacrifice their Saturday evenings so that we may enjoy the Association's lecture programme. Thanks are also due to ROBIN LINDSEY who faithfully continues to record the proceedings at these meetings.
6. BUFORA PUBLICATIONS. Since December, 1985 there have been two issues of JTAP (March and September, 1986) and four of the BULLETIN (January, May, July and November, 1986). The BULLETINS have been edited by JOHN BARRETT and the JTAPs pro tem by STEPHEN GAMBLE. There have been some production problems during the year and apologies are made for the late delivery of the journals in some instances.

More new writers have been encouraged to contribute to the magazines and both editors are grateful to all those who have taken the time and trouble to prepare articles. It is hoped that 1987 will see even more BUFORA members lending their support to the Association in this way.

Work is also continuing with HILARY EVANS on the BUFORA book to be published in the summer of 1987 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting. This will be an international, and definitive, look at very many aspects of ufology and contributors are recognised experts in the field from both this country and abroad.

Because of increased career work and domestic responsibilities JOHN BARRETT will resign as the BULLETIN's editor at this AGM after almost five years in the post. Council is now looking for his replacement.

Council wishes to thank Miss MARY CORR who has the onerous job of mailing out the publications six times a year. It is most grateful to her for undertaking this vitally important work.

This year saw the publication of the first BUFORA Year Book - "UFO WORLD '86" compiled by JENNY RANGLES and of the timely MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES by PAUL FULLER, who examined the anomalous damage occurring in growing crops in some locations. Both publications sold extremely well. MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES will be reprinted shortly.

7. CONFERENCES Following the decision of the 1985 AGM Council is exploring locations and dates for the 1987 conference. Increasing competition for suitable accommodation has forced prices to un-economic levels. The search continues and a full report will be made to the AGM.

8. INVESTIGATIONS. The National Investigations Committee has continued to supervise BUFORA field investigations during the year. Its team has remained relatively stable. TONY MANN in South Wales was granted AI status. GEORGINA MILLS in Lancashire was also given a similar position - both based on submitted case reports. NIGEL MORTIMER, former RIC in West Yorkshire, returned after two years absence to take care of family matters. AI status was removed by BUFORA Council from STEUART CAMPBELL in Scotland, at the recommendation of the NIC. The principal reason was his failure to sign agreement to the Code of Practice adopted by BUFORA as standard for all field investigators.

The AI total stands at 21 with three probationary members awaiting approval.

During the year the NIC met three times in London, November, 1985 and March and May, 1986.

Principal activities of the committee during the year was the preparation and production of MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES - a 28 page summary of the evidence for the strange rings that have been turning up in fields throughout Southern England since 1980. The finalisation of plans for the UFO SENSITIVITY INDEX - a card that will enable investigators to produce an objective gauge of a witnesses sensitivity to UFOs and IFOs. This will ultimately be marketed to other groups around the world. Development of the new computer archives and the computer-based questionnaire that will eventually replace the RI form. A formalisation of photographic case investigation, via a new sub-committee under the chairmanship of BBC film editor and AI NIGEL SMITH; and, of course, the investigation of cases and evaluation thereof.

During the year (September to September) BUFORA received 259 press cuttings - about two-thirds of which did not relate to actual investigatable UFO reports. 51 case investigations were initiated by the NIC during the year (not counting reports made locally to AIs). About three quarters of these resulted in final case reports handed over to the BUFORA research department for evaluation.

1985-86 was a fairly average year with activity at about the level of 1984-85, still considerably below the peaks of the waves in 1977 or 1978.

This enabled the NIC to concentrate more on in-depth studies into individual cases. PHILIP TAYLOR produced an excellent report into a CE4 contact claim in Sussex. PAUL FULLER produced a detailed study of an Isle of Wight case that might well be an RPV (Remotely Piloted Vehicle). TONY MANN investigated in South Wales what seems to have been Britain's first advertising plane UFO. CLIVE POTTER and STEVEN BANKS evaluated a "landing with footprints" in Birmingham as probably caused by sewage. JENNY RANGLES produced a Pennines Hill time lapse encounter that is unexplained but might have been a local road surfacing machine! There were several other excellent case reports - too many to mention. As normal, most cases were identified. Only a small residue (under five) cases were not.

9. RESEARCH. The primary activity of the Research Department has been research in UFO and other Transient Aerial Phenomena. This has included both research projects and providing technical back-up to the investigations and other sections of BUFORA. Also liaison with similar research groups both in the UK and abroad has been maintained.

Throughout the period under consideration STEPHEN GAYNELL has been Director of Research.

There has been one meeting of the Research Committee and one combined meeting with the Investigation department. Research representatives have attended two further meetings of the Investigations department.

Two issues of JTAP have been produced during the year. These have carried advertisements for people to help with research. These have produced a small, but high quality response. Production of JTAP has relied heavily once more upon the efforts of JOHN BARRETT, Director of Publications.

MIKE WOOTTEN has continued work on computer indexing of case reports, assisted by MICHAEL LEWIS and BERNARD HUSBANDS. The report index has been included as part of BUFORA's application to register under the Data Protection Act.

PAUL FULLER, Research Projects Officer has conducted a survey of computer usage amongst members using a questionnaire published in the BUFORA Bulletin and JTAP. The results of this survey have been published in JTAP and will be used in deciding future computer policy.

MIKE WOOTTEN has generously donated a Sinclair Spectrum computer for the use of the section. From the research budget an interface and microdrive unit were purchased to add to this system. The system is in the care of PAUL FULLER who is using it for indexing work on the 1977 case reports and for elementary statistics.

Work has continued on refurbishing the paper case reports. This is being done by MIKE WOOTTEN and team as they code reports for the index.

Some preliminary work on a computerised bibliographical reference system has been carried out by STEPHEN GAMBLE. This is covered by BUFORA's application to register under the Data Protection Act.

NIGEL SMITH has taken over co-ordinating the photographic and traces group. There has been one meeting of this group during the year. Funds from the research budget have been used to purchase cine editing equipment which will be of great use in future study of movie film.

