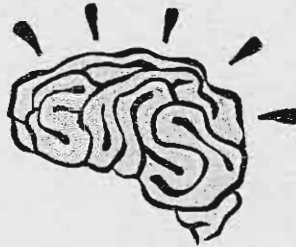
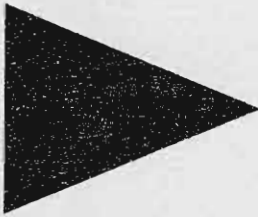


BUFORA BULLETIN

Journal of the British UFO Research Association

UFOs Under the microscope



In the air?

Or Both?

Or

Or

In the mind?

Neither?

In This Issue :

The Way Forward for Research
UFOs and the Media

No: 13

Sep/Oct 1999

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I am interested in purchasing old UFO books and magazines. Any reasonable offer considered.

Replies to; Mr. Mike Hudson
C/o: PO Box 471
Canterbury
Kent CT3 1GU.

EDITORIAL

FIVE HUNDRED – NOT OUT

A few days before this issue of the Bulletin is due to be published Jenny Randles will have recorded the five hundredth edition of UFOCALL.

Jenny has edited and produced the UFOCALL messages since the beginning, which represents a period of around ten years. Although things like the world wide web have reduced the number of calls in more recent times, it has to be remembered that UFOCALL started in the days when 'The Web' was just a distant twinkle in some computer enthusiast's eye.

In the late 1970s, the BT Prestel service had been introduced as a means of getting information into people's homes. In a way it was a kind of precursor of 'The Web'. BUFORA was there as one of a few leisure organisations that provided information. But it was difficult to update information, and the system never caught on.

So when UFOCALL came along with information that updated every few days it was revolutionary. It also has been a useful source of income for BUFORA over the years. I think I reflect the views of all the members when I extend the thanks of BUFORA to Jenny for all her work on UFOCALL.

From Here And There

Naked Eye Satellites

In the last From here And There I mentioned the Disco ball satellite of project Starshine.

Details of visible passes of the Starshine and other satellites can be found on the German Centre for Air and Space Travel's website at :

<http://www2.gsoc.dlr.de>

Of particular interest might be the pages referring to the Iridium satellites. This is a network of about seventy communications satellites in low earth orbit.

Each satellite is fitted with solar panels and three large flat highly reflective antennae. As the satellite moves along its orbit at certain angles the antennae catch the sunlight and a bright reflection lasting for several seconds or longer is formed.

The orbits of the satellites are well known so these sudden bright flashes can be predicted. Some of these so called Iridium Flares are so bright, maybe magnitude -8, that they can be seen in daylight. Typically there are two or three nocturnal flares visible each day, with a daylight flare visible approximately every five days.

This website will be a valuable source of information for investigators, researchers and for potential skywatch-

ers

National Skywatch

That conveniently brings me to the point where I can issue a quick reminder that the next skywatch will be on 18th to 19th September. See Bulletin 11, pp 24-25 for further details.

Eclipse And UFOs

Well, you didn't expect any Journal written in August not to mention the eclipse, did you?

There were various stories doing the rounds in the press before the great day which included one that there are more UFOs seen when there are eclipses. I don't know that there is any evidence to back up this claim, but I suspect if there is any increase it has more to do with there being more people looking at the skies at these times than anything to do with a genuine increase in the phenomena.

However, one case has come to me of somebody who witnessed a triangle of orange lights which flashed on at the moment of totality. The witness was a visitor to Cornwall for the total eclipse. He thought that it might have been street lights coming on because of the darkness. But when he looked further he discounted that, and later checked and there were no street lights or other obvious cause where he saw the phenomena. The case is being passed through for investigation.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION REVIEW

The British UFO Research Association, Research and Investigation Departments are working together on several projects, which we believe to be crucial to today's Ufology. As the two co-ordinators of these departments, John Spencer and Gloria Dixon are planning a series of 'Rolling Progress' projects, which we hope will work in the following way:

The Projects will follow some general parameters,

- * A degree of fundamental work will be carried out which will set the basic foundation for each long-term project.

This will be followed by:-

- * A preliminary publication, which will give up-to-date results of that project.

This will be aligned with:-

- * An invitation to serious Ufologists and UFO organisations both in the UK and around the world for their input, assistance and guidance.

This will be followed by

- * Updated publications with additional and pertinent information to the initial

findings acknowledging all contributors to the project.

- * a long term study there will be a continuous process of contributions and relevant update to the specific project.

There appears to be a major problem in the field of UFO research which occurs when the research is withheld for too long and without a more diverse and wider input being integrated, which is due to the determination to publish the 'finished product'. This is why the concept of 'rolling progress' publications will ensure that:

- * Material can be published sooner rather than later giving the opportunity to the widest involvement of other contributors as early as possible.

- * The projects will continue to live and grow during their life.

Publication will be in as many forms as possible. This will include the BUFORA Bulletin, Web-site and as special publications under the R & I banner as well as links and information on various UFO web-sites.

These publications could also be presented as streamlined articles in various in-house UFO magazines and also general publications around the world. As we hope to encourage and include many contributions from outside the UFO community, we could broaden our scope for publications to other specialist areas and publications This

should include universities, colleges and schools where we could package the specific projects as they are rolling, into a small booklet form for information purposes.

BUFORA

These projects will be maintained throughout their life under the banner of BUFORA, specifically the Research and Investigations Departments. John Spencer and Gloria Dixon will jointly collate the input from others and jointly edit the publication of material together with all those in the Research and Investigations Departments, who will be involved in the project and an overall examination of the material.

