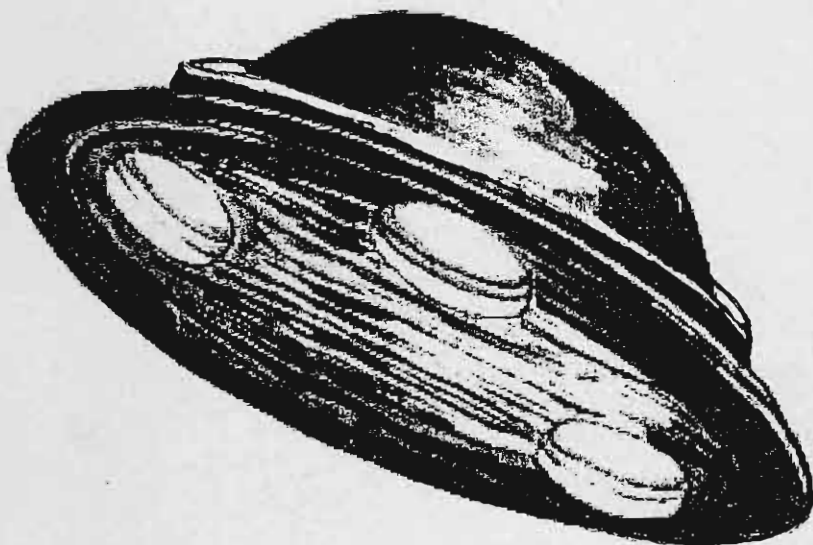


New BUFORA Journal

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A 1955 Close Encounter



Welcome to the December 2002 Edition - NBJ5

Also in this issue:

A 1955 Close Encounter?
The Rustavi Light Phenomenon
Is BUFORA Alive and Well?
Hourne Farm Weekend
A Welsh UFO Miscellany



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EDITORIAL



Season's Greetings!

First of all, may I wish our members the very best for a happy and rewarding 2003. Though 'Doom and Gloom' is prophesied from several sources for the coming year, particularly those predicting a 'near miss' from a variety of celestial bodies, my guess is that, come December 2003, there will still be a BUFORA editorial to wish you the Season's greetings!

I intend to continue presenting a variety of UFO events worldwide, both 'ancient' and 'modern' in future issues of our Journal, together with the occasional 'surprise' item – and, believe me, there are some very 'surprising' items around. Contributions are welcomed, whether of a 'nuts and bolts' nature or more esoterically orientated, provided they have some form of connection - however tenuous – with our subject. This, of course, includes personal experiences (names will not be used without permission) on the one hand and scientific papers on the other. This is YOUR Journal, so keep those letters coming also.

Finally I would like to thank Bob Digby for his assistance on the production side with New BUFORA Journals 1 to 3, and to welcome Robert Bull who will now be the mainstay of our production team. I'm sure you'll agree that he's done an excellent job with this issue and I look forward to working with him on many Journals in the future.

Have a great New Year Norman Oliver

Please send correspondence, articles, e-mails etc. for publication to the Editorial address:

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Seasonal Greetings to you all! While in a lifetime of questing I have ranged widely across the psychic, anomalous phenomena, scientific and spiritual realms – and now probably even more intensively – UFOs have always had a special place in that spectrum, since childhood, and reinforced during my RAF days by the sending up of night fighters to investigate radar sightings of UFOs at Leuchars on the east coast of Scotland in the mid 1950s.

Although a myriad of explanations for 'Unidentified Flying Objects' continue to be put forward, the mystery remains. That may be no

bad thing. It should not be seen as surprising and indeed is in some ways encouraging, at least countering those who argue, "Ufology is dead". I would certainly not have agreed to become chairman of BUFORA if I thought that that claim was true. Or more correctly that there was nothing anomalous about any UFO sighting. Sometimes all interest can be lost in a subject, at least except for a few so-called 'die-hards', when it in fact contains vital truths. This last characteristic looks still to be true of the UFO phenomenon whereas I doubt whether interest has died – the expression "Ufology is dead" looks rather to be an expression, for whatever reason, of wishful thinking.

What the "vital truths" are is another matter. I have long thought that "nuts and bolts" life is very likely to exist elsewhere and that it is the height of ignorance and arrogance, whether it is from a religious, scientific or other viewpoint, to claim otherwise. At the same time, many UFO and associated reports seem to have anomalous features that would appear to have other, maybe no less 'mind-blowing' explanations.

These would seem to require a broader approach, embracing the psychic and parapsychological and anomalous phenomena generally and the light such research may throw on the UFO phenomenon. Such an approach has been that adopted by BUFORA and SPI in their joint lectures, and while the two organisations will be running them separately in 2003, this wider approach is likely to be maintained. It accords with my own, including an important focus on dowsing (as senior editor of 'Dowsing Today' and a member of the BSD Council), which can be compared, at least in its remote or psychic form, with remote viewing. In this wider context, BUFORA and its members could make a vital contribution to what could be an exciting if hazardous future.

Any webmasters out there?

An important consideration for BUFORA, and comparable organisations, however, is resources. There is only so much that can be done when they are limited, bearing in mind that what an organisation can achieve is based primarily on the voluntary efforts of a relative handful of members. They need the support of members generally to succeed and in the general situation of BUFORA volunteers for particular positions whether as Council members or otherwise.

A case in point is the website. Unfortunately the professional webmaster whose voluntary services we managed to secure has had to stop because of work pressures and consequently not being able to do the BUFORA site justice. Council members are endeavouring to find a replacement, and as a backup I have just signed into an HTML and two Dreamweaver courses (which will in any case be helpful in other directions). If there are any members out there who could fulfil the role or contribute in any way, both BUFORA Secretary Michael Hudson and I would be glad to hear from you. My email address if any member wishes to contact me on this or other matters is peterdoye@lineone.net.

Peter Doye

In addition to Peter's request for a prospective webmaster, should any member with artistic leanings who might be able to provide an 'Artist's Impression' or two from descriptions given in accounts sent to me, I would appreciate it if they would get in touch at the Editorial Address shown on the Inside Front Cover.

Ed

MY 1955 CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Margaret Fry

This is an excerpt from Chapter 2 of a book by Margaret Fry that is still awaiting a publisher and I am pleased that she has given permission for the details of her 1955 experience to be published in our Journal. Having returned from living in India in 1947, she had then first lived in Lincolnshire – not my own part of Lincolnshire which is close to the rolling Wolds - but in the flat southern area which, having been accustomed to mountainous country, she detested, and shortly after moved to Bexleyheath in Kent, the setting for her first UFO encounter - this was her experience:

"On Sunday 17th. July 1955, there was a heat wave on: it had lasted a week and temperatures were well over 100F. On Saturday, the day before, my three little children had been playing all the day in the garden and by nightfall the eldest had a temperature. In the morning I went to the public phone box down the road to call our doctor. He was on holiday, but the relief doctor came. The young man who answered my call was a tall, thin Indian – Dr. Thurkarta. He examined my eldest and said we should go to the surgery immediately to get him medication as he had a high temperature and sunstroke.

"I arranged with my sister to watch the children, but she asked me to take one of them – Steve – with us, as 'he is far too naughty for me to manage'. The doctor agreed and we set off down Hythe Avenue, which is about a mile long. From the onset the car was spluttering and stopping. After a while we became aware of a heavy shadow over it.

"There was a brilliant blue sky – no cloud in sight. The sun was blazing to the left and there was nothing to account for the shadow over the car, but it persisted.....

We then turned right into Chessington Avenue and this 'shadow' turned at a right angle with

us. By now we definitely knew something was over the car, which then finally spluttered and stopped. I then said, 'Can we get out now?' Steve tried to get out as well, but the doctor prevented him, telling him to stay seated at the back. Once we were out of the car we both looked up and were horrified to see a dense, cloudy mass, though with a well-defined oval perimeter, just above our heads.

'What is it?', we both said, as we walked about the centre of the road looking up at this concentrated mass of grey cloud-like material only some 18ft above our heads. As we watched this strange, oval object spanning the road above us, it slowly seemed to solidify, as three ball-bearing-like 'wheels' came downwards from a now smooth underside. I thought, 'My God, it's going to land and squash us!'. (Why, then, did we not move outside its perimeter, I now wonder?). But the wheels then retracted and it then started to hum and spin like a top with a slight 'swooshing' sound. There was absolutely no down draught from it. Then it suddenly flipped up on its side, then righted back again and came down at the crossroads ahead of us. At this point we exclaimed, 'My God, it's one of those flying saucer things!'

"At midday in that year of 1955, road traffic on a Sunday was nil; there were very few cars parked in front of houses, but there were some children playing hopscotch on the pavement ahead. They were around 8 to 10 years of age. I yelled to them and they came and stood around the craft too. Bemused, I then realised this Object was not actually on the ground – perhaps it had moved up a bit again? But it was now 4 to 5 feet above ground and absolutely still. It seemed incredibly enormous to me, spanning as it did the whole width of the crossroads. It was a typical bell-shaped craft; the colour and texture were totally unlike anything we have. The surface seemed like pewter – dull, yet at times it shone as well: it could have been described as silver, grey, blue, metallic, yet not really quite any of these hues. In fact, literally it looked just out of this world! Instinctively we knew it was. We stood around it with our mouths open, aghast. My son Steve was still in the car with his little face

pressed to the window. The craft had indents or mouldings that I thought might be portholes around the centre: these were in a wide band that had a ledge on which a man could have stood. Above that a rounded dome, which had further, much slighter mouldings seeming to indicate a door. The lower circular half was in sections and had distinct seams, even what appeared to be rivets to my recollection, which is still vivid to the smallest detail today.

"Presently, the doctor exclaimed, 'I can't believe it: I know I'm looking at it, but I can't.' 'What the hell do you think we are looking at then?' I said. He was sure it was a secret American prototype craft. I replied that what sort of secret would come down in the middle of the day in a built-up suburb? Meanwhile the Object stayed absolutely still and silent for a good five long minutes which seemed like eternity.

"Then it tilted toward me, and in that position went up in a wobbling motion. At about 100ft. altitude a single porthole opened. In that moment I felt afraid for the first time: it suddenly penetrated that surely Beings from another world had been in it! At this it steadied and swished upwards and was away to about 30,000ft, which took about seven minutes – for some reason we timed it with our watches.

"Once the craft left, we got into the car still feeling dazed. All the time the doctor was saying that he did not believe in flying saucers. We did not even notice that the car was now going perfectly. Once the doctor had dropped me off at my house, Steve and I went in and told my sister and eldest son who was in bed about the flying saucer. My sister exclaimed, 'My goodness! But what did it do next?' Shaun said petulantly, 'For goodness sake, Mum, I'm feeling jolly ill and you're telling me all this rubbish.' Whereupon Steve wanted to fist him, insisting we had seen a flying saucer.

"When my parents came to visit me from Berkshire the following weekend, my father, who by then was a scientist at Aldermaston Atomic Establishment in Berkshire, informed me rather kindly that I had been mistaken – the object I had seen was only the Sun!

Patiently I said, 'Yes, of course we could see the Sun blazing away to the left of us, on the Bexleyheath Broadway side, but this thing had come down in front of us, when the sun was at our backs!' Mother promptly went out to purchase The Erith Observer and Kentish Times newspaper to see if anyone else had reported the Object. She returned in triumph, waving the newspaper before Dad, saying, 'Margaret is terribly factual, she never lies....' An Erith policeman and several people, it transpired, had also seen this craft fairly low to the ground just after it left us at midday, at Erith on the 17th. July 1955"

Postscript to Margaret's Encounter
Norman Oliver.

As well as her 1955 Encounter (details of which I recall referring to in a BUFORA Journal in the early 70s, but cannot now locate the issue), Margaret also sent me some extremely interesting very recent further information which appeared on the website of the *Bromley Newsshopper* dated 16.9.02. Titled 'Our 1950s X-files Experience'.

