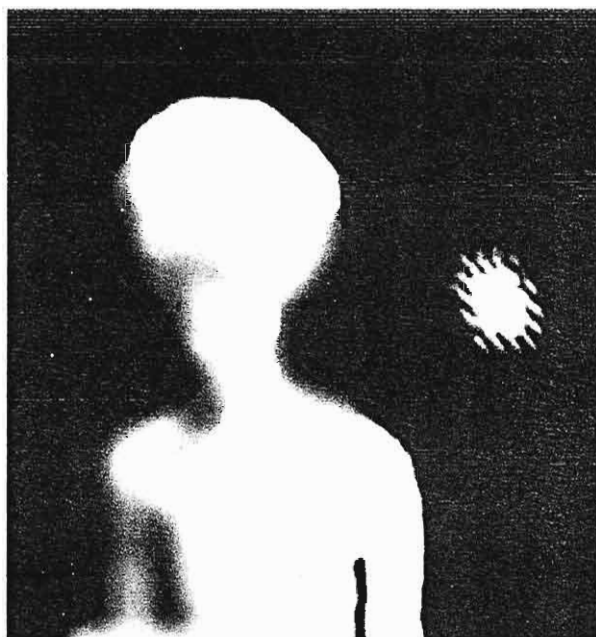


BUFORA BULLETIN

Bi-Monthly Journal Of The British UFO Research Association



IN THIS ISSUE:
Howden Moors Incident
Fireball UFOs
UFOs & The Bible

No. 5 **SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1998**

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new-look **BUFORA BULLETIN**, the first issue under my "stewardship". I hope you find this edition (and the others I hope to produce in the future) to be worthy of the association. A change of editorship of a UFO journal is always a worrying time for many "serious" Ufologists. There will be some concern over what Ufological agendas I will be working to and how this will affect the **BULLETIN**.

My aims for the **BUFORA BULLETIN** are simple. Firstly, I want to produce a cheap & sustainable (but well-produced) magazine that both presents general Ufological information and (more importantly) "showcases" the research and investigation work conducted by our members. This work is a unique asset, possessed by no other body anywhere in the world! Due to it's national coverage **BUFORA** - no matter how much we improve efficiency - cannot avoid possessing a dispersed organisational structure. However, our magazine can (and should) act as a facilitator of communication for all our members, proudly displaying the efforts of our hard-won investigations and research efforts.

1998 marks a year of disillusionment and mystery 'busting'. Many people involved in the investigation of this phenomenon have become gravely disappointed in regards to the lack of objective reporting, and also with the distortions of truth perpetuated by both newspapers and certain UFO journals. However, this will drive **BUFORA BULLETIN** to further heights. We will try to ensure that the level of reporting in this journal will be second to none and that all our resources are utilised to verify media stories and ufological claims.

During the past 5 years in which it has been aired, the X-Files has effectively created a modern myth with regards to the UFO phenomenon. Public perception is now more oriented towards Chris Carter's reinterpretation of UFOs than the subject's actual underlying realities. We have a lot of work ahead of us in the coming years putting an end to the "love of mystery" generation that this has created. The way to combat all media dross and television myth-making is simply to report the truth after proper investigation.

We have included a variety of features in this issue. We have articles on both the "25,000 mph UFO" debacle and the June 11th/12th fireball event; incidents which are both topical and created great controversy within both the media and the UFO community.

To balance the old and the new an article has been written about possible examples of UFOs in the Bible. The Howden Moors incident has been written up by **BUFORA** press officer and Sheffield Star editor Dave Clarke. This event has been the focus of much debate and has raised certain issues about the role of **BUFORA** and censorship within the lecture circuit. This article is a good example of responsible reporting by a member of the press.

To close my first editorial I wish you all well in your investigations and hope that you are able to contribute to this magazine and help make it a success. Anyway, happy reading.

Robert Moore.

BUFORA BULLETIN No. 5.

September/October 1998.

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Appeal For Articles:

BUFORA BULLETIN always welcomes new submissions of material for publication. We are also looking for anyone able to provide regular news items on a variety of ufological topics. Any article will be considered, but items based on investigation and research studies (or objective assessments of any ufological matter) preferred. Articles may be electronically sent via e-mail to engima9@compuserve.com. Alternatively, articles can be physically forwarded to the editorial address:

Robert Moore, 83, Church Road, East Huntspill, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3NG.

Articles may be forwarded as typewritten copy (preferably in a bold non-draft OCR-compatible, (i.e. Courier or Times New Roman) font. Copy may also be forwarded on a 3.5 inch computer disc. In this instance files should preferably be in either Plain Text, Rich Text or Word 6 for Windows format (if in doubt submit a Plain Text Format file). We at **BUFORA BULLETIN** look forward to hearing from you!

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OBITUARY

Ralph Noyes: 1923-1998

It is my sad duty to report the death of English UFO researcher Ralph Noyes, who died aged 75 on the 23rd May 1998 after sustaining critical head injuries in a fall.

Professionally, Ralph enjoyed a long, varied and distinguished career. He served in the RAF from 1940-1946 and became a civil servant in 1949, working in what was later to become the MoD. From 1969 to 1972 he was head of **DS 8**, the branch of the UK air ministry then responsible for evaluating UFO reports. By the time of Ralph's retirement in 1977 he had attained the rank of MoD Under-Secretary of State.

Following his retirement Ralph pursued a writing career, becoming primarily known as the author of the UFO-based science fiction novel "**A Secret Property**" (published in 1985). Within ufology, he will be remembered as someone who shed considerable light on British governmental UFO policy. In his view there was no "darksider"-style coverup, only a culture of official disinterest and conservatism (or "neglect" as he put it) in regards to UFO reports. He felt that neither the British or American governments had any tangible evidence of extraterrestrial visitations, and that official bodies were as baffled at UFOs as the rest of society. Personally Ralph felt that the evidence for the existence of UFOs was very strong.

Ralph made many important contributions to our understanding of ufology, from areas as varied as the MJ-12 documents to the Rendlesham Forest incident. He was also a long-standing member of the SPR (becoming its President in 1990) and also had a keen interest in crop circles. He has been described by Kevin McClure as "*a man of great intelligence, tolerance, kindness and intellectual generosity*", a view of him shared by everyone in the subject. He will be greatly missed.



1999 U.K Abduction Symposium

A special 3-day UK symposium aimed at providing an in-depth examination of the "UFO abduction" phenomenon is planned for 1999. This concept is loosely based on the UFO abduction symposium held in 1992 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The proposed 1999 event will dwell specifically on the UFO Abduction experience as it manifests in the UK, and intends to generate a frank and open exchange of views, evidence and ideas between the various participating researchers.

Attendance to this event will be by invitation **only**; its intention being to provide a forum for sceptics and advocates of UFO abductions to discuss their findings in an objective and unsensational manner. It will be a unique opportunity to concentrate on one specific area of ufology for several days, away from the pressures of either having to entertain or make money. This symposium will allow researchers, abduction participants and professionals from relevant areas of expertise (i.e hypnosis, false memory, folklore etc) to present 10-15 minute papers on abductions, and to discuss the latest evidence and case-studies. This event will be an independent effort and is **not** associated or affiliated with **any** organisation.

To date, response from UFO researchers to this proposal has reportedly been excellent. Before the end of 1998 a preliminary meeting of those interested in organizing and running this event will be held, in order to ascertain the symposium's general scope and content. It is hoped that the papers presented at this event will eventually be published in some form. Those interested in making a presentation to this event should contact the 1999 **Abductions Symposium** Co-Ordinator **Andy Roberts** either via e-mail at **Brigantia@compuserve.com** or in writing to:

84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire,
HD6 2QR.

DONALD E. KEYHOE ARCHIVES ESTABLISHED

In May 1998 UFO research initiative "Project 1947" announced the establishment of the **Donald E. Keyhoe Archives**, which holds in one location several collections of important early UFO material.

As its name suggests, the core collection comprises of Donald Keyhoe's correspondence relating to UFOs with Congress, the military, his publishers, the media and leading ufologists of the period. It also includes various Charles Lindbergh memorabilia and correspondence (Keyhoe being his Aide during the late 1930's). Some of this material was recently discovered in a duffel bag at the basement of Keyhoe's former residence.

The Keyhoe Archives also holds Richard Hall's huge collection of over 40 years' of correspondence, UFO reports, thousands of newspaper clippings, posters and flyers. Many items date from Hall's tenure in NICAP (being respectively it's Secretary, Assistant Director, and Acting Director).

Richard Hall also donated two further important collections of early UFO material to the Keyhoe Archives. The first comprises of the extensive ufological correspondence of former NICAP official and Civilian Saucer Intelligence

(CSI) officer Ted Bloecher, as well as his research into UFO reports from 1947 and 1950. The second comprises of the papers and UFO case-files of Marshall Cleaver (chairman of the Florida NICAP subcommittee).

Dr. James McDonald, former Senior Physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, conducted extensive (sometimes almost daily) correspondence with Richard Hall, Isabel Davis and Ted Bloecher. Items relating to McDonald held in the Keyhoe Archives include his articles, speeches, formal correspondence, notes of telephone conversations and some investigations. Some of this material is not available in the McDonald collection housed at the University of Arizona.

The Keyhoe Archives possesses a cardfile of pre-1947 UFO reports, an extensive collection of video and audio tapes, and a large library of books, UFO journals and newsletters from throughout the world. It also holds items of correspondence relating to Isabel Epperson (chairwoman of the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee), Walter Webb (NICAP astronomy advisor), diverse NICAP/MUFON investigators, scientists, and interested persons from all walks of life.