During the last few years BUFORA has conducted research into a number of highly important projects, but behind the scenes rather than on the main stage. This has resulted in a lack of visibility for others to assist and become involved with these projects. We believe that expanding the boundaries of these projects is paramount to the aims of BUFORA as a viable research organisation. It is vital to Ufology that research and investigation conducted by BUFORA becomes highly visible to all those who support the study of UFOs and related phenomena and to those in specialist fields, who could support and contribute to these 'rolling projects'.

Because of the increase in personal in-
vective and general non-ufological de-

bate as well as the vociferous character assassination, which is now rife in many areas of Ufology, we believe it is time BUFORA took a lead in addressing these issues, in conjunction with other such initiatives around the world, in bringing ufology back to itself and sanity.

THE PROJECTS

There have been several publications of advanced rolling projects and we shall immediately be sending these to the wider UFO community for their input. These include:

- * The Men in Black Project
- * The BOLIDE Project
- * 'Hughie Green' publication (summary analysis of his reports of the 1940s)

Other projects actively underway, for which early-draft publication is expected include:

- * Updated vehicle interference report
- * Pilots project
- * Historic cases project

BUFORA Research has 16 major projects underway at the present time, in various stages of completion. These are as follows and include the above mentioned projects.

- * Pilots Project
- * BOLIDE Project
- * Case Index
- * Historic UFOs predating flight
- * Crashed Saucer Studies:-
 1. Tracking UK witnesses of saucer

crashes

2. Alleged Roswell Film Studies

- * Men In Black
- * Men In White
- * Witness Studies
- * Vehicle Interference Update
- * Sky Watching Initiative
- * Instrumented Detection
- * Astronaut Cases
- * Hypnosis Study
- * Project Warminster
- * The Psi UFO Interface
- * Electromagnetic Anomalies Cause UFO Reports

In addition to all of the above, we shall be immediately launching four new projects and asking for contributions and input for the first draft release. We believe these are essential and controversial debating points to Ufology and need to be well-defined, researched and debated by as many people as possible both in and outside this field of study

Memory Retrieval Project Alternative to ETH guide Project Censorship Project Close Encounter Study Project

It is these four projects that are central to Ufology as it stands today and therefore these will be treated as our primary objective in circulating requests for input. Each project is outlined below

MEMORY RETRIEVAL PROJECT

This is the most compelling project we envisage, as there are some critical and

fundamental issues which must be looked at very closely, specifically as they relate to aspects of close encounter cases and UFO research, and because these experiences are becoming more prevalent in cases being reported to BUFORA and other UFO organisations across the world. We need to determine whether close encounter experiences have any connection with the UFO subject at all and whether hypnosis and other memory retrieval methods have played a major part in creating the abduction mythology.

There is a great and very controversial debate about the safety and value factors of the use of regression hypnosis for eliciting an objective and accurate truth about the close encounter experience. BUFORA holds a moratorium on the use of hypnosis by any investigator or BUFORA member, which has been in effect for many years. If this moratorium is to stay in place and we demand that investigators do not use this technique, we need to give them the opportunity to examine the data, because there are investigators who played no part in the original debates and we feel they will feel more committed to the moratorium if they are given the chance to examine the evidence and recent developments into medical and non-medical research into hypnosis and memory retrieval in general.

We want to broaden this debate to include all those within the subject and the medical professions, advocates and dissenters of the technique

This project should examine all forms of memory retrieval as well as hypnosis and what alternatives, if any, may be valid.

What is the value of even conscious memory recall? Medical and non-medical viewpoints sought here also. This debate should have as its aims: To reinforce or remove the BUFORA moratorium. To set out the best possible evidence for and against the use of hypnosis. To set out the evidence of experience. To suggest alternatives to hypnosis with similarly examined pros and cons and experiential data. We expect this to be a rolling project of several years with many interim stages.

ALTERNATIVE TO ETH GUIDE PROJECT

Many close encounter experiencers approach BUFORA investigators and researchers seeking an explanation for their extraordinary experience, often a confirmation of their belief that they have undergone an encounter with UFOs and aliens. These reports have increased dramatically in the last few years and because they are reported to BUFORA and many other UFO organisations we must extensively address the issues that surround them as soon as possible.

We believe that a well-structured and coherent document/leaflet must be produced by a wide spectrum of ufologists and the scientific disciplines,

which should be drawn from documented experiences and research from around the world. The goal of this document should be to offer the close encounter witness reasoned alternatives to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, which has been very media-driven and, consequently, has become integrated into the belief system of many, by the image makers. This will not be designed to refute the ETH, but to deny its prominence as only one possibility.

What should such a leaflet contain?

CENSORSHIP PROJECT

BUFORA has recently been forced to debate the questions of censorship in Ufology. This has been a great dividing point within the UFO community and has raised heated and valid questions as to what constitutes 'censorship'. In fact in many ways it has split the community in half and therefore it is imperative that this issue should be debated in a rational and logical manner with an understanding that all aspects of this complex debate should be highlighted.

The broad question is a debate between, on the one hand freedom of speech and the responsibility of BUFORA to give its members the widest choice of ideas for debate: On the other hand, should we have a duty to provide serious and well-informed research which adheres to the strict code of practice that BUFORA holds?: This would present future problems and

how do we police this? It must be remembered that speakers are 'invited' by BUFORA to present lectures at our conferences and London lecture programme? Does this mean that we should be selective about who we invite and what does this mean in terms of giving the widest choice of ideas for debate? Should we ensure that speakers from both sides of controversial UFO issues are asked to speak at the same time in order to give BUFORA members and the public the widest possible framework for making up their own minds?

Do we entertain the public OR inform the public in the most responsible way possible and where does the responsibility of BUFORA and UFO organisations stand on this issue? Surely there must be an integrity to the public in the subject matter we are promoting and will be seen to promote when using a BUFORA platform, even though we emphasise that BUFORA does not necessarily share the views of the speakers, etc. etc.