This related the experience of Rodney Maynard and his brother – two Bexley men originally from Erith, who saw a UFO land on King Harolds Way/Bedonwell Road in July 1955. (Having worked in the Woolwich/Erith/Bexleyheath areas myself for a number of years I can confirm that this is barely more than a quarter-of-a-mile from the scene of Margaret's own 1955 encounter). The two men reported that this landed UFO 'spilt over on the pavements and had eight massive suckers and there were white lights flashing like a camera.' The object was black with a surface like polished metal and it was stated that thirty youths stood around it. Some were named, these including Ron Deadman: Tony Savin: Vic Clarke and Tommy Staggs.

Margaret is currently trying to find out further details – particularly regarding exact date and time – from these witnesses, as when an investigator some ten years later, she found there had been almost innumerable reports of UFOs between July 11th and July 17th 1955 in

the areas of Bexley, Bexleyheath, Erith, Eltham and Meopham. She does not think that theirs was the same craft that she and Dr. Thakurta observed, but considers the experience may well have been associated with other local reports of craft during that period, particularly one that her neighbours on Hythe Avenue saw on the 14th or 15th. July 1955, when six such small craft emerged from a huge orange semi-circle to fly off in all directions. She further considers that one of these was an object that flew towards Bedonwell Junior School, where children and teachers saw it low to the playground and may well also have been the object encountered by Mr Maynard and his brother. Future developments are looked forward to with interest.

NB Please note that Margaret's account is her own copyright and may not be reproduced without her permission. Should any member themselves have further information regarding any occurrence during the period referred to I will be pleased to pass this on to Margaret if they will contact the editorial address

**Bromley Newsshopper, Newsquest Media Group, Gannett Company, Mega House,*

Crest View Drive, Petts Wood, BR5 1BT



A Report from Judith Jaafar

Date of Sighting: 3.10.02. 21:20 local time
Witnesses: A Georgian family of four, neighbours and other people in the town.
Contact: Zurab Kodalashvili, cameraman for BBC News, Moscow.
Subject: Russian video report.

BUFORA was contacted via our website by Zurab Kodalashvili, a long-time friend of the witness who videotaped the phenomenon. Zurab had contacted various Russian UFO groups and media outlets, but no interest was shown. Zurab was coming to London on business anyway (he has a flat in London), so decided to contact a British group.

The film was taken on a JVC X4 mini DV digital camcorder and lasts for around 10 minutes. The background dialogue amongst the family members is in Georgian and Zorab translated as we watched the segment.

The story actually begins the evening before, 2.10.02, when the 13-year-old son of the camera operator called to his family to come out and see the 'flying disc' which was visible in the sky outside their apartment block. He was admonished for lying and nobody went to check.

The next evening, the boy was outside on the balcony and called again. This time the father went to have a look and immediately went inside for his camcorder. The boy had seen one light the previous evening, but this time there were seven altogether, although only five have been captured at the same time on film.

The witness estimates the distance from him to be around one-and-a-half kilometres and the objects were low in the sky, apparently hovering over a nearby hill. The first frames (without zoom) of the film show five brightly lit objects, which appear to 'switch on' and 'switch off' in a random pattern, disappearing and then reappearing in different positions. When zoom is used, the normal distortions are apparent and are very reminiscent of the Bonsall, Derbyshire photos of last year, even down to the apparent concentric, circular shape of the objects, and the pink hue. Occasionally, the objects cross each other and definition is seen through the front object, suggesting that we are dealing with transparent light phenomena and not structured objects.



I asked about the possibility of there being flares of some kind and was told this was not the case. Zurab had been an officer in the Russian navy in the 80s and had done many nighttime exercises with flares, and this was not at all similar. He also added that during his military service on ships within the Arctic Circle, he and his comrades had seen many anomalous lights and craft, often pacing their ships. It became so common that people didn't bother reporting them any more.

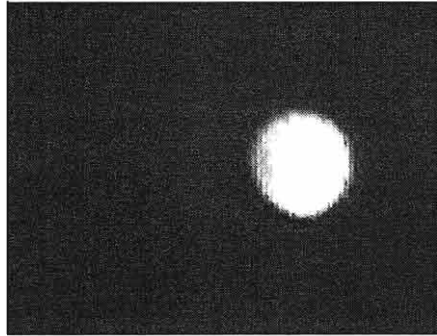
Interestingly, towards the end of the video segment, the sound of helicopter rotors becomes increasingly audible. The witness pans up into the sky to try and catch them, but is unable to find them, although they could be seen with the naked eye. They were displaying no lights and when they came within the vicinity of the anomalous objects, all the lights blinked out and did not return.

There is an American military base called Lalguchi a few kilometres to the southeast of Rustavi and it was from this direction that the helicopters came. But could they have been doing nighttime manoeuvres with flares?

All five spherical lights have dark spots at the centre and dark spots on the right hand side, in exactly the same position. The right side dark spots assume the uncanny appearance of an alien face with black eyes when viewed under zoom, and it's this I'm sure which has sent the witness on a quest for media involvement.

At one point in the film, you can just barely see an area of light on the ground below one of the objects. Naked-eye testimony says that a car had just passed by and this light then appeared briefly on the ground, but with no intervening beam, suggesting a reflection. But if the lights were several kilometres distant, how could a ground reflection after a passing car be seen? Witness evaluation of distance is notoriously inaccurate.

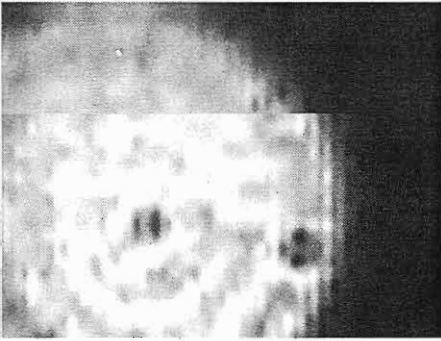
The Republic of Georgia is a seismologically active zone, with the last significant earthquake being around 12 years ago. Could we be dealing with a geo-physical quake lights phenomenon?



Sadly, I could not take possession of the video footage, as the photographer, who is poor and lives on about \$20 a month wishes to try and sell his footage to a TV company or the press. Zurab is attempting to do as much during his visit to London. He has promised the original footage to me for scientific research, after he has approached all the press and media outlets. But if the photographer is so poor, how come he has a digital camcorder?

I emailed the stills to Matthew Williams for comment and this is what he had to say:

"Classic out of focus camera. There are reticulation interference patterns from the focus problem present which gives it away. Also there are repeated lens effects present also."



Editor's note: In a case some years ago I contacted the British Geological Survey team at Edinburgh. They then informed me that 'Earthquake Lights' would not be evident unless the quake was of a magnitude of 5.5 or higher on the Richter scale – one that would be fairly massive.

IS BUFORA ALIVE AND WELL AFTER 40 YEARS?

Since the AGM for 2002 had been postponed twice, this was becoming a cause for concern. Bob Digby explained to Council colleagues that publication delays were not entirely his fault. It seems there have been technical problems relating to the BUFORA mailing list. Also he had taken on a lot of work behind the scenes relating both to publications and administration. Now that BUFORA has a new chairman - Peter Doye - problems are starting to be resolved. In fact Peter has considerable knowledge and experience of paranormal subjects, and is well known, for example amongst crop circle researchers.

The Annual General Meeting held at the Sols Arms, Hampstead Road, London, NW1 on Saturday, 5th. October was quorate with about a dozen members present. Notably Geoffrey Falla, author of BUFORA's Vehicle Interference Report, had flown over from Guernsey on Flyby to be present. Rob Bull,

our Cambridge Area Investigator, was present, and I mention him as he has volunteered to help Norman Oliver with Journal Production.

If you have perused the AGM papers included as part of the SUMMER NEWSLETTER, you will have noted an encouraging Chairman's Report from Peter Doye. It is a useful update and position statement. He comments that 'recent best advice' has led to Council to favour retaining company status. Bob Digby at the AGM amplified this and he also explained the history behind BUFORA becoming a 'company limited by guarantee' in 1975. The intention was to become a scientific charity. The Charity Commission rejected this, and ASSAP learnt from BUFORA's experience, going for 'educational' status. However, it now seems that while there are financial benefits, ASSAP executives have admitted that ASSAP had not benefited greatly from charitable status.

The proposal to reduce the quorum for Council meetings from six to four was carried without dissent. This should streamline the decision-making process and eliminate some of the problems of recent years. I objected to the decision to reduce the quorum at an AGM to seven people, since I had proposed a reduction to ten last year. In fact Bob Digby offered to withdraw the proposal, but the Chairman called for a vote anyway and my objection was lost.

My feeling is that if a quorum is too small, then proposals can be pushed through, perhaps aided by proxy votes, that are not in BUFORA's best interests. Due to changes in the law relating to small companies, it should be possible to simplify the constitution and plans are in hand to effect this. Modernisation will take into account the use of e-mail, which was not available in 1975. Members will be asked to vote on this at either an EGM or AGM.

As from this year's AGM, the following are members of the BUFORA Council:

Peter Doye (chairman)
Judith Ja'afar (vice-chair)
Michael Hudson (secretary):
John Wickham (treasurer)
John Spencer (research)
Heather Dixon (investigations)

All posts are unpaid. This leaves some vacancies.

Vice-President, Norman Oliver, is an *ex-officio* member of Council and has agreed to continue editing the New BUFORA Journal.

The Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe continues as President and his presidential address was circulated with the AGM papers.

There is a proposal to hold a national conference in 2003 and Newcastle-upon-Tyne is a suggested location. Our intention to hold one in 2002 ran out of time unfortunately.

40 Years

At the close of AGM business the Chairman invited me to say a few words. I was able to explain that in the mid-seventies, the then Chairman, Roger Stanway, was keen to take the BUFORA brand of ufology more scientific, so that we could gain the respect and co-operation of the scientific community. As part of this image-building process, there was a plan to make the Newchapel (amateur astronomical) Observatory our official address. This was partly the reason for seeking 'scientific' status.

Back in 1962, Nigel Stephenson was keen to form a federation of UFO societies. When the go-ahead had been agreed, I said to him, "You organise the platform (speakers) and I will organise the floor (main administration)." Our inaugural meeting, held in Kensington Central

Library, was packed to the doors and was a great success. Most of the original founders have gone to the great-saucer-in-the-sky. However, I am still in touch with film director, Lawrence Moore, who lives in Fulham. He was one of our early editors and filmed a BUFORA sky-watch for BBC television.

In the past decade our high point was the Sheffield Conference promoted by Philip Mantle, when the controversial alien autopsy film was screened. In recent years a number of administrative problems have been experienced. The new chairman and current council confirm that BUFORA has now turned the corner. But judge for yourselves from the reports issued with the AGM papers.

Lionel Beer, Vice-President

FROM HERE AND THERE

Presented by the Editor

Thai 'Balls of Fire'

Maybe I should re-visit Thailand next October! I left there in 1996 after a stay of some three years in the town of Udomthani, less than thirty miles from Nong Khai, the area here referred to and which I've visited on a number of occasions. I have to admit, though, not previously hearing of this phenomenon referred to in *The Bangkok Post* of 22nd October 2002.

The Bangkok Post is one of several excellent English language papers available in Thailand and their article tells us that thousands of people have been going to Nong Khai to witness the 'Bang Fai Phaya Nark' – the rising of the King of Naga in a fireball from the Mekong River. It seems that fireballs rise from the river most years on and around the night of the Full Moon in October. These fireballs are coloured red, pink and orange, and scientists speculate that they may be caused

by flammable natural gas drawn to the surface by the Moon's gravitational pull.

Judging from the names of the 'best viewing points' given – which included Sri Chiang Mai (not to be confused with the popular tourist city of Chiang Mai in the north-west), Pak Khad, Rattana Wapi and Bung Kan, the phenomenon would appear only to extend along the river for some 10 to 15 miles either side of the town of Nong-Khai itself (the 'capital' of the province of the same name.) Along this stretch of the river Mekong, the river forms the boundary between Thailand and the neighbouring country of Laos.

Close encounters of the crop-eating kind!

So ran the headline to a feature in *The Guardian* of 12th. August 2002 by reporter Helena Smith.

According to the article, it seems that, following a visit by a 'flying saucer', a farmer in the Koziakas region of Greece claimed to have lost dozens of hectares of wheat.

