

# BUFORA

WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1991.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this BUFORA Christmas Newsletter. Production difficulties have resulted in a gap in the UFO Times publishing schedule, so we are issuing a Newsletter to bridge the gap. We hope that the next UFO Times will be published within the next three to four weeks.

Steve Gamble

## UFO NEWSFILE

We regret to announce that due to pressure of other commitments Mike Hudson has had to give up the editorship of UFO Newsfile. Thanks for all the hard work in setting up and running Newsfile. Fortunately we will not be losing Mike completely and he will continue with some of the many other jobs he undertakes for BUFORA.

We also regret to announce that due to rising costs we are having to increase the price of Newsfile. The single copy price will rise to £1-25 and the cost of a six issue subscription will rise to £7-00.

However for the time being the special rate of £5-00 for BUFORA members to take a Newsfile subscription will be maintained. Since the majority of subscribers are BUFORA members this will mean for most people there will be no increase, and make taking the extra subscription even better value.

## BELGIAN FLAP

The major flap which has been occurring over Belgium for the last eighteen months or so now seems to have subsided.

It is understood that so much data has been collected on the flap that SOBEPS are to produce a book detailing their investigations. The book is expected around the middle of 1992.

## REGIONAL MEETING

The regional meeting will take place on Saturday 18th January 1992, starting at 13:30. The meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Wellington Street, Northampton. This is close to Greyfriars Bus Station and about 10 minutes walk from the railway station.

The speaker will be John Spencer and the topic will be "The Role of the Witness in Investigation and Training". This promises to be a lively debate involving a number of past UFO witnesses.

Admission £ 1-50.

## UFO TIMES NEWSDESK

Got a hot UFO news story? Then ring the special UFO TIMES Newsdesk with your story or details of meetings etc on 0352 732473 between 9am and 5pm, 7 days a week.

*Unless otherwise stated, opinions in articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BUFORA or its officers.*

## TOWARDS THE NATIONAL UFO CENTRE

### Steve Gamble

In 1988 a meeting was held in Leicester which involved around 30 members of the Council, the National Investigations Committee, the Research Committee and other members of the Association. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss future policy and direction of BUFORA. A major conclusion of the meeting was that BUFORA should aim to establish in the longer term a National UFO Centre, which would also act as BUFORA's headquarters.

Ultimately the National UFO Centre would house meeting rooms, the case reports and a extensive library. This would provide an environment where people can carry out research. This would form part of what I referred to in an article in the August 1984 issue of the BUFORA Bulletin as the infrastructure of research.

From the 1st November 1991, BUFORA has been able to open a staffed office. It is hoped that this will provide better services for BUFORA's members and is seen as the first step towards establishing the National UFO Centre. In the shorter term the office will take on some of the administrative functions allowing other officers to devote more time towards the research, investigation and development of BUFORA.

Correspondence for BUFORA can be sent to:

BUFORA  
The Leys,  
Suite 1,  
2c Leyton Road,  
Harpenden,  
Hertfordshire, AL5 2TL  
United Kingdom

It should be stressed that it is not possible to accept visitors to the office.

For many years BUFORA published a London phone number where it could be contacted. This was actually a members private phone number and when the member moved we discontinued publishing a phone number. BUFORA can now be reached by telephone again. The new number is 0582 763218. The

phone is manned 09:00 to 17:00 UK time, with an answerphone outside these times.

It might be appropriate at this point for me to say a little about my vision of BUFORA. Many members will know that I am also a member of an organisation called the British Interplanetary Society, indeed my interest in spaceflight pre-dates any interest I have in UFO's. Some members may themselves be familiar with the BIS. To a certain extent I see the path of BUFORA paralleling that of the BIS.

The BIS was formed by enthusiasts in 1933. In 1933 the thought of spaceflight was treated with the same kind of disregard as UFO's have in more recent years. The BIS continued for over 25 years slowly gathering members. Eventually they were able to rent an office and used that as a base to build both membership and in turn reserves until they were able to purchase their current headquarters. It took the BIS around forty-five years and a great deal of effort to reach this stage. Anybody who has seen the BIS headquarters will surely agree that it was well worth the wait.