Also housed in this collection are the Fund's for UFO Research's (FUFOR) files of correspondence, research, manuscripts, miscellaneous video and audio taped interviews. It holds the correspondence of Isabel Davis' (a former official of CSI-NY, NICAP and the FUFOR), as well as her large card-file summary of early UFO cases. The FUFOR's extensive collection of microfilmed files can be found here, too. This includes the NICAP/CSI clipping collection, the Project Blue Book records and details of "foo-fighter" observations made by the XX1th Bomber Command aircrew in and around Japan during World War II.

The Keyhoe Archives is located in the Washington, D.C. area. Access is restricted to journalists and serious researchers and by advanced appointment only. An in-situ photocopier and a microfilm reader-printer is available at the collection site.

FIREBALL "UFOs" SEEN BY HUNDREDS THROUGHOUT THE U.K

Robert Moore, Gloria Dixon, Dave Newton

BUFORA is currently investigating what appears to be a series of bolide-generated "UFO" sightings occurring around the 11th-12th June 1998. Sources as diverse as the "Daily Mirror" newspaper to the BBC's teletex service "Ceefax" stated that "hundreds" of people throughout the UK had observed a "flaming blue ball", which in a considerable number of cases had been reported to various official bodies such as the police and Air traffic control authorities. According to a recent UFO UpDates-Toronto web-bulletin;

"Sergeant John Drake, of Staffordshire police, said "We had more than a dozen calls around midnight from people who had seen a single, blue light that was bigger than a car. Many officers from police cars also radioed in saying they had seen the same thing. An eye witness describes how the sky lit up. Some people described a tail behind the light, while others said it looked like it was burning or flaming. We had calls from Keele in the north of the county to Tamworth in the south." In southern England, Thames Valley Police contacted Air Traffic Control at Heathrow Airport after receiving a call from High Wycombe stating that a burning plane had been seen coming into land. They also received calls from drivers on the M4 motorway, near Reading in Berkshire....."

Other sources stated that these sightings had occurred over a period of several hours, commencing from about 2300hrs on Thursday, 11th June, 1998 onwards. These sightings related to both observations of a large singular light and also to groups of smaller lights "traveling in a northeasterly direction"

A MoD spokesman commented on these events by stating :

"Initial reports suggest it was an unusually large meteor shower....it is not unusual on a smaller scale, but last night's shower seems to have been quite big."

From data so far accumulated by BUFORA it appears that "fireball" phenomena were observed in many parts of the UK on the 11th-12th June, from a region spanning Devon to North Yorkshire. On the morning of the 12th June 1998, Gloria Dixon (BUFORA's Director Of Investigations) was contacted by a local Dorset radio station, who had received many reports of mysterious airborne lights from their region. They stated that many people had contacted the emergency services to report all kinds of unusual light phenomena; predominantly "balls of light" with "fiery tails".

Shortly afterwards, Gloria received details of a "UFO" observed just before midnight on the 11th June 1998. The witness was traveling on the A1 next to Bramham, south of Wetherby, Yorkshire, when he observed a huge ball with a "flame-like" trail in the southern portion of the sky. It seemed to drop straight out of a cloud and then proceeded to descend vertically. It was visible for around 3-4 seconds.

BUFORA also received several other sightings of bolide-like objects apparently seen much earlier that evening....

- At around 18.22 hrs in Rochdale, Mr. F heard a "rushing sound" while walking his dog. Looking up, he saw a small ball of light with a smoky tail shoot across the sky, which seemed to "come down" into a nearby reservoir.
- In Sussex, at around 18.40 hrs, Mr.A observed a ball of light with a yellow-coloured tail traverse rapidly across the sky. This event had a duration of "just a few seconds".
- In Somerset, at around 19.50 hrs Mr. and Mrs. D observed two very fast-moving yellow balls of light with yellow tails.

According to the Royal Edinburgh Observatory these sightings were generated by the Ophiuchids meteor shower, which (they stated) would have been particularly noticeable in the southern portion of England.

In regards to the 11th-12th June events, Gloria Dixon has recently spoken with astronomer Alastair McBeath, vice-president of the International Meteor Organisation. Although very interested in these

incidents, he had only seen secondhand reports in the media. McBeath told Gloria that observatories are not always accurate about the specific meteor shower that they mention. He also discussed with Gloria the various ways observations of fireball meteors were described; one common description being "a rounded head with flickering flames".

Given the general nature of the reports, it is reasonable to conclude that they were meteoric in nature. This explanation is consistent with both the large number of witnesses and the wide geographical distribution of these observations. The descriptions of the observed phenomena (i.e a "glowing ball" ejecting a trail, or a "burning" plane crashing to the ground") are also highly atypical of bolide events. Boldies are normally random events, but they can also be associated with meteor-showers. There are no major meteor showers in June, but plenty of (normally) very weak ones. The constellation Ophiuchus was located in the South Eastern sky on the 11th- 12th June. Hence, some of the observations of "group of lights" may have been based on meteors originating from this shower-radiant.

Another possibility is the atypically weak June Lyrids shower (manifesting around the 10th-21st June, with meteor activity peaking around the 16th of that month). This is specifically noted to produce bluish-hued meteors. The star-cluster associated with this shower (Lyra) was high in the ESE portion of the sky when these various incidents took place. It is known that the Lyrids produced some "possible weak activity in 1996, for the first time since 1969, but it is usually a very weak shower by any standards. Meteors issuing from the shower-radiants located in either constellation could (due to their location at that time) easily have generated "lights.... traveling in a northeasterly direction".

The number of seemingly different fireball-meteor events raises some questions. One possibility is that the stated times may be incorrect in some cases (with such timing-estimation errors being commonplace in observations of satellite re-entries, for example). Another equally plausible explanation is that these various events have no actual causative link. Sudden intensive clustering of otherwise random events is a phenomena well known to statisticians and fortune tellers alike! For instance, a "cluster" of 6 separate minor bolide events is noted to

have occurred on the 25th January, 1998. Many fireball events occur around the British Isles every day; however the majority of these go unobserved (either due to poor visibility or the fact that they occur over areas of sea). Thus, given good weather conditions - and with a prod landwards by the hand of blind fate - clusterings of several bolide events over the same night can quite easily occur.

That stated, another possibility should also be noted (if only in passing). It is known that meteor showers are "reseeded" by material ejected by comets. Several very bright comets have passed close to earth in recent years (i.e Hale-Bopp in 1997 and Hyakutake in 1996). Has this resulted in certain meteor showers becoming particularly enriched, resulting in more noticeable and dynamic meteor displays? This idea is rendered slightly more viable by the fact that the June Bootids shower (occurring on the 26th-27th June) was associated with an unusually high rate of notably bright meteors. It's Zenithly Hourly Rate (ZHR) this year was in the order of ~100 over Europe. It is known that meteor shower activity can fluctuate from year to year; a given shower may produce a high proportion of meteors one year, but only a mere "trickle" of activity the year after. However (by and large) showers keep to their accepted parameters; remaining either dynamic or weak for long periods of time. Some showers have also been associated with spectacular displays of meteoric activity, such as was the case with the Leonids in 1966.

However, it must be noted that this idea has been proposed to various meteor experts, who feel that it is somewhat unlikely. They feel that any "clustering" of fireball meteor events occurring on the 11th-12th June, 1998 was down only to mere chance. They also stress the fact that bolide manifestations are (nearly always) unconnected with meteor showers, and that attempts to link the June 1998 events to any specific shower is "pure guesswork... and rather ignorant guesswork at that". Any further developments relating to the June 1998 meteor events will be relayed in future editions of the **BUFORA BULLETIN**.

BUFORA would like to thank ufologist Steve Mera for kindly supplying details of the Rochdale event mentioned in this article.

There are various accounts of what could be termed "aerial phenomena" in the Bible. Obviously, in **all** cases they are presented as religious apparitions or visions, but a modern generation of writers have reinterpreted them as possible evidence of extraterrestrial visitors in classical times.

One logical extension of this reinterpretation of divine works holds that Christianity (and probably all major religions) are based upon visits by extraterrestrials. Obviously, this concept (if true) would have major implications for Judaism, Christianity and other related credos.

Another view expounded is that the Bible may relate to the activities of a less material intelligence manifesting in a different manner to suit the relevant era;gods in ancient times.....UFOs in our day. This view is indirectly supported by the (widely-recognised) ufological concept of **cultural tracking**, in which unusual aerial phenomena appear to manifest in a form to suit the times. For example, there were numerous reports of "Phantom Airships" in the era prior to the invention of the aircraft.....followed by sightings of "ghost planes" in the 1930's....then by observations of "ghost rockets" in 1946; one year before the appearance of "flying saucers". In the light of this viewpoint, Is it significant that "flying saucers" appeared only a few years prior to the breaking of the so-called "sound barrier".

"Ancient Astronauts" is the popular name given to the whole scene where myths and legends from many parts of the world (but predominately Asia and the Middle East) are interpreted as instances of "alien activity"! This view first came into wide public notice through the book *Chariots Of The Gods* by **Erich Von Daniken**. This work had a major cultural impact during the 1970's, although much of Von Daniken's "evidence" is now widely deemed to have been discredited. It should also be pointed out that many other writers (notably **Raymond Drake** and **Desmond Leslie**) wrote proli-

fically on this subject prior to Von Daniken; furthermore, many hold their works to be better researched than *Chariots Of the Gods* (and Von Daniken's other works). Nonetheless, the concept of ancient astronauts (sometimes also called **Paleo-SETI**) remains, kept alive today by various advocates scattered throughout the globe.

In regards to Biblical "UFOs", one of the better works dealing with this topic is Barry Downing's *The Bible & Flying Saucers*. The passages and instances frequently quoted to support the presence of UFOs (or "ancient astronauts") within the Bible are:

1: Book of Exodus (c. 1400 BC)

There are several "UFO-esq" references in the **Book of Exodus**, which details the story of Moses delivering the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. There is the account the Lord going before the tribes of Israel as a 'Pillar of Cloud' by day and a 'Pillar of Fire' by night. Some have also compared the "manna" which fell from the skies to the "angel hair" reputedly deposited by some UFOs. However, (on deeper reflection) this seems unlikely, given that "angel hair" is usually claimed to dissipate when touched and is not generally renowned for it's nutritional value! Sassoon's and Dale's book **"The Manna Machine"** (published in the late 1970's) alleged that manna was a synthetic foodstuff, created by a device of extraterrestrial origin.