The article quoted Athanassios Tsioukas from Prini village as saying, 'this huge, flying object just floated down from the skies onto my field – its surface was full of small holes.' The farmer immediately told friends, but when they got back to the field the craft had gone. 'Their machines had left all these holes in the soil, some as deep as 20cm. which had cut into my crops', the farmer said.

Another farmer – Apostolos Patramanis - was a witness to first seeing 'bright flashes', then, 'this huge object' landing on Tsioukas' crops. Many in the area want compensation for the loss of their crops, but there is an obvious problem as to who to claim it from!

It seems that a number of farmers have reported UFOs leaving these types of markings in their fields, but there is no resemblance to the various crop circle designs, which have proliferated over England and elsewhere in recent years.

Tonbridge Photo

I first read of this in the *Daily Mail* of 15th. October 2002, but it has subsequently been widely reported. The main feature is that the object in the photo very much resembles two of the better-known UFO photos from the past – the McMinnville photo of 1950 and that from Rouen in 1964, both of which were disc-shaped with a 'tower' on top.

Later analysed, and reported on in *UFO MAGAZINE* by Graham Birdsall, the results were inconclusive though under one light filter there were seen two 'barely discernible' thin lines leading in the direction of the 'tower'.

The object was said to have first been seen by a man and his son from their back garden and the photo was sent originally to the *Kent and Sussex Courier*, but a false name was given on a covering note, and, at the time of writing the witnesses have not been identified. Graham Birdsall commented that 'If the Tonbridge photo were a hoax, it would be incredibly elaborate. The fact it was sent in anonymously doesn't mean it was a hoax as some people are scared of the publicity'.

I have to say that a subsequent video competition arranged by the *Richard and Judy Show* on Channel 4 inviting submissions for the 'best hoax videos', whilst producing much entertaining and well-shot footage from various entrants, did not really do a great deal for the credibility of any future photos/videos from UFO witnesses which may have considerable claims to authenticity!

Iceland invents energy – from water machine.

So ran the headline on the *BBC News World Edition* website on 23rd. October 2002. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/2352853.stm>)

An Icelandic team has invented a radical device, which can produce electricity from water known as the 'Thermator', which works by 'thermo-electric effect'.

The Thermator works solely on hot water, and Iceland has geo-thermal energy in abundance.

Professor Thorstein Sigfusson, of the University of Iceland, the site tells us, says that it works by transferring the difference between the temperature of hot and cold water into energy, explaining that, 'In between the hot and the cold side are crystals made of semi-conductors.' 'As the heat is transferred through these crystals, part of it is converted from heat energy into electric energy'

The professor said there was potential for using all sorts of excess heat to fuel Thermators, and added, 'In car engines, for example, only a fraction of the heat produced is turned into propelling energy'.

Crop Circles - Space-Weapon development involvement?

Jacques Vallee has come up with a fresh approach to the 'crop circle' mystery. Whilst agreeing that more than a few – even some of the most complicated – are the work of hoaxers, he has other ideas as to how many of the remainder may have been produced. As he says, 'drawing a spider or bicycle in a wheatfield is one thing – the Mandelbrot set of fractal geometry is quite another'.

Vallee puts forward questions raised by several UFO investigation teams – questions such as:

- 'Is there a change in the nature of the formations over time?'
- 'What is it, exactly, that happens to the vegetation inside the affected areas?'
- 'Is there anything special about the location of the phenomenon?'

To try to answer them, vegetation samples were sent to a number of laboratories for examination. The results and answers, discussed at meetings of the Society for Scientific Exploration were as follows:

'Early formations were simple circles, then circles with satellites. In later years the more sophisticated geometric figures appeared.'

Vegetation is bent because nodes are exploded. Stalks are not broken and, indeed, plants will start growing again.'

'All significant formations were observed in an area in close proximity to major research facilities of the British Defence establishment, often in controlled airspace.'

Vallee concludes that these studies point to the crop formations as a result of sophisticated electronic war experiments conducted by defence contractors, telling us that the answer to question one provides the first clue. If you are trying to calibrate a beam, drawing a pattern on a wheat field can yield precise information within the diameter of one stalk over hundreds of feet – an ideal test situation.

The answer to the second question narrows down the type of energy that can be responsible, because the amount of heat radiation that needs to be coupled into one node of a stalk of wheat to vaporize the water is a known quantity, as laboratory tests in France and the USA soon established. The answer to question three points to the likely authors of the tests.

Vallee concludes from this that some sort of space-based weapon is being developed, though he is reluctant to assume this because of the cost involved.

Early Suffolk Sightings

Joseph Trainer's UFO ROUNDUP Vol.7 No.36 of 3rd. September 2002 (see website <http://ufoinfo.com/roundup/>) included interesting sightings documented by historian Robert Halliday, from East Anglia in 1783 – in particular a series of reports from the *Bury Post*, a weekly paper published in Bury St. Edmunds and covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

These were of 'meteor' sightings between 21st. August and 4th. September 1783 – though even at the time it was generally agreed that these did not correspond with 'conventional' meteors. One such sighting was reported from the neighbourhood of The White Horse Inn on the Newmarket Road. Another

was from Bury St. Edmunds when between 9pm and 10pm. a 'ball of light' was seen approaching Angel Hill, one of the main public squares. After some 30 seconds, this 'discharged' into smaller lights and broke into three glowing balls, all of equal size to the original. A minute or two later a rumbling noise was heard.

The *Bury Post's* representative in Thetford, Norfolk was standing on the town bridge at 9.15pm, when it shook under him, and a minute later he perceived an object in the northwest resembling the Moon. This appeared to rise from behind a cloud, and then it moved rapidly in a semi-circular trajectory to the southeast, where it disappeared. At first, it 'seemed like so many stars proceeding from a skyrocket, but much larger. Just before it descended, it appeared twenty yards in length and separated itself into particles resembling small cones about the size of a turkey's egg.'

Other sightings reported included a light seen at Ixworth, some ten miles or so to the northeast.

Argentinean Abduction

My good friend Antonio Huneeus, one of the regular speakers at the annual Eureka Springs Conferences, penned an article in the September 2002 issue of *FATE MAGAZINE*. As Antonio correctly points out, though more abduction reports emanate from the USA than any other country, the countries of South America, in particular Brazil, Argentina and Chile have 'some of the oldest and wildest'.

This particular case concerned an abduction experience he had come across on his first visit to Argentina in 1983, and Antonio relates the case, which is, he tells us, 'completely unknown in English language literature.'

It seems that, on the evening of 9th. August 1983, Julio Platner, aged 33, a farmer, was driving his station wagon to the town of Winifreda when, after seeing a bright light ahead, he next recalled being in a 'sort of operating room' with four shortish humanoids in attendance. Blood was extracted and his

next recollection was of being back in his vehicle, but some 19 kilometres from where he had first seen the bright light.

For the full account of this interesting case by Antonio Huneeus, readers are recommended to obtain that particular issue of *FATE. FATE'S* address is: PO BOX 460, LAKEVILLE, MN55044-0460, U.S.A. Web address: www.fatemaq.com.

'Scientific Teleportation'

An item by Peter O' Connor for *The Associated Press* of 12th August 2002 from Canberra, Australia, reported that Australian scientists said they had successfully 'teleported' a laser beam encoded with data, breaking it up and reconstructing it a yard away.

O'Connor states that their work replicates an experiment at the Californian Institute of Technology in 1988, but the Australian scientists consider their work to be more reliable and consistent. It was said that at this stage the process perfected by Australian physicist Ping Koy Lam and his 12-man team can only teleport light by destroying the light beam, and creating an exact copy at the receiving end from light particles known as photons.

Scientists at the Australian National University said their technique's main use would be as a way to encrypt information and for a new generation of super-fast computers. Though it was said that transporting a living being would be virtually impossible, Lam stated that, 'in theory there is nothing stopping us, but the complexity of the problem is so huge no-one is thinking about it at the moment.'

Lights over Cornwall

The *Western Morning News* of 3rd. August 2002 reported that strange lights seen the previous day by a number of people had prompted a 'flurry of calls' to a local radio station. *BBC Radio Cornwall* dealt with the enquiries after a woman in the southeastern part of the county rang the station to report seeing lights coming down in a field.

The station's Lawrence Reed said they had had a call from a woman from the Camelford area, saying said she had seen a UFO. A male caller suggested this might have been the orbiting International Space Station. This was dismissed as a possibility, however, since 'this only looks like a slow-moving light and takes three or four minutes to go right across the sky.'

EJUFOAS

The *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies* is one of the few, if not the only, UFO publication, in which one finds the contents to be papers presented solely in a scientific manner. Many well-known names are on its Editorial Board including, amongst others, Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, *Spain*, David Clarke Ph.D. *U.K.*, Dan Farcas Ph.D. *Romania*, Joaquim Fernandes MA, *Portugal* and Eduardo Russo, *Italy*. In Volume 3(2) September 2002, for example, one finds papers on Roswell: a FORUM debate paper on Supercivilisations and the Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis and a very detailed item on The Internet and Ufology, with extensive examination of Search Engines. For further information contact Craig Roberts B.Sc, *Truth, UFO Studies, Dept. of Psychology, Totton College, Water Lane, Totton, Southampton SO40 EZX. E-Mail: ejufuas@totton.ac.uk*

Washington D.C. Air Chase

A number of sources reported UFOs over Washington DC on the night of 26th July 2002. I first heard about it from my friend Richard Siefried in Eureka Springs, Arkansas who e-mailed 'I just heard on Fox News Channel that NORAD had confirmed they had scrambled fighters to intercept something unknown over the capitol near Andrews AFB last night. But they said nothing was found. Meanwhile many citizens called the media to report a ball of light moving in the sky. The colours blue and orange were reported – that was about all they had at the time

Other sources, including *The Washington Post* of 27th July 2002 later elaborated on the occurrence, confirming that two F.16 jets from

Andrews Air Force Base had been scrambled the previous day after radar had detected 'unknown aircraft' in their airspace, but military officials said they had no idea what was being chased as the object had disappeared.

Witnesses, however, reported having seen a jet fighter chasing an object, light blue in colour, whose speed was easily outstripping the chasing F.16. According to NORAD, officers and pilots with 113th Air Wing of the D.C. National Guard reported that nothing out of the ordinary had occurred and that it was a 'routine launch' from the base, which maintains armed jets on a 24-hour basis. According to *Fox News*, however, NORAD confirmed to them that two F.16s had, in fact, been scrambled following UFO reports of 'blue and orange lights', but nothing had been found.

Andrews Air Force Base is the one used by President Bush.

Watch out – Hercobulus is about!

Another 'We are about to be annihilated by a planet approaching Earth from the outer reaches of the Solar System' book arrived on my desk recently, sent on to me by our Hon. Sec. Michael Hudson.

Though a hardback, it consists of only some 52 pages, and is titled '*Hercobulus or Red Planet*', the author being V.M. Rabolu. Rabolu claims that Hercobulus (where the name comes from is not made clear) is five or six times larger than Jupiter - 'a gigantic mass which cannot be stopped or deflected'.

For a 52-page book, the content meanders somewhat, covering 'life on Mars', 'life on Venus', Astral Projection and nuclear tests amongst other areas, very little space being devoted as to the 'whys and wherefores' of the alleged planet's approach. The author is clearly sincere, however, stating on the back cover that '*What I affirm in this book is a prophecy that will be fulfilled very shortly...these events will not wait.*'

Certainly he is by no means alone in believing that before long we will be seeing the entry of

a hitherto unsuspected planetary body into the outer reaches of our Solar System, but none, to my knowledge, has alleged that such a hypothetical body will be of this enormous size. Were a 'rogue planet' many times the size of Jupiter to invade the space occupied by the inner planets of the Solar System it would certainly create mayhem. However, somehow, despite the author's firm beliefs, I don't think we need to worry too much about Hercolobus, though I would by no means dismiss the possibility of there being an, as yet unknown, undiscovered planetary member of the Solar System, possibly with an extremely eccentric orbit.

For further information contact C.Volkenborn Verlag, PO.BOX 143, Hampton TW12 2YZ. U.K. There is also a website: www.redgumbooks.com

'Oh yes I will'!