How can a balance be achieved that addresses these important issues and at the same time shows respect and courtesy to all those involved in this subject as well as the subject at large.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER STUDY PROJECT

There is a great deal of controversy about the problems arising with close encounter research and there are many

researchers who feel, very strongly, that UFO study should not be involved in close encounter research, as it is promoting experiences that may sometimes be due to possible mental illness. Therefore, promoting these experiences in any form can only reinforce and exacerbate the problem. There is also the idea that these experiences are due to re-interpretation and redefining of extraordinary experiences as alien and UFO encounters within the mythology of today, due to the compelling imagery emerging on a daily basis about ET.

However, the alternative argument is that the subject exists NOW and that it is too powerful to ignore. Consequently organisations like BUFORA should take a lead in dealing with it constructively and with determination in examining all ideas, theories and particularly the beliefs rampant within the abduction scenario both by the researchers and the witnesses. We believe this project MUST encompass views, research and evidence from within the relevant scientific disciplines particularly consciousness studies.

VIEWPOINTS PLEASE.

More specific outlines will be sent to those we hope will contribute to these projects. We hope that the 'net' will broaden with respected researchers and investigators, and organisations, inviting like-minded others to join the debating forums.

The Good, the Bad and the Downright Ugly - a look at the how the media portrays the subjects of UFOs and the paranormal.

Anthony Eccles

This article is primarily a response to a journalism student at university. Jonathan Dillon asked me for my opinion about how I thought the media tackles the subject of the paranormal, both on a national level and also on a local level where my research has come into contact with the media itself. It is interesting to note too, that working in a national museum with prized collections has also drawn my attention to a similar problem of perception in how the public views the different galleries within the museum or the countries the artefacts portray.

A classic example, I suppose, would be Africa as a continent. A stereotypical image most people have of Africa would sometimes come out of a Tarzan or King Kong movie, where everything is depicted as dark, the people, the homes, their culture and their land. Yet Africa as a continent is rich in culture, rich in a huge variety of land, language and colour.

The similarity between stereotypes of outside cultures and that of the paranormal is clear. Images associated with the subjects have been influenced by

the different forms of media, such as the newspapers, radio and television. Yet the media, at certain times in the past, have played a vital role in providing the public with factual information. For example, the front line effort of the Second World War. However, even at this time, the media was full of propaganda to influence public opinion. Often pressure groups and the media were one and the same, and they would act to influence those in power and/ or those who voted them into power.

Politics aside for a brief moment, strange phenomena has always been of interest to the public, but it is the way it has been portrayed over fifty years that has created today's public attitude regarding the phenomena.

Ask yourself this. What words come to mind if I was to mention the acronym "U.F.O." and the words "alien" and "abduction". Many people, who have not experienced anything unusual might think of the labels "loonies", "idiots", "nutter", and "geek" etc. The image of a UFO researcher is usually of a socially backward individual wearing glasses and untrendy clothes, an image not too far from that representing stamp collectors, train spotters etc. The significant point to raise here is where do these stereotypes come from?

These stereotypes appear to stem from what people read in the newspapers or see on the television (and now the Internet) The most common forms of mass communication in Western soci-

ety today. Subjects with a high popularity status such as football and pop music do not appear to have such strong stereotypes in which to ridicule those who are entertained and involved within the subject.

Why is this so? I feel that the paranormal offers such a strange and frightening aspect to it that many people who come across it do not know how to accept such subject matter into their own personal lives. Obviously, not everybody has these experiences on a day to day basis to acknowledge it as normal, otherwise it would not be labelled 'paranormal' or 'weird' but instead 'normal', 'regular' and maybe even 'boring'.

I want to examine the origins of such stereotypes by going back to a period of time I would call "The Beginning of the Popular UFO Sighting". This is a time just after The Second World War where the world had entered a new era of scientific understanding, the atomic age, and this era opened up certain possibilities that had a one time been considered highly unlikely, such as space travel.

Unusual aerial phenomena has been reported certainly in the late nineteenth century where national and local newspapers had started to pay attention to the growing numbers of witness testimony concerning the sudden appearance of the mysterious 'airships'. Of course, airship technology was to start at the turn of the century and certainly a number of witness accounts can be

explained as experimental airship flights before they had become the latest form of long distance transport such as the von Zeppelin's first flight in 1900.

However, not all sightings were easily explained. One example took place in Texas in 1878 when a farmer had reported seeing a dark disc like object flying over his farm. The press at this time had focused more on the multiple witness sightings of shiny cigar shaped objects. On the 15 April 1897, the *Argus - Leader* in Sioux Falls, South Dakota had printed a report which was under the dateline of Springfield, Illinois.

"Farm workers Adolph Winkle and John Hulle signed affidavits stating that an airship had landed two miles outside Springfield to repair some electrical apparatus on board. The farmhands said they had talked to the occupants of the machine, two men and a woman, and were told it had flown to Springfield from Quincy, about 100 miles, in half an hour."

Here, the witness's story was printed without any accompanying satirical cartoons reflecting cynicism of the witnesses accounts, nor are there any adjacent comments made by an astronomer or other 'scientist' to state that what the two men had seen could easily be explained away. So far removed is this account from any widespread belief in a contact with *extra-terrestrials* that the men's testimony is plainly documented. Note that the arti-

cle mentioned insinuates that the two men are not liars because they have signed affidavits, and, taking their word, reports their story as being the truth. One further point is a minor detail that remains in the men's story. If their account is true, then we can say how highly strange their experience must have been, because;

1. The Wright brothers did not fly until 1903, six years after the airship had been seen.
2. Count Zeppelin's airship could only travel at a speed of around 25 mph. This meant that the object observed by the two men could not have travelled one hundred miles in half an hour. The same aircraft could not have been seen in Quincy half an hour later as reported by another set of witnesses for that would make the craft's speed to be 200 mph, an impossible speed for any aircraft at that time in history.
3. If they had seen an experimental airship, since when have women, in the late nineteenth century, been allowed on experimental craft as a member of crew?