It would be foolish to make out that establishing the National UFO Centre will be cheap. Obviously the larger membership we have or the larger reserves then the less will fall on individual members. But, if as we have always maintained we wish to get professional scientists involved in researching the phenomena we will have to make sure the support infrastructure exists. That means one point of contact, one place to obtain information, a specialist library.

In the longer term I expect to see the establishment of the National UFO Centre. I would be misleading you to make out that it might take less than another 10 or 15 years before such an event occurs. (For those of you who are worried, I do not expect to still be chairman when it occurs!!!)

## Book Review: "UFO Crash at Roswell"

by Kevin D. Randle and Donald R. Schmitt  
(Avon Books, New York, 1991),  
327 pages, US\$4.95, ISBN 0-380-76196-3

Reviewed by Michael Corbin and James R. Black,  
ParaNet Information Service, Wheatridge, Colorado.  
(Copyright 1991 by M.F. Corbin and J.R. Black. All Rights Reserved)  
(reproduced with permission.)

There are some books that everyone with an interest in UFOs should own. "UFO Crash at Roswell" is one of them. Here, for the first time, is a definitive answer to the long-standing question, "Has the U.S. government ever recovered a crashed flying saucer?" The answer is a resounding "Yes!"

### The Story and the Evidence

In brief, "UFO Crash at Roswell" tells how an unidentified flying object struck the earth on July 2, 1947 near Corona, New Mexico during a violent thunderstorm; how the wreckage was found by a local rancher and reported to the 509th Bomb Group at Roswell Army Air Field; how the soldiers of the 509th gathered the wreckage, discovered a second (and possibly a third) associated crash site, took possession of four alien bodies, and transported their finds to Los Alamos and Wright Field for analysis; and how the military brass in the Eighth Air Force and the Pentagon squelched the facts, disinformed the public, and suppressed almost all discussion of the events for decades afterwards.

Such a story could easily be dismissed as the rankest sort of sci-fi nonsense, and in its previous incarnations it has been so dismissed by UFO believers and debunkers alike. When Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore's "The Roswell Incident" made the first tentative steps to cover this ground in 1980, it was mercilessly derided and picked to pieces for its intrinsic unbelievability and its lapses of both fact and logic. But Randle and Schmitt know their history, and they were determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Randle is a former helicopter pilot and Air Force intelligence officer; Schmitt is Director of Special Investigations for the Center for UFO Studies, one of the oldest and most respectable of today's UFO organizations. Together, over the course of almost three years, they

interviewed more than 200 witnesses, reviewed hundreds of documents, and conducted the first scientific site visit by private citizens to the crash site itself. The result is a mountain of proof which will delight the true believer, astound the open-minded, and hopefully give the debunkers a real run for their money.

Inevitably, much of the book is concerned with sometimes confused tales of unearthly materials and alien bodies. But in our estimation this is not the most important and convincing evidence; much more telling is the downright strange behaviour of the government itself, both then and now. Witnesses can easily be mistaken about esoteric technical issues outside their everyday experience; it's much harder to misinterpret being threatened by uniformed men carrying guns. The U.S. military has buried the Roswell event under all the trappings of a full-blown government coverup: the intimidation of witnesses, the destruction or suppression of evidence, and a systematic campaign of lies and disinformation to prevent the truth from becoming widely known. The indisputable fact of the coverup itself is enough to establish that Roswell is truly the tip of the "Cosmic Watergate" iceberg.

The authors have anticipated the inevitable assault by debunkers who "know" that the Roswell event cannot have happened as described. They consider whether the Roswell crash can be explained as nothing more than a downed weather balloon, or a stray V-2 rocket nose cone, or a late-breaking Japanese balloon bomb - and then firmly reject them all. In the end, only one explanation remains: that in 1947 the New Mexico countryside witnessed the crash of a vehicle that was "not of this world".