An email from UFO researcher Charles Huffer, following a question to President George Bush when he was electioneering recently in the Mid-West is stated to read as follows:

"Today, as this afternoon 4 November 2002, President George W.Bush attended a Republican Campaign Rally at the Northwest Regional Airport (XNA) in northwest Arkansas. After the rally was over, while on the way to Air Force One, President Bush shook hands with some of the people at the rally. My hand was one of those. I took the opportunity to remind President Bush that he had promised ME over two years ago that he would tell us the truth about UFOs. I then asked if he intended to keep that promise. He answered 'Yes'.

"Unfortunately, this time I did not have my recorder with me, so the report is no better than hearsay. But it did happen."

Book Project

As part of a book project, Don Johnson of CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) has set himself the goal of writing a daily column about UFO-related events occurring on that particular date, and in a recent e-mail quotes

'sample' encounters for 31st. October (Halloween). Amongst them were included:

'An 8m wide silver disc-shaped UFO that struck a tree then fell into the Peropava River in Brazil, stirring up much mud in the process.'

(Piece for a Jigsaw, p.130, Leonard Cramp)

'Eleven nocturnal light reports from eleven towns in England in 1967.'

'A blue beam enveloping a car near Boyup Brook, Western Australia, this coming from a mushroom-shaped UFO about thirty feet in diameter, resulting in failure of the car's engine and headlights.'

(APRO Bulletin, March 1968)

'Two UFOs, one shaped like a combination of a cylinder and a disc, the other with lights on one side and an indentation on the other being seen by Woody Polston from Yellowstone National Park in 1976 after he'd made several attempts to attract UFOs by means of a flashing light – and later finding that his watch was running ten hours slow.'

(Thomas E.Bullard, UFO Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery, Vol.2)

"Near Gaither Mountain, southwest of Harrison, Arkansas on Halloween in 1992, a report from a pick-up driver who saw a short 'Grey' alien with a large head and two huge black eyes standing near a house some fifteen feet away. The witness stated that he lost track of the next thirty minutes, but when he could recall what had happened next, he claimed that a small object lodged in his nose came loose and fell out.

(Albert S.Rosales, Humanoid Contact Data Base, case 0272. (UFONS Jan.1993)

Certainly an extremely interesting and worthwhile project, and we wish Don Johnson well in his efforts, which obviously will be extremely time-consuming.

In our last issue I referred to including a lengthy article on events in recent months in Argentina. This will now be postponed to the February Journal (Issue 6) pending confirmation of copyright in various areas.

Norman Oliver

A WEEKEND AT HOURNE FARM

Well, for me it very nearly wasn't. I'd started down there from Skegness on the Friday, but on experiencing almost horizontal sheets of rain and a gust of wind that deposited me by the roadside, after a few hours wait for assistance I had to return home. However, the Saturday was kinder and I made a very early start in the morning but I digress

The weekend in question was Saturday and Sunday last October 26th and 27th, and Alan Hilton, who organises this annual UFO/Psychic 'Workshop' had booked me as one of the Saturday's speakers, the others being Graham Sheppard, Marcus Allen, Alan Hilton himself and Max Burns. Fortunately, my 'stint' on the Saturday wasn't until around 4.30pm, which allowed me ample time to get down there after my 'Friday's fiasco'.

Hourne Farm is only about a mile from Crowborough in East Sussex – on the border with Kent and under ten miles from Tunbridge Wells. Some decades ago the farm was taken over by the Rev. and Mrs. Vin Rendell, who converted oast house, stables and other buildings into a pleasant weekend 'retreat' for members of a variety of different groups, from those practising Yoga and similar disciplines to UFOs via the more 'spiritually-minded'.

From the rear of the former stables – now accommodation blocks – there is a wonderful view of the Sussex countryside – seats provided, and indeed, it would also be a wonderful place for skywatching, excepting for one thing perhaps: namely that not too many

miles to the north there is a flight path for aircraft to and from Gatwick, some fifteen miles away in a direct line. The courtyard includes an extremely well executed mosaic of the signs of the zodiac – part of which may be seen in the accompanying photograph.



The food provided for visitors is vegetarian fare, but, having now been a visitor on some six occasions, one certainly cannot complain about the quality of what is on offer. The Farm is not intended to be a large Conference Centre, but is a venue of a more intimate character with a possible maximum attendance of, at most, fifty or sixty. The converted rooms (nearly all of which, incidentally, are named after philosophers or those of similar renown) will accommodate around thirty people in all and whilst not four-star are very warm and friendly. Attendance numbers are swollen by those attending on either or both days from the surrounding area – Brighton and other Sussex coast towns are readily accessible as indeed are most parts of south and southeast London.

As already mentioned I was unable to get down in time to hear the morning's speakers, but those present told me they had been impressed by Graham Sheppard's calm presentation of sightings and other incidents by pilots and aircrew. I first met Graham several years ago at the annual Eureka Springs Conference in Arkansas when he and Tim Good were two of the speakers and was pleased to have the opportunity of meeting him once again.

The morning's second speaker had been Marcus Allen, editor of *Nexus* magazine, speaking on the theme that 'The Moon Landings Didn't Happen'.

Whilst by no means convinced that they didn't, I have to admit that various photographic and other inconsistencies do give cause for some doubt, though this applies to some aspects of the sceptics' view of things also. Having slides of the Apollo missions myself, this was one talk at which I would have liked to have been present.

I reached Hourne Farm in the early afternoon and managed to be in time for much of Alan Hilton's own presentation. Alan himself lays claim to being an abductee on more than one occasion. Indeed, at the moment he has a cottage, which he has owned for some years on the market in the north of Scotland and tells me that the occasion of one such incident was in that area. The name of the area, believe it or not, is 'Bettyhill' – no, I didn't believe the coincidence myself at first, but it is so! Alan has a large selection of slides on the subject of 'The Greys' and many of these were shown during the presentation.

My own talk followed – I'd just had time to get my breath back properly after my 200+ mile drive, and had decided to speak this year about The Philadelphia Experiment and the Montauk Project. A full review here would take up far too much space and, indeed, I intend to have an 'in-depth' look at the two and how they may well be connected in a Journal issue during the coming year. The subject does, though, cover a remarkable range of subjects – from UFOs, Aliens and Invisibility to Time Travel and Mind Control via Life Regression. I was only pleased that, on the day, I managed to give a satisfactory 'encapsulation' of the claimed events.

Max Burns was the evening's speaker, and as his subject he spoke about 'The Sheffield Incident', which he had been investigating since 24th March 1997. This interested me more particularly as a number of areas in the Peak District with which I am familiar were involved. The occurrence itself revolves about

a probable RAF plane crash following what was may well have a 'UFO chase' with aircraft from RAF Coningsby, which is only around ten miles away in my adopted county of Lincolnshire being involved. However, in the process of his investigations, Max himself experienced claims and counter-claims from 'fellow researchers' who, to say the least, did not appear to be kindly disposed towards his researches and who, Max believes, were behind an attempt to put false information into the case. Many interesting slides and recordings accompanied the presentation.

The two talks on the Sunday morning, though not UFO-related were nevertheless interesting. These were provided by Dave Thomas, a Chiropractor, who gave a very informative presentation on the subject which now receives 'official' recognition, and Paul Tandy, giving a comparatively, but again extremely informative, 'down-to-earth' presentation on 'Psychic Healing'.

Altogether a very enjoyable weekend.

Norman Oliver

To be put on the list for details of future 'weekends', contact Alan Hilton, Forge Cottage, Perch Lane, Lamberhurst Quarter, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 8AU. Tel: 01892 890726. Fax: 01892 890756.



UFO INTERFERENCE EFFECTS – AIRCRAFT & MISSILE CASES

Geoff Falla

It is known that most reported UFO sightings can be explained. Not always with certainty, but at least with a possible explanation in many cases. Some of the reports may be caused by unfamiliarity with known objects, such as satellites or bright planets, whilst others may be due perhaps to unusual atmospheric phenomena. Some reported

sightings of UFOs are, however, much more difficult to explain in any conventional way. Examples of 'high-strangeness' UFO reports include radar-visual cases, when radar tracking of an unknown object is confirmed by visual observation: incidents leaving physical traces and reports of electro-magnetic effects – notably in the case of vehicles.

There are many cases in which sightings of unknown objects or, in some cases, more tenuous unidentified phenomena, are reported to be accompanied by strange physical effects. Some of the most puzzling of these cases include reported effects on vehicles, involving a temporary malfunction or failure in the normal operation of a vehicle's engine, lights or radio equipment whilst an unknown object is seen nearby. Other physical effects on vehicles are also reported, with effects being experienced by the witnesses themselves in some incidents of this kind. Such reports involving vehicles now amount to many hundreds of cases on a worldwide basis and over a period of more than fifty years these reports provide evidence of a largely consistent pattern of effects and appear to be of particular significance justifying further investigation.

Vehicle interference effects usually involve conventional vehicles, but a more surprising and significant finding is that about ten per cent of the cases are reports involving aircraft. These reports include effects on navigation and communication equipment, coinciding with the sighting of an unknown object, with a loss of engine power or other effects noted in some cases. The objects seen are sometimes in apparent close proximity to the aircraft when the interference effects are experienced, these effects continuing as in the case of other vehicle incidents until the object moves away. The reliability and accurate reporting of details is no doubt strengthened in these cases by the professional nature and observational experience of the aircrew eyewitnesses in reporting what appears to be an unexplained phenomenon affecting the operation of the aircraft.

The following summary of such incidents involving aircraft – and missile systems in a few cases - will help to illustrate this type of event, identifying in many cases the characteristics of the unknown objects and phenomena reported. It should also be noted that there are a large number of other reported sightings from aircraft, sometimes also confirmed by radar, but where no effects were reported to have been experienced during the incident. Much seems to depend on the proximity of the event...

Sample UFO effect reports – from aircraft and missile effect cases.

-12/44 02.30 Bass Strait, Australia

A Beaufort bomber was flying over the strait at an altitude of 4,500 feet and at a speed of about 235 mph, when a dark shadow appeared alongside. It was at a distance of about 100 to 150 feet and kept pace with the aircraft. There appeared to be a flickering light and flame coming from the rear of the object. It stayed with the aircraft for about twenty minutes, and during this time all radio and direction finding instruments failed to function. The object finally accelerated away at about three times the speed of the bomber. On landing, the pilot reported the incident to his superior at the air base but was not taken seriously.

(The Australian UFO Researcher No.60, pp 11-12.) (Above Top Secret p.156)

24/3/55 14.30 Ryukyu Islands, between Japan and Formosa

The pilot and passenger in a Beechcraft private aircraft spotted a strange object, described as hat-shaped with three window-like apertures in the top section. The object appeared to change colour from white to orange and back again. During the next few minutes the object flew over, in front of, and under the aircraft. The pilot put the aircraft into a dive and turn, but the object stayed with the plane. During this time, instruments aboard the aircraft ceased to function and the engine began to falter. The pilot radioed for

assistance, but by the time two jets from the Kadena Air Force Base arrived on the scene, the object had disappeared.

(UFOs The Whole Story, p.65)

-18/57 20.55 Santa Catarina, Brazil

The pilot and four crew of a Varig C47 cargo airliner observed a luminous object, which crossed ahead of the plane while it was flying at an altitude of 6,300 feet between Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro. The object stopped for a moment, and then dived into the cloudbank below. The crew agreed with the pilot's description that the object was shaped like a disc, with a dome, which glowed with an intense green light. The lower part of the object was flattened and gave off a less intense yellowish glow. The crew also verified that when the object crossed to the right side of the aircraft the engines began missing, while the cabin lights dimmed and almost went out. When the object dived into the clouds, everything returned to normal.