One aspect that does cause some doubt on all this is that recent archaeological excavations in Egypt have failed to find any evidence that the Exodus actually took place.

Exodus also records that Moses built the **Ark of the Covenant** (following precise instructions given by God). Only divinely appointed persons were allowed to carry the Ark. A warning is given in the **Book of Numbers** which states that anyone who touched any of the "holy objects"

-the Ark when it was shaken by oxen. God (who was not above murdering people in those days) struck him dead on the spot. Erich von Däniken contends that the Ark was a radio used to communicate between Earth and the extra-terrestrials, and that Uzzah was killed by an electrical charge generated by this device. However, others point out that those carrying the Ark (using gold covered poles!) would also have been electrocuted, and that in any case God was able to tell Moses to build the Ark without needing a radio!!

2: Ezekiel (6th Century BC)

In the 6th century BC the prophet Ezekiel reported seeing "beside the River Chebar" in Babylonia (modern day Iraq) "a huge [glowing] cloud [from which]...lightning was flashing". Within the centre of this cloud he saw bronze-coloured forms that resembled "wheels within wheels", as well as four 'living creatures' which "had four faces, and.... four wings". Above the heads of these creatures was a "dome made of dazzling crystal.. " over which "was a.... throne..." where "a figure that looked like a man" was seated. (**The Book Of Ezekiel 1:1-28**). Critics point out that much of the imagery and content of Ezekiel's experience are difficult to account for in terms of "ancient astronauts". For instance, "God's" message relayed to Ezekiel during the latter part of his first vision (along with the others which followed it) specifically relates to the ethical problems faced by the Jewish exiles in Babylonia. Nonetheless, this did not stop engineer **Josef Blumrich** from using this account to construct what he claimed was a viable spacecraft design (described in his book "**the Spaceships Of Ezekiel**"). Ezekiel's vision is, by far, the most often cited instance of "ancient astronauts" or "UFOs" in the Bible

3: Elijah

Chapter 2 of the **Second Book of Kings** states that 'And it came to pass, as they still went on and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.' Some say that Elijah was taken for a ride in a flying saucer. Those of a more literalist religious inclination feel he just "merely" ascended



to heaven.

4: Enoch

The second **Book of Enoch** describes the prophet Enoch being visited by two unusual-looking men of very great height. In this tale Enoch is taken on a tour of the seven tiers of heaven and given secret knowledge by God. Enoch claimed that although the trip only seemed to take a few days for him, centuries had passed on Earth when he returned. Ancient astronaut proponents have a field day with this, claiming that Enoch was actually taken on a light-speed tour of the stars (his aging-process slowed down by travelling at relativistic velocities).

It should also be remembered that even early biblical deemed the **Book Of Enoch** to be an example of **Pseudepigrapha** (or "falsely ascribed" work), and is included in the Apocrypha with other works not deemed to be divine.

5: Jacob

The **Book of Jacob** details the prophet Jacob's vision of Angels ascending and descending a ladder set up between Earth and heaven. Many "Ancient Astronaut" advocates believe that Jacob may have observed "UFO entities" climbing up and down the boarding ladder of a large flying saucer. That said, "modern" abduction-era aliens have seemingly long dispensed with ladders and simply float up and down via "tractor beams"!

6: Jonah

The **Book Of Jonah** recounts the tale of Jonah, in particularly how he was swallowed by a whale and then subsequently disgorged three days later (alive and well) onto a beach. Some "ancient astronaut" advocates propose he was taken on board a large amphibious(?) extraterrestrial craft. The majority view is that The Book of Jonah is among the most "mythic" of the biblical texts, and thus should not be taken **too** literally.....

7: The Star of Bethlehem

The celestial body, described in the **Gospel According to St. Matthew**, as the mystical light that guided the three magi from the East to the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. This is variously interpreted as a miracle by theologians, as a comet, planetary conjunction or nova by astronomers, or as a "UFO" by ufologists.

8: Saint Paul

Saul was converted to Christianity (and changed his name to Paul) while on the road to Damascus (**see Acts 9:1-19**). Not far from the city, "a light from the sky flashed round him" and he fell to the ground. Paul then heard "Jesus" speaking to him. After this experience he discovered he was blind, and remained so for three day until he was healed by Ananias (who restored Saul's sight by a process similar to modern Christian faith-healing).

Some ufologists contend that Paul was struck by a beam of light from a UFO, and that his subsequent personality change was similar to that undergone by present-day close encounter experiencers. Others have noted the similarities between Paul's experience and the symptoms of temporal lobe epilepsy. If the latter is true, this would possibly make Paul one of histories' first recorded sufferers (and one of the first recorded

instances where this condition generated a "paranormal" experience!).

- FURTHER READING LIST -

Below is a listing of works both supportive and sceptical of the concept of "ancient astronauts" (along with one "main source" reference!), with an emphasis on the various Biblical claims. In particular read Story's works for a very good critical and informed view of this subject.

- The Spaceships of Ezekiel**, Blumrich, J. (1974)
- Good News Bible**, The Bible Societies (1976)
- The Bible & Flying Saucers**, Downing, B. (1968)
- Gods & Spacemen in Ancient Israel**, Drake, R.
- The Manna machine**, Sassoon, G & Dale, R.
- The Space Gods Revealed**, Story, R. (1978)
- Guardians of the Universe?**, Story, R. (1980)
- Chariots of the Gods**, Von Daniken, E. (1969)
- The Past is Human**, White, P. (1976)



"25,000 mph UFO" tracked on Radar??...

On the 27th April 1998 several UK newspapers (notably the **Daily Mail** and **Daily Express**) carried reports alleging that a new military Radar system had detected the presence of "fast-moving" "UFOs" on several occasions

These various articles stated that radar-tapes of "UFOs" were to be shown to British and American experts attending a Space Symposium (held at RAF Cranwell Air Warfare Centre staff college, Lincolnshire on the 4th and 5th June, 1998). The most significant of these were said to depict the Radar-tracks of a 900ft long triangular craft (described as being the size of "a battleship") which was *"..definitely under control, judging by the various manoeuvres executed"*. This object reportedly flew at 17,000mph over the North Sea in a zig-zag pattern, *"as if it wanted to be spotted"*. It then supposedly accelerated to 24,000mph and "zoomed off" towards the Atlantic. The Dutch air force were also said to have tracked this UFO, but two F-16 fighters scrambled to intercept the object were unable to keep up with it.

It is claimed that these various "UFOs" were spotted by the latest long-range 360 degree Phased Array radar located at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire.

The original source of this story is reputed to be a senior serving RAF official. This "senior officer" is claimed to have stated: *"What we have seen are not secret weapons. They are craft of which we have no technical knowledge. We know their shape, speeds and height but cannot explain what they are."*

However, it was claimed that other radar tapes of UFO's made over the last two years were being withheld because they gave away "too much information" about Fylingdales' "scanning ability". Nonetheless, military chiefs were supposedly considering the public disclosure of other tapes purporting to show "12 UFOs changing shape in mid-flight".

However, subsequent enquiries (particularly by BUFORA's Press officer Dave Clarke and Nick Pope) exposed these sensational tales as being a "tissue of untruths".

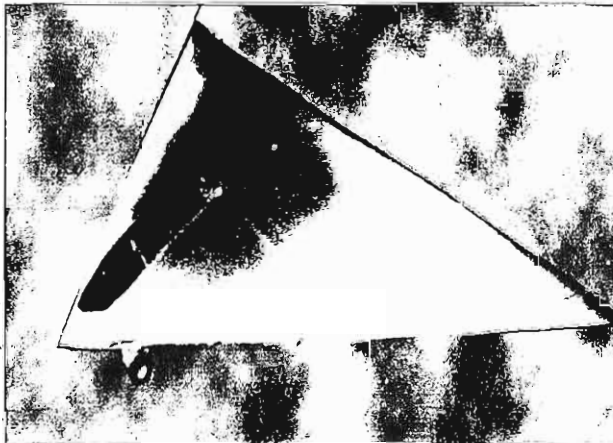
Firstly, no secret radar tapes of

UFOs were shown at the Cranborne conference; it's actual aim being (according to Nick Pope; *.....to raise awareness of military space systems with both the military and the commercial community. It comprised of a series of briefings and discussions on policy, doctrine, recent technological advances and procurement. There was never any intention that the issue of UFOs would be discussed...."*)

Additionally, the RAF Press office denied all stories relating to mystery craft as big as battleships and "shape-changing UFOs". It's press officer (Alan Patterson) rejected all references to what he described as "the UFO angle" reported by the media. They also denied the existence of any radar-tapes showing such objects.

The RAF Press Office further stated that this information did not (in actuality) originate from a "secret RAF source", but from a former MoD civilian employee who left (according to various sources) *"under a cloud"* and with *"a chip on his shoulder"*. They further stated that this individual had become notorious in recent times for *"producing wildly exaggerated stories about a variety of military subjects"*.

David Clarke (a journalist for the **Sheffield Star** newspaper) spoke with John Ingham, the reporter involved in writing up this story for the **"Daily Express"**. He confirmed that the person named by the MoD was the "prime source" of this account. Previous enquiries by Clarke also revealed that *"reporters from the Mail and Express rang the AS2 Press desk at the weekend to check the facts supplied by this character and were told none of the story was correct - but decided to run with it anyway"*.



INVESTIGATIONS DIARY.

GLORIA DIXON.

Director Of Investigations (DoI), BUFORA.