A short lecture on the role of the Research Department was presented at the March lecture meeting.

The section has continued to receive completed reports from the Investigations section. The case report archive is currently based at the Research Headquarters in Peterborough.

The following people have assisted in the work of the research department during the year: PAUL FULLER; MIKE WOOTTEN; MIKE BROWN; DENNIS AILEY; NIGEL SMITH; ROGER CHINERY; MICHAEL LEWIS; BERNARD HUSBANDS; BOB DIGBY; ROBIN LINDSEY and EWAN SCOTT.

The following points are also of interest:

Promotion: During the year the BUFORA pages were removed from PRESTEL as the company which we supplied information to, EASTEL, has withdrawn from this market.

Data Protection: During the year the Data Protection Act 1984 came into force. BUFORA has applied to register under the terms of this Act to cover its use of computers for administration and research purposes. STEPHEN GAMBLE was appointed as Data Protection Officer.

10. TRAINING a joint ASSAP/BUFORA training seminar took place at Tufnell Park during May, 1986. KEN PHILLIPS held a practical workshop, using actual witness/contactees, comparing the conventional investigation procedure with Anamnesis in these cases. Further training, covering a broader base is planned for 1986-87.

11. PROMOTION Sadly BUFORA's PRESTEL listing was discontinued from February 28th this year due to Eastern Counties Newspapers ending its contract as an information supplier to PRESTEL. Our thanks are due to the company for the free listing we have enjoyed for the past few years. An energetic advertising campaign is planned both to attract new members to the Association and to publicise our London lectures.

12. COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT There were three changes in the Council of Management during 1985-86. DIANE ROLLISON resigned from her position as Honorary Secretary in January, 1986 for personal and domestic reasons. This was closely followed by the resignation of NORMAN OLIVER (Membership Secretary designate) in April, 1986 for professional reasons. Our thanks go to both these members for their valued services during their time in office. We are fortunate to have secured the services of LESLIE SALLIS (elected June, 1986) to the post of Honorary Secretary. The following members constituted the COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT as at August 31st, 1986: JOHN BARRETT; LIONEL BEER; HILARY EVANS; STEPHEN GAMBLE; ROBIN LINDSEY; KEN PHILLIPS; Miss JENNY RANGLES; LESLIE SALLIS; JOHN SPENCER; ARNOLD WEST and MIKE WOOTTON. The following also served on Council during the period under review: NORMAN OLIVER and DIANE ROLLISON.

Council wishes to express its appreciation of the help and assistance given by JAMES DANBY, recently appointed Membership Secretary, to Miss PAM KENNEDY, MBE, now the Association's Information Officer and to Miss MARY CORR for her continuing labours in mailing department.

No member of Council received any remuneration during the year.

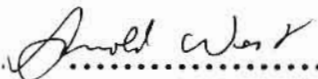
Under Section 37 of the Articles of Association, the following Council Member is eligible for re-election: LESLIE SALLIS.

Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Council members are retiring by rotation:

ROBIN LINDSEY JOHN SPENCER ARNOLD WEST

who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Signed - on behalf of the COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

..........CHAIRMAN
ARNOLD WEST

BUFORA LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1986.

31st August
1985

£	£		£	£
		INCOME:		
3265		Subscriptions	3251	
583		Donations	292	
152		Publications	162	
20		Advertisements	-	
8		Training	20	
-		Building Society Interest (net)	86	
----			----	
	4028			3811
		EXPENDITURE:		
1701		Publications	2311	
449		Stationery and administration	431	
281		Research and investigation	565	
610		Lecture costs	461	
(845)		Lecture income	(532)	(71)

20		Registration	20	
57		Audit fee	57	
27		Computer Project	-	
-		Training	23	
----			----	
	2300			3336
£ 1728		EXCESS OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR	£ 475	
=====			=====	

Note:

The Company is limited by guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each member would be limited to £1.

BUFORA LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1986

31st August
1985

£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
2400	Bank	243	
-	Deposit Account	3086	
60	Debtors	-	
----		----	
2460		3329	
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
102	Sundry creditors	77	
-	Subscriptions in advance	419	
----		----	
(102)		(496)	
----		----	
£ 2358		£ 2833	
=====		=====	
represented by:			
GENERAL FUND			
630	Balance brought forward	2358	
1728	Excess of Income	475	
----	for the year	----	
£ 2358		£ 2833	
=====		=====	

Approved by the Council of Managment:

A West  Chairman.

J L Spencer A.C.A. Director.



As acting Honorary Treasurer, I am happy to present the Balance Sheet and Statement of Account for the past 12 months. You will see that income is increasing steadily each year, and is now sufficient to allow proper budgeting of our resources, the hand-to-mouth days are over. This does not mean that we have indulged in a spending spree, let me give you a few examples:

Our two publications, UFO WORLD '86 and MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES cost about £200 to produce, both have now (September, 1986) made a small profit for BUFORA.

The Research Department has purchased optical equipment and computer peripherals for use by specialist Project Officers. The Association's reserve funds are now invested in an interest-earning Building Society account, and have already provided a worth-while income.

Donations peaked in 1985, but have since dropped to about £300, the average level of the past few years.

MEMBERS are the life blood of a voluntary organisation, we must spare no effort to increase the membership base on which all our other activities are built.

LET US MAKE 1987 A BUMPER YEAR FOR B U F O R A!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In this report I would like to mention two significant events in the life of BUFORA.

The Association has registered with the Data Protection Registrar as a DATA USER AND BUREAU, all membership records are now on data-base, enabling more efficient handling of membership matters in the future. This progress has been made possible by the generous offer of computer time and expertise by the newly appointed Membership Secretary.

Both the Investigations and Research Departments are making increased use of ADP, both in the compilation of UFO reports and the analysis of data for research purposes.


2. It has been resolved that the BUFORA YEARBOOK, UFO WORLD shall be published annually, this is a minor watershed, showing as it does, the increasing stability of the Association.