Another example of journalism at that time had revealed a bizarre event, but again the newspapers had reported the event as it apparently happened without any sceptical line of enquiry. It was as if the newspaper was treating the story as if it really happened.

On April 19th 1897, the *Dallas Morning News* had carried the following

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news item that had come from Aurora in Texas.

"Early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the air ship which has been sailing throughout the country.

It sailed directly over the public square and, when it reached the north part of town, collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the Judge's flower garden.

The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

Mr. T. J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars...

.....the town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

What an amazing news story! Coincidentally enough H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* was published that very year! Regardless of this it is interesting to see that the press had taken this story so seriously, no debunking line of enquiry had been made then as it would be done today. It was obviously a time when early stories of science fiction might have possibly influenced people's perceptions

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with interpreting the very types of anomalous phenomena where decent attempted explanations can be given by today's science, such as 'earthlights'.

This early journalistic attitude was to change throughout the duration of two world wars. The second war had not escaped its share of unidentified craft. Large numbers of allied craft had reported seeing balls of fire that appeared to fly on a parallel course with the aircraft, either keeping a safe distance behind or ahead, or buzzing the aircraft with spectacular aerial manoeuvres that defeated logical explanations. These became known as 'foo fighters' (a term originally derived from a Smokey Stover comic strip where the character had said "where there's foo there's fire.")

These flying fireballs had been seen both day and night and the press had printed a number of these accounts. One such account had appeared in *The New York Herald Tribune* on 2nd January 1945.

"On December 13, 1944, newspapermen were told that the Germans had thrown silvery balls into the air against day raiders. Pilots then reported that they had seen these balls, both individually and in clusters, during forays over the Rhine....

Pilots have been encountering this eerie weapon for more than a month in their night flights. No one apparently knows what this sky weapon is. The balls of fire appear suddenly and accompany the plane for miles. They

seem to be radio-controlled from the ground, and manage to keep up with the planes, flying at 300 miles an hour, so official intelligence reports reveal."

The foo fighter became more intriguing when Germany had been defeated and the allied forces had access to German military documents. To their surprise, they had discovered that the German aircraft, too, had been harassed by the *Feuerball* (German term for foo fighter) and that they had believed that the machines were actually an allied secret weapon! Note though, that the story was corroborated by an official source, and that was only because the foo fighters were believed to be a new enemy weapon. But what if the foo fighters were believed to have been *paranormal*? I doubt that even the story would have had the support from an official intelligence source.

By the end of World War Two, the atomic era had started, the media was reacting to the popular public interest into new sciences, the concept of space exploration, the explosion of science fiction novels and movies, the expansion of human creative imagination and, unknowingly, the final separation of the Western world from religion and spirituality.

Although 'Ghost Rockets' were being investigated in Sweden in 1946, the following year would prove to be the start of the *Flying Saucer* era. Two main events had caught the excitement of the public, the first was in June 1947. Kenneth Arnold was flying his

small plane looking for the wreckage and possible survivors of a crashed military transport aircraft in Washington. Just after turning from the southwest slope of Mt. Rainier, Arnold caught sight of a bright flash of light in the distance from a number of crescent shaped aircraft that were flying in a V shaped formation, like a flock of geese. Arnold was able to calculate their size and speed, the aircraft were approximately forty feet in length and flew over a thousand miles an hour. His calculations were only an estimation but he radioed back to the ground and upon his return the press had gathered to hear his story.

It was Arnold's description of how the objects flew that enabled the press to coin the phrase we know today as *flying saucer*. Arnold had only described the aircraft's movement as being "like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water." The media had done the rest and the flying saucer season was about to begin.

In July, the following month, something happened in New Mexico that was to not only become a heavily debated incident by ufologists but it also becomes an excellent example of how the media covered the event.

Without going into much of the already exhausted coverage of the case, I shall discuss in the next issue how the incident at Roswell gave rise to the manipulation of the media in an attempt to play down the public interest into UFO phenomena.

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From Here And There (continued)

Witness Writes Book

Close Encounter witness Elsie Oaken- sen has recently had a new book, her second, published. The book, entitled "Into the Unknown - Or is it?" details events that happened to Elsie following her main UFO encounter in 1978. It follows on from her previous book "One Step Beyond". Both books are published by Regency Press.

BUFORA Joins SETI@HOME

This project is searching for radio signals potentially from extraterrestrial civilisations. The project has little official funding and relies heavily on donations of money and time.

Having made a start on collecting data they needed help carrying out the initial analysis using a very clever program which runs instead of a screen-saver on a personal computer. They have recruited over 1 million people worldwide to run this on their home or office computers. A number of BUFORA members are taking part. Full details next issue.

APRA Recent Cases

BUFORA and APRA investigator Brian James looks at some of the cases he currently has under investigation

June 1999 (various dates)
Reading, Berks

One witness made a number of reports on different dates throughout June :

1. High flying 'aircraft' leaving odd vapour trails.
2. One fast 'aircraft' that had a 'missile' fired at it.
3. Four giant cylinders emerging from odd clouds on a Tuesday evening.
4. Bright blue or white lights chasing over Tilehurst.

Bright blue light being shone thru bedroom windows during night. Witness also claims to have strange phone calls since joining APRA and other UFO group!

25 July 1999 / 0230BST
Oxford, Oxon

The witness was out in garden, helping with his children's to 'camp out' at night.