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phone:(0191)-236-8375. E-mail
rbx32@dial.pipex.com.**

PTC UPDATE:

On behalf of the NIC, I would like to offer my congratulations to the following BUFORA members who have completed and passed the Postal Training Course (PTC). They will now be listed as Provisional Investigators with BUFORA;

- David Mace, Northampton.
- Andrew Acton, Manchester.
- Steve Ives, Hessele.
- Ken Doyle, Bishop Auckland.
- Robert James Temple, Stainforth.
- Chris Patterson, Tynemouth.
- Emma Scott, Wanstead.
- Francis Hruszka, Leicester.
- H.M Reynolds.
- Chris Sheridan, Bury, Lancs.
- Simon Couzens, Andover.

There are currently 6 trainees enrolled on the course. Dave Pointon comments in a PTC update to me: *"The completion rate of the course seems to be rather low but this was/is expected as enthusiastic members begin to realise that investigation can be time consuming, sometimes hard work and not like an episode of the X-files!"*

**National Investigations Committee
(NIC) Meeting;
LONDON, 10th OCTOBER, 1998**

I would like to open the diary with details of the next NIC meeting;

**Date: Saturday 10th October 1998.
Time: 2pm - 6pm.
Venue: University of Westminster,
35 Marylebone Rd, London.
NW1 5LS.**

Please inform me if you are able to attend; I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. There are several items on the agenda for discussion at this stage, but should any investigator feel there is anything they would like as an additional item, please feel free to contact me.

CONSULTANTS TO BUFORA:

I would also like to list details of BUFORA's various consultants. Please feel free to contact them with any investigation-related queries falling within their particular area of expertise (as stated below);

Consultation on any Report:

Steuart Campbell BA (Open) Dip Arch (Birm)
4 Dovecot Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 2LT.
Phone: (0131) 4433687.

Astronomical Data:

Dave Newton BSc. (Hons), 2a East Cheap, Heaton
Newcastle Upon Tyne E6 5UA.
Fax (0191)276-4437 Email:Alys4@aol.com.

Psychology:

Tony R.. Lawrence, B.Sc. (Hons.) Ph.D
School of Health and Sciences, Coventry University,
Priority Street, Coventry CV1 5FB
Email: hsx065@cov.ac.uk.

Photographic Analysis:

Gloria Dixon, BM BUFORA, London WC1N 3XX.
Email: rbx32@dial.pipex.com
Phone: (0191)236-8375.

Electromagnetic effects:

Albert Budden: (0181)-560-9497

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS:

On behalf of the NIC and BUFORA I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to John Heptonstall, who has recently resigned from the position of DD of I. John was a dedicated investigator who contributed an enormous amount of time and energy to his role as DD of I, as well as carrying out investigations as RIC for all of Yorkshire. I valued his support and excellent investigation skills. He is greatly missed by the NIC. I wish him every good wish for the future. Dave Pointon has now been appointed as Deputy Director of Investigations.

Dave has been tutoring and administering the Postal Training Course (PTC) over the last two years. He has also conducted many investigations for BUFORA as RIC for the Staffs/Shropshire area, so I therefore know he will make a substantial and valuable contribution to BUFORA in his position as DDI. I would like to warmly welcome him to this position and I look forward to working with him in this role.

SIGHTINGS:

We have received approximately 168 sightings during the first half of 1998 with January/February being quiet, and the majority of sightings being reported from March to June. December 1997 was very quiet, with only about 6 sightings reported via phone-calls. This was somewhat unusual, as laser-light displays are often extensively used in the weeks leading up to Christmas, which (in turn) generate a fair number of spurious "UFO" reports. There were many reports made on the night of the 11th June 1998, with balls of light being seen over a very large area of England. These events were probably generated by bolides or meteor-shower activity.

Another major event took place in the West Yorkshire area on Monday 2nd February 1998. This was followed up and investigated by John Heptonstall, who has submitted an in-depth report on

this incident. This case relates to the observation (by a large number of witnesses) of two very bright lights moving slowly over W.Yorks, from the Pennines in the West and on towards the York area in the East. The sightings were highlighted after Look North (a BBC TV Leeds programme) covered the incident and showed footage provided by a security man.

Around 17.35hrs "GH" and a colleague had been seated in their security cabin just off Coal Road when they noticed two very bright lights over Leeds to their west. Initially, they were thought to be an approaching aircraft, but after about 45 minutes the security guard decided to pan the infra-red camera at the lights from its mountings about 75 yards south of the cabin. The next 10 minutes were recorded on tape (along with its date/time aspects), and the two lights were tracked as they made their way towards the East.

Before the camera lost sight of them they were seen to diverge from what had been a very steady formation, to continue separately, one on a north easterly course and the other on an east/east southeast course.

A couple of comments from John's conclusions to his 15 page report state the following:

The most obvious conclusion has to be that the lights are some form of military hardware, requiring the attendance of jets or helicopters, perhaps for tracking or manoeuvring and that military exercises using similar apparatus were taking place simultaneously in the UK and North America. At the moment I suggest that the LITS seen by most witnesses were at least one pair of well lit RPV/UAV craft, the lights providing tracking ability maintained by the unidentified helicopters.

It is known that the RAF had an ongoing exercise, in which many aircraft took part (mostly operating from RAF Leuchars in Scotland). This involved night flying over the UK during the first two weeks of February. Chinook and Puma helicopters were also involved in this exercise.

A more detailed account of this case will be featured in the next BUFORA Bulletin.

PARANORMAL EVENT....OR ALIEN ENCOUNTER?

There has been a substantial increase in the number of perceived "close encounter" or "alien abduction" experiences reported to BUFORA in recent years. We have several instances on record where long-term apparitional experiences once deemed "paranormal" by their participants are subsequently reinterpreted as "alien encounters". The powerful imagery of UFO-related television programs, magazines and books has now seemingly integrated into the human consciousness and may be possibly affecting how we perceive such events. More disturbingly, vivid dreams (or dreams featuring unusual imagery) are now increasingly being viewed as the result of "alien abductions". This is obviously a frightening and disturbing possibility for those concerned.

Consider a call BUFORA received two years ago from a lady in the Yorkshire area. She was very upset because her three year-old daughter had been having nightmares and that some of the images she was drawing (according to her mother) resembled "alien" faces. She felt that this warranted a visit by an investigator, as she believed that her daughter was being abducted by aliens. This woman struck me as being very aware of the UFO subject as a whole. Of course, I tactfully suggested that if she was concerned in this way about her daughter she should take her to their GP and talk with him. I also suggested that children's cartoons and books often reflected this type of imagery, and there was a strong possibility that such visual images may have contributed to her daughter's drawings and dreams.

This of course is an extenuating case, but we cannot lose sight of the Jason Andrews affair here and the subsequent book *Abducted - The True Story of Alien Abduction in Rural England*. I am sure no-one would disagree that this exploitation of a young teenager is abhorrent to all of us. James Dalrymple wrote a two page article in the Daily Mail on his difficult interview with Jason. He comments within the article that, although the author made

efforts to contact the relevant authorities to confirm Jason's medical and school records, she never actually saw any. As a result she could only examine the notes which Mrs. Andrews had made from them. Dalrymple also comments that once the family had immersed themselves in the "cult" of alien visitation and abduction they found *"an elaborate potpourri of pseudoscientific mumbo-jumbo invented by largely harmless obsessives that has become a flourishing industry in the western world"*.

Personally, I am not so sure it is harmless. I feel that the whole "alien abduction" scene has the potential to inflict psychological harm upon those who happen to become immersed within it. Dalrymple comments at the end of this excellent article with the following words;

"But I had a bad feeling about Jason. He is now locked forever into his role as Britain's most famous alien abductee. Each day he will have to fact derision and hostility at a school where he once suffered pain and rejection. A hard-up and likeable family will become moderately rich and be feted briefly on the celebrity circuit before being spat out and forgotten. And a rather lonely young boy, who has shown evidence of emotional and behavioral problems will become a kind of freak show."

I believe BUFORA has a great responsibility to both witnesses and the general public to ensure that the literature, media attention and at times lunacy that has developed around the close encounter experience is treated with both extreme caution and objectivity. We have a moratorium in place on the use of hypnosis by BUFORA investigators, which has been ongoing for several years. We must never forget that we are amateurs in a field of study that is viewed by some within the scientific community as a fringe "science" run by the equivalent of trainspotters. It is therefore imperative we utilize BUFORA's technical consultants in order that we reach an informed understanding of what may (or may not) be occurring

"Researchers are showing how suggestion and imagination can create 'memories' of events that did not actually occur."

Elizabeth F. Loftus

Elizabeth Loftus (professor of Psychology at the University of Washington) has focused on human memory, eyewitness testimony and courtroom procedure. She has published 18 books and more than 250 scientific articles. Her book Eyewitness Testimony won an award from the American Psychological Foundation and she was recently elected president of the American Psychological Society. I would like to quote Dr. Loftus from her article in Scientific American last year where she writes

"Misinformation has the potential for invading our memories when we talk to other people, when we are suggestively interrogated or when we read or view media coverage about some event that we may have experienced ourselves. After more than two decades of exploring the power of misinformation, researchers have learned a great deal about the conditions that make people susceptible to memory modification. Memories are more easily modified, for instance, when the passage of time allows the original memory to fade."

There is a great deal of medical literature on recovered and false memories, and the major problems associated with using hypnosis to gain more information on these 'events'. In order to even begin to address these issues, we need to understand more about memory and memory retrieval, together with the other issues associated with this whole curious phenomenon of "abduction by aliens". To illustrate some of these points, I would like to document the following significant (and in some ways worrying) reports that have been reported to BUFORA over the last few weeks:

Location: Devon.

Date: 1991.

Inv. Judith Jaafar & Malcolm Robinson.

