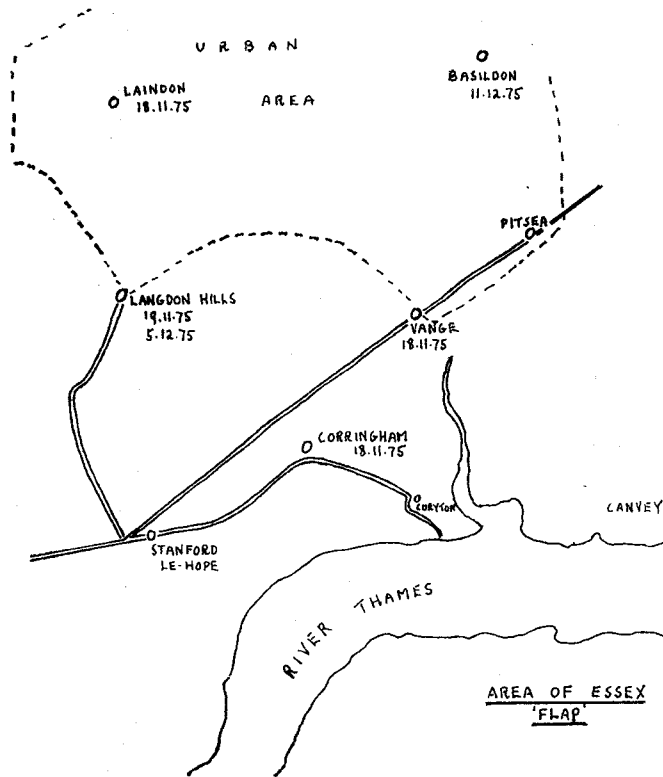


British UFO Research Association



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Vol 5 No3 September/October 1976

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BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 5 Number 3

September/October, 1976

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tact experiences: EM effects and so on. Nor does it seem to matter (shades of a current controversy) whether the publication is 'popular' or 'scientific' in outlook. The *Apro Bulletin*, for example, has always maintained a high standard of scientific enquiry and report, yet it certainly never seems to lack for landing and contact cases: similarly *Skylook*, publication of the Mutual UFO Network. Nor is this confined to the USA.

In Britain, however,—or is it my imagination—we tend to have an everlasting supply of LITS, with perhaps an occasional EM case or two to keep interest going plus a few near-landings to whet our appetites. Once or twice we may stretch to some field markings but that's about our lot, and by comparison it's a rather poor crop!

What's happened to landing and contact cases here these days? The only ones that ever seem to come to light, are usually years old when it's not practicable to pursue much of an investigation anyway! Personally, having checked out a number of contact reports in the past, I would say that contacts generally here have never

continued on page 4

Editorial

Aliens—where are you?

As the reader will realise when glancing through the pages of this issue, I've been looking at quite a number of overseas publications recently. One point is very striking and it is this. Whilst these publications contain references to a fair number of LITS, almost all of them regularly feature landing reports: occupant cases: con-

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Bufora Limited (by guarantee). Founded 1964. Registered Office: Old Brook Cottage, White Cross, Haughton, Stafford. Registered in London: No. 1234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Organisation, founded 1959, and the British UFO Association, founded 1962.

Aims: To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into UFO phenomena. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs. To co-ordinate UFO research on a nationwide scale and to co-operate with people and organisations engaged on similar research in all parts of the World.

Membership: The annual subscription is £4.00, \$10 in the USA and Canada. Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Council. Application/information forms can be obtained from any officer.

A look at oversea's research

To reproduce research and similar articles from overseas magazines in their entirety is not possible in the space at my disposal, but nevertheless, there are so many interesting items available, one feels it to be almost criminal to neglect them entirely. Here then are some extracts and synopses, and I trust the authors will forgive me for not quoting their contributions in full.

The Dec 1975 Newsletter from the Australian International UFO—Flying Saucer Research ¹ carries an informative article <i>The UFO Grid and Prediction</i> by K Gardner, which concerns two main projects. Project 1: To map the UFO grid system over South Australia; Project 2: Analysing UFO 'flaps' to try to predict future ones.	Years	No of 'Good' reports	Predictions
	1970	61	
	1971	71	
	1972	78	
	1973	90	90-92
	1974	110	109
	1975		108
	1976		145

Project 1 began by sorting out the 'low-altitude' or 'unexplained' reports from the others and plotting their flight paths on a map of Adelaide and the surrounding area (Army Survey map 1966, 1° lat, 1'30" long). A grid was then constructed on the map to coincide with the phenomenon's flight patterns, which gave one set of parallel lines running N to S (6°E of N), and another set at right angles to the first. The lines were spaced app 3½-3¾ nautical miles apart and it was notable that one of the NS lines passed over and very close to a fault line.