## The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

"UFO Crash at Roswell" is not without its flaws. It was published as a paperback original rather than in hardcover, which almost inevitably means it will appear in few libraries and will garner few serious reviews. The cover art (against the authors' wishes) is a classic "daylight disk" photo which has been widely denounced as a hoax and has nothing whatever to do with the Roswell crash. The text is replete with typographical errors and grammatical slips that even casual editing should have caught and corrected. There are mangled and self-contradictory quotations (some of which can be repaired by reference to repetitions of the same material elsewhere in the book), and there are "backward glances" to facts that have not yet been discussed. But these represent a failure by the publisher to take the book seriously, rather than a failure by the authors to write a book worth reading.

Perhaps more disconcerting is the authors' decision to cover the same ground four times from different perspectives: once in a brief historical overview, once in a "just the facts" account of the event itself, once in a blow-by-blow description of their investigation, and finally once more in a day-by-day time line. This occasionally gives the reader an annoying sense of "deja vu", as well as making it difficult to know which part of the book to search through for any particular detail.

On the positive side, the authors have taken a very professional and forthright approach to their work. The contributions of previous researchers are acknowledged (and, where necessary, gently corrected); shortcomings in the evidence are freely admitted; witnesses are named, and sources are documented. There are detailed lists of interviewees and participants, a glossary, a bibliography, extensive footnotes, and an index - all of which will greatly assist anyone who wishes to verify their information or to build on their efforts. One senses no "proprietary interests" at work here, which is a welcome relief in a field where information is often jealously guarded and cooperation among researchers is all too rare.

## Where Do We Go From Here?

"UFO Crash at Roswell" does not mark the end of crashed-disk research; indeed, it is only the beginning. A moment's consideration

yields any number of avenues for further research, some of which Randle and Schmitt are no doubt already pursuing:

- (1) The material relating to the second and third crash sites, the discovery of the alien bodies, and their final disposition at the hands of the military is still sketchy and full of holes; further research is definitely needed here, both to find more witnesses and to establish precisely what happened and how it is related to the primary site.
- (2) Roswell is not the only rumoured UFO crash; Randle and Schmitt list a number of them in an appendix. These other alleged incidents need to be investigated with the same vigour as the Roswell crash, and conclusively verified or disproved.
- (3) The role of Kirtland Air Force Base, not only in the Roswell recovery and its coverup but in other landmark UFO events, needs to be thoroughly investigated and documented. Kirtland crops up over and over again in Randle and Schmitt's story - as a source of orders and machinations outside the normal military chain of command, as a transshipment point for material destined for the labs at Los Alamos, as the place where secret scientific reports on the crash were filed, and as the possible source of a military mapping expedition near the crash site years afterwards. Given the prominence of Kirtland in the infamous Bennewitz affair and other disinformation operations which are known to have been carried out by personnel of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, it seems highly significant that Kirtland appears so early and so prominently in the Roswell case.
- (4) As far as we know now, Roswell was the first recovery of a crashed UFO; but there is reason to believe that the U.S. government had, to say the least, already given the matter some thought. The speed with which the military responded to the initial report, the forethought shown by the arrangements for transporting the wreckage, and the thoroughness with which the witnesses were hushed up and the evidence

eliminated, indicate that the Roswell coverup was not an ad-hoc response to an unexpected event but rather the outworking of a pre-arranged plan. It remains to be seen whether this plan was formulated as the result of prior experience in crashed-saucer retrievals or was merely a contingency plan provoked by earlier encounters with "foo fighters", "ghost rockets", and "green fireballs" in the postwar years.

- (5) The revelation by General Arthur Exon of the existence of a UFO control group outside official channels once again raises the spectre of MJ-12. Exon referred to the group as "the Unholy Thirteen" for lack of a better name, but of course this could easily mean nothing more than the twelve principals of MJ-12 plus the President himself, to whom the control group undoubtedly reported. While the controversy surrounding the MJ-12 briefing paper should not be allowed to sully the Roswell event itself, the semi-official acknowledgment that such a group once existed (and presumably still exists) should add new fuel to the MJ-12 fire.
- (6) There is a crying need to re-evaluate postwar history in light of the now-established fact of the Roswell crash and retrieval. If the U.S. government successfully recovered an alien spacecraft, alien technology, and alien corpses in 1947, it should have had a profound impact on high-tech research (several witnesses described a material similar to modern fibre optics), on foreign policy, and on the aerospace industry and the space program - not to mention its effect on the government's

attitude toward the UFO problem itself. Just as the revelation of the ultra-secret Enigma machine and the allies' successful cracking of Axis codes has required a complete rethinking of the historiography of World War II, so the Roswell event necessitates a reinvestigation of almost everything that has happened in the last 44 years.