This case encompasses very unusual phenomena that would usually be perceived as paranormal, but the witness contacted BUFORA several months ago when he felt that the events were alien in nature in the sense of UFO and aliens. The witness (BP) referred to these strange events as hauntings, but has now come to the conclusion that

he and his family are seeing 'aliens' and that they are all being abducted!

He mentioned several incidents which have occurred to his family, wife and son, who is twenty six years of age. The initial experience in 1991 involved the father seeing a figure at the side of his bed, and other paranormal activity started to occur with ghostly apparitions and observations of balls of light appearing in their home. They described them as the size of ping-pong and tennis balls. They move around and then suddenly pop. On one occasion, both father and mother heard screaming and moaning emanating from their son's bedroom. Upon entering their son's bedroom they realised that their son was not at home! On another occasion after a strange and disturbing dream the mother had a painful feeling on the side of her head after waking. Over the next few days her hair fell out from this particular spot and she was left with a small circular bald spot on her head. She visited her GP about this but he was unable to offer an explanation.

When her hair grew back it was white, but in time her normal hair colour returned. One of the incidents involves his son seeing a figure standing in the doorway. When he pushed against this figure, he describes feeling as if he was pushing against warm jelly or warm air, and felt that there was substance to the figure. After a few seconds the figure seemed to melt away. The family have had a psychic investigator visit their home twice and after the second visit it appears the paranormal events subsided, but the family still have an impression of ghostly figures in their home. It appears that other people who have visited with this family have experienced unusual phenomena, and the family had friends to stay at the house who will not come back!

During this time the husband went to see a hypnotherapist as he needed to find some important documents, which were unrelated to any of these events. He felt that hypnosis could possibly help his memory in locating them. During his hypnosis session a scenario emerged of UFO and alien encounters where he described images of figures with large cat-like eyes and also a saucer shaped

object which had a door or hatch and was dark inside. He then felt he was travelling in this object and that there was a screen in front of him and clouds which he could see from a 'window'. Other recollections also emerged, but what is significant here is the fact that prior to the hypnosis session he had never interpreted the strange phenomena occurring in his home as being UFO or alien related.

During the interview the family claim not to have had any prior interest in the subject of UFOs except for watching the odd TV show. However, it should be noted that virtually no-one today (unless they have been locked away for the last few years) could fail not to have subconsciously absorbed at least some of the extraordinary "alien" images that are now all around us in books, magazines, movies, television and even TV advertising.

Another interesting point here is that BP states that the land his home is built upon was used as a hanging ground during the Middle Ages, and that there is notable anomalous phenomena experienced around this area. Local historical data relevant to this case will be presented at a later date. Malcolm Robinson has sent in a brief initial synopsis of this case from their visit with the witnesses on the 11th July 1998, which will appear in the next issue of **BUFORA BULLETIN**.

Location: Surrey

Date: 13th July 1998; phone call to BUFORA

Mr. M. contacted BUFORA regarding his partner who he claimed was 17 years of age and had been experiencing unusual phenomena in their flat. The lady concerned has two young children, one of which was only a few weeks old. Unfortunately, I was not able to speak with the lady concerned, but her partner reported details of unusual phenomena occurring in their home, but more particularly to his partner. Her experiences took place in their bedroom where she would see images of pale faces in her mirror (which faces the bed). She at first thought that these were reflections of faces looking in the bedroom window, but when she turned to the window there was no-one there. Mr. M. also claimed that his partner had unexplained marks on her body and that she was very distressed by all this, and felt strongly she was being "taken by aliens". It appears that there

has been paranormal activity in their flat (which at times would feel unusually cold). Mr. M. was adamant she wished to undergo regression hypnosis in order to discover what was happening to her. I urged extreme caution and asked him to discourage his partner from taking this path, but to no avail as she basically wanted to contact a UFO organisation so that they could arrange this. I suggested that they both visit her GP and talk about these experiences, and then have him recommend a medically-qualified specialist in this field. However, sadly I do not think she will follow this route, as she has - according to Mr. M. - become convinced that she has been abducted by aliens. They have now read several UFO books, but claim this was after the 'events' rather than before.

Location: Streatham, London.

BUFORA has also been contacted by a lady in Streatham and I would like to give another brief synopsis of her case from a report submitted to BUFORA by Judith Jaafar. Judith and Malcolm Robinson followed up this report on the 25th May 1998.

The witness concerned contacted BUFORA after finding a contact number in Jenny Randles' book *Time Travel*. The experiences which impelled her to contact BUFORA began about five years ago. C.B. was lying in bed reading when her house was suddenly plunged into darkness. She got up to find a light bulb for her bedside lamp, and then checked to see if there had been a power-cut.

On opening the front door she was confronted by a huge, bright, white light in the street. C.B. remembers nothing more until the following morning, when she found the light bulb on the hall table, just where she had placed it prior to her opening the front door. She has had this experience several times. During the most recent instance C.B. again went to the front door to check the street lights as the interior lights and TV slowly started to dim. Once again she was confronted by this bright white light, which appeared to fill her whole field of vision.

It appears that Mrs. CB has had a history of paranormal events, experiencing precognitive dreams and visions from a very young age. She also feels she has an unusual affinity with plants and reportedly has

the ability to communicate with them and make them grow. At age 18 or 19 CB states that, whilst out in her boyfriend's Austin 7, the car's engine and electrics suddenly failed. Their next memory was of the engine coming on again and after driving home they found there was a time discrepancy of about an hour and a half which they could not account for. There can be no confirmation on this event as it happened in 1954/55 and Mrs. CB cannot contact the other witness. This therefore remains an anecdotal story.

It also emerges that her son DB has witnessed strange incidents, one of which involves a 'ghost cat' (which was also seen by his mother and the home-help), and both mother and son believe that they share a strong emotional and telepathic link.

Mrs. C.B. spends a lot of time in bed and sleeps in her living-room, due to being a semi-invalid who suffers from chronic arthritis and (in more recent years) ME. Judith feels it is conceivable that the 'bright-light' experiences could result from hypnagogic hallucinatory phenomena. The only medication that CB takes is paracetamol.

Interestingly, a week after the interview Judith was contacted by C.B. to inform her that she had received a vision of an impending disaster, and gave substantial details about the event which she felt was connected to football fans travelling to France for the 1998 World Cup.

These are just three recent examples of how contemporary beliefs in alien intervention influences the interpretation of anomalous experiences. It is evident that we are wading through some very muddied waters in our efforts to comprehend the true nature of these events.

Sightings coming into BUFORA:

Location: Somecotes, Derbyshire
Date: Middle May, 1998
Inv. Dominic Beglin

JM was looking through her kitchen window at 8am, when she noticed an unusual object which

appeared to be shaped like two triangles joined together, almost like a bowtie. It was dark brown and appeared to have ridges on it. She describes it as moving slowly in a south to south west direction with a type of fluttering motion. She heard no noise and called her husband to look at the object. Their observation time was about one minutes and it then went out of view. It was difficult for her to judge height with no frame of reference, but she described as low as plane coming into land. Through binoculars they then observed the object again moving in this fluttering way. Dominic is sending a questionnaire and will give an update on this when he has checked with the relevant airports etc.

Location: Warley, West Midlands
Date: 1986 sighting and recent unusual experiences
Inv. Kate Taylor

BUFORA was contacted by WD, who reported a series of experiences which took place in his bedroom. WD is a 30 year-old gentleman who lives at home with his mother. At 1.30am on 28th June WD was in bed and became aware of what he describes as a shadow moving across the bedroom door (which is wooden, not glass). There is also a street lamp situated outside his bedroom. He sat up and then lay down again, but he was alerted to a spot of light in a diagonal line near the curtains. WD felt by this time that he was drifting off to sleep when he then became aware of a light above him; WD describes it as being about 3mm thick by 30cm long and stated that it was moving "back and forth". According to WD, he then felt some kind of fluid hit him on the nose, experienced a sensation of pressure on his neck, a tingling sensation in his shoulder and felt paralysed in his head, arm and face. He then describes seeing a non-human face which appeared to be looking into his face from about 6 inches away. He explains that he did not feel frightened, but felt his arms moving like jelly.

Everything then went black and he woke up after what seems like a few moments, with his face feeling quite numb. He felt that he was not alone, but could not see anything. He heard his mother in the next room move and go to the bathroom. It was now 3am. On Monday 29th June 1998 at 12.30am he was drifting off to sleep when he felt a few drops of what

he describes as "hot water" on his ear. When he next awoke it was 3.15 am and WD discovered that (again) one side of his face was numb. Upon going to the bathroom he noticed a scratch on his neck, which he relates to the bedroom dream experience

He went to see his GP soon after this. She was sympathetic and supportive and suggested that he was going through some kind of post-traumatic stress from whatever these experiences were. She prescribed sleeping tablets. His mother confirms that she saw David coming out of his room that first night and that he looked pale and shook up. She wondered if he had experienced a bad nightmare. They went downstairs for a cup of tea together until 4.15.am.

A footnote here is that 18 years ago both WD and his mother observed what they perceived to be a UFO. The mother describes it as about 80 feet above a neighbour's house pulsating and about the size of a house. His mother observed this through binoculars and it then appeared to move backwards and just disappear. It was about 1.25am and it first appeared like a star which flashed and then receded. They contacted the police, who sent someone round, but they were not particularly helpful. No other sightings were reported from their neighbours or anyone else as far as they could ascertain. There are also some differences in the way the mother and son viewed this object/light.

Kate interviewed WD recently and will be submitting a full report to BUFORA in due course. There is of course a possibility that hypnagogic, false awakenings and/or sleep paralysis were involved with WD's experiences and this will be taken into account when looking at this case. It is also interesting to note that this report comes from near Rowley Regis, where there is a very well-documented report of some unusual events experienced by Mrs. Jean Hingley. Albert Budden's detailed investigation of this case seem to point to electrical hypersensitivity as a possible explanation for that particular event.