With regard to Project 2, K Gardner tells us that so far as statistics are concerned, the number of recurring figures or patterns are many—flaps, colour, time, etc—and because of this an attempt to predict future spates and annual sighting numbers was made. He continues: 'Using the difference (change as %) between the number of reports received each year, comparatively, we can project on a graph the number of reports (% change) in the future.' He quotes the following figures:—

'From this it seems that 1976 should be quite active, with a major flap occurring in late 1976/77,' Gardner continues, and adds, 'I have tried various methods for predicting flaps, mainly using mean differences and the fact that there may be two or three cycles superimposed on one another Next I may try using a time factor on other graphs produced from the basic data. Another field for investigation is the location of certain harmonic positions around Adelaide which may prove interesting in future research.'

Infrasound

Looking back through past issues of the *Apro Bulletin*, I came across an article in the July/August 1974 issue by Daniel H Harris about *Infrasonic UFO Detection*. Infrasonic sound is sound pitched so low as to be inaudible though it can carry over long distances which would prove a mixed blessing since both UFO and many natural infrasonic sources would come through strongly: nevertheless, the author considered UFO detection by infrasound a promising field of study and suggested the use of an omnidirectional detector

system filtering out wind noise and using a series of separate entrance apertures connected by a long length of pipe. Each filter detection unit would, though, require the use of an open field several hundred meters across and the number of such units needed would make the system a costly one.

Mr Harris referred to the humming sound often a feature of UFO reports and suggested it was not unreasonable to assume an extension of this sound to lower frequencies. Points Mr Harris made that might well favour research into infrasonic effects, included the oscillating motion of some UFOs—especially in cases where there are no reported EM effects. 'Wakes' from UFOs as they pass by an easily movable object—wakes are known to be effective infrasound generators. In some cases claimed close encounters include damage resulting from the use of weapons which could well have an infrasound connotation. Assuming that sparks and glows surrounding UFOs in night-time sightings are caused by electrical discharges, such discharges will necessarily result in the production of infrasound.

Mr Harris concluded by saying that, 'Our current understanding of the physics of UFOs is so primitive that it is not possible to positively predict the intensity of UFO infrasound . . . study and experiment should be carried forward into this virgin field . . .'

Rules

Ron Westrum, the Mufon Sociology Consultant had a most interesting article in the June 1975 issue of *Skylook*³, entitled 'Matching wits with extraterrestrials' and came up with three Rules: Rule One: What does the sighting show about capabilities as opposed to intentions? It is much harder to fake capabilities than it is intentions. Instead of trying to inter-

pret what the craft or entities seemed to be doing (their motivations or goals), what did the sighting in fact show them to be capable of accomplishing? Rule Two: Be cautious about sightings or patterns of sightings that make sense in human terms. Not only may the 'sense' involved be erroneous, but it may actually be contrived. In other words, the 'obvious' conclusions we draw may be those we are supposed to draw. Rule Three: This follows directly from number 2: Any sighting involving close contact is likely to be an attempt to transmit a particular message. The question that must then be asked is this: what net impression is the encounter likely to leave, not on the observer, but in the minds of those to whom the encounter is related.

Research Conference :

UFOCON 1

Just—and only just—in time for this article, there arrived a copy of the *Australian UFO Bulletin*⁴ for November 1975. This featured a report of a 3-day Conference held on 4-5-6 October 1975 in Terrigal, New South Wales. Not open to the public, it was designed as a meeting of delegates representing research elements of various investigating groups and individual investigators, the object being to plan ways of achieving co-ordination and co-operation.

Apart from talks from major Australian organisations, a number of scientists and researchers presented papers. These included Dr Don Herbison-Evans, a physicist at Sydney University who spoke on the use of diffraction gratings, spectra data and the use of polaroid material: Dr Geoff Stevens, a metallurgist from New South Wales, who gave a slide-illustrated talk, entitled 'Analysis of Physical Trace Case Histories' and Michael Fischer and David Buching of Sydney UFOIC

who noted two main sources of error—witness perception and errors in the investigation system—in their talk: ‘UFO Investigation Procedure.’

Other speakers included Ray Fischer, Noel Barron, Bill Chalker, an industrial chemist who suggested two reasons for scientific indifference—lack of repeatable documentable observations and the inflexibility of science to adjust—and Dr Ralph Molnar, a professional biologist from Sydney who spoke on UFOs and the Philosophy of Science.

A number of topics were discussed following the talks, mainly centring on the problem of how to obtain the greatest possible degree of co-operation between societies and how to increase scientific respectability. As Journal editor, a point I found of interest was the raising of the question as to whether an internal or a more general public magazine was preferable—the Conference decided on the latter alternative.

Before winding up, it was unanimously decided to hold a UFOCON 2 in Mt Gambier, S Australia in 1976 to coincide with a total eclipse of the sun visible from there.

One thing that stands out when reading through overseas magazines—not only those from the USA—is the extent to which landing and contact claims are reported and investigated, which makes a refreshing change from the ubiquitous British LIT!

Compiled by Norman Oliver.