The whole family were to witness a star-like object almost overhead. Mr JP went inside to get his recently purchased camcorder, and attempted to get some footage. The object was seen moving S-N quite slowly, and was videoed for some 5 minutes.

The case made the Oxford Mail, with

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mention of a UFO "pulsing like a firework" On phoning Mr JP, another local UFO group had already viewed the footage, and were said to be "stumped", as were two reporters from NewsQuest Oxford.

After a couple of minutes chat with Mr JP, it became clear that the 'pulsing firework effect' was only seen in the video footage. He did not know if he was using auto, or manual focus (so it was very likely autofocus), and the 'corder was set to its maximum digital zoom of 32x.

It is clear that the 'pulsing' effect is simply down to the 'corder's autofocus trying to lock focus on a small object, and consequently hunting across its focus range (A very common UFO 'misvideofication') We still need to establish just what Mr JP pointed the camera at.

1 Aug 99 / 0350BST
Avebury, Wilts

A team of 6 skywatchers (From APRA and SUFOG) were well into their all-night skywatch at Avebury, on the Lammas night, which has by tradition seemed to produce UFO reports.

Shortly before 0350hrs, a series of very bright pulses/flashes were seen to emanate from behind Waden Hill, and therefore in the direction of Silbury Hill. These were not the characteristic 'skyflashes' seen on so many skywatches, as they were much lower to the horizon. They were also not the muzzle flashes from artillery on the Larkhill ranges, as no sound of the

normal artillery fire could be heard on what was a still night.

At 0350, JamesH and Bills almost simultaneously sighted a bright object high to the north. The other 4 people then looked at the object, which was made up of bright blue and white lights. Curiously, although the 6 people had binocs round their necks, not one thought to use them immediately. The object was heading for the edge of a smallish cloud, but then veered left, to 'make for' the main part of the cloud, which it then went behind - it didn't emerge from the other side!

The next morning, two Belgian (or Dutch) men came walking round the Avebury henge, asking if anyone else had seen the strange puling lights. From their position down the West Kennett avenue, the pulses were behind the 'other end' of Waden Hill, but clearly came from the ground upwards. This would have placed the source for the light pulses very close 'behind' the hill, and must have been very close to Silbury Hill itself. They hadn't seen the 'UFO' object. The pulsing flashes were clearly not camera flashes - BJ had ample opportunity to compare these during the 99.9% eclipse at Portland on August 11.

Although we are still assimilating the 6 individual reports, it seems clear that all 6 witnesses perceived the UFO to be slightly different in shape, ranging from circular/disk, to diamond and even triangular - indeed the two who first saw it think it may have even changed shape.

All agree the UFO was 'comprised' of a number of blue and white lights. Collation and investigations ongoing between APRA and SUFOG.

1 Aug 99 / 2300-2330

Crawley, Sussex

3 witnesses were in their kitchen at around 11.00pm, preparing drinks - the back door was open due to the excessively humid evening.

Mr HC was standing at the door, and was looking at the very clear night sky, he noticed the pattern of stars that he recognised as 'the Big Dipper' - ie part of Ursa Major. A small bright satellite-like object was seen moving thru the sky to the north. The object stopped momentarily, then shot off a tremendous speed, darting erratically in a zig-zag motion, occasionally stopping, but making a general arc-shaped course in the sky, now going back from north to south, before it vanished..

No lights or engine noise could be heard to suggest a conventional aircraft. The witness is a former member of the armed services, and was in the ROC, so would have been well able to recognise aspects of aircraft or other conventional objects.

Mr HC's brother, who lived 10 miles away, visited the family the next morning, and during the normal chit-chat the sighting was mentioned. The brother, without being told what had been seen, then also described the same object that he'd watched from his home.

Historic Viewpoint

Steve Gamble

In this edition of Historic Viewpoint, I want to look at some Ball-Of-Light cases from the 17th Century..

The information for this case comes from two sources. At the moment these are secondary sources, but they both quote the original source which can be checked.

In their book "UFO - The Whole Story" (Signet Books, New York, 1969, pp 8-9) Coral and Jim Lorenzen list a number of reports taken from John Morton's "History of Northamptonshire" (London, 1712).

The main report I am interested in, they state, occurs on page 348 of Morton's work.

This event took place at 7pm on 20th September 1676 and describes what Morton calls "an unusual meteor" seen by people in Northamptonshire.

The main witness quoted is a Mr Gibbon from Peterborough. He described the object as "a fiery meteor" in the figure of a dart. He continued "The stem at a distance appear'd about a foot and half in length and with a narrow stream of light as if were a string

of cord affix'd to it. It had a wav'd or vibrated motion. Its duration about a minute"

In an article in the BUFORA Journal for Spring 1973 (vol 3, no 10, pp 8-9), Peter Burton discusses "UFOs over Stafford" and makes reference to a couple of incidents which he extracted from Dr Plot's "A Natural History of Staffordshire" (1680).

The first incident was from 1672 and appears to have involved a stationary ball of light. This case is not discussed further. However, the second case involves an object reported on September 1676 at 7pm. This appears to be the same object described in Morton's book.

The chief witness quoted by Plot is Mr John Nash, vicar of Broadheath. The object appeared at a distance like a great fire, but coming nearer its form and motion became plainer to Nash. He described it as "being of a globular figure moving by jerks and making short rests, at every one of them letting fall drops of fire which were part of its body for it decreased in magnitude the further it went and the more it dropped so that it wholly disappeared at about three quarters of a mile's distance".

Dr Plot mentions that this incident is also recorded in an account by the Reverend and learned John Wallis, Professor of Geometry at the University of Oxford which appeared in Philosophical Transactions. Plot says

that he believes the object reported to him is the same mentioned by Wallis. The Wallis article appears to say that the object was seen in many places including Kent, Essex, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Devon and Somerset. If it is the same object in all three reports the scatter of locations both North and South and East and West suggest that it must have been something very bright very high in the sky.