Location: Gloucester

Source Phone call to BUFORA

We have received a phone call from a mature lady in Gloucester, who believes she has witnessed some extraordinary phenomena in the area, which she claims is related to UFOs and aliens. The lady

concerned lives on the 5th floor of a 9-storey building. About two months ago she maintains that she had observed an object fly past her living room window which was black and saucer shaped. She claims there was no sound and no navigation lights. She has also observed orange and silver circles of light in the trees on a regular basis and large groups of figures who are seen around a nearby incinerator (which is in the vicinity of the Gloucester Royal Hospital). According to the lady, these figures seem to be "outlined in electricity" and dressed in a type of military army uniform.

During these observations she also sees police helicopters which appear to be searching for something. She feels very concerned and worried, particularly because there is a hospital and children's playground in the area. The area encompasses some particular locations of interest, specifically the highly secret GCHQ at Cheltenham which monitors all electronic/intelligence information from around the world.

The lady concerned tells me that although she wears spectacles, she has received a recent eyetest and is not on medication of any kind. She has contacted the police who informed her that this is a training area for their helicopters. I advised her to tell them about the other anomalies. Obviously this report will require following up, but we do not have an AI in this area and (in any case) we would need a great deal more background on the witness herself in order to make any assessment at all here. However, Rod Howarth is making some enquiries in order to check certain aspects of the sighting area.

Location: Forres, Moray, Scotland

Date: 29th January 1998

Inv. George Niedzwiedz

At 9.05pm on 29th January 1998, four people were out walking when they heard a very loud rumbling, roaring sound, which they first thought was from RAF Kinloss. The noise became much louder and two of the witnesses further down the path observed a white, circular object with a pink illuminated outer rim. They then observed the object accelerate very rapidly and shoot up into the sky; within three seconds it was the size of one of the stars in the night sky and then suddenly disappeared. Apparently there were several other people who had

heard this terrific rumble, one of whom was on the phone and got suddenly cut off during the time this sound was audible. George Niedzwiedz has named this The Thistle Report, due to a drawing made by one of the observers. This shows a rounded brilliant white sphere with a surrounding pink light, shaped at the back like a thistle. She describes what she saw as a ball of light, like a welders light; enveloped in this light was a bright pink luminosity with a tail. She describes the light/object as floating very slowly, which then accelerated at enormous speed and flew straight upwards, until it turned into the size of a star and disappeared. Observation time was estimated to be more than one minute, but less than two minutes.

Due to the distance to Forres from where the investigator lives he was unable to visit the witness. However, a response from the MoD states that although there were no sightings reported to them that night, there was military aircraft activity in the area that evening in the form of two F-15s from RAF Lakenheath. These were conducting routine nighttime low-level training in the general area of the sighting, although not necessarily above or around RAF Kinloss.

George Niedzwiedz makes the following comments on this case: *"Whatever they all saw must have been very strange to them and also associated with the light was the rumbling noise. Peculiar, yes, but not startling! I feel it would be quite fruitless to pursue this one further unless the witness comes forward with some expanded information or if more is seen of this particular object/light elsewhere. So for the moment I have left this as on-going. I have also enclosed two maps highlighting just where Forres is located. I have also marked four airports, which could cater for craft to come and go, RAF Kinloss being prime suspect"*

Comments from Gloria Dixon

About two years ago BUFORA received reports from the Elgin area, which is to the east of Forres, but still fairly close to this locale. This related to unusual activity in the area and I seem to recall it also involved strange light phenomena.

Date: 10th November 1994

Location A688, Near Spennymoor, Co. Durham

Invs. Gloria Dixon/Dave Newton

At 11.20pm FJ was travelling on his motorbike after working a late shift and was heading towards Spennymoor on the A688. He noticed a light in a field to his left, which appeared to get brighter, shining over the field from hedge to hedge. Within two or three seconds it illuminated the road all around him and appeared to be emanating from above and behind him. He estimated it as having a diameter of 100 meters. He looked upwards and back to see where the light was coming from just before it suddenly vanished.

Upon arriving home he sat down to eat his dinner; it was at this time that FJ became aware that he was very uncomfortable. Upon taking off his clothes he realised that he was covered from head to toe in a red sunburn-like rash which surrounded the edge of his lips but left his lips white. This lasted for about one and half hours and then disappeared totally. Two weeks later the rash appeared again just as before, lasted for a short time and then disappeared.

It has been established that there was no police helicopter in the area at the time and - as far as we can ascertain - farmers were not using sodium lamps in the fields either. This remains unexplained in terms of where the light was emanating from. Although the witness was convinced that the rash was related to his sighting, this may not have been the case. However, we were unable to prove this either way, as the witness did not get medical advice regarding the rash.

During an interview his wife confirmed that the rash appeared all over his body and also regarding the manner in which it quickly disappeared. There may be a perfectly reasonable explanation for the light observed by this witness, and there is no doubt that both husband and wife were very interested in the subject of UFOs. The importance of this incident may well have been reinforced due their beliefs, although they appeared to genuinely believe something unusual had occurred that night.

Date: September 1963
Location: Shilbottle Road, near
Alnmouth, Northumberland.
Inv. Gloria Dixon

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO FOOTAGE.

JA and her father were returning home from a long journey from Leicester to Alnmouth at 3.30am. driving on the A1 at Shilbottle near Alnmouth on the North-East coast. During this time they became aware of a glow emanating from a huge "object" above them which was very low (it's altitude estimated as being about 100 feet). With no frame of reference for what this object could be they felt terrified, and JA's father told her to switch off their car's engine. They clung on to each other, remaining stationary at the dip in the road.

Beams of light appeared to come down from the central underside of the object, which JA describes as being like "searchlights". In what seemed like one minute it moved away at extreme speed and was gone within 5 seconds in the direction of the North Sea. When it moved away JA states that she observed portholes on the object and her father started the car again. They both arrived home in a state of disbelief over what they had seen. The following day they contacted RAF Bulmer who informed them they knew of no military aircraft in the area on the previous night. There appeared to be no further information or other sightings at this time.

Although there was a farmhouse very close to where JA and her father saw the object, it appears no-one there saw or heard anything. JA's father had died prior to my investigation but never changed his story in any way. Furthermore, several villagers say that if that is what he said he saw, then that is indeed what he saw! Both witnesses are convinced that what they observed that night defied any prosaic explanation. This obviously remains as an anecdotal story as it has been reported so many years afterwards, and maybe there is a rational explanation for it.

However, JA gave me a simple drawing (as remembered by her) of their car and the object above it, which certainly shows a great difference between the size of the object and the size of their car.... the object being huge in comparison.

We continue to receive video and photographs of alleged UFOs. These have come in from Southampton, Symi Town Rhodes, South Shields and Hull and Merseyside. With the exception of the Southampton photograph, they have been enhanced and explained as aircraft, MIR Space Station and possibly an insect flying close to a camera with a fixed focus lens. Needless to say the photographers do not wish to hear this! What is important upon receiving any photograph/video footage is to ensure that all background information to the photograph is established via the BUFORA Questionnaire. Information about the camera and film used are primary as well as obtaining a drawing of the light/object as seen with the naked eye.

Nick Burton has conducted several analyses of photographs for BUFORA over the last few years. He has a degree in computer graphics and image processing and has completed his final year of PhD study in digital medical imaging processing. He makes the following important comments on analysis carried out on 'UFO' images.

In order to extract any valid information from an image, each step in the digital capture, processing and enhancement must be fully understood. This is unfortunately a rare situation in the field of ufology, as many individuals attempt to 'enhance images with little or no experience or knowledge of the underlying mathematical processes, the result of which is normally at best a flawed perception of the obtained results, which are clearly invalid.

I shall be addressing the issues of photographs and video footage in a future issue of the Bulletin. I would appreciate any comments our members may have with regards to the diary or specific case-histories. Investigation is at the cutting edge of ufology, without this input of data there would be no vital research into this most fascinating and compelling phenomenon. Therefore, on behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the investigators for their time and dedication.

Gloria H. Dixon, August 1998.

- INVESTIGATIONS DIARY SPECIAL -
**THE HOWDEN
MOORS INCIDENT**
- Part 1 -
David Clarke

David Clarke is a Ufologist of long standing, who has recently been appointed BUFORA's press secretary. By profession David is a journalist; his 15-month investigation into the Howden Moors "aircrash mystery" for the "Sheffield Star" was recently given an Editor's Award by that newspaper.

INTRODUCTION:

Just after 10pm on Monday, March 24, 1997, more than 40 people living within and close to Howden Moors, Derbyshire telephoned the police to report observations of a "light aircraft", who's disappearance from view was followed by an audible explosion, a "flash" of light and plumes of smoke. Emergency services from four counties scoured the area for signs of this "aircrash", none of which was ever uncovered. This search operation continued until 2pm the following afternoon and cost the taxpayer an estimated £50,000.

Since that time there has been much speculation over the actual nature of this event. Some within the UFO community have even stated that the Howden Moors incident represents England's equivalent to the Roswell "UFO" crash! However, others have suggested somewhat more down-to-earth explanations; ranging from military exercises, malfunctioning experimental aircraft, fireball meteors to the activities of drug-smugglers. This article examines the known facts pertaining to this event and attempts to reach some conclusions in regards to it's actual nature.

LOCATIONAL DATA:

The county of Derbyshire is located in the approximate middle of the United Kingdom. It is adjacent to the counties of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire. It's terrain is either flat or undulated at it's southerly point, irregular in it's mid-

and North Easterly portions and mountainous in the North West. It's principal rivers are the Trent, Derwent, Dove, and Wye.