References and acknowledgments:

1. *Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research Newsletter, Unit 3, 114 Cross Road, Highgate, S Australia 5063.*
2. *Apro Bulletin, 3910 E Kleindale Rd, Tucson, Arizona 85712.*
3. *Skylook, 26 Edgewood Drive, Quincey, Illinois 62301.*
4. *Australian UFO Bulletin, PO Box 43, Moorabbin 3189 Victoria, Australia.*

LIONEL BEER. Further to the Stop Press in the last Journal, Lionel Beer submitted his resignation to the Bufora Council of June 5 in the following terms:—

“I wish to tender my resignation as Vice-Chairman and as a Director of Bufora for the following reasons:

1. *Some recent administrative decisions appear to have reduced the entitlements of members.*
2. *The educational function of the Association appears to be diminishing.*
3. *It has become difficult to obtain some simple administrative/policy decisions.*
4. *The above reasons, and unexpected changes in policy, have made it difficult for me to publicise the Association, in the manner it deserves, with a good conscience.”*

Lionel added that, *“Despite the above, I believe that Bufora can still make a substantial contribution to UFO investigation and research, providing it can retain the interest of its existing members and also attract new members I have been an officer of the Association and its predecessors continuously since 1961, which I suppose is something of a minor record. Therefore I will continue as an ordinary member and fulfil current obligations”*

Council accepted Lionel’s resignation with regret: no Acting Vice-Chairman has yet been appointed, but Mr Jack Webber has been co-opted on to the Council which remains at its full strength of twelve.

Editorial

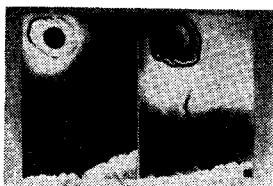
continued from p1

really attained the ‘respectability’ accorded them elsewhere. This leads to two things: firstly, people will be very wary of reporting such cases and, secondly, investigators, not unnaturally, are far more cautious in their approach than they otherwise would be lest a case ‘backfire.’ There seems to me though, to be no basic reason why we should not uncover many more landing occupant and contact reports in this country, nor any reason why we should not be able to investigate and publicise them as thoroughly as the ‘lowly LITS.’

Norman Oliver.

The Bouffioulx Phenomenon

On 16 May 1953, M Hermann Chermanne was at a spot known as 'La Blanche Borne' on a minor road leading to Bouffioulx in SW Belgium 7km from Charleroi, when he decided to stop to take some photos of a flock of sheep. The countryside is hilly with grassland and poplars.



He heard a deep metallic sound accompanied by 'cracks' like machine-gun fire, and turned round to see a large brilliant object rising in the sky to the north-east from which particles were falling: it was surrounded by a halo and a 'twisted trail' hung down from the object. M Chermanne managed to take two photos.

The object partially rotated as it rose, first making a quarter-turn to the left, then to the right, sometimes appearing oval, sometimes round. Then, for some 20 seconds, it remained motionless and the sound died down until nothing could be heard. The object then disappeared south-eastwards 'at the speed of a shooting-star,' the trail remaining for a few seconds then vanishing.

M Chermanne's camera was a *Linhof Technika* with a *Gevaert Gevapan 33* 9 x 12 glass frame. One point should be mentioned particularly, namely, that he stated both halo and particles appeared whitish to him whilst the photos indicated otherwise.

M Robert Michel, a Bouffioulx carpenter, witnessed the phenomenon

from Chamborgneau about 1500m away, but was unable to give a clear description of the object. Others were also stated to have been witnesses, but they were no longer alive when Sobeps heard of the case and made an investigation.

A retired engineer and Gepa member—Mr G C—was in charge of Public Works in the area at the time, and he worked out that a probable 'landing' site could have been a clearing bordering the Pays-Bayard path, at a site called La Siberie about 300m from the witness. Mr G C found no marks on the ground or trees, but he was very intrigued and returned to the spot several times, and a few months later found that the poplars there were shedding their leaves much more quickly than other trees nearby: 12 of the trees subsequently died.

A few years later, the Solvay factory (a large chemical and plastic organisation) cut down the dead trees to build a reservoir. Mr G C was there at the time and saw that the trunks were now of a spongy composition. It was suggested that this was due to lime in the ground, but this does not explain why only these 12 trees were affected. La Siberie is completely surrounded by geological faults, the nearest, the Chamborgneau fault, passing about 500m from the suggested landing site.

Taken from a translation by Alice Ashton of Sobeps from Inforeospace 1972 No 5, pp 20-22. With Acknowledgements.

Until the number of Journal pages can be increased, Uforum and Controversy will appear in alternate issues—Ed.

1975 Essex UFO Wave

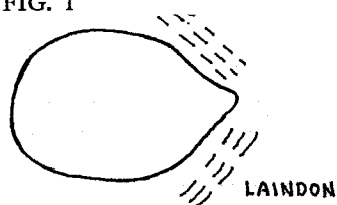
Jenny Randles

During the last two months of 1975, a number of sightings were reported from Essex, an interesting feature being the noticeable trend eastwards of the sightings as the wave progressed. Chronologically it lasted from 18 November to 11 December. Geographically the area is bounded by Walthamstow to the west and Benfleet to the east.