(UFOs The Whole Story, p.147)

-18/61 Riga, Latvia

A test flight of a new jet fighter was about to take place at Riga Airport with over a hundred Soviet military officials present. Weather conditions were fine, with good visibility. A strange sound was heard and a triangular, violet-coloured object appeared suddenly in the sky. The jet pilot found that he was unable to start the engine of his aircraft, although it had worked perfectly the previous day. The object was filmed as it travelled in a strange fashion, sometimes disappearing. Something was also seen which appeared to be moving around inside it. After a few minutes the object dimmed suddenly and gradually became invisible. The pilot thought that the UFO had been responsible for the strange behaviour of equipment aboard his aircraft, and for the engine failure. All those present made written statements about what had been observed, but were warned not to discuss the incident. The airfield commander took possession of the film and it was reported that the KGB later took it away. The film was not shown to the

public until 1996, when it was confirmed that the object had been classified as an unknown phenomenon of extraterrestrial origin

(FSR Vol.46, No.1, pp19-20)

19/6/66 21.45 Nha Trang, Vietnam.

At a large camp near a US Air Force base, a bright light was seen coming from the north, varying from a slow to a very fast speed. Jet fighter pilots at the site estimated the height to be about 25,000 feet before the round-shaped light dropped towards the ground and then stopped at a height of 300 to 500 feet. It lit up the ground like daylight before it went straight up again, disappearing from sight in a few seconds. The generators stopped during the incident, and at the air base the generators also stopped. All the vehicles in the area were immobilized with failure of engines and lights. Two aircraft on the runway were unable to take off, and a Shell tanker anchored offshore also experienced a complete power failure at the same time. All power and equipment worked normally again about four minutes after the object had left the area. A check showed that all of the independently operated diesel powered electric generators were in good order, with no faults and no further malfunctions. It was reported that an aircraft carrying officials from Washington arrived to investigate the incident.

(Situation Red – The UFO Siege, pp 205-206)

16/3/67 Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, USA.

Strange lights were reported moving around in the sky near one of the underground missile installations, then an oval, glowing, red object was seen by security guards. The object was hovering near the front entrance gate of the site. The missile launch officer alerted the commander of the installation, and at the same time it was found that the missiles were going down one after another to an unlaunchable condition. Out of a total of ten missiles, between six and eight were affected within minutes of the object reported to be hovering nearby. In a separate incident on the same morning, all ten missiles at an adjacent

site were affected when UFOs were reported over the launch facility.

(FSR Vol.46, No.3, p7. *UFO Magazine*, July 2001, p.12)

18/10/73 23.10. Mansfield, Ohio, U.S.A.)

Captain Lawrence Coyne and the crew of a helicopter flying at an altitude of 2,500 feet observed a red light, which appeared to approach on a collision course. Evasive action was taken and the helicopter dropped to 1,500 feet. The approaching object seemed to stop momentarily about 500 feet overhead, then banked to one side. The object was cigar-shaped, with a red light on its leading edge. A green light emitted from the rear filled the helicopter cabin with a green glow. The pilot glanced at the altimeter and noticed that the helicopter had risen to 3,800 feet. None of the crew had felt the gravitational effect normally experienced when a helicopter rises. A bounce was then felt and the object was seen to move off to the northeast, disappearing in seconds. Efforts were made to radio Mansfield Airport without success, the communications blackout lasting for about ten minutes.

(*The UFO Enigma*, pp. 298-372)

18/9/76 Tehran, Iran

Officials at Mehrabad Airport control tower saw an unidentified object and two Phantom jets of the Iranian Air Force were sent up to investigate. The pilots described a round object, but as the aircraft approached it, the object increased speed to many times the speed of sound, and then turned to chase the jets for a short time. It was reported that when the pilots tried to open fire on the object, the electronically operated firing devices failed to respond. Electronics and radio communications failed within a five-kilometre radius of the object. One of the pilots reported that he had seen a bright object detach from the main body of the object and fall into the hills below. The report, supported by other eyewitness accounts resulted in an all-night police search of the area.

(*APRO Bulletin*, Vol.25, No.3, p.1. *Beyond Top Secret*, pp.283-290)

18/6/82 21.57. Heilongjiang Province, China

Five Chinese Air Force pilots were on patrol over the north frontier area when the fighters' electrical power systems malfunctioned, causing failure of communications and navigation systems. The pilots observed an unidentified yellowish-green flying object, which grew larger, picking up speed, and black spots were noted in the interior of the phenomenon. One pilot described the object as spinning and generating rings of light as it moved towards him. The aircraft were forced to return to base as a result of the equipment failures. Many other unexplained sightings were also reported from the area at around the same time that day

(*Beyond Top Secret*, pp.217-218)

4/10/83 16.00. Ukraine, USSR

A retired colonel in the Russian Air Force related an incident when he had been summoned from Moscow to an intercontinental missile base, where on the previous day a UFO had been seen stationary near the base for a period of four hours. The object had affected the firing mechanisms of the missiles, changing them to a ready to fire status. The colonel revealed that he was one of the officials who received UFO reports on the instructions of the Soviet Ministry of Defence. There were 40 cases of Soviet pilots encountering UFOs and ordered to follow the objects, until several aircraft had crashed whilst in pursuit. The Soviet Government had also called for an exchange of information with the West on the subject of UFOs, to avoid a nuclear war being triggered by accident.

(*FSR Vol.43*, No.2, p.18.)

8/6/91 Asuncion, Paraguay

Air traffic control at Asuncion Airport detected an unknown radar track and an object was seen hovering over a runway. An unidentified object was reported from a Paraguayan Airways flight leaving Asuncion, and from a

Cessna aircraft with three passengers. The Cessna pilot reported that his instruments malfunctioned during close approaches with the object, the automatic direction finder moving around without any sense of direction. As the unidentified light moved further away, everything returned to normal. This happened several times, with the object appearing to be under intelligent control.

(*UFO Briefing Document*, p.145)

16/4/98 Lake Inarijärvi, Finland

The pilot of a jet fighter on border patrol observed five disc-shaped, glowing, orange objects flying in a northeasterly direction. He reported the situation to his air base at Rovaniemi and was ordered to intercept the objects. The pilot pursued the objects, which veered sharply to the northwest before travelling to the west, then back towards the east over Lake Inarijärvi. He was then given permission to open fire as the objects began to break formation, but the aircraft's targeting computer went off line, and the head up display disappeared. The cannon and missiles system could not be operated as a malfunction was indicated. The objects regrouped and made away at speed. The pilot returned to the air base, and later testing could find no fault in the aircraft's computer system.

(*UFO Magazine* May/June 1999, p.14)

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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UFO RESEARCH IN NEW ZEALAND

The 12th. October 2002 marked the 50th. Anniversary of UFO Research in New Zealand.

On the evening of the 12th October 1952, a group of people interested in the then recent Flying Saucer/UFO events overseas met and formed a research group to be named 'Civilian Saucer Investigations (New Zealand) – or CSI (NZ) for short. RNZAF Sergeant Harold Fulton was elected its President and was to remain its driving force throughout the group's operation.

Initially the group was a 'closed group' and organised a network of correspondents and 'Honorary Observers': it opened public subscription the following year. Within a few months its membership increased to 150 and eventually to 500 subscribers. It published a Quarterly Newsletter called 'Flying Saucers' (later called 'Spaceprobe') and held meetings in Auckland City. Several branches were formed around New Zealand where local members were concentrated; correspondence with overseas groups was established and newsletter/magazines were also exchanged.

Meanwhile, in 1953, California-based George Adamski and co-writer Desmond Leslie produced the sensational book '*Flying Saucers Have Landed*'. This was later serialised in magazines, and in 1954 the Adamski Correspondence Group was formed in Timaru by Fred Dickeson, tapes made by

Adamski being played at meetings. Adamski's accounts told of 'in person' meetings with 'space-entity' Orthon and others.

Later, an additional Adamski Correspondence Group was formed in Henderson, Auckland by Henk Hinfelaar - a former committee member of CSI (NZ) - and agreement reached that each group run regionally (i.e. North Island Group and South Island Group). Many locally based Adamski Correspondence Groups were formed in many towns with 'Group Leaders' being co-ordinators with the Central Organisation. These groups proved popular and soon competed with Harold Fulton's CSI (NZ) for membership. Harold Fulton initially tolerated the Adamski approach but became more critical as time went on. The 1959 New Zealand Tour by George Adamski proved popular and Harold began to challenge this approach openly. Co-operation between Harold Fulton and the Adamski groups ceased. CSI (NZ) was placed into recess for two years in December 1959, prior to his posting overseas to Singapore. No one else at CSI (NZ) seemed prepared to carry on the organisation.

Following the Adamski New Zealand Tour (January/February 1959), the Adamski Correspondence Groups changed their name to 'New Zealand Scientific Space Research' (NZSSR). By this time, both North Island Group and South Island Group were publishing their own independent newsletters.

In 1961, the South Island Group (under Fred Dickeson) broke away from the Adamski Philosophy, suggesting the Adamski photos were faked. They changed their group name to 'SATCU' - Scientific Approach to Cosmic Understanding - and later 'Xenolog', which was to continue publication until December 1980.

The North Island Group (under Henk Hinfelaar) continued their own publication under the title 'Spaceview' until the early 1970s with some later issues being published by Vic Harris.

Meanwhile, following his 2-year posting to Singapore, Harold Fulton was posted to

Ohakea Air Force Base (near Palmerston North in the lower North Island). Being away from a major city and potential Support Base, he chose not to re-start Civilian Research Investigations (New Zealand). He continued UFO research independently (while raising a young family) and during the 1960s (at various times) was New Zealand Consultant to the American based 'Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation' (APRO) and the 'National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena' (NICAP). In 1973, Harold joined the newly formed (American based) 'Mutual UFO Network' (MUFON) and was immediately appointed MUFON's Director for New Zealand, a position he held until his unfortunate death in 1986.

Fortunately, most of Harold Fulton's records still survive. These were graciously passed on to Murray Bott of Auckland (who has since been appointed New Zealand Director for MUFON). These records form the central core of a now-larger archive of UFO-related material to which Murray continues to add any newly received material.

The Tauranga Group

This enduring group was formed in the late 1950s as an 'Adamski Correspondence Group' and in later years was renamed the 'Tauranga UFO Investigation Group'. Its driving force, since its founding, has been Harvey Cooke, actively supported by others over the years. It has had a varied number of members since its inception, once being as few as five members. Over the years they have held a more independent and flexible approach to the subject than some other groups. They have never published their own newsletters. They held three highly successful conferences/symposiums during the 1970s. Whilst not the first group started in New Zealand, they still hold monthly meetings and remain New Zealand's longest continually running group, an enduring record amongst the world's UFO organisations.

Significant historical events include the 1959 'Close Encounter' case reported by Mrs. Eileen Moreland near Blenheim, and the 1978

Radar/Visual case filmed near Kaikoura (by a television crew). Other events include the three successful UFO Symposiums in 1972, 1975 and 1978 (by the Tauranga group) and the UFO Wave centred on the Waimata Valley near Gisborne (late 1977/early 1978). There was also the 1978 speaking tour by Swiss-based author Erich von Daniken and the 7th. World Conference of the Ancient Astronauts Society, held in Auckland in 1980. (Featured speakers included former NASA engineer Joseph Blumrich and Erich von Daniken.)

Over the years there have been quite a number of UFO groups and individuals who have entered and ultimately left the field. Their activities and/or philosophical background have been quite varied. Some produced newsletters, some not. As the passage of time moves on, the passing-on of pioneering UFO researchers including Harold Fulton, Fred Dickeson and Henk Hinfelaar is much regretted.

Currently there are still UFO groups and independent UFO researchers in existence in New Zealand with some informal contact between them. All would appreciate hearing of any current UFO reports from around New Zealand.

Apart from the research groups and individuals, efforts are also being made to preserve all the historical Worldwide UFO-related material and locally with an emphasis on New Zealand based material. Auckland-based Murray Bott is running one such project. His archives comprise books: UFO magazines and newsletters from New Zealand and overseas; UFO reports primarily from New Zealand, plus additional material (including UFO case files, photographs, audio and video recordings, UFO book manuscripts newspaper cuttings and scrapbooks etc.)

This archive also contains the administration records of Civilian Saucer Investigations (New Zealand) and Harold Fulton (commencing 1952). Additional material was received from New Zealand Scientific Space Research (Auckland) and the Auckland UFO Research Association as well as others. Murray would

certainly welcome receipt of any similar material for inclusion into these archives.