At present I can give no firm date or venue for the 1987 conference, it appears that a suitable London venue would be prohibitively expensive, so your Council are now considering several country locations.

The impending resignation of John Barrett leaves vacancies in the editorial field, all offers of assistance in this interesting and demanding task will be very welcome.

I am happy to welcome Les Gallis to Council, and James Danby to the post of Membership Secretary, and must express my appreciation of all the hard work they have already rendered the Association.

In closing I wish to thank all Members of Council and Officers of the Association for their loyal support and hard work during the past year. I look forward with confidence to what lies ahead.

.....CHAIRMAN

BUFORA LIMITED

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31st 1986

I have audited the financial statements as published in the official BUFORA Annual Report 1986. The audit was conducted in accordance with approved Auditing Standards having regard to the matters referred to in the following paragraph.

In common with many businesses of similar size and organisation the Company's system of control is dependent upon the close involvement of the Directors. Where independent confirmation of the completeness of the accounting records was not available we have accepted assurances from the Directors that all the company's transactions have been reflected in the records.

Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion, the financial statements which have been prepared under the historical cost convention give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at August 31st, 1986 and of its profit for the year then ended and comply with the Companies Act, 1985.

N. O'BRIEN, FCA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

PLEASE NOTE: These accounts are unaudited. Audited accounts will be presented at a General Meeting to be held in the New Year.

DONATIONS

COUNCIL thanks the following members of BUFORA for their donations to the Association between September 1st, 1985 and August 31st, 1986. Council wishes to apologise in advance to anyone whose name has inadvertently been omitted from this list.

C.F. Bailey
L.A. Ballard
D.J. Barnes
Miss J.A. Beech
Mrs K.W. Benson
J. Brown
M. Brown
S. Burnett
M.R. Collins
Miss M. Corr
J. Cooovi
Miss E. Demuth
M. Dillon
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G.M. Rowe
L.J. Sallis
G.W. Salway
C.E. Sherratt
T. Siberton
P. Wain
F.B. Wood
M.R. Wootten
K.C. Wright
A. Zahara



The late Dr. Allan J. Hynek seen here at the 1983 BUFORA Congress held at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Also pictured, from left to right, are Ali AbuTaha, one of the speakers, Robin Lindsey, BUFORA's librarian and the then Chairman, Bob Digby.

This article, BUFORA's tribute to the life and work of Dr. Allan J. Hynek, who died in April this year, originally appeared in the April, 1971 issue of SPACELINK and is reproduced by kind permission of its editor, Lionel Beer who interviewed Dr. Hynek on his visit to London in the spring of that year.

When he walked down the stairs of the Vaudeville Theatre in the Strand, he was shorter than I expected, but his noatee beard made him easily recognisable. Wearing a silver-grey, light-weight suit and a healthy tan, which made him appear younger than his 60 years, I found him friendly and willing to talk freely about himself and his views on ufology. He was born in Chicago of Czech parents and spoke Czech fluently at the age of seven. He claimed to be happily married and has five children. His wife apparently views

his interest in astronomy with the same reserve as his interest in UFOs.

How did it all start? Dr. Hynek was teaching astronomy at the Ohio State School in 1948, which is close to the Dayton, Ohio, Air Force base. The Air Force were looking for specialists in different fields and he was invited as an astronomer to look over 243 original reports in the possession of the Air Force, to see which could be tied up with astronomical phenomena, e.g. meteors etc. He did not complete his survey until 1949. His curiosity became aroused so he tried other methods of finding explanations for some of the cases (could they be balloons etc?) as only 30 cases could be explained in astronomical terms. At the end he was still left with about 20% of cases he could not find explanations for, which is similar to the Condon Report. He retained all this valuable material on microfilm.

After 1949 things on the UFO front were fairly quiet until he was pulled back in with the big flap of 1952, when he made regular monthly trips to Dayton to review cases as they came in. He also saw the Project Blue Book operation from the inside. As an example of the attitude of the Air Force following the closure of Blue Book (the files are housed at the USAF Air University, Alabama): "While the Blue Book records are unclassified, they are housed in a classified area and it takes 5-6 weeks to get clearance." At our second meeting he gave the delay as being 6-8 weeks, but in any case one can see that this would deter all but the most tenacious researchers. It may be remembered that Dr. James MacDonald visited Australia about three years ago on Navy funds, and Dr. Hynek visited the UK on Air Force funds in 1955 and 1963 to call at the British Air Ministry and look through their UFO files. Apparently he didn't have any constructive discussions with Ministry personnel, and he was casually given a file on the Father Gill (New Guinea) sightings since the Ministry staff didn't really seem to want it or know what to do with it. Wishing to qualify the next statement, he said "I have no tangible evidence that either the USAF or the Air Ministry (now the Ministry of Defence) take any real interest in UFOs."

His 1970 visit to the UK was made for the purpose of attending an international astronomical congress at Brighton last August as Dr. Hynek is the Director of the new Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center at Northwestern University, Illinois. At the conference, Dr. Hewish, Director of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Laboratory at Cambridge, said that if unusual radio signals were received from outer space, astronomers would keep quiet about it until it had all been sorted out. Pulsars were also discussed and Dr. Hynek confirmed that some lasted possibly millions of years and could well be used as navigation beacons by space travellers. Sightings made by astronomers Dr. Hynek had spoken to fell into the "Roman 1A" class on the Hynek classification which covers nocturnal lights and strange meteors, frequently reported in old scientific journals. Of discussing UFOs with other scientists he said, "The time is past for any of us serious UFO researchers to be on the defensive!" "Answer a question with a question." Then, when faced with a doubter he will 'stab' them by asking about a specific case. If they cannot answer, his reaction is, "Well come back when you know a bit more about the subject and I'll be pleased to discuss it with you."