The onset of the flap coincided with the eclipse of the Moon on 18 November. At Laindon a pear-shaped object was watched for over 45 minutes, and an almost identical object reported at 19.30 by a young boy at Cambleside, Vange: this was yellow in colour and gave off sparks. Later, Mr Beal, a free-lance photographer, was out with his teenage son at Corringham. They were photographing the eclipse at 22.00 when a dark egg-shaped object appeared displaying three rectangular orange lights on its side: this streaked north-eastwards across the sky, then turned to the east and slowed down before disappearing. Unfortunately the camera was set up on a tripod and no photograph was obtained. As can be seen from Fig 1, all the three objects seen that night were very similar.

The next day a schoolboy, Christopher Gardner, looked up at the sky at Laindon at lunchtime and reported seeing a huge elongated round shape. It appeared metallic with a blue spot in the centre. It tilted slightly and momentarily became circular, then,

FIG. 1



changing back again, it flew out of sight. The same witness saw an even stranger object on 5 December at 15.45. This was circular with a metal-like sheen. On its left-hand edge was a blue circle with 'webbing' across it: inside this was a circular light surrounding a star with a further circle inside the star. It seemed to hover for fifteen seconds, then rose slightly and moved away towards some woods making a humming noise. See Fig 2.

An interesting sighting at Halstead on 27 November was made by Mrs Jacobs and her teenage daughter. They saw what at first appeared to be a brilliant star in the north-east. It then dimmed to a yellowish colour and began to move slowly south-west. A faint greenish light was first seen, then two red lights: following the lights a droning noise was heard. Though superficially sounding a possible aircraft, intensive checks with local airports failed to pinpoint any that could have been responsible.

To close the flap, an upside down-deep red half-moon shape was reported on 11 December at 08.05. In view for about four minutes, it thinned to a line before fading. There is a possibility here, however, that this could have been a phenomenon associated with the rising sun.

Looking at 1975 in perspective one can see the increase in reports during the flap period—Fig 3. These were all within a 4-mile radius—see cover.

Reports co-ordinated by Barry King.

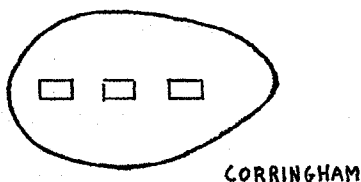


FIG. 2

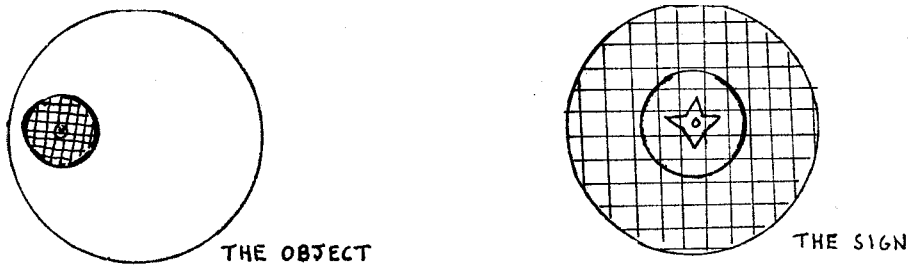
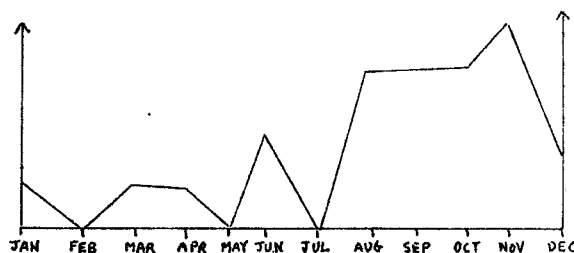


FIG. 3

1975 ESSEX SIGHTINGS



Controversy—1

It has been said that facially I resemble Enoch Powell, though my Nigerian son-in-law, Mauritian daughter-in-law and Jamaican neighbours will strenuously deny any other likeness. Hence I would like to raise the question myself as to how many Bufora members we have (those overseas excepted), who are coloured. Bufora certainly operates no colour bar, but only on two occasions can I recall seeing anyone at a Kensington meeting other than overseas visitors, who were not very clearly white! It occurred to me on reading Mr Hartley's letter concerning

disabled members which I presented in a recent issue, that it might also be thought—quite wrongly—that a similar type of discrimination to that he alleged was practised against coloured members of any race. This is quite definitely not so, but it does seem to me that somewhere in the region of 99% of our UK members are white, and I would like to make it absolutely clear that members of all races are equally welcome to join Bufora, subject only to their being in agreement with Bufora's aims.

Norman Oliver.

What constitutes proof?