Plot also goes on to mention the different shapes reported for the object. At Oxford it was reported as being long with a round knob at the end, at Broadheath it is described as globular. He also comments upon apparent differences in the motion. At Oxford it is described as moving rapidly and smoothly, whilst in Staffordshire it moves with a jerky motion taking short breaks.

Burton speculates that with the differences in shape and motion between the object when seen over Oxford and when seen over Staffordshire that there may have been two (or several) different objects. Whilst it does not rule out such a possibility, I believe Gibbon's report in Morton's book could offer vital evidence. It describes an object of similar shape to that seen at Oxford, but displaying similar erratic motion to the object seen over Stafford. Is it the evidence that links the two events?

Having spent many hours skywatching not only for UFOs but also for meteors, I wonder if this meteor is as un-

usual as the original authors think. Even at times when there is no identified meteor shower it is possible to see sporadic meteors, perhaps four or five per hour. The best meteoric fireball I have ever witnessed was one of these sporadic meteors which took a number of seconds to cross the sky and broke into a number of fragments as it went. These were like smaller meteors following the main body of the object. I wonder if these were like the drops of fire that Mr Nash states his object dropped?

Morton's book also carries details of other strange events. The first of these is an object seen at Bowden Parva in September 1693. The object is said to consist of two parts. The top part was shaped like the letter W, whilst the lower part was said to be a string of light "apparently one and half yards in length".

In August 1698 or 1699 Sir William Craven and his servant Mr Scattergood witnessed a strange object at Winwick. This was a "globe of fiery matter" which appeared in the western sky just after sunset. This object, which was of "surprising brightness" came down in an oblique line and disappeared near the horizon. My first thoughts were, especially with it occurring near the time of the Persid meteor shower, that this was probably a bright fireball. However, Morton's account goes on to say that the object had been it left a smokey trail 35 degrees in length which did not disperse for two hours. Very strange.

THE HALLS OF RESIDENCE INCIDENT.

Malcolm Robinson

As a researcher, I receive and hear many weird and wonderful tales, nothing really surprises me any more and I'm sure many other researchers will agree. Recently (May) a chap came to my home in Ealing to tell me all about his strange and bizarre experience. He had initially contacted BUFORA's Gloria Dixon and it was Gloria who suggested that I should get in touch with him. This I did, and on a warm sunny May day witness Colin Cornes came to my home where I sat him down and he proceeded to tell me quite a bizarre experience.

David is 24 years of age, very fit and athletic and is a law student in his 4th year at a London University. The event happened in the early hours of the 18th/19th of June 1996 in the halls of residence at this London University. This briefly, is what he had to tell me.

It was a warm May evening and he was lying on his bed naked, and on his side, when he became aware of what he thought was his fridge door being opened and closed, he found this sound most peculiar and began to wonder if perhaps there was someone else in his room. At this point, as he glanced around the room, he was startled to see his perception of the room, change dramatically. The room ap-



Malcolm Robinson

peared flat and 'not in the right dimensions', the whole room appeared to be 'wavering' just like ripples on a still mill pond when you throw a stone in, everything appeared to be moving. At this point he began to get very scared, just then, a tremendous bright white flash illuminated the whole room followed by a rush of wind. He then found that he couldn't move a muscle, he tried to move his arms, nothing, he tried to move his legs, nothing, he tried to cry out, nothing, all he could move was his eyes. Suddenly he became aware of 3 or 4 'beings' at the side of his bed, he describes them as around 1 metre tall and were wearing what he could only describe as similar to a Monks habit which came over their heads. I asked Colin if he could discern what colour these habits were, and he said that he felt they were brown in colour although he wasn't too sure as the room was fairly dark, but not that dark that you couldn't make out features.

I asked Colin if he could see their

faces, to which he replied that he could, that they were very evil looking, brown in colour and appeared to be 'scrunched up' !! He also observed very dark oval eyes. He said that he could clearly see 3 'beings' but was sure there were more, certainly another one which was just outside his line of vision. It was at this point that Colin experienced a very bizarre sensation, he said that all his life just suddenly flashed before him. Scenes from his childhood would come and go and then suddenly everything just stopped on a vision of his half sister Claire. It was at this point that he then saw a large silver metallic object in the hands of one of these 'beings', it slowly pointed this device in his direction and began to move it towards his body. By now the terror in Colin was beyond comprehension, he has never known terror like it and worse still, he was absolutely powerless to stop it. The device came closer and closer until it was just outside and below his rib cage, then, with a pain that he has never known before, this device was slowly inserted into his body. Colin explained in his interview with me that the pain he experienced at this point was 'indescribable' it was intense and all he wanted was for it to stop, but with no compassion, the needle like device was inserted deeper and deeper until David was sure that he would pass out with the pain. Thankfully the device was then retracted out of his body and the pain completely subsided.

Seconds later he witnessed these 'beings' walking backwards towards

the bedroom wall and somehow they just appeared to melt through it until they could no longer be seen. Just as they were walking backwards towards the wall, there was another explosion of white light followed by a rush of wind. He then found that he could move and he quickly jumped out of bed, turned on the light and checked all through his room to see if perhaps someone or 'thing' was still lurking, thankfully nothing was. He then looked at his body, and just below his right rib cage he detected a small red spot where this needle like device had been, as he continued to look at it, it slowly faded until nothing at all could be seen. Wondering if perhaps someone else may have seen these 'things', he walked out of his room towards the outside hall where he met a fellow student who was sitting staring at his computer, Colin found this strange as this student wasn't normally up at this early time in the morning, (just after 01:39). Asking him if he had seen anything himself, his friend replied that he had not. Puzzled Colin returned to his room, where, after checking again a few times, he returned to his bed but found that he couldn't sleep. David related to both Gloria Dixon and me that there had been another 1st year law student (a girl called Alex) who had told him that she had been having problems at home and had been abducted by 'aliens' in another Hall of Residence, this was prior to Colin's event, however, Colin didn't believe her and thought of her as a nutcase. The girl left shortly after this.