Of practical research he said "I've gone to too damn many meetings which turn out to be nothing but 'coffee clutches.' We just sit there and talk about it but nobody does anything." At the end of August Flying Saucer Service Limited laid on a meeting and buffet supper at the Kensington Central Library, at some expense to the company so that ufologists could exchange views with Dr. Hynek with the least possible formality. Unfortunately he was inhibited from 'letting his hair down' by the large attendance and some of the quasi-scientific contributions from the floor. While the directors of F.S.R are to be commended for their reception, I can't help wondering if the Doctor would have regarded it as just another 'coffee clutch'? Anyway, Dr. Hynek emphasised the need for specialisation, "You can't have everyone doing everything. For example Ted Phillips (in the Mid-West of the USA) concentrates on burnt circle cases, so I send him anything I get on these." He went on to say that others could concentrate on stopped cars, or humanoid cases, and then write a technical report on this aspect, which could be reported in one of the better UFO journals. He made it plain that he was particularly disappointed with USA UFO magazines, which was due to the fact that editors have to cater to readers to some extent. He regretted that there were no UFO journals similar to specialist scientific journals which just published straight scientific papers and were not concerned about maintaining a popular readership.

We discussed computerising data and Dr. Hynek emphasised the need to establish the reliability of the sighting and the importance of assessing details prior to making a permanent record of the event. As to what use could be made of this data, he remarked that one could ascertain in what sequence the events of sightings occur. For example 'do car engines stop or seize up before or after the UFO was seen?' For those who might be dubious about the value of computerised data, Dr. Hynek pointed out that in studies of this sort one doesn't necessarily know what the "nth" question is going to be until some primary questions have been asked.

While in London he was seeking a title for his book which should by now be with the publishers, Cowles Publishing Company of New York. This will encompass his 21 years with the Air Force, material gleaned from AFRO of Tucson, California and the Condon Committee, on which he had some good friends, even though some were sacked. He was having drinks at Dr. Condon's house a few months before the Condon Report was published and noted Edward had a copy of the Stanway and Pace FLYING SAUCER REPORT, which he asked to borrow. He remarked that this serious publication had no influence on Dr. Edward Condon.

Asked about the future, he said that he would like to see a higher calibre of UFO investigator and stressed the need for training. In fact given time he would like to organise a body of trained investigators.

Lionel Beer

Last word: I found the good Doctor mildly assertive so must commend his patience in answering my questions. When last I saw him he was on his way to Kings Road, Chelsea, where the sights and sounds are much more immediate, and to the stranger, probably just as startling as an itinerant UFO.

THE WARLORD OF THE AIR (New English Library, London, pbk 1972) purports to be a manuscript written by Michael Moorcock's grandfather, who had the same name. It was allegedly produced in 1904, and is "A scientific romance in the tradition of Jules Verne" according to the book-jacket, even though it seems to owe more to the work of H.G. Wells. Moorcock's grandfather is given credit for this work although this is very doubtful to say the least!

Captain Oswald Bastable is the hero of the story, who whilst coming to terms with a small uprising in north east India is transported from The Temple of the Future Buddha on June 25th, 1902 to the same location 71 years into the future.

The world of his future is technologically different from anything he has known before. Great airships fly through the sky, trains run on monorails, and cars use steam motors. At first he believes that mankind has achieved all the dreams of the Utopians of the past. Everybody seems to have a high standard of living, no major wars have broken out since the Boer War in South Africa, and the Great Powers such as Britain, Russia, France, Italy, Germany along with Japan and America rule their own empires from the air.

However, not everything is as it seems. The Great Powers rule and prosper at the expense of their colonies, and this is revealed to Bastable when he becomes involved with a bunch of revolutionaries who wish to change the distribution of power in the world for the benefit of everyone.

In China, where General O.T. Shaw - the Warlord of the Air - has his base, the revolution against the Imperialist nations is begun. His base, Dawn City, is the refuge for scientists of all nations and with their aid heavier-than-air flying machines are invented and built. They are used to fight the huge military airships of their enemies.

The climax of the battle is when an airship, with Bastable at the controls, goes on a mission to Hiroshima. The success of their mission should give Dawn City a chance to have an equal battle against the Imperialists.

Indeed, they succeed in dropping a secret weapon from their ship, which destroys Hiroshima and sends Bastable back to his own time period. With or without them their revolution inspires the proletariat of other cities and nations to rise in anger against the injustices and prejudices they have endured. It looks as if the world will change.....

As might be expected this is a fast moving adventure story which is very easy to read. Woven into the plot are paradoxes and ambiguities which give an additional dimension to the story. For instance, Bastable is returned to a 1903 which is slightly different from how he remember it implying he has not only moved in time but also from one reality to another.

Moorcock has produced a work which examines the "what ifs" of the future through the eyes of an Edwardian writer using the conventions of the "scientific romance." As such it reveals how mistaken extrapolation of current trends can be when factors that are completely hidden and different from our expectations come into play.

If we apply this observation to views about the UFO enigma we can see how foolhardy it is to extrapolate from the evidence that we have that the UFOs are the result of a level of technological and scientific advancement which we ourselves expect to achieve sometime in the future.

Incidentally, it should be noted that Michael Moorcock has written another novel which features Bastable as the hero. This is called THE LORD OF THE LEVIATHAN (1974). Another sf novel which tackles the theme of

(Continued on inside back page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: T.W. Clark.
Member BUFORA, SIGAP

PETER DAY FILM

Sir - Reference the Peter Day film (BULLETIN January and May, 1986) I would like to add the following items regarding the F111 aircraft in general.

1. Quote. "A major and a captain were aboard. Both ejected safely using rocket boosters."
FACT The F111 has a crew escape capsule. The whole cockpit section breaks away in emergency - the crew remain in it. The composition of the crew (major and captain) is fairly normal.
2. Re the discussions on re-heat, exhaust fumes etc. Standard procedure for many aircraft with problems is to dump fuel before attempting a landing.
FACT On the F111, the fuel dumping vent is situated between the two jet exhaust nozzles. Standard procedures when dumping fuel is to ignite it, using after-burners, to avoid possible contamination on the ground. In 1981 I was told by an F111 pilot that this is what had actually happened - and that it had been filmed!