How often, I wonder, have people really considered the whys and wherefores of belief in and acceptance of UFOs? Undoubtedly ufologists are a mixed bunch, and by its very nature, Ufology attracts fringe freaks and cultists; but I do not intend to discuss the fringe aspects of Ufology here: it is my intention to stay with the 'mainstream.'

So, let us start with a simple statement which cannot be denied—UFOs do exist. This is not intended as an assertion that we are being visited by alien spacecraft, or that we are being subjected to masses of psychic phenomena, or the collective conscience of mankind or any other speculative assessment. What is intended is a simple statement—by strict definition of the term UFOs *do* exist: an object which is airborne and unidentified is a UFO. However, it is in the area of speculative assessment that arguments arise. There are many theories concerning what UFOs actually are, and the one to which each person subscribes will depend on a number of factors, not the least of them being personal outlook. For the purpose of this exercise, let us examine reactions to one particular theory—ETH: this is perhaps the most widely accepted theory and also the one which causes most argument.

Let us suppose, for the sake of this discussion that we, as ufologists, have accepted the ETH on the grounds of existing evidence and are attempting to put forward our arguments to a confirmed disbeliever. His opening statement might be: 'I don't believe in flying saucers.' To which the ufologist will reply, quoting the best well-documented sighting(s) he can remember. The disbeliever's next ques-

tion might then be: 'Well, why don't *they* make contact?' The ufologist will then reply by quoting a contact case or cases. At any point in the proceedings the disbeliever may try to explain away cases which have been outlined to him: this he will do in any one of a number of ways. If the case involved concerns a radar sighting, then the equipment is faulty: should he quote the proverbial 'expert witness' then the expert is mistaken. (It never ceases to amaze me how so many 'experts' can be so badly mistaken so often and yet still be expert!) Contactees are usually held to be sensation seekers unless our disbeliever is feeling kind, in which case they are merely mentally deluded. A reliable, well-balanced, stable, 'normal' individual with nothing to gain from the perpetration of a hoax has obviously suffered an hallucination or misinterpreted natural phenomena.

I am reminded of 'Rodger's Law,' propounded by the late Philip Rodgers and referred to in *The Scoriton Mystery* by Eileen Buckle. This 'law' states:

"If a paranormal event takes place it will be explained away as an actual physical event, seen under unusual circumstances, while if an actual physical event occurs under unusual circumstances, then it will be explained away as a paranormal event."

This is a story we have all heard before, but let us now reverse the roles and ask, 'Do you believe that America has put a man on the Moon?' 'Of course I do,' he would reply. 'Why?' you ask. 'I've seen the films,' he might reply. Does 'seeing the film' then constitute proof? Because if it does our troubles are over. Just think how much 'proof' we have on cellu-

loid. But, of course, I forgot—our 'proofs' are, at best, processing errors and, at worst, fakes. Also, of course, the Americans wouldn't fake something like the moonshots. Would they . . . ?

Naturally I am not saying that the moonshots *are* fakes, merely that it would be absurdly simple to produce these films without ever leaving the Earth. We have all seen how expert Hollywood is at producing the impossible, and the poor quality of 'moon film' would be the proverbial piece of cake for them.

What this all boils down to is a universal desire not to accept anything which might upset Man's position as the centre of all Creation (Galileo, you suffered for naught!) A far more exacting standard of evidence is demanded of Ufology than of any other subject. I have heard it said: 'I won't believe in flying saucers until one lands in my front garden.' Would that same person refuse to believe in nuclear missiles until one landed in his front

garden? Methinks not. To take this a stage further, we are told that the major powers all possess a nuclear capability. But where's the proof? Hiroshima? Nagasaki? Edwin Corley in his book *The Jesus Factor*, puts forward a fascinating argument suggesting that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were fakes and 'the bomb' doesn't work.

Coming nearer to home, we are told there is fighting in Northern Ireland and we accept it. Yet how many of us have seen the proof with our own eyes? There comes a time when first-hand evidence cannot be obtained, and we have to say, 'I will accept this man's statement.' Yet, this does not happen with Ufology; people are not prepared to accept our evidence, whilst at the same time they will accept other statements on much flimsier evidence. And therein lies the rub: it is no longer a case of 'People seeing things which aren't there.' It is more likely there are 'People *not* seeing things which *are* there.'

Sighting summaries

17-167 17 December 1975. 15.21
Leicester

On December 17 1975, the witness, while walking in the centre of the town at 15.21, received a sudden urge to look up and on doing so, observed two glowing metallic spheres stuck together. The object was silent and had no visible wings or protruberances. It moved slowly northwards against the wind, apparently reflecting the sun off a polished surface. The apparent size of the object was three-quarters of an inch at arm's length and the witness, who has served in the RAF, is quite certain it was not an aircraft. After three minutes the object disappeared behind a block of buildings.

Uncoded Winter 1929. 22.00
Loch Treig, Scotland.