Wellington based UFO research Peter Hassall would also like to establish a similar UFO-related archive. He is also a keen recipient of both current and historical UFO material for research purposes. Both Murray and Peter operate an exchange of any duplicate copies.

For those interested in current contacts the following are listed:

Mutual UFO Network (NZ) and the New Zealand UFO Archives Project

Murray Bott, P.O.Box 27117, Mt. Roskill, Auckland, NZ
Phone (09) 6345285 (evenings after 7pm)

E-mail: murrayvb@win.co.nz

Unusual Data Investigation Service

Peter Hassall, P.O.Box 27432, Marion St., Wellington, NZ

E-mail: rowlf@paradise.net.nz

Tauranga UFO Investigation Group

Harvey Cooke, 44, Townhead Crescent, Cambridge Heights, Tauranga, NZ

E-mail: cookie.bear@zip.co.nz

Phone (07) 577-6011

Interestingly, I shall be including an account of the 1978 Kaikoura events here referred to in the next Journal. Full details of these, together with photos, were kindly supplied to me at the time by one of the New Zealand Groups. Ed.



A WELSH UFO MISCELLANY
- Part Three

This final instalment brings us to the end of the 20th. Century. The reports herein are, of course, a mere fraction of the total: nevertheless, I consider they are a representative fraction. I would like to acknowledge considerable assistance in this

last instalment from Margaret Fry, co-founder of the Wales Federation of Independent Ufologists, whose investigations in North Wales over the years have been considerable, to say the least.

20th. January. Snowdonia

A family and friends from Cym Penmachno were invited to an outing. On returning late at night through the very narrow, winding Forestry Commission Snowdonia Plantation – where there are absolutely no houses or habitation at all and everything is dark and silent, they became aware of a 'purring' sound and stopped their cars. At this, they saw, gliding over, almost touching the tree tops, a silent saucer shape. As it glided in front of them it stopped across the narrow lane. It had 'the most beautiful cobalt blue lights' all round a lower rim, which diffused downwards the same coloured beams. It was a pretty sight and no one felt afraid. After several minutes it glided away over the tops of the trees, dipped down into the valley ahead and apparently landed at a spot where they all knew was a clearing.

Next morning they all returned to the area but could find no evidence of a landing.

21st. January. 9pm

Two long-distance lorry drivers were in their truck one hour's motoring time from their home base Maenwrog, the other side of Bala. As they were driving towards a pub for a bite to eat and drink, they saw an enormous 'black cigar' coming towards them with lights down one side. A few miles further down the road they saw it going away from them. They were silent, because they had seen the object coming towards them and then going away, but nothing in between.

Reaching Maenwrog Village and going to the hotel, they were puzzled because everything was shut up for the night and they banged on the doors. They then realised it was 1am. It should have been 10pm. They went over the incident but could remember nothing more.

1st - 3rd September. Llanerchymedd, Anglesey

Llanerchymedd is a small rural township on the B5111 and B5112 roads, surrounded by undulating farmland. The Maes Athen estate, the scene of most reports, had only been completed a few years before.

Friday, 1st September.

Between 17.30 and 18.00 hours Mrs Helen Roberts and Mrs. Glynwin Hughes were taking their dogs for a walk on the town's outskirts when they noticed the entire sky seemed to be coloured red. The area was quieter than usual and the atmosphere very heavy. They then noticed a 'strange looking cloud' which they described as being roughly circular in shape, black at the bottom and white at the top. It was the only 'cloud' in the sky and had a 'very peculiar appearance'. They watched the object for some thirty minutes as it drifted away out of view.

Friday, 1st September.

At 20.00 hours Mrs. Betty Owen was told by a neighbour to come outside and look at a strange object. On going outside, Mrs. Owen saw what appeared to be a 'silver ball'. She watched the object, which was at an elevation of 25 degrees to the northeast, for five minutes or more, then went back into her home.

Friday, 1st September.

At 20.00 hours Elian Williams, aged 12, was playing with several friends in a field leading onto the rear of their estate when he noticed a strange light in the sky. This was circular and was emitting the bright light from its surface area. As the object descended, the light first intensified slightly, growing in apparent size, then returned to its original size and magnitude. The witness became apprehensive and made for home. Cattle in the next field seemed very disturbed.

Friday, 1st September.

The main witness was David Mark Hesketh, and though aged 12, was an excellent, consistent witness. He and some friends were

playing football on the estate when they saw a strange light descending onto fields behind. David's first thought was that it might be a helicopter descending. He ran to a gate leading onto the fields, all the time keeping the object in view. It was still descending very slowly. Described as 'bullet-shaped', it was a bright white except for a glowing red band around its perimeter. A series of red lights running across the breadth of the object was also noted. It neared ground level and David noticed two protrusions – one on each side of the craft.

David felt apprehensive and turned to discuss with his friends what to do. When he looked back again, the object was almost at ground level but, surprisingly, appeared to be a different shape. It was now seen as two circles of light, the inner a dull red and surrounded by a brilliant white outer circle. The perimeter of this outer circle emitted a red glow.

The object now dropped behind trees around a half-mile distant, and, whilst the trees blocked the view, branches were seen to be shaking violently. No noise could be heard from the object, but cattle and horses in the surrounding fields seemed extremely disturbed and several ran from one field to another.

Strange Figures.

It was now 20.21 hours. David had decided to go home when, to his right, he saw two strange figures walking across the field he was in. Both were '6ft+ tall' and dressed in what appeared to be one-piece suits. They were 100+ yards away, walking in a parallel path to David, one behind the other.

Darkness was now closing in and only the torso and arms of the first figure could be seen due to the worsening visibility. The central part of this first figure was grey except for a black band running vertically down the back and a bright red band running horizontally above the waist. Both arms were black but no hands, head or legs could be seen. The second figure was viewed sideways on from the knees upward. Again, head and hands could not be seen. This figure was dressed in a one-piece

garment coloured grey all over except for a fuzzy white band running horizontally across the side, just above the waist.

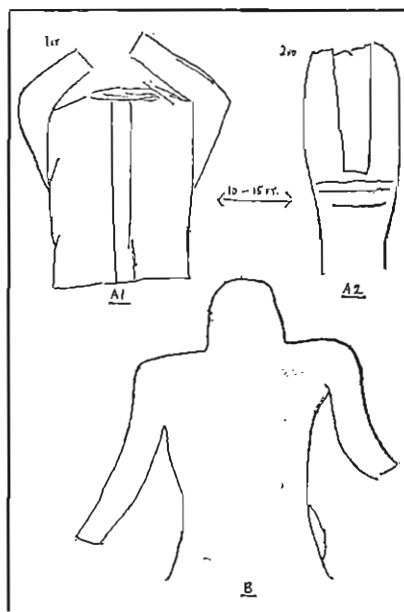


Figure 1 Maes-Athen Estate Figures

A1 & A2. Sketch by Mark Hesketh of first figure (A1), followed by second figure 10-15 feet behind (A2)

B. Sketch by Mrs P. Owen of one of the three figures claimed to have been seen.

Both figures walked slowly across the field. The first figure shook its arms from side to side. David shouted and waved at them but there was no response. The figures then turned right and after some seconds could no longer be seen due to a dip in the field. David last saw the figures at 20.23 hours, but could no longer see the glow of the object. He then phoned the police at Amlwch, and managed to tell them his story despite an unusual amount of interference on the line and a high-pitched hum. A patrol car arrived some 12 minutes later and police interviewed witnesses.

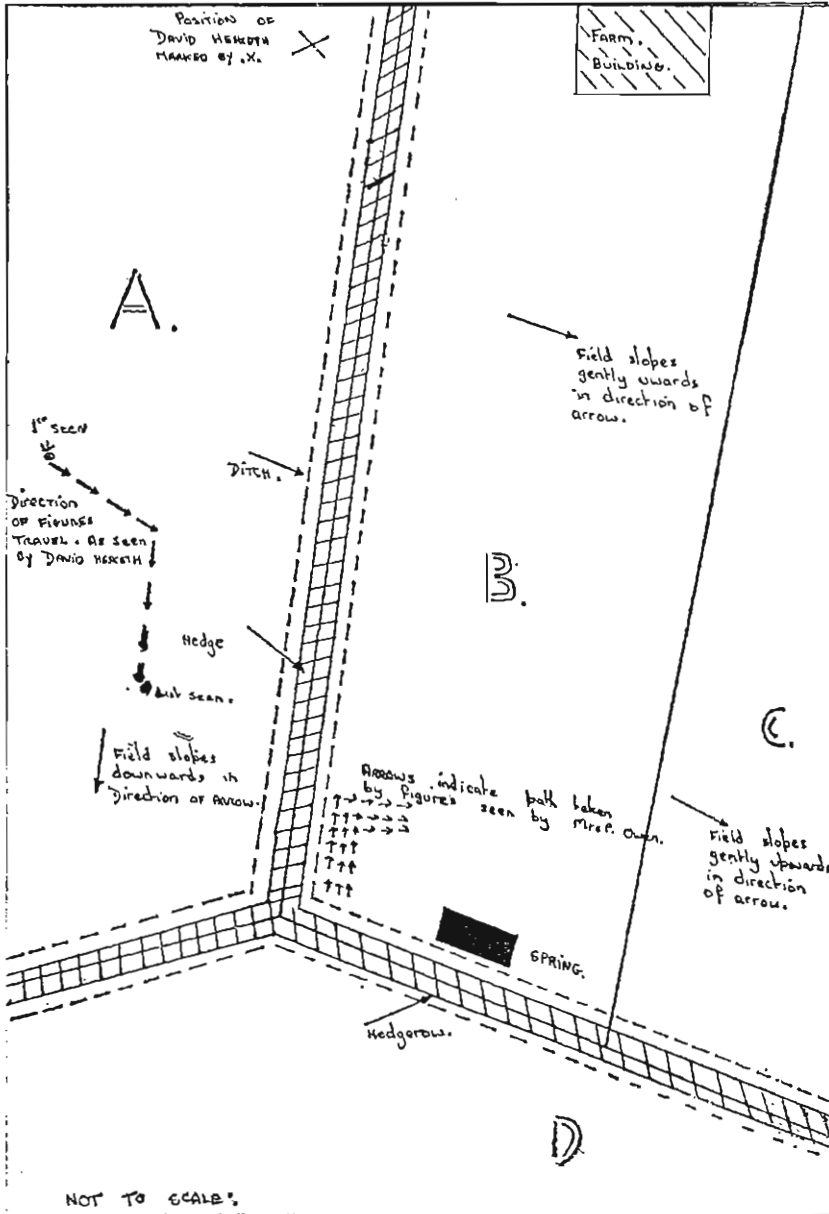


Figure 2 Map of fields at rear of Maes-Athen Estate

Friday 1st September.

At 20.20 hours, Mrs Owen, a housewife was talking to a neighbour when a child ran up to her and exclaimed that 'a flying saucer' had landed in a nearby field. Mrs. Owen ran back into the house and went upstairs to look out from a rear bedroom window. By the time she looked out a couple of minutes later there was no sign of any craft, but she saw three tall men walking parallel to a hawthorn hedge. She asked the children to call the police. She had to take her daughter over to relatives with her husband and when they returned half-an-hour later, the police were there, said they would interview her over the weekend, but apparently did not do so.

Friday 1st September.

Mrs. Patricia Parry was outside her home on the Maes Athen Estate when a number of children ran up to say a 'flying saucer' was landing in the fields behind. On going to the field she saw an oval light, silver-white in colour a field and a half away. It hovered for about a minute, seemingly revolving. Then it moved off slowly southwestwards. It then descended again very slowly, again hovering.

Friday 1st September

At Coedana, on the outskirts of Llanerchymedd, Jeremy Burford was travelling with friends when they saw a strange slow-moving light to the northwest. The car was stopped. Over a period of 30 minutes it manoeuvred around slowly before accelerating away. Circular in shape, it emitted a brilliant white light, though a purple haze surrounded the object

Sunday 3rd September.