I am not aware of the actual reason why the F111 crashed, but I am sceptical about thit circling around "looking for a place to crash land." If a crash landing was necessary, it would have been done on a USAF base, if ejection was necessary, it would have been done over the sea (in 40 minutes the F111 could have reached the south or east coast easily).

From: T. Roy Dutton. Stockport, Cheshire.

AN INTERESTING READ

Sir - I found the May edition of the BULLETIN to be particularly interesting and stimulating.

Steuart Campbell's informative article dealing with the identification of brilliant stars, which are so often the cause of false UFO reports, is long-awaited and essential reading for all investigators in this field. During the course of 'in-the-field' investigations in the 1970s, I discovered for myself that casual observers of the skies can be easily misled by stars, especially when the illusion of rapid motion is created by fast-moving, broken, cloud.

Jenny Randle's account of her close encounter with Ian Ridpath was also of great interest; especially so, because I was sufficiently offended by the tone of Mr Ridpath's review of the Randle/Warrington "Science and the UFOs" to write to NEW SCIENTIST to register my disapproval. (Of course the letter was not published ...not even acknowledged!) But I must say that I find it curious that Jenny always takes great pains to distance herself from ETH exponents in all her doings, when the possible ET connection is of greatest interest to the general public ...and, I unashamedly admit, to me too. Whilst acknowledging the dangers of being identified with irrational "ET believers" and pulp-writer exploiters of the topic, personally I am of the view that the quest for truth should never exclude any evidence, however much-ridiculed by contemporary society that evidence might be.

When I began to research UFO happenings in 1967, I deliberately set out to investigate whether the occurrences of that year could possibly be indicative of intelligent surveillance by airborne observers, or were merely products of over-stimulated imagi-

nations and newspaper promotion techniques. (Incidentally, I was appropriately qualified to analyse the 50 selected vehicular reports of that year). If, at that time, I had found negatively, my interest in the UFO topic would almost certainly have vanished, but that was not to be. Instead, the results were so positive that I was to spend a great deal of time during the next 16 years trying to unravel the tangled web created by the activities of the will-o-the-wisps responsible for happenings. If, on the other hand, I had concluded that 'close encounters' were caused by a quirk of human psychology, such as illusions caused by some 'mundane stimulus' as yet unknown to science (to use Jenny Randles' words), I would have been glad to have left the subject to those better qualified to investigate it, and got on with the more practical task of furthering my career in industry. Undoubtedly, I would have left the psychology to people like Manfred Cassirer and the "earth-lights" and ball-lightning to budding physicists like Mark Steinhoff (whatever happened to Mark?)

All this brings me to comment on the contents of Manfred Cassirer's indignant response to Stuart Campbell's contribution in the March BULLETIN. It was somewhat amusing to note that Campbell was castigated for 'lumping everything together', yet in the final paragraph Mr Cassirer categorically rejected the ETH after having admitted to having no interest in the topic! How easy it is for us to become blinkered by our special interests. Surely, as in science, it is a matter of 'horses for courses'; psychology and psychic research are for Manfred Cassirer whilst ETH investigations are for people like me. We are colleagues, not opponents, and working towards a common goal.

My research enables me to endorse, wholeheartedly, the claim that there are powerful psycho-

logical and psychic elements in close-encounter incidents, but it seems that I am a lone voice asserting, unequivocally, that the CE events studied by me have been shown to be consistent with the behaviour of hypothetical spacecraft, operated by agencies not of this world. My guess is that human perceptions are being manipulated in order to 'scramble' the real evidence.

Perhaps the late Dr Hynek would have appreciated my findings. It was with great regret that I read his obituary in the May BULLETIN. I had hoped to meet him one day, but, alas, that cannot be.

May I also take this opportunity to offer my condolences to relatives and friends of Miss Betty Wood, whom I had the pleasure of meeting on several BUFORA occasions.

From Mark Ian Birdsall.
Co-ordinator of Research.
YUFOS, Leeds, Yorkshire.

PENNINE WINDOW

Sir -

I feel a need to reply to some of the quite remarkable statements made by Stuart Campbell in relation to UFOs witnessed in the Pennine areas of northern England.

It is our policy not to interfere in another organisation's matters, but, quite frankly, we support much of what Jenny Randles has stated in respect of the events taking place in this area. For Stuart Campbell to comment on these issues is like a polar bear talking with authority on the Sahara desert, he does not understand the situation, nor seemingly sees fit to ask for information on it.

There is a very real phenomena in North Yorkshire. I do not think it is ball lightning. We have hundreds of case files, many from police officers who have themselves come within 75ft of structured objects that defy explanation. Why Campbell negates this evidence is puzzling. Campbell is wrong, drastically

wrong when he states: "there was no good reason to write about the area in the first place." I would like to know how he knows that? From the evidence of your letters page it would appear to me that this gentleman is intent on having a go at everyone and everything. Can I suggest that he perhaps visits the area and listens to the locals.

We have never agreed totally with Jenny Randles regarding her thoughts on the UFO phenomenon and perhaps differ slightly with the majority of study groups who research the subject. But she is right Mr Campbell and you, my friend, are out of your depth by writing such nonsense. If you want to help British UFO research then may I suggest that you join the polar bear and take your typewriter with you?

From: Miss Jenny Randles.
Director of Investigations
BUFORA.

UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME

Sir -

I am grateful to James Danby for his comments on "the developing acrimony between Randles and Campbell." I should add that Stuart has a panache and style all of his own and I am by no means the only one he seeks vengeance on in print. I do tend to write a lot (too much I hear you say!) which leaves me open to more attacks than most. I also tend to reply to all and sundry as well. Which means that it looks like a war of the words.

Can I say, however, that whilst I disagree very often with what Stuart has to say, acrimony ("bitterness of feeling" - Collins Dictionary) is not a fair word to use. I enjoy the debates with Stuart. Battles to the truth in this fashion are more productive of good than everybody agreeing with everybody else. Often some very interesting points are raised for which I am right and proper that we have opposing viewpoints. I rather draw the line at personalised attacks which suggest (shall

we say) dubious motives for things that may well be innocently conceived. But other than that I am happy to debate UFOs with Stuart until the cows come home. I wish to put on record, unequivocally, that I do not have any grudges, malice or ill-feeling towards our Scottish cousin. I just think that he is misguided sometimes - and I say so. In return Stuart quite evidently feels the same way. There is not much wrong with that. At least there isn't in Warrington!