The Peak District National Park (in which the Howden Moors are situated) was Britain's first National Park, being established in 1951. The Peak District National Park lies at the southern end of the Pennines between Sheffield and Manchester. It covers an area of approximately 1404 km square miles of Derbyshire and also parts of the counties of Staffordshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. Geologically, it can be divided into the White Peak (limestone area) and the Dark Peak (which is predominately boggy). Like other national parks it is mostly under private ownership; the public has access to only a small portion of it (about 197 sq. km). It is governed by a body is officially known as The Peak Park Joint Planning Board (more commonly known as The Peak National Park Authority). Although of a wild and isolated aspect, the park is closely adjacent to some of the most industrialized areas of land in the UK.

The nearest city to the Peak Districts, Sheffield, (situated in the county of South Yorkshire) is the United Kingdom's 4th largest city, with a population of approximately 0.5 million. It's nearest major airports are Leeds/Bradford, Manchester, East Midlands and Humberside. Sheffield also has it's own small fledgling airport, located at Tinsley, on the east-end of the city. This currently only caters for shorthaul air-traffic. The Peak District National Park is located about 8 kilometers to the west of Sheffield.

FIRE OVER THE MOORS:

Just after 10pm on the 24th March 1997 the operations room at Sheffield Police headquarters received diverse emergency calls from people around the village of Bolsterstone, reporting what they described as a low-flying aircraft on the western horizon, seemingly on a collision course with the Peak District hills. One witness in Stannington said she observed a wingless long cigar-shaped object which appeared to be "on fire". This object came from the direction of a hill-village called Bradfield and disappeared towards Strines and the Derbyshire moors in the west. Police special constable Maria-France Tattersfield was (like many others at that time) outdoors observing comet Hale-Bopp,

which was clearly visible in the evening sky at that time. Driving near the village of Bolsterstone with her pilot husband they were both startled to observe "a large four-seater aircraft" flying at extreme low altitude, directly across their field of vision. In her own words... "It was the weirdest thing I've ever seen, it was a big aeroplane....well below the legal altitude for safe flying. All its windows were lit up.....no light aircraft pilot would fly blind at that time of night over these hills..." This aircraft disappeared in the west towards Broomhead Moor.

This "craft" was also seen by several witnesses located at Edge End farm, where it flew at low altitude from the direction of Deepcar, clearly displaying lights on its wings. As it moved away it was blocked from view by Margery Hill. A very short time later an orange glow followed by several plumes of smoke came from that direction. Concerned that they had just observed an air crash the witnesses telephoned the emergency services.

Shortly after 10pm that night a local gamekeeper and his wife (living in an isolated cottage on the moors at Strines, on the border between South Yorkshire and Derbyshire) were watching TV when they heard a loud "boom and bang" sound in the sky outside. They both rushed outside expecting to discover that an aircraft had crashed onto the moors or into the nearby Strines reservoir, but they could see nothing except an eerie glow over the distant moors. They were both familiar with the usual sounds of the countryside but this noise was unlike anything they had ever heard before.

At around the same time this occurred another witness noticed the following; *"I was driving eastwards over the Woodhead Pass towards my home in Penistone on the night of March 24, between 10.05 and 10.10pm on March 24, 1997. As I arrived at Salters Brook Bridge at the top of the moors I became aware of a light which caught my eye over the moors to the south. At first I thought it was a fire, but I discounted this because when I looked closer I could see it did not resemble a fire and I have seen fires on numerous occasions at night on moorland.*

I continued driving for about one mile, during which the light disappeared from view in the contours, then stopped my car at Fiddler's Green.

The light was still visible and it looked as if it was hovering at ground level in the area of Featherbed Moss or the Shepherd's Meeting Stones. The light was stationary and did not flash or project a beam; it appeared to be a bright white in colour. Discounting stars or fires, the only other possibility was that someone was on the moor with an extremely bright flashlight.

When I heard about the incident on the news the next night I reported my sighting to the head warden. I returned to the area on the following night, to see if the light could have been that of a star or planet but could see nothing in that position at the same time. I don't know what I saw or whether it was connected with the sightings made by other people. I don't know the exact time, but as I arrived home at 10.25pm the light could not have been that of the helicopters or search teams as they did not reach the scene until 11pm".

THE "RESCUE" OPERATION:

By 10.30pm the West Yorkshire police had received a number of consistent and reliable reports relating to this incident. Responding to this situation, it's police controller called out 40 police officers and put the county's Fire and Rescue service on full alert. By this time Air Traffic Control at Manchester Airport had ascertained that no aircraft were reported missing and that no mayday calls had been received. Other local airports and RAF installations were also contacted, all of which reported that they had no aircraft unaccounted for.

The Derbyshire County Police also received calls from three members of the public reporting an aircraft in trouble over the Strines area, at roughly the same time as similar incidents were reported to South Yorkshire Police. However they were more used to dealing with reports of this kind, working in an area on a direct flightpath to Manchester Airport, as well as a RAF training ground. The locations given by the people who contacted them were vague and covered literally tens of square miles of moor. The Duty Inspector that night then checked with air traffic control and (on finding nothing untoward) took the decision NOT to alert the emergency services to a suspected air crash.

He later justified this decision by stating that **"We are continually receiving reports of this kind.**

Only a couple of weeks ago during the meteor shower we had people ringing in saying they had seen an aeroplane crashing and on fire. People see something odd in the sky and their imagination does the rest." He also admits that he was "carpeted by a senior officer" afterwards "for not taking the reports seriously" but added:

"I believe subsequent events prove I was one hundred percent correct in my assessment of the situation, and this officer had to admit I had taken the right decision in the end. The search of the moors was a complete waste of time and public money because nothing crashed. I have seen the claims in one of those UFO magazines [Alien Encounters] which one of my PCs brought into the office, claiming there was a cover-up over this case. The theories these people are putting forward are so far-fetched they are hilarious. The guy who wrote the article was saying 'why would they have sent two helicopters to search for something which did not crash'. But if I had had my way, we wouldn't have sent any helicopters out because it was a waste of time and public money."

In the event the South Yorkshire Force took over the "primacy" for the incident and ordered a full-scale air and ground search to commence for this "aircraft". Staff at Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire Hospital were put on standby to receive possible survivors from this suspected aircrash. Fire crews from five stations located in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire were sent to the moors. On arrival they rendezvoused at the "Strines Inn" public house, and remained on a standby basis until about 1.30 am when the police and mountain rescue gave them the all clear. At no time did they go onto the moors themselves as, according to one of the firemen "they didn't know what to look for and had no equipment to search the moors", leaving this task to the Mountain Rescue Services.

By that time the West Yorkshire Polices helicopter was already en route from its Wakefield base, its hi-tech heat-seeking equipment searching for any sign of a crash as its "Night-Sun" searchlight swept the moors below. Dozens of volunteers from the Peak Districts' seven experienced mountain rescue teams were by now being contacted by phone; some being roused from their beds, others asked to drop everything and rendezvous urgently with fire

crews and police dog teams at the hastily-assembled search headquarters at Hephshaw Farm on Langsett Moor (north of the crash zone). By the early hours a total of 141 mountain rescue personnel were out on foot searching from Broomhead Moor out towards the vast and uninhabited tracts of bogland north of the Howden Reservoir.

The police helicopter had by now found nothing to indicate that a crash had taken place, but calls were continuing to flood into police stations both in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire, reporting low-flying aircraft, an explosion and a flash over the moors. These observations merely seemed to confirm the original information that a plane had gone down. "My concern was that we could have about eight people from a crashed aircraft lying on the moor seriously injured. It was an exceedingly cold night and we had to find them straight away," she said. A check of radar information for the South Yorkshire area and surroundings found nothing significant, according to a South Yorkshire Polices log of the incident. At this stage, the police contacted RAF Kinloss in Scotland, a airsea rescue base which covers the whole of northern England.

On being contacted RAF Kinloss authorised a Sea King helicopter to join the search operation from its base at RAF Leconfield on the East Coast of Yorkshire. The RAF (after consulting the Civil Aviation Authority) established a Temporary Danger Area covering a ten mile radius centered on the Howden Reservoir. Such an exclusion order is a routine procedure, to ensure that the search area would be left undisturbed by military and civilian aircraft. The Sea King helicopter arrived around midnight and performed two searches, landing at 2am and 3am near Hephshaw Farm for a debriefing. They were then asked to do another sweep as daylight broke. In the event (after making two searches of the moors and maintaining radio contact with the ground teams) the Sea King found nothing and returned to its base at 3am on March 25th. As previously stated, the West Yorkshire Police helicopter had also performed a massive overflight of the area, the first at 11pm using its heat seeking equipment, but had also found nothing.

By this time the mountain rescue teams had thoroughly searched up to 50 square miles of the moors with help from the helicopters. Despite this

could find " no scouring to the moor.....no bits of wreckage [and] no oil traces on the reservoirs." They were "being pushed" by the South Yorkshire police to scale this operation up early on in the morning and (as a result) had to ask for extra men to come in and take over the search, even through there was no solid evidence that anything had crashed.

At that stage the possibility was considered that the aircraft had crashed into one of the local reservoirs. As a result Yorkshire Water were then asked to assist with the operation. According to John Beaver of Yorkshire Water Ltd:

"We were asked midway the following morning by the police to have a look and see if any pollution or debris were present in any of the reservoirs. We checked the Strines and Broomhead reservoirs, checking the surface for oil slicks or debris. Then we were told to stand down by the police. They told me the RAF had admitted there was a plane doing a nighttime exercise and it had gone through the sound barrier. I got the impression from the police that they thought they had been wasting their time, and if they had known they would not have put as much effort into the search. Police inquiries at first were told "no exercise" but afterwards it is my understanding that the military admitted there had indeed been one."

Senior Peak Park Warden Brian Jones (based at Fairholmes in the Derwent Valley) is responsible for the management of the whole area. He has some 30 years' experience as a National Park ranger in the area "crash zone". Jones stated that those involved in this search were professionals with decades of experience on the moors (which they know intimately), and were in radio communication with the RAF helicopter throughout the search. "There were 141 civilians involved in the search" he stated.