Colin explained that he has always been a healthy man, he doesn't smoke, or take drugs, indeed, he has never even taken a headache tablet !!! Sadly, since his experience, his health has deteriorated and he suffers from a bad neck. He went on to recall an incident when he was eleven years of age, he felt as though a man dressed in black was coming to 'get him' and at one stage he was found outside sleepwalking half a mile away from his home dressed in his pyjamas. As we know, Colin's experience is not unique, but tales like these fill me with horror should they be true ! I have no reason to doubt Colin's testimony, he struck me as a very honest individual and told his tale with honesty and conviction. Never since my work on the famous Scottish A70 Abduction case, has a story held me so spellbound, the thing is though, where do experiences like these take us !!! What can we learn from them, O.K. it's another piece of the UFOlogical jigsaw but it isn't making any sense. What were 'they' doing in Colin's bedroom, why were 'they' inserting a needle like device into his body, ? Why, Why, Why !!!! All this must 'mean something', but I'm darned if I know what. I have a few more visits planned for Colin and should any further evidence or information turn up, then I'll let the readers know.

There was a time when I would have suggested using hypnosis on a case such as this, but as you may know, my feelings have changed on the use of hypnosis, it's still a reliable tool, but in

regards to extracting any possible hidden subconscious recall from the mind of a potential UFO abductee, well I think we have to be very careful.



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LECTURE SUMMARY

1st MAY 199

CROP CIRCLES

Brian P James

Brian was able to start his lecture on a light-hearted note, referring to the BBC's latest attempt to debunk crop circles as being nothing more than whirlwinds and hoaxing, during an episode of the *Supernature* programme, dealing with 'the paranormal'.

Brian then reverted to his planned opening to his lecture, titled *Still Going Round in Circles*, in which he speculated on the 'beginning' of the crop circle phenomenon. He pointed out the analogy to Ufology, which began much earlier than the perceived 1947 with Kenneth Arnold and Roswell. Brian referred to Terry Wilson's admirable research, in searching archive material to find references to circles, though not in crops, dating back to at least 815AD, and the descriptions of Bishop Agobard of Lyon. He looked at cases, including the infamous 'Mowing Devil', coming through the start of the 'modern era' in the 1970s. He also referred to an early 'theory', by Erasmus Darwin in 1789 to explain 'Faery Rings' – and related by Jaques Vallee, in his book *Dimensions*. Darwin seems to have visited the 'Plasma Vortex Theory' about 200 years before it was postulated by Terence Meaden!

Brian emphasised that the 'circles phe-

nomena' (Yes, phenomena, not phenomenon) has been evolving and changing. In the early part of this century circles were found in cereal fields. But by the 1950s and 1960s circles were found all over the world in grass and reeds, including the famous Tully 'saucer nests'. In this period structured metallic 'craft' were much more associated with circle forming than they are now. In the 1970s the phenomena evolved again back to the cereal fields, and also evolved in complexity. By now other macabre events, such as animal mutilations were being found in association with the circles. The real public prominence of the circles came in the 1980s, with the arrival of books and serious attempts at research. Though this does raise the question – at what point did the phenomena, or human awareness change to the point that 'free thinkers' saw them as a mystery? In earlier times they were regarded as nothing unusual! The evolution continued throughout the 1980s and 1990s, with the apparently intelligent messages of the pictograms, then the acknowledgement of human science with the "Fractal" formations.

Brian also looked at 'connections' to other anomalous phenomena. The at times eerie 'trilling noises' were examined – which Brian has encountered first-hand. Also anomalous lights, both visible and invisible to the naked eye were examined – again Brian has had very first-hand experience of very unusual 'invisible lights'. Cases of 'psychic compulsion' were also looked

at. The interest and involvement of the military, notably the army, was covered, along with the often misinterpreted 'black helicopters'.

Brian also pointed out the very strange events concerning the 'Cosmic Joker' – anyone who has spent time studying and researching any anomalous phenomena will know that there is an intelligence behind many events that seems determined to confuse and baffle us, and seems to be having fun at our expense! While some refer to the Cosmic Joker, Brian has come to refer to this intelligence as 'Q', after the race and individual in *Star Trek*. The Q Continuum are a highly developed species, essentially benevolent, and wish to oversee the evolution of species, including mankind, towards higher levels – though Q can never do this overtly, everything is done by at times life-threatening puzzles and riddles, which gives Q great amusement – at times an almost child-like humour at the expense of lower beings – sound familiar?.

How relevant is the term 'crop circle' - well, in terms of the whole phenomena, it is misleading. In the early days they were found in - reeds, grass, spinach, potatoes, and brussels. Later events have been in popular cereal crops - barley, wheat, oats, canola/rape, linseed, and maize. Tree circles have been rumoured or reported for many years, though photos have never come into wide circulation. Circles have been seen in ice and snow - probably natural? Circles in

the atmosphere and clouds are now being reported - a few photos are being published in magazines of circular-ish holes in cloudbanks. Some satellite radar images show huge circles and rings within weather fronts - blamed on software glitches.

Are circles global? Most definitely yes! From the 1950s onwards we have had reports from: Central & South America – Brazil, Peru, Mexico; North America – USA & Canada; Europe – UK, France, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Czech, Poland, Switzerland; Middle East & Africa – Israel, South Africa; Asia – India, Japan; Australasia – Australia & New Zealand.