As to Mr Danby's other point - "the increasingly fantastic theories of Jenny Randles" - I can say little, as he does not qualify which theories he impugns or what he finds fantastic about them. I do not dispute much (if anything) of his third paragraph - where he discusses the reasons for his decision not to theorise. However, I must point out that if we all sat around waiting for the answer then we may well be here in issue 1021 of the BULLETIN no nearer to the truth (I just figured out that this will be published in the summer of 2236 - by which time it will probably be edited from the Starship Enterprise - or perhaps not!) Mr Danby is not wrong that there are no 'experts' and not enough data to decide for sure what is going on. But somebody has to try to make sense out of it and suggest answers that can be looked at by others. Then, perhaps, these ideas can be tested against new facts that come to light - and (possibly) we will edge a little closer to the truth.

That is my philosophy of UFO theorising. I may be right. I may be wrong. But it seems a perfectly valid approach to adopt. I have honed my theories (however fantastic) by a simple process of listening to what the evidence seems to be telling me. My ideas may well be a million miles from the truth. I am certainly humble enough to admit that. They just seem to make sense to me. Frankly, I will listen to any serious arguments against them which set up logical reasons for opposition. But vague comments that they are

fantastic are not counter-arguments. So whilst I listen to and respect Mr Danby's views I have no new data from them to input into my ideas.

One thing I do agree with Mr Danby on. I have got rather carried away of late inventing names. I was fun. I seemed to be doing it for a reason. But I think that he is quite right that it obscures truth rather than assists it. I think I started with the Oz Factor - something I do not apologise for. That concept is important to me. The Quasi-Conscious State was an attempt to explain the state of consciousness where I believe close encounters take place. If anyone has a "term which can be used in its correct and established sense" to describe this location on the spectrum of consciousness then I would be interested. I am hopeful that there is one then I can dispense with this 'invention.' But as yet I have not discovered it. I knew what I was trying to say in "BEYOND EXPLANATION?" (the book which shows name creativity more than any other). But I am sure it confused many others, because I was still trying to figure things out as I wrote it. I accept that I went too far - and I will try to hold back in future.

But this will not stop me theorising. Nor will it change the thrust of my general ideas. If there does not seem to be an appropriate term I may still have to invent one. I hope I can continue to do so from the lofty heights of the lunatic fringe!

From: Stuart Campbell.
Edinburgh, Scotland.

BALL LIGHTNINGS?

Sir -

In your report on the 1984-85 lecture programme (BULLETIN 18, page 22) you quoted Hilary Evans' reference to a 'UFO' report in PHYSICS

TODAY (apparently as objects which I would have to admit were 'UFOs') Hilary claimed that no one had yet been able to explain these objects.

The report was a letter from Dr. Maccabee in PHYSICS TODAY 29 (MARCH, 1976)p.90. It described the sighting of two bright luminous objects by three witnesses near Washington in July, 1975. The objects did not behave like balloons or aircraft, executed erratic movements and displayed faint dark rings about the central light.

Dr. Maccabee has now sent me his 'more complete report' on this incident. I find that, although he considered various explanations, these did not include either flares or ball lightning. The first may be ruled out by the peculiar behaviour and characteristics of the objects, but the second is certainly not ruled out. I have invited Dr. Maccabee to re-evaluate the case in the light of the strong possibility that the objects were ball lightnings (even though there was no local storm at the time).

With reference to my earlier letter, Mike Wootten has now sent me a print-out of all 24 cases and I have advised him of my re-evaluations. None of the cases remain 'unidentified' (or, as he calls them, 'UFO'), although there were two cases which I could not identify and which Mike will have to clarify. I have also sent the Director of Investigations a list of 40 cases which I have recently re-evaluated; again none remain either 'unidentified' or labelled as UFOs. Most were found to be stars.

ZIMBABWE SIGHTING

Sir -

In BULLETIN 21 Cynthia Hind described how the Zimbabwean air force attempted to chase a "bright flying object" at 17.45 LT on July 22nd, 1985. There are many indications that this object was astronomical.

1. It was seen more or less in the same place on several days.
2. It was seen over a very wide area.
3. It was seen to 'hover' for long periods.
4. The aircraft were unable to reach it and gave progressively greater estimates of its height.
5. It was described as 'star like in shape' and 'as bright as a star.'

At 15.45 UT on that day there was a bright star above the Zimbabwean horizon; Canopus, the second brightest star in the whole sky (magnitude -0.71), lay only 4° above the unobstructed horizon on an azimuth of 215° (SW). Two features of the report substantiate the conclusion that the mystery object was Canopus:

- (a) Canopus is a yellowish star. At low altitude, due to Rayleigh scattering, it must appear more red (like the Sun at sunset) and this accounts for the reports that it was orange in colour.
- (b) According to pilot Cordy-Hedge, the object appeared to be 15 miles (24km) SE of Bulawayo (as seen from Gweru). That position bears 225° from Gweru (according to Hind's map) only 10° from the azimuth of Canopus. The error must be due to the pilot's incorrect assessment of the object's apparent distance from Bulawayo.

We may conclude that the object disappeared because Canopus was setting. Some of the description indicate atmospheric distortion which may account for the brightness of the star at that time.

I'M NOT SIRIUS, BUT I AM
SERIOUS!

Sir -

I never claimed (as Jenny Randles apparently believes) that Allan Hendry discussed the Huffman or Rendlesham cases in his book THE UFO HANDBOOK. The UFOs discussed by Hendry were the astronomical objects to which I drew attention in my article "Astronomical UFOs." Trust Jenny to misunderstand!