"Then there was the search and rescue dog association involved too. The Dangerous Flying Zone or Exclusion Zone was standard procedure, it was asked for because of all the helicopters in the area, and it was a device to stop Press helicopters entering the area. It covered a 10 mile radius of the Howden reservoir. They did warn aircraft going into Manchester because they have a stacking system for airliners and obviously they had to be told. "The two helicopters searched between 40 and

50 square miles of moorland and nothing was found. There was no trace of anything anywhere".

The mountain rescue teams continued to search the moors until 2pm that afternoon when Chief Insp Burbeary decided to call an end to the operation. She said afterwards; "We got nothing back from air traffic control, no reports of aircraft failing to return, and eventually having looked at all the circumstances the decision had to be made to call the search off. The conclusion at the end of the search had to be that no aircraft had crashed on the moor." The Officer added: "There is no doubt there WAS a number of phenomena. There was most certainly a very low flying aircraft. There is no doubt at the same time there was a huge explosion and a light in the sky and smoke - and I don't know what caused that."

The closing entry in the police log covering the incident reads: *"Enquiries reveal a combination of circumstances that would lead people to believe a plane might have crashed. Mountain rescue, police and RAF completed a thorough search between 1300 and 1300 today without any trace."*

When later question on this event, Brian Jones revealed that the search of the moors on March 24 last year was not an unusual event. He provided evidence to David Clarke from Peak Park records that search and rescue teams, including sniffer dogs are called out to search the same moors on average two or three times every year -always as a result of people ringing to report aircraft on fire or crashing. "The people who report these things are invariably visitors to the National Park who don't realise the area is used for low-level RAF training and is used for "stacking" airliners descending into Manchester," he stated.

"They see what they think is an aircraft about to crash and they call us. We have to respond with dogs and mountain rescue teams in case it is a genuine incident, but that fact alone does not make it significant in itself that something must have crashed simply because we have turned out. It's our duty to check it out, that's all".

He also compared this event to the time when a Hawker Hunter jet crashed into the same area of Broomhead Moor in 1991, killing the pilot, the impact from 2,000 feet left. This event left "one hell of a hole" and smoking debris scattered around a

large area. When the jet went down he heard a loud boom and raised the alarm straight away. However, on the night of the search Jones was out watching the Hale-Bopp comet through binoculars but heard nothing crash or explode.

In regards to the actual nature of this event Jones states the following; *"I'm convinced, as are most of the Mountain Rescue service, that the March 24 event was the result of an illegal drugs run. The police know that this valley is regularly used by drug smugglers and the moors would be an ideal drop zone."*

Mike France, Chairman of the Peak District Mountain Rescue Association, made the following comments in an interview with David Clarke in March 1998: *"Strines Moor and all the surrounding areas were thoroughly searched by up to 50 or 60 members of the teams from Oldham and Edale quite early on. The military play around in this area all the time. If someone saw a low flying aircraft that could have been a covert operation. We believe there was a military operation going on and a low flying covert operation too. People saw both and that caused the confusion. UFOs never came into the equation."*

The people who saw the object from the Stocksbridge area were adamant it was a two-engined propeller driven plane, and they were adamant it was not a military plane. It went up the valley and over the trees at the top, and it would have been extremely low. Then there was a boom and a flash. I think it was caused by two separate things that were tied together. Manchester is the second biggest city in the UK and very near the English coast, that plane could have been from Holland doing a drugs drop."

Inspector Jack Clarkson of South Yorkshire Police based at Deepcar Police Station said he believed "an experimental aircraft" could have been responsible. "They would not need to tell us if that was the case as there is no duty upon them to let the police know", he stated to David Clarke. *"They could even allow us to send out the helicopters and search teams just to cover their backs."*

Brian Jones said allegations that his men were party to a cover-up or were misled to search the

wrong part of the moor were "absolute nonsense" and a slur on the professionalism of his men, who are unpaid and dedicate their lives to saving climbers and people in distress in their own time. Commenting on these allegations he stated; *"These men are highly professional people and I have known Mike France and Ted Burton who were in charge during the night for many years. There was no cover-up and anyone who claims there was does not know what they are talking about."*

"SONIC EVENTS" DETECTED BY THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The British Geological Survey (BGS), based in Edinburgh, operates sensitive recording equipment across the British Isles to monitor earth tremors and quakes on a national level. These instruments also occasionally pick up other sonic anomalies - including air blasts caused by objects breaking the speed of sound.

On Monday, March 24, 1997, the BGS recorded two "sonic booms" originating from the Sheffield area at 2152 hrs and 2206 hrs respectively. It was noted in the BGS' records that they had contacted the RAF low-flying complaints department shortly afterwards, and were told the military could not confirm that one of their jets was responsible for these "sonic events". These were two of just eight similar sonic events recorded throughout the whole country that year.

In a later discussion with David Clarke, the BGS confirmed that the culprits were nearly always the same; military aircraft. The only other sources of sonic events were Concorde, and (more rarely) space debris and bolides. In this case BGS seismologist Glenn Ford was more specific. He said that these two sonic booms could only have been caused by a military aircraft going supersonic, possibly while performing a mid-air turn. Military Flying Regulations forbid pilots accelerating through the sound barrier above land and state that any breach of these regulations must be reported by captains to the authorities within minutes of landing.

The second part of Dave Clarke's investigation into the Howden Moors event will appear in the next issue of BUFORA BULLETIN - Ed.

BUFORA BULLETIN

LETTER PAGE

Please feel free to submit letters on any topic covered by the Bulletin; please submit them to the editorial address;

**BUFORA BULLETIN;
83, Church Road, East Huntspill,
Highbridge, Somerset. TA9 3NG.**

Mirages & Flying Triangles.

Sir,

I write to comment on Gloria Dixon's Investigations Diary in **BUFORA BULLETIN no. 3.**

Many of the cases described may be caused by astronomical mirages. I take only one as an example: the incident reported by MM and CL who were travelling on the M54. It is claimed that they were near the junction with the A44, but that road goes from Oxford to Ryayder in Wales, and the nearest it gets to Wolverhampton is Worcester. I think she means the A41, which crosses the M54 at junction 3.

[This was a typing error; Gloria Dixon].

From J3, RAF Cosford bears about 110 degrees, as does the motorway at that Point. The 'stationary, bright white rectangular shaped light' can therefore have been an extended mirage of Sirius (the brightest star), then just below the horizon on an azimuth of 109 degrees. It rose at 2126. 41 minutes later. The second object (to the left) can have been Procyon, another first magnitude star, only 3 degrees above the horizon and 24 degrees further north.

Procyon's colour is predominantly green, so accounting for the green lights'. I cannot account for a beam of light shooting down from the sky at 0145 on the return journey, unless it was caused by Saturn, then already below the horizon on an azimuth of 274 degrees (it set at 0112).

A temperature inversion can have caused these unusual images. Of course these objects cannot have been flying over the motorway, and the witnesses' claims to that effect can be discounted. They may have imagined this aspect

Your continuing failure to mention mirage explanations surprises me.

**Steuart Campbell,
Edinburgh, Scotland.
July, 1998.**

Comment By Gloria Dixon, BUFORA Director Of Investigations.

I do not necessarily agree with you here, Steuart. How can the mirage theory explain the black triangle observed in this case. Why did RAF Cosford contact the witnesses. I would suggest that it is highly likely that there is a military explanation for the black triangle they observed, particularly the fact they were close to any RAF base

Neither Dave Pointon or myself were convinced of all aspects of this sighting as reported by the witnesses, but we are receiving an increasing number of reports of black triangles silent and hovering very low in the sky over the past year or so. I would suggest that you contact Dave Pointon who was the AI who investigated this case and met with the witnesses.

Of course mirage explanations are very relevant to areas of UFO research. We always welcome your comments in regards to our reports.

Best wishes, Gloria Dixon.

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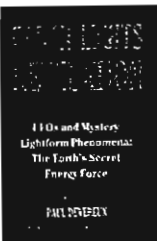
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In the bestselling *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Nick Pope examined the UFO phenomenon, drawing on his experiences as the Ministry of Defence UFO investigator and the unique perspective this gave him. Now he seeks to bring alien abduction out of the tabloids and into the broadsheets. During the three years he spent as the MoD's UFO investigator Nick Pope was frequently caught between helping abductees make sense of their experiences, and the MoD's official line, which is basically to ignore them. This, he argues, represents the ultimate failure of defence, and his book claims that abduction is a terrifying and physically real phenomenon that demands an official response.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

BUFORA EVENTS

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

- **Saturday, 5th September 1998. 1400-1700hrs. BUFORA Lecture.**
SPEAKER : Phillip Walton. TITLE : Is Seeing Believing?
(Venue: University Of Westminster, London).
- **Saturday, 3rd October 1998 1400-1700hrs. BUFORA Lecture.**
(Venue: University Of Westminster, London).
- **Saturday, 10th October 1998. 1400-1730hrs.**
- **BUFORA NIC meeting; BUFORA Investigation operatives only!**
(Venue: University of Westminster, London).

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

LAPIS CONFERENCE:

SAUCERS, SECRETS & SUPERPOWERS

VENUE: LOWTHER PAVILION, BLACKPOOL.

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

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

Speakers: Andy Roberts (Berwyn Mountain UFO Crash), Tim Rifat (Remote viewing), Jordan Maxwell (Secret Societies/The Vatican & UFOs), Pauline Delcour-Min (ET; Questions & Answers), Al Bielek (Montuk Project, Mind Control).

Contact Sam on (01253)-691301 or Paulette on (01253)-398410 for info.

Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA)

UFOS AND THE PARANORMAL CONFERENCE.

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

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

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

TICKETS; £6 (£5 CONCESSIONS).

Please contact MARK GLOVER on (0151)-4760356 for further information.