- (7) Finally, a host of questions remain unanswered about the relationship between the Roswell crash and the "other half" of the UFO equation: abductions, occult phenomena, cattle mutilations, and all the rest. Roswell looks like the crash of an extraterrestrial spacecraft; but that could be because the event has been shaped to look that way, either by the government, by the researchers, or by the forces behind the event itself. It would be a grave error to conclude at this point that Roswell establishes the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis as the only solution to the UFO mystery. That something extraordinary happened at Roswell is astonishingly clear. Its ultimate explanation and significance are yet to be determined.

## Conclusion

If you have any interest in UFOs, go out and get a copy of this book. Better yet, get two copies - one for yourself, and one to loan out to your friends. You'll be glad you did.

Paranet operates an electronic bulletin board service connecting researchers throughout the world. Mike Corbin is the Director of Paranet.

ADVERTISEMENT  
**UFOCALL 0898 12 1886**  
**FOR THE STRANGEST CLOSE ENCOUNTERS ON THE**  
**TELEPHONE**

Phone UFOCALL, edited and presented by Jenny Randles, Britain's only professional ufologist. UFOCALL will keep you ahead of the UFO headlines. The latest cases from around the world, up to date research news, details of national, regional events, book reviews and much more are all on UFOCALL.

**JUST DIAL AND LISTEN**  
**Calls charged at Premium Rate (currently 48p per min peak, 36p all other times)**

## REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE HELD IN EL VENDRELL IN OCTOBER 1990

Steve Gamble, Chairman and Director of Research

(This paper is based upon one which appeared in the ICUR Newsletter for September 1990.)

In October 1990 Robin Lindsey (BUFORA Tape Librarian), Anne Spencer, John Spencer (BUFORA Vice-chairman) and myself attended the International UFO Conference held in El Vendrell near Barcelona in Spain. The Conference was running under the title "Diferentes Niveles de Percepcion", which I believe translates as Different Levels of Perception. Fortunately, although the conference sessions were in Spanish they were simultaneously translated into English.

On Friday 12th October, Robin and I flew to Barcelona, from where we made the trip along the coast to El Vendrell. In preparation for the Olympic games there are many major rebuilding projects around Barcelona. After booking into our hotel we made our way to the conference hall, where we made contact with John and Anne and local BUFORA members Sylvia Duran and Alan Jacobs.

To receive the simultaneous translation we were equipped with a small radio receiver. On one channel the sessions were broadcast in English, on another in Spanish. We soon found that these worked in the garden outside the conference hall and in the coffee shop next door, so wherever you were you knew what was going on. The whole of the Conference was also videoed by the local TV company (see end of this article) and relayed to the entrance hall so that those manning the various stands and registration were not left out of things.

The conference was held in the cinema in the centre of El Vendrell. It was jointly sponsored by El Vendrell Town Council, Radio El Vendrell and the UFO group A.I.R.U.P.P. The Conference coincided with a local carnival to mark the end of the tourist season. There were about 250 attendees at the Conference. Chairing of the sessions was shared between Miguel Blanco Medrano and Francisco Padron Hernandez. The stage and the conference literature carried an attractive 'winged messenger' logo designed by Sylvia Duran.

The conference started with a Friday evening session. The proceedings were opened by speeches from Marti Carnicer (Mayor of El Vendrell), Miguel Blanco Medrano (Radio El Vendrell) and Joan Basseda (A.I.R.U.P.P.). Mr Carnicer explained that the Council supported the conference as part of their programme of promoting El Vendrell.

The first session on Friday evening opened with a talk by Colin Bloy about Cropfield Circles of Wiltshire. Although Colin is British, he gave his talk in, very good, Spanish (comes to something when you need the translation service to understand the Brits!).