The principal witness was one of fifty men waiting to go down a shaft at "First Camp" to a tunnel being dug under the Loch and

Ben Nevis. The sky was very dark, the weather being stormy. The men were looking across the Loch to a 240m high rock face at the bottom of which lies the West Highland railway line. The rock face is 3km long and the Loch is 1km wide. They saw a bright light without beam travelling up and down across the face, stopping occasionally and varying in brightness. The sighting lasted ten minutes and it has been concluded that was caused by ball lightning.

Inv. Stuart Campbell,
Edinburgh University UFO Research Soc.

75-162 2 November 1975. 20.20
Shepperton, Middlesex.

Just before going to bed, a young boy was looking out of his bedroom window when he saw a bright orange light in the south-west which "spangled, glittered with many points of light" and was quite dazzling. It was at

continued overleaf

an elevation of 15 deg and remained so for approximately three minutes after which it began to diminish in size. He went to tell his parents, but when he returned the light had gone. However, moving silently towards the east was a black cylinder with an orange light at the front, square ports, and a red/orange light at the rear. Its size was approximately 2cm seen at arm's length.

*Uncoded 12 December 1975. 17.00
Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent*

A man and woman driving home from work in a van sketched an object which they claim to have seen moving low down in the sky and heading northwards. It appeared elongated, described by one witness as a long saucer shape with a row of porthole lights and a flashing green light in the middle on top. The object was seen for 1-2 minutes and disappeared suddenly.

Inv. Derek James.

*Uncoded February 1967
Blackpool*

The witness approached BUFORA NIC Mr Ken Phillips at a London lecture and related a UFO "experience." Subsequent investigation revealed that in the two years prior to 1967, the witness had been hearing intermittently strange high-pitched noises. She sought help in vain from the medical profession, a psychiatrist and a local clergyman and as a last resort, contacted a spiritualist in

Blackpool, where she was living at the time.

Arriving at the Spiritualist Chapel just before midnight, she found the place deserted except for one man. As the witness started to pray the "noise" returned followed by a rumbling noise causing the whole place to shake. A hole appeared in the roof and a "laser-like beam of light" shone through striking down the man as he approached. A voice then told her that three men would offer to take her to a place in Finland. She then left.

The following day UFO's were reported seen in the area on the evening in question. Later the witness and a friend while in a pub, were approached by three fishermen offering to take them on a trip to Finland. The witness declined and since then has had no similar experiences although the "noises" continued. No corroborative witnesses have been found and the investigators formed the opinion that the witness is suffering a mental illness, possibly schizophrenia. She has subsequently become interested in Black Magic and is reported to be writing a book on the subject. At one interview it was suggested to the witness that the case is a fabrication. At this point she threatened to put a spell on one of the investigators but so far nothing has come of it and the case has now been dropped.

*Inv. S. J. Gamble, D. Bailey, R. Gandy,
J. H. Tennant.*

From Other Countries

Australian ring

A colour photograph of purported physical evidence in the form of a ground indentation added weight to a report of mysterious lights on a pastoral farming property in the south of S Australia near Lake Alexandrina in 1974. On several nights during the year, witnesses observed lights operating above or on ground level. On one occasion 'Mr A' saw a brilliant reddish light on his property whilst returning home. It took off vertically and disappeared into the night sky. His children had been camping near the area, but nothing unusual was noticed. Next day the ring was discovered.

Another night he saw a light coming from his barn: thinking it was on fire he went over, but found the light to be in an adjacent paddock, and it shot off before he could investigate further. One night he also saw a gleaming object plunge into Lake Alexandrina.

The ring that was photographed was 8ft or more in diameter and showed a fair amount of weathering. Although the photo was taken months after the sighting, no plants had grown in the ring area.

*Cr. D M Mitchell,
Australian International UFO Flying
Saucer Research.*

Peruvian EM case

In April 1972, a former president of Cuzco's Court of Justice was returning from Urubamba (Peru), and was driving along the road bordering Lake Huaypo. He was accompanied by friends from Spain and others from Cuzco, all of whom were going to visit the Incas Sacred Valley. The group was made up of four cars and seventeen people including four children.

It was nearly 20.00 when, just as they were level with Huaypo the four cars abruptly

stalled and stopped. The four drivers and about six of the others got out to see what the trouble was. Whilst talking they heard a humming sound coming from the north, followed by the appearance of a disc in the sky. The disc, a silvery-blue object surrounded by an orange halo, had appeared from behind the mountains, its estimated diameter being around 10 to 15 metres.

It flew at high speed straight towards the lake then dived into the water. After it submerged, the colour of the water had the same orange tint as that associated with the object. Two or three minutes later, the car engines came back to life much to the relief of the onlookers who had, not unnaturally, become quite scared.

Credit Sobeps News No 3. Boulevard Aristide Briand, 26, 1070 Brussels.

Kuala Belait mystery lights

Five strange orange lights were seen over the Belait district of Borneo on Sunday, 21 December 1975, but there appears to have been no logical explanation for their presence. The lights were stationery and were seen between 7 and 8 p.m.