Carmen Burford, aged 12 was babysitting when she noticed a brilliant white, flashing light in the eastern sky around 20.20 hours. The colour then changed to yellow, and then disappeared completely, leaving a black 'cigar outline'. Still stationary, it began flashing again, and then reverted to the black outline before finally fading away.

Sunday 3rd September

Mrs Garnett and her stepdaughter were outside their flat at 23.00 hours when a circular, silver object was seen in the sky moving slowly. After two minutes, it halted, and then accelerated southeastwards, its brightness compared to that of the Moon. After hovering once more, it then accelerated away.

These reports from Llanerchymedd were first published in a more comprehensive form in the BUFORA Journal Vol.8 No.5 and were the result of a detailed investigation by FUFOR – Federation UFO Research of Crewe.

26th January. Near Denbigh.

Janet and Colin Bord investigated this interesting report back in 1979 on behalf of both BUFORA and UFOIN, a subsequent article by them appearing in *Flying Saucer Review, Vol.5 No.2.*

The report concerns the experiences of a chef - Keith Jones - at the *Brookhouse Mill Restaurant* on the A525 Rhyd to Wrexham road.

At 5:45 as he was entering the restaurant, the area around him became illuminated, and on looking up he saw a craft some 100 to 150 feet above. Fast moving and almost noiseless – just a 'whooshing' sound being heard – its shape was an elongated oval with a dome in the centre of the underside. From this dome there came a brilliant white light, which revolved at about one-second intervals. The object manoeuvred around the area for more than ten minutes, during which time Keith Jones's employer, John Mace, watched the object with him. Two police officers on routine patrol were also witnesses.

19th January.

Driving into Llandaff were three witnesses, a husband and wife, and a doctor. Ahead of them they saw a bright, flashing light, and on driving further, they found that this came from a triangular-shaped object hovering, at an angle, an estimated 1,000 feet above a tennis field. The underside could be seen clearly, and in its centre was a steady red light: white light

'poured out' from all sides. Duration of the sighting was two to three minutes.

1985. November. Cardiff – the Taff Well area.

At around 8pm. six round lights next to one another in two triangular formations went slowly and silently over the rooftops. They were flying sufficiently low to be obscured by houses across the road once they had passed over witnesses' own home. The evening was dark and very overcast, with light rain.

1994. 21st. December Llanberis, Gwynedd.

At Dolbadarn school, at 7.55am, three witnesses saw a bright object moving across the sky as they were painting the outside of the school. It was travelling slowly with an 'up and down' movement in a clear sky with just a few clouds. It went behind one and did not reappear although all waited and watched for a further ten minutes.

6th. January. Llandudno.

Between 12.30 and 1.15am, the witness, living on The Great Orme, Llandudno, had his adult daughter home from London where she worked in TV. He went outside to call his cats in, when he saw a large light zigzagging from the Hawarden area going towards Liverpool Bay, where it stopped. He called his daughter and she came out with binoculars. Through these, they could see they were looking at a large, triangular object with many lights stationary across the bay. After three-quarters-of-an-hour, during which they passed the binoculars from one to the other, the object ascended at tremendous speed.

End of January. Rhos, Nr. Wrexham

Witness saw a football-size and shaped object hovering over an area called 'The Flood' at Johnstown, then went outside with his girlfriend. They could see some ten people the other side of 'The Flood' pointing at the object.

23rd. September. Gwaenys Mountains. Prestatyn.

A young couple in their car noted the time from the car clock. They first saw a strange light out to sea, but didn't take much notice thinking it might be something from Blackpool – from their vantage point there was a panoramic view of Merseyside and the coast further north. Two hours later the light was much closer. At 5am they noticed a round, yellow, glowing object hovering over the sea near Prestatyn. They got out of the car and saw that it was 'huge'. It now had bright, white 'stars' either side of it and to the right were eight dull 'tadpole shapes', estimated as larger than a car. Behind these were three or four other strange objects with different coloured lights. All these objects were in a line but at varying heights above the sea. They then got back in the car, feeling scared and drove off as they saw another strange light in the opposite direction.

November. Near Fforest Fach, Swansea.

As witnesses drove in their cars towards Fforest Fach towards nightfall, a circle of different coloured lights, which appeared to be moving backwards and forwards, was to be seen.

25th. June. Tremeirchion country road from St. Asaph.

The witnesses – an aunt and niece aged 18 – were returning from an outing. On turning into this road, the niece – the passenger – watched a small craft descend from hills in the distance to just below electric pylons going across the farm of a farmer they knew. The road – or rather a country lane – is divided by a 4-foot hawthorn hedge. There are four farm gates along this road, at intervals to the Hafod-y-Coed farm.

When they reached the first gate, the niece drew her aunt's attention to an object and they watched it. It was a clear, moonlit night and the object was clearly visible above a cow field. It was about 25 to 30 feet long at the base, appearing jet-black with a brilliant white light in one corner. It was slightly tilted forward

and had what looked to them like 'car spoilers' hanging on the underside; these diffused white light. Also, as one half of the craft was in semi-darkness, they wondered if it might be pyramid-shaped.

The aunt drove on slowly to Gate 3, then Gate 4. Between Gates 3 and 4 is a large farmhouse, also barns and cattle sheds. Coming to Gate 4, they noticed two cars, both with lights blazing, watching the object. By now frightened, they swerved off onto a side road and made their way back to the aunt's home. There, as they got out of the car, the object passed over, now much higher in the sky and looking oval-shaped. It had been completely silent.

After about twenty minutes a police helicopter came noisily over and circled the area for quite a while and they wondered if this was because the people in the other cars had reported it to them.

July. Nr Llangefni, Anglesey.

At 10.15pm Mrs. Williams had been driving an elderly neighbour on the road going into Llangefni. One side was open countryside, the other, thick forest. Four dark-brown 'columns', somewhat pear-shaped, appeared above the road in front of the car, which was between Bodfford and Rhosmeirch about four miles from Llangefni. The car was slightly under the first column and travelling at about 40mph. The 'columns' were about 16 feet above the car and moved along with it until they disappeared. The night was darkish, but calm and mild.

31st. July. Colwyn Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies of Colwyn Bay reported that they had seen three concentric rings pulsating and revolving like a windmill, and 'sitting' more or less on the hill behind their home in the Heights of Colwyn. Behind this hill is a quarry. Not only their dog, but horses and dogs in the field behind their home had reacted in noisy fright at this. The object was so huge – at least 100 feet across – they were staggered by it.

The Davies family had been to a football match, and they and their children watched the object – which at first appeared to them as 8 beams of light, dull-grey, in a well-defined 'witch's hat' shape. They then realised this was all one object, huge, around 100 feet across and almost as high, sitting at a tilted angle on the hill behind the house – about a quarter-of-a-mile away. It rotated two or three times anti-clockwise, then the same number of times clockwise, then shot off to their right. Seconds later, it came back and repeated the same performance four times. Then, it just vanished before their eyes. The locality is a farm called The Marion, and the quarry behind, Plas Gwylm.

10th. November

Councillor David Foulds saw a craft sitting in a field at 6.30pm just below the TV receiver at Bodfari on Moel y Parc Mountain. Later, on returning to the area going up to the village of Llandyrnog at 7.30pm he halted when he saw the same object above the creamery of Llandyrnog. The object had an estimated 'length of a football pitch'. It was a dull green/grey with 'myriads' of lighted windows in the top part, whilst two rows of windows were lit up in a bulge below.

(?) 22nd March.

This is a report by Margaret Fry herself. She was going to a friend's stationery shop in Abergele, when she saw a police helicopter just above the building. No more than 20-30 feet above it was a white cigar app. 35 feet long. It was early afternoon on a clear sunny day, the sky a light blue. The helicopter was stationary and very noisy as it hovered between 400 and 600 feet above the ground. After a few minutes the cigar flew slowly to above Pentre Mawr Park across the road. Here again it was quite still for some minutes before it then rapidly flew off towards Colwyn Bay. As the helicopter was making such a racket it was impossible to tell if the UFO made any sound, or if it was seen by the police in the helicopter. Margaret yelled for her friend, but she had a customer in the shop and came out too late to see it.

My thanks to Margaret Fry for supplying and giving me permission to use the two 1974 reports, together with those from 1985 to 1997.

Norman Oliver



INDIAN INTRUDERS

First Sri Lanka, now India. With Thailand, China, Borneo and Singapore all 'getting in on the act' UFO-wise, Asia seems to be becoming the 'in' continent to visit for a UFO experience!

Steve Gamble recently set me off on the track of the incidence of Indian UFOs by sending me a most interesting article picked up from the *Ananova News Service* on August 15th. 2002.

This included a claim from people in villages in the state of Uttar Pradesh that at least seven people had died from unexplained injuries during the previous week, the injuries believed to have been caused by attacks from 'Flying Spheres' emitting blue and red lights. Many others claim that whilst they slept, they received scratches and similar surface wounds from the same source. A 33-year-old claimed to have been attacked by an object 'like a big soccer ball with sparkling lights', whilst Raghuraj Pal, whose neighbour, Ramji Pal died recently in Shanwa said "A flying object attacked him in the night. His stomach was ripped open. He died two days later."

Police Superintendent Kavinara Singh gave it as his opinion that 'it is a nine-centimetre-long insect that leaves rashes and superficial wounds', whilst Professor Ravindra Arora, of the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur claimed that he had seen enough evidence to consider that burn injuries on the victims' faces were caused by nothing more or less than our old friend 'ball lightning'. (A solution for the face scratches was not mentioned.) The professor went on to say that the claims would disappear when the rainy season

arrived, as "Dry spells increase soil resistance while decreasing its conductivity, and in so doing attract balls of lightning emitting different colours - mostly blue, green, yellow or red. Doctor Narrotam Lal, a doctor from Lucknow Kings Medical College had another solution - "The victims have unconsciously inflicted the injuries upon themselves!"

Villagers are clearly sceptical of either of these proffered solutions and in the Mirzapur district, one of the worst hit, they are no longer sleeping outdoors despite sweltering heat and frequent power cuts. In Shanwa, they have formed 'protection squads' who beat drums and shout 'Everyone alert. Attackers beware'.

The Uttar Pradesh government has asked the afore-mentioned Indian Institute of Technology to send a team of scientists to the area to try to unravel the mystery, their Home Secretary Dipti Vilas saying they want to find out if some remote device is being used by mischief-mongers to create trouble. Those resident in the localities have produced their own name for the entity, calling it 'Muhnochva' meaning, literally 'someone who claws the face.'

Music companies are now cashing in on the scare and the Delhi-based company T-Series say that a new album, just released, is intended as a public service, a local artist being used to sing the lyrics. Amongst further suggested solutions have been that it could be Pakistan's 'ultimate terror weapon to bring India to its knees' and that the face scratcher is 'hatching a conspiracy to delay the Monsoons while keeping its batteries safe from the Sun'!

The Times of India reported that the national intelligence bureau was sending its own agents to investigate the 'alien invasion' and that, after listening to villagers' descriptions, they constructed a replica from the base of a mixer-grinder fitted with coloured lights, hoisting it onto a pole in hopes of enticing the 'extra-terrestrial'. They then waited. A flash of light 'like a photo-copier' was seen three times soon after 1am, videotape allegedly showed a light flashing across the screen.

Reports came in from other sources during the latter part of October from the Srikaluhm area in the Andhra Pradesh region, stating that on several different occasions, patterns of 'multi-coloured lights' had been seen seawards by many residents and that 'investigations are continuing'. The patterns were apparently visible for several minutes at a time and had been seen on a number of occasions over a period of a week or so.

NEW DELHI. Report from FILERS FILES #45-2002 (6.11.02) – George A Filer, Director MUFON Eastern. Website: <http://www.filersfiles-ufo.com/>

Indian researchers believe they have discovered traces of extra-terrestrial life in the form of microbes in samples they collected outside the Earth's atmosphere, the Press Trust of India reported on November 5th. Jayant Narlikar, from the Indian Space Research Organisation announced this during a lecture on 'The Search for Extra-terrestrial Life' in Nagpur city in Maharashtra State. He said they had made the discovery a few weeks ago, but were double-checking their findings. "Micro-organisms resembling coccus, fungal and rod-like bacillus were discovered in samples collected 41 kilometres above the Earth's surface", said Narlikar. "Biologists are now trying to verify the origin of the organisms. Whatever may be the source of life, if biologists confirm the results it will prove that life does exist", he added.