Colin said that there had been over 1000 circles reported in 1990. As well as the UK, where there appear to be epicentres around Stonehenge, Silbury and Avebury, he reported similar phenomena from Japan and Australia. He said that there appeared to be a connection between many of the circles formations and small hills. This, as far as I recall, is something that the meteorological theory people have been claiming for a long time.

The body of his talk moved on to show how circle formations might be related to Ley Lines and to other psychic phenomena. He described how one large Ley line started in Cornwall and crossed the UK linking all the places associated with St Michael. This line then heads off towards Scandinavia. He postulated that the line could be a source of energy to form the circles.

People report lights and noises associated with circles, these are of course reported as UFO's. He pointed out that the biggest ever European UFO wave occurred at Warminster, which is the same place where the circles are found. Colin then went on to describe two phenomena captured by Operation Blackbird and how these had been recorded by a BBC camera crew from Birmingham. These included the fact that abnormal winds were blowing and a low frequency electromagnetic pulsing. He went on to state that psychic

effects take place at low frequency and that, interestingly, this coincided with the 8 Hertz Alpha wave of the brain. None of the people such as Doug Bower and Dave Chorley who have recently claimed to have hoaxed all the circles seem to have come forward with a satisfactory explanation of this electronic whistling sound. It should be pointed out, however, that 8 Hz is below the frequencies which humans normally can hear so that what is detected must be a harmonic of this.

Colin's talk (and a coffee break!) was followed by a question and answer session with a panel consisting of Colin Bloy, Andreas Faber Kaiser, Javier Sierra, Manuel Carballal, Angela Zarini and Bertrand Meheust. Although many of the questions related to Colin's paper, quite a wide range of questions were offered. Several questions asked the panel members to expand upon any personal experiences they had. This ended the Friday session.

The Saturday morning session started with a talk by Leon Brenige (Belgium) entitled 'Belgium: A state of alert'. This was a summary of over 900 reports from the recent flap over Belgium. Leon said that many of the reports were of triangular objects and he showed how these triangular objects had been reported from many different countries, including the UK. He described how these objects had been seen above villages, fields and how they had been observed motionless above cars, stopped in front of red traffic lights (!! ) and near high tension electric cables.

The objects were reported by people from all categories of society, from many different areas. There was a peak in the reports around 29th November 1989. He went on to describe some of the cases in more detail. These included 8 lights seen by 10 policemen in Brussels during March. These were also detected on radar and 6 fighter aircraft were sent to intercept. As the fighters arrived, the lights disappeared.

He also described lights associated with power lines. Although the objects travelled along the power cables, the power companies reported no surges or drops.

After coffee, Bertil Kuhlemann of Sweden gave a talk entitled 'The Phenomenon and its Significance'. Bertil said we should be careful

not to ignore most of the important parts of the phenomenon by focussing too deeply on minor details. This was perhaps best illustrated when he produced a gigantic apple and said 'consider this apple, large and round, full of juice to represent the UFO phenomenon as a whole'. He then pressed the base of the apple into an ink pad and then pressed the apple onto the overhead projector. He then said (I need to paraphrase) 'See the ink blot, this represents the UFO report, the trace left behind by the UFO, I am concerned that we spend so much time studying the ink blot that we might be ignoring the apple, the UFO phenomenon in its full splendour'.

Bertil's talk was followed by a three hour long lunch break. As well as lunch, this provided an ideal opportunity to discuss UFOs with the other delegates.

The Saturday evening session opened with Pedro Crespi, who is a colonel in the Spanish Airforce. I think the title of his talk translates as 'UFOs the subject of classified material' and dealt with reports that had been made to the Spanish military. In particular, Pedro spoke about reports that had been made to him whilst he was a base commander.

The second talk of this session was by John Spencer, who spoke about Witness Lead Investigation. This dealt with John's approach to investigating cases and he outlined the investigation of some of the cases he had used in his book Perspectives. As he was still investigating some of the cases he was able to provide updates on several of them, including his latest investigations into the Anders case and the Kathryn Howard case. Despite speaking at about two thirds his normal speed, the translators had their work cut out keeping up with John.