A Kuala Belait resident who saw the lights at 7 p.m. said they were long and streaked with orange. "There were three or four directly above one another, and the last was to the left at the bottom," he said. "The two at the bottom were the brightest, but later they began to fade and by the time I came from the film at Panaga Club at 9.45 they had gone."

A Seria resident who saw the lights at 7 p.m. remembers a different formation: four long lights making a rough square with one in the middle. The lights faded from a bright orange. No aircraft were in the vicinity at the time and the night was clear and starry.

The only 'natural' explanation put forward was that of a satellite re-entry.

From: The Borneo Bulletin, 27 December, 1975.

Canadian encounter

The *Apro Bulletin* of January 1976 carries a report of an encounter by Robert Suffern of Brainbridge, Ontario. On 7 October 1975 from a side road not far from his home, Suffern saw an object in the middle of the road. "... He said it was the colour of the dull side of aluminium foil and the surface appeared irregular and 'crinkled.' He heard no sound other than that of the engine of his car, and only viewed the object momentarily, for it took off straight up at high speed and disappeared into the night. There were no lights on the object which was shaped like a disc sitting on a halfdisc with a squat, stubby protuberance underneath."

Suffern then headed the car for home, but as he turned onto 3-mile lake road he saw a 'thing' on the grassy shoulder of the road. "... 'It' suddenly pivoted and turned towards the pasture, reached up with its hands grabbed the fence post and vaulted over with no effort. It appeared to be short with very broad shoulders which seemed to be out of proportion with the rest of its body, and the movements were similar to those of an ape or midget and very agile. The head portion was covered with a globe and Suffern could detect no details of a face. The suit was silver in colour, a one-piece affair and the globe was white or light in colour. When Suffern returned home the television went off, he went outside and saw an orange-coloured fluorescent light which didn't flash. It headed out over 3-mile lake and appeared to follow the contour of the land."

Credit Apro, 3910 E Kleindale Road, Tuscon, Arizona 85712 USA.

Bufora advisers system now operational

Over recent months Bufora has been reappraising its system of advisers and report evaluation. A new system of advisers panels has now become operational. Principally what has been done is to draw upon the talents of the membership and utilise those with qualifications and experience in various fields for the purposes of sighting report evaluation and research project work.

Those who responded to the various appeals for assistance have been grouped together in several small panels to cover appropriate aspects of the phenomenon. At present these panels are represented by:

Traces: To look into cases which involve physical effects. This involves qualified chemists, phys-

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UFOs: Local History—and the 'Kingdom of the Elves.'

Part two

Gay Mosley

The spectral black dog is a recurring manifestation in many parts of England as illustrated by the many Black Dog lanes throughout the country. Generally he is described as the size of a calf, shaggy with burning fiery eyes and is given many names, including Pad-foot or Shag. A survey of the extent of black dog stones appears in volume 59 of *Folklore*. Thrash, the ghost dog of Formby, otherwise known as the Striker said to prowl the dark spots between Formby and Ainsdale, near Liverpool, is described as a gigantic black hound with large luminous eyes.

The ability of these beings to change shape is confusing and they have been described as taking the form of a bar of silver, a pot of gold, or a ball of fire, the latter description being of particular interest. The symbol of the Isle of Man is said to be the fairy Mannanan who takes the form of the three-legged wheel. *The Folklore of the Isle of Man* by A W Moore describes this in a startlingly different way. Mariners of the pre-Christian era were stranded on this mysterious island, which was constantly shrouded in mist. A dark cloud, hiding the island from their view, suddenly gave out a fearful noise.

"When the first spark of fire fell into their tinder box, the fog began to move up the side of the mountain, closely followed by a revolving object resembling three legs of men joined together at the upper part of the thighs and spread out so as to resemble the spokes of a wheel."

Stories of fairy dependence upon animals or human beings abound, which brings to mind the mutilation of cattle, or abduction, examination and the taking of samples found in UFO literature. Folklore literature tells of

cattle being drained of their milk by fairies. In the Isle of Man it was believed that fairies would suck the blood of the sleepers in the house if water was not left outside for them. In 1952 the story of the persecuted pigs of Runcorn shocked the locals. One August day, Mr Crowther of Pool Farm, Runcorn, found three of his pedigree pigs dead. A fortnight later all 53 pigs had died. Veterinary surgeons were puzzled by their inexplicable deaths. Two days after the death of the last pig, Mr Crowther was surprised to see "a large black cloud, seven feet in height, shapeless except for 2 prongs sticking out at the back," coming down his yard. This experience was confirmed by his wife. He saw the object several times when it showed a malevolent interest in his home. On 13 December 1952, the final appearance of the object prompted the frenzied barking of Mr Crowther's dogs, causing the cloud—which appeared lighter in colour and smaller than previously—to rise high in the air and disintegrate, never to be seen again.

Finally, the curious tale of a creature largely ignored in UFO literature, probably because its authenticity was thrown into doubt after the arrest in 1845 of a butcher who had been aping its antics. Since its activities continued throughout the century until 1904, further study of the case is justified.