Regarding the Huffman report I note Jenny's claim that 'the object and a fleet of noisy helicopters' created serious radiation sickness in the witnesses and gave out waves of heat. She does not know that any of that statement is true (but she believes it). Investigation failed to verify the presence of helicopters and none of the witnesses subsequently showed signs of radiation sickness. It is true that one witness has cancer, but she could have had that long before the incident. Since no medical surveys of the witnesses were taken before the incident we cannot say what changes there were, if any. 'Waves of heat' are more likely to be self-induced (due to panic). Jenny can reject my hypothesis for this report, but she should not present beliefs as facts.

I am quite willing to explain the astronomical hypothesis for the Huffman report (it has already been published in the USA). The time given by John Schuessler ("Blind Terror in Texas" THE UNEXPLAINED 9 (107) 2121-25) was 9pm, but since the witnesses reported seeing the Moon that cannot be correct. The Moon

did not rise until just after lam. Furthermore since the witnesses ran a restaurant it is unlikely that they were returning home so early. Until Schuessler (whose investigation so far is superficial) establishes the correct time I am entitled to speculate that it may have been near to midnight (they saw the Moon later). Just after midnight Canopus lay at only 7° altitude directly south (180°) in line with Highway FM 1485. I suggest also that a temperature inversion caused a mirage of Canopus so that it looked much larger, brighter and nearer. The colours reported by the witnesses, and the positions of those colours, are consistent with the spectral separation to be expected from a low altitude star.

I suggest that, not knowing the object was a star, the witnesses assumed that it was an alien spacecraft. Their subsequent reactions and condition were therefore self-induced, the result of hysteria. No independent evidence has been found to support their story (e.g. the roadway was undamaged).

If my position is 'absurd', as Jenny claims, how come that I make 'valid points' and that she accepts some of my identifications? Such generalisations are ridiculous. Jenny would condemn all my astronomical evaluations simply because she finds one unacceptable. If I have not thoroughly investigated the Levett report, then neither has Jenny. I suggested that the object was Sirius, but this was in the absence of any precise information about the incident. Now Jenny tells us that the object Levett saw was 'nowhere near bearing 133°' (how 'near' is that?) Then where was it? Jenny doesn't tell us! She ought to know that witnesses invariably exaggerate altitude (elevation) and report objects as 'overhead' when they were nearer the horizon. An adequate and critical report of this incident has not been published and until it is I am entitled to guess at the cause. It is unfair of UFO opponents to criticise UFO sceptics for

making cavalier identifications when the former relate UFO reports in a similar cavalier fashion (as reports of a 'UFO').

Jenny describes the incident in her article THE ULTIMATE ENCOUNTER? (THE UNKNOWN, May 1986 pp 10-11) and includes a photograph. Instead of flying over the witness from horizon to horizon the oval light now appears low on the horizon in the direction of Rendlesham, moving from left to right, hovering there silently before descending out of sight. Which account are we to accept? In fact the UNKNOWN account is consistent with the light being the combined headlights of a large aircraft making a landing approach to RAF Woodbridge. The runway is aligned about 260° and Rendlesham bears about 250° from Sudbourne.

Approaching aircraft often appear to hover. Since Sudbourne is six miles from Rendlesham it is not surprising that no sound was heard, in any case, the wind (if any) must have been from the east so carrying engine noise westwards away from Levett. I would like to know why Jenny has rejected this explanation?

I quite understand that it must irritate Jenny to find me explaining reports hither and thither as misperceptions of astronomical bodies and that she feels obliged to throw doubt on the efficacy of the astronomical hypothesis.

However, she goes too far in presenting my evaluations as 'full explanations'; she confuses the notion of a working hypothesis with that of a definite conclusion (perhaps no realising that in science there can be no definite conclusion). I don't know which report she refers to but it is quite in order to suggest that a UFO report (which must contain a description even if it contains no precise data) is due to sight of a star. We can disagree on whether or not the data are 'inadequate'. I fail to understand Jenny's penultimate and ultimate sentences.

From: Robert Moore,
East Hants Hill, Somerset

SOME THOUGHTS

Sir -
Stewart Campbell's "4444"

nomical UFOs" article is certainly one for the file. I am sure that his theory may well shoot down a lot of UFOs. However it seems to me that a theory that can explain nearly all UFO sightings may be one that goes too far. After all, what about the other 'oddballs' IFDs' such as plasmas, ball lightning, RPVs, special mental effects etc. A theory that does not allow for the above to manifest in ufology could well be built on dodgy ground. Even if Stuart is 100 per cent correct, I, for one, will continue to study the UFO phenomena, for, to my mind, it is amazing that stars, such as Canopus, can cause such high strangeness events as Cash-Landrum. I think that it is amazing that science should become involved in a study of these star effects, as it is a matter of major academic interest that such 'minor' celestial bodies can cause such chronic and concrete effects.

Stuart concludes his letter re the Day film case "....Jenny's continued scepticism (is not justified)" If Jenny never questioned SCUFURI's evaluation, Stuart would not have come up with his explanation, and the event would only be half explained. After all, how can you have a film of an F111 crashing 30 odd minutes before it did so? The film man's name was Day not Sirius! I feel that she was quite justified in doing so, but I would hardly classify the film as an 'Unknown'. Game set and match to Mr Campbell I think.

I do not, however, share his views regarding the SCUFURI case report computer system. With this in mind, it is somewhat ironic to note the name of the data base packaging system! The cosmic joker strikes again! I think, despite its minor limitations, that the system is vital to SCUFURI's future, and will certainly move it out of the 'case in the shoe box' age!

EDITOR RESIGNS

John Barrett, editor of the BULLETIN for nearly five years has, reluctantly, resigned from the post due to increasing work and domestic pressures.

Editing the Bulletin has been great fun, if very time-consuming, and it has made him some new friends and colleagues, and certainly increased his knowledge of UFOs and ufology.

Council is now looking for a replacement both as editor and on Council.