Narlikar and Indian scientists had used a sophisticated form of equipment called a cryosampler to conduct the experiment for life in space. "This is only the second experiment of its kind in the world. The United States had concluded a similar study where some evidences of life were found. It will open a new line of challenge for the global scientific community", said Narlikar, observing also that their sample could contain "microbial life coming from the depths of comets and other celestial objects." Thanks to Prashant Soloman 1999-2002 ©

Editor's note: Interesting, perhaps, that in view of the recent incidence of very similar 'rod-like objects' in sizes ranging from a few centimetres to many feet in length, that a 'rod-like' bacillus was referred to.



UFORUM

Dear Norman,

Your editorial (*June 2002 Issue*) struck a familiar and pleasant note with its reference to the wider aspect of the UFO enigma, especially the mention of 'channelling', something which I've been aware of for many years in undoubted connection with the UFO areas.

By chance...or was it? a letter from Professor Leo Sprinkle lies before me of recent date. Leo was one of – if not the first – professionals to take on the abductees many years ago, and he and I have been linked for a few years after a dramatic encounter with the 'energy' of the monoliths at Avebury to which I introduced one of his 20-strong party of 'paranormalists'. He had brought them over from the USA under the 'Ambassadors to Ambassadors' set-up instigated by the late 'Ike' Eisenhower and paid for from the organisation's fund for such. This was hosted by Roy Lake and others, including the Southampton UFO Group for which I am now PRO.

Leo's letter keeps me in touch with the American research team and he relates recent events, these including a channelling session he attended at Fort Collins, Carolina, with a group of 'high spirit entities', this being hosted by England's Sir John Whitmore and Phyllis V. Schlemmer at the home of Michael and Deborah Lindemann. The meeting was arranged by Paola Harris from Rome, Italy, a teacher and journalist who is writing a book about her interviews with many UFO investigators. Many of us are surely aware of the book 'Prelude to the Landing on Planet Earth' by Stuart Holroyd (1970s) – my copy

loaned and long lost! This featured Phyllis Schemmer and Sir John along with Andrija Puharich and Uri Geller who 'channelled' information from the 'Council of Nine' and 'Hoova'. Strong connections with the Middle East and ways to ease the violence there. Not much has changed...!

My still-growing library contains the 1993 'The Only Planet of Choice', by Phyllis Schlemmer and editor Mary Bennett – much the same scenario updated. My own humble and mostly involuntary dealings with 'the others' (Brian James will know!) are currently going great guns...a phenomenon reported elsewhere which goes with the acquired 'healing gift' since some very close encounters in 1978. Good to see BUFORA making more allowance for such esoteric disciplines...mentioned in the proceedings of the last AGM I note.

A 'Council of Nine' statement (1993) says "other planets have choice of collective consciousness: only on Earth can a Being experience individual choice"...Stanton Friedman DID get it right when suggesting we should be more concerned with the occupants of the craft than the craft themselves. A suggestion not, seemingly, entered into with gusto even now!

At my BUFORA talk in December 2000: I began it in 1993...nothing has changed my view, enhanced over many years, and currently more so...that all is linked, as modern physicists seem to be coming to terms with.

The anecdote about the SPR member who suggested – dramatically – to the publisher of the book who was giving the talk that séances would be an infallible means of uncovering the origins of the Raudive Voices, struck home to me when agreeing to hold an informal 'séance' earlier this year. It seemed meaningful to those who were 'helped' by my naming deceased friends and relatives – three at least. A more dramatic incident followed subsequent to the session when the four people present witnessed a heavy metal cigarette lighter whizz through the air from the settee and hit the skirting board with a crash!

Not surprising since the home there had been subject to strange happenings for years. With, please note, doubters...two close encounters with a 'craft' that hovered close at hand, displaying brilliant white lights that shot off on both occasions noiselessly, watched by the startled wife and husband through their front door glass window.

As you say, Norman: "It is something that impinges on the 'alien' side of Ufology. It is therefore justifiably presented".

Keep up the good work. I am currently investigating *seven* pretty good sightings in the Southampton and surrounding areas between the 7th September and the 10th. One is a 60-minute missing time apparent and alleged abduction: one is by a SUFOG member and the other by two relatives of same!

Ernie Sears, Netley Abbey, Southampton.

You asked for comments on the Springfield 1897 'Adam and Eve' encounter. My comment is this: With the Aurora 1897 'crash/burial' story and the Le Roy 1897 (Alexander Hamilton) cattle and mutilation story, two important elements of what were to become twentieth century UFO lore already present in the form of hoaxes, Dr. J. Allen Hynek effectively disposed of Aurora 1897 in 1966 (*Randles 1995*) and a family member confessed about Le Roy 1897 in old age. In that case a trusted member of the community had vouched for him, similar to the Springfield case – which I have no doubt was also a hoax. What can it all mean?

You asked for photos from readers in the June issue. I only have two for which I have the copyright. Here they are:



They are fake flying saucer photos taken by me at Gotts Park, Armley, Leeds on New Year's Day 2000 at 12.00midday. I suppose everyone involved in this subject asks themselves how easy it would be to fake UFO pictures. The 'saucer' is a silver model made from two clock faces about 150mm in diameter thrown into the air.

But please note the real 'UFO' in picture No.1 top right.

Malcolm Stroud

I seem to remember that the late Dr. Hynek once said 'the most one can say about the authenticity of a UFO photograph is that one has done one's best to disprove it and failed!'

Ed.

Dear Sir,

Sceptics are always attacking UFOs, saying extraordinary objects are really misidentifications of ordinary, everyday objects. Why isn't reverse logic used to point out that what are taken to be sightings of ordinary, everyday objects might actually be something more unusual, but the witness fails to realise the unusual nature of the incident?

Apart from that, less mundane ideas might come into play, like shapeshifting UFOs with some kind of chameleon circuit, or occupants with mind-altering capabilities as in the case described in one of Peter Hough's books co-authored with Moshe Kalman, in which a man walked past a Flying Saucer on the edge of a quarry, but failed to register it as that because an alien kept telling him that what he was seeing was NOT what he was seeing: 'This is not a spaceship, this is a site hut...this is not a spaceship, this is a site hut....this is.....'

Apart from extraterrestrial mental intervention – what about peoples' own prejudiced view of reality, ensuring that the truth is ignored in favour of a belief system that is pro-or anti-something, whatever the facts? We see what we *want* to believe, rather than *believe* what we see (or that is what we tell ourselves). Even though it makes no sense to us and repudiates how we believe reality works, it *still* has a life (unpredictability) of its own, *despite* us rather than *because* of us. "And yet it moves" (*Galileo.*)

T.Sandy, Darnley, Glasgow

Full details of BUFORA and SPI lectures will be given in next issue of the *New BUFORA Journal*. BUFORA's will commence on Saturday, March 15th.2003 (speaker to be announced). SPI's first talk is on Saturday February 22nd 2003: Speaker: Montague Keen. 'Latest Discoveries in Psychical Research'. All meetings will again be held at The Sol's Arms, 65, Hampstead Road, London NW and commence at 3pm. Payment on the door.

BOOK REVIEW

Brian Allan

Paul LaViolette *Earth Under Fire*

This is not the first attempt to prove that the Earth has repeatedly been affected in antiquity by cosmic forces causing a variety of planet-wide disasters, but in this instance most of the evidence is based on hard science. The author, who also claims that Astrology and Tarot cards carry compelling encrypted messages, draws on Egyptian, Native American, Toltec, Norse and Shamanic legends (amongst others) to help prove his hypotheses. One of his proofs suggests that our forefathers experienced these catastrophes and recorded the information for future generations using symbolism that would not change appreciably over millennia: viz. constellations in the night sky.

These ancient, terrestrial calamities were all caused by what the author has termed '*Galactic Superwaves*', or bursts of high velocity cosmic rays emanating from the very centre of the galaxy. These truly catastrophic reactions appear to be cyclic over a 10,000-year period and are caused by a gradual build-up of energy from a variety of sources. LaViolette suggests that planet-wide catastrophic events like the flood described in the bible were the direct result of such a 'superwave'. Incidentally, this book presents one of the best explanations for the causes of the flood that I have ever read. The author also states that the last Ice Age and the extinction of the dinosaurs were all attributable to successive superwaves; he also suggests that supernovae may be triggered by these events.

Among other parameters taken from astronomical data etc., LaViolette uses specific evidence obtained using dust taken from deep-drilled ice cores. He lays out his scientific evidence based upon the levels of radiation and the composition of particles taken from the core samples. By this method he seeks to prove that dust emitted by superwave explosions expanded through the

galaxy and was drawn in by the gravitational field of various stars as it passed, and our sun was one of them. The dust surrounded the sun, effectively acting as a heat shield that allowed Earth to cool slightly, which in turn ushered in the Ice Age. Over time, the dust gradually thinned, allowing the Earth to heat up again, dispersing and melting the ice.

However, it is only fair to point out that just because the book is well written and presented it is also easy to read, for it is not. The book requires that the reader has some prior knowledge of the subject and a fair grounding in Physics and Astronomy would also be a distinct advantage: in short, this is not for the beginner. The book was copyrighted in 1997 and as such contains some doom-laden millennial prophecies, although to be fair, not from the author, and as we have now seen, none of these disasters has yet occurred. There is another apparent contradiction in the presentation of the book; while relying heavily on scientific evidence, the author also includes selected channelled information to help substantiate his claims. Corroborating information obtained from these sources has, at best, to be of dubious veracity and content and tends to cast doubt on the rest of the scientific evidence.

Finally, the author points out that because of the cyclic nature of Galactic Superwaves, we are due another one shortly which may cause a shift of the Earth's magnetic poles, with the attendant problems that will ensue. He also issues a warning that in spite of the cessation of the cold era, such an electromagnetic pulse, aside from damaging military and communications satellites, could be mistaken for nuclear detonations and pre-empt a nuclear war. His suggested method of defence is the creation of a force field of some type designed to deflect the superwave out of the Solar System. In short, this is an excellent addition to the library of the more technically aware reader and researcher who seeks answers to millennia old enigmas.

© *Brian Allan*

Paul LaViolette *Earth Under Fire*. Starlane Publishing. \$20. ISBN: 0-9642025-2-2

About BUFORA

BUFORA was founded in 1962, as a federation of regional UFO groups throughout the UK. Many of these groups were formed in the 1950s. These included the British Flying Saucer Bureau, founded in 1952 (which is believed to be the UK's oldest UFO group), and the London UFO Research Organisation formed in 1959 and the largest UK organisation at the time. In 1962 the group was known as the British UFO Association, changing its name in 1964 to the present British UFO Research Association. BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee in 1975. This means that in the event of BUFORA being wound up each members undertaking to cover any outstanding debts is limited to £1. It was intended to be a prelude to seeking charity status. BUFORA is registered under the U.K. Data Protection Act, and amongst other things membership records are held on a computer database. (It is the policy of BUFORA NOT to release membership records to third parties.)

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out its investigation, research and educational activities. The day-to-day running of BUFORA is in the hands of a Council of Management drawn from the members.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association, and whose application is approved by the Council of Management.

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Aims of BUFORA

The three aims of BUFORA are:

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

Activities of BUFORA

BUFORA organises a regular programme of lectures on a variety of UFO related topics. As dates, times and locations can vary it is best to enquire about the current programme.

Members receive free of charge, six issues per year, of its regular publication 'New BUFORA Journal', which carries details of investigated reports and results of research projects.

BUFORA operates the 'UFOCALL' information service, which carries information about reports and updates on events (phone: 09068 121 886; Charge, currently 60p per minute.) These pre-recorded messages are updated regularly.

Publications of BUFORA

Details of publications currently available (including back issues of Journals) can be obtained from the registered office (enclose S.A.E. please).

Some BUFORA publications are also available through Spacelink Books, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton TW12 2QY England

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