Spring-Heeled Jack made his final appearance in Everton, Liverpool in 1904, after a remarkable career spanning 87 years. Descriptions of his appearance were surprisingly similar and strangely out of place in Victorian and Edwardian England. In 1837 he

was described as, "encased in a tight-fitting garment of some kind of white oilskin, and on his head was a large helmet beneath which his eyes blazed like fireballs." Blue and white flames vomited from his 'mouth' and sharp, metallic claws injured those with whom he had dealings. Throughout the fifties and sixties reports came from Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Middlesex and Surrey. In 1877 sentries at Aldershot had a particularly unnerving experience following the appearance of a large, dark shape over their heads which landed noiselessly at the roadside. This creature, with its queer, shining helmet, belched blue flames and was impervious to gunshot.

Jack gets his strange name from his ability to leap great heights effortlessly as if gravity was not affecting him. It was this talent that so impressed the Everton people during his last appearance in 1904. On that late September day the creature performed as hundreds of people watched in horror. Jack jumped up and down the length of William Henry Street for some ten or twelve minutes, making gigantic leaps over the houses to disappear for ever.

The aim of these articles has been to stimulate and prompt into action Bufora members who, like me, believe the yellowing archives of newspapers and local history collections hide important experiences, the study of which might throw some light on this baffling enigma.

Ref: The story of Spring-Heeled Jack appears in the Liverpool press and is condensed by Richard Whittington-Egan in Liverpool Colonnade, Philip, Son & Nephew, 1955

BUFORA ADVISERS—cont from p11

icists, biologists, botanists etc and there is access to analysis equipment.

Atmospherics: Using the talents of Astronomers, Meteorologists, etc to examine reports which have possible explanations in these fields.

Electronics and Engineering: Dealing with aspects of electronic effects and monitoring equipment, etc.

Human Aspects: Principally involving psychologists, etc, with a view to considering not simply contactee cases, but all reports which have as a central element, the reactions of the witnesses.

There are also sections to deal with statistical work (which includes computer operators) and a separately formed photographic section which has been operational for several months now and is doing excellent work in the handling of photographic analysis.

Each section has a co-ordinator who receives incoming reports from the NIC and ensures that a report is written by members of the panel who have appropriate qualifications or interests. In some cases it is envisaged that more than one panel member or section will need to be involved in evaluation.

The system is still in its infancy and it will only solve its problems by actual experience. Names of sections and other details are not yet fixed, and a full report on the system, with names and addresses of section co-ordinators and panel members, together with their specialities will be published at a later date. At the moment if you feel you have something to offer in the way of experience or facilities, then please contact the Research Co-ordinator:

*Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive,
Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6N7.*

Lecture Summary

Extra-terrestrial Probabilities

Dr Anthony Martin, 3 April 1976.

This was a lively lecture presented to look into the feasibility of civilisations with an advanced technology existing in the universe. Dr Martin, a physicist, gave a simple explanation of the equation which is used to give an estimate of the number of intelligent civilisations in the universe, and pointed out some of the attendant difficulties. Only one of the factors in the equation is known with any degree of certainty, this being the rate of production of star systems, but Dr Martin was able to justify very reasonable estimates for the remainder and show that even with fairly major changes in these factors, the total number resulting is a large one. His final estimate was that the average separation of civilisations was about 400 light years: in other words, the galaxy should be swarming with life. He then considered the various projects which have been undertaken to try to find a civilisation by means of radio communication. In doing so, he answered the question, 'Why have we not found any yet?' His figures show that our puny efforts so far would involve listening for longer than the age of the galaxy to have much hope of picking something up. Even with

more sophisticated methods, he showed the time factors involved would be long: consequently he introduced the concept of a galactic evolution survival factor, in that only those civilisations prepared to engage in this long range work would make contact and would increase their lifetimes by virtue of the benefits of this contact.

Although the lecture was not directly relevant to ufology, the question of contact in other than a radio sense inevitably arose later in the session. Dr Martin did not deny the possibility that the Earth could have been visited by an advanced race during its history, *but*, he found it difficult to accept (in view of the long age of the Earth compared to the shortness of the existence of civilisation), that this had occurred in historical times. He also stated he did not believe that UFOs were representative of an extra-terrestrial civilisation, but were a different, though none-the-less real, phenomenon. He was perhaps a little surprised to find the extent to which the audience agreed with this view and it was pointed out that is it *not* Bufora's aim to *prove* that UFOs are extra-terrestrial, but simply to investigate them as an unknown phenomenon.

Jenny Randles.

AWARENESS is the quarterly Journal of Contact UK. For details of membership of Contact UK, write to J B Delair, 19 Cumnor Road, Wootton, Boar's Hill, Nr Oxford.

The Fountain Centre publish a journal, and offer reasonable accommodation to Skywatchers, for details write: Peter and Jane Paget, 'Star House,' 78 Portway, Warminster, Wilts.