UFO SPOTTER'S GUIDE: Worldwide names, addresses of UFO clubs, groups, publications, book and photo suppliers and news clipping services. £3 incl. postage from UFOU, Flat 2, 1 Pelham Place, Seaford, SUSSEX.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES. Will the editors of all UFO magazines which are currently sent to John Barrett please arrange for these to be forwarded, from this month, to Arnold West at 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST

ANDY Roberts, E4 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 2QR is collecting, for possible publication at some time in the future, all information relating to FOO FIGHTERS

Can you help?
If so please write to Andy at the above address.

in even more detail is Brian Aldiss' *THE INTERPRETER* (NEL, London, 1972, orig. pub. 1960) which I can thoroughly recommend.

Moorcock's attitude to sf writing can be seen in this quote from the April, 1963 edition of *NEW WORLDS*. "Let us hope there will always be writers only capable of helping us escape from the ordinary world for a few hours - on the other hand there will always be writers who will want to do more than this who will want to appeal to all the reader's senses, to strip away as much illusion as possible, to show things as they really are and to do so masterfully, with passion and craftsmanship. This is the science fiction writer I am interested in - but as yet he hardly exists."

Send comments to Nigel Watson, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Road, Althorpe, South Humberside, DN17 3HZ.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

THE GUARDIAN July 18th, 1986

Ringing the changes

EVERY summer, as Fleet Street's corn stocks run low, little green eye-shades are directed at the West Country where giant rings of flattened crops have been appearing overnight for the past six years. For July is out Jenny Randles of the British UFO Research Association is usually blue in the face from explaining that they are not the landing marks of spacecraft.

Which is why Ms Randles, the association's national investigations director, has co-authored a report examining a host of circle theories ranging from hoaxes to the mating habits of hedgehogs and parallel universes. "The explanation she finds hardest to fault is almost as unorthodox as flying saucers -- for which, incidentally, she believes no convincing evidence exists, preferring to talk of "unidentified atmospheric phenomena."

The exasperating feature of the circles -- always slightly elliptical and 45-60ft across -- is that the crop is undamaged but laid flat in a clockwise, swirled pattern. Although hoaxes have been proved, she believes this rules out heaving a long chain around the axis of a pole -- a task rendered almost impossible by the crop's resistance.

A complicating factor was the appearance in 1983 of five-ring formations -- a large circle with four smaller circles ranged geometrically around. This, she calculates, would require a team of five people performing complicated manoeuvres in the dark without leaving tracks. When such a set was found near Alfriston, Sussex, in 1984 Denis Healey materialised from his home nearby to snuff them. "Healey's Comet", said a headline.

FRIDAY PEOPLE



Randles: Ruling out UFOs, leaning towards a new whirlwind

Having dismissed helicopter down-draught, chemical weapons tests, force fields and drug dropping zones, Ms Randles leans towards a theory promulgated by the meteorologist Dr Terence Meadon. His "fair-weather stationary whirlwind" is apparently a short-lived phenomenon (a minute or so), almost exclusive to southern England between May and August, and capable of several wind funnels.

But last month the wind advocates were thrown into a spin by the advent of huge concentric rings. "Dr Meadon is now talking about a completely new form of whirlwind," says Ms Randles, who confesses that the circles' evolving patterns are "very suspicious."

Last year an unusual greenish-white jelly-like substance was found in a central ring. The analytical verdict was "some kind of confectionery that had gone off". A Mars Bar? She insists not. "There's not the slightest evidence to explain the circles in terms of UFOs. It is wrong to try and explain one inexplicable phenomenon with another."

All this suggests a symbiotic relationship between the elements and Fleet Street. The British whirlwind spell coincides exactly with the silly season

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16 Southway, Burgess Hill,
Sussex RH15 9ST.

Investigations are being carried out on a very interesting, but unfortunately old case, that occurred in 1976 in Sturry (near Canterbury), Kent.

At about 2am on a warm July morning, Simon and his two friends were fishing. One of Simon's friend's attention was drawn to a very intense white light that appeared to be stationary. Assuming that it was just a very bright star nothing more was thought of it. Approximately five minutes later the light appeared to get brighter, as if it was getting closer to the three witnesses. All were now watching the light and debating its origins. By this time the object was beginning to show more shape and detail. At this point the object looked exactly like five fluorescent strip lights gliding silently through the sky.

The three were now getting very scared as they watched the object pass straight over them (at approximately 300ft, according to the witnesses). It appeared to be cone-shaped with five rows of individual lights underneath. According to Simon the lights were pure white with colours "that were indescribable." The object still remained silent.

After several more minutes, the object disappeared into the distance and was not seen again. Ten minutes after losing sight of the object, two Phantom jet fighters flew straight over the lads' heads, with afterburners on, on the same course as the object. Of course this could be just coincidence and as we do not have all the details on the case collated (and may never have them due to the age of the case making proper follow-up almost impossible) it would be unwise and unprofessional to speculate further.

This could prove to be a worthwhile investigation and it is a shame that it has only come to light recently. Hopefully there will be a more detailed report in the next Bulletin.

UFO Newsclopping Service

MIKE Wootten has started a newsclopping round-up featuring UFO cases both in this country and abroad. Copies of the round-up are available from Mike at 4 Ivy Road, Leyton, London E17 9HX, priced at 75p. Very good value for money, and lots of interesting reading.

LONDON MEETINGS: London Business School, Sussex Place, London NW1 at 6.30pm.

SATURDAY, November 1st.	"The Enfield Poltergeist" Lecture by Maurice Grossie.
SATURDAY, December 6th	AGM. "Buddhist Cosmology." Lecture by Ananda Sirisena. Editor, Sri Lankan UFO Register.
SATURDAY, January 3rd, 1987	Earthlights Update. Lecturer Paul Devereaux.
SATURDAY, February 7th.	To be Advised.
SATURDAY, March 7th	To be Advised.
SATURDAY, April 4th	"Lourdes". Lecture by Leslie Sallis
SATURDAY, May 2nd	"We are Definitely Not Alone. Cyclic Waves of UFOs." Lecture by Roy Dutton.
SATURDAY, June 6th	To be Advised.