Brian asked if the circles have any message? Are we being conceited to think that any message in the crop glyphs is meant for us? It may be nothing more than graffiti between higher beings. They may be intended for other inhabitants of this planet! The evolution of the complexity of the formations does strongly suggest an intelligence, and one that has knowledge of our science, hence the DNA-type formations, and the fractals. Perhaps, just as we humans make no effort to communicate in the language of animals – we try to condition them to understand 'us', is a higher intelligence doing the same with us?

Do crop circles represent a phenomenon worthy of further research? The associations with other phenomena suggest yes. Notwithstanding any possible connection to a higher intelli-

(Continued from page 23)

gence, if natural, but as yet not understood phenomena are capable of producing complex formations in crops, and other media, and can perhaps produce light phenomena, then we need to know if they can also be the cause of UFO-related events. Energy fields could have effects on the human brain and/or psyche – could these result in UFO sightings or abduction experiences? CCs do represent an as yet unexplained mystery, and a mystery that needs to be solved in the same manner as the mysteries of UFOs, abductions, ghosts, or any other paranormal event. All of these represent a challenge to our collective intelligence, and are parts of a puzzle that we are expected to solve.

(We hope to be able to print summaries of some of the other BUFORA lectures for those people unable to attend – ED)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sat 4th September 1999, 2pm
BUFORA London Lecture
"The Stargate Conspiracy"
Lynn Picknett & Clive Prince
See back cover for details

Fri 10th September 1999, 8pm
Cambridge UFO Group
"The Scoriton Mystery"
Lionel Beer
The Unicorn Public House, Church
Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge.
Admission £2

Sat 18th September 1999,
1:30pm
Northamptonshire UFO Research Cen-
tre
"Research Afternoon"
The Friends Meeting House, Welling-
ton Street, Northampton
Admission £1.50

Sat 18th to Sun 19th September
National Skywatch

Sat 2nd October 1999, 2pm
BUFORA London Lecture
"The Rising of the Moon"
Jonathon Downes
See back cover for details

Friday 8th October 1999, 8pm
Joint meeting Cambridge UFO Group
and BUFORA
"Motifs of Abduction"
John Spencer

The Unicorn Public House, Church Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge
Admission £2

Sat 16th October, 1:30pm
Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre

“Are you sure what you saw?”
Bob Digby (subject to confirmation)
The Friends Meeting House, Wellington Street, Northampton
Admission : £1.50

Sat 6th November 1999, 2pm
BUFORA London Lecture
“The Pleiades Legacy”
Len Farra
See back cover for details

Sat 4th December 1999
BUFORA London Lecture
Arthur Tomlinson
More details next Bulletin

January 2000
No BUFORA London Lecture

Sat 5th February 2000
BUFORA London Lecture
“Altered States of Consciousness”
Professor Arthur Ellison
More details next Bulletin

Sat 4th March 2000
BUFORA London Lecture
“Ancient Astronomy, Astro-Archeology, & ET Visitation”
Len Farra (2nd lecture!)
More details in a later Bulletin

Sat 1st April 2000
AGM & BUFORA London Lecture
“Unsolved Aerial Mysteries – Ancient and Modern”
Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe
More details in a later Bulletin

Sat 6th May 2000
BUFORA London Lecture
“Scottish UFO and Paranormal Mysteries”
Billy Devlin & Brian Allan
More details in a later Bulletin

Sat 3rd June 2000
BUFORA London Lecture
“A Personal Perspective on British UFOlogy”
Chris Evers
More details in a later Bulletin

There are no BUFORA London Lectures planned for July or August 2000. The new lecture season will start on Sat 2nd September 2000.

Preliminary plans for the new season 2000/2001 include (but subject to confirmation nearer the time :

Sep 2000 – George Wingfield
Oct 2000 – Jerry Anderson
Nov 2000 – Reg Presley
Dec 2000 – Malcolm Robinson

We also hope to have further regional events. Details will be issued as soon as possible via the Bulletin. The website and other announcements.

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Meetings are held at the University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS starting at 2pm and lasting until approximately 5pm.

Admission £2-50 (members); £4-50 (non-members)

Saturday 4th September, 1999.

Lynn Picknett & Clive Prince. **"THE STARGATE CONSPIRACY".**

Author Lynn Picknett and fellow researcher Clive Prince will present a lecture entitled, "THE STARGATE CONSPIRACY". This talk will be based on Lynn's forthcoming book (of the same name). Lynn and Clive will be asking, "What really lies behind the major cults that claim to channel extraterrestrial?" Is there another more "terrestrial", but equally disturbing explanation for such apparent contacts??

Saturday 2nd October 1999.

Jon Downes. **"THE RISING OF THE MOON".**

Author and TV documentary star Jonathan Downes will be presenting his talk entitled "THE RISING OF THE MOON; the Devonshire UFO Triangle". Jon will be detailing cases from his book (of the same name) which concerns - amongst other things - supposed animal mutilations, sightings of big cats, ghost and poltergeist effects, and a number of other peculiar events that have occurred in East Devon.

Saturday 6th November, 1999.

Len Farra. **"THE PLEIDIEN LEGACY".**

Over the past 20 years, Len has researched the Ancient Astronaut Theory from an entirely new angle. As a result of his detailed study he believes that ancient traditions point to an ET visit which occurred 5000 years ago. What seems to have happened at that time completely changed the course of World history.

Please note : Whilst it is not anticipated that meetings will have to be changed or cancelled without prior notice, the Association reserves the right to do so. The views expressed by lecturers are their own views, unless otherwise stated they do not reflect the views of BUFORA, its Council or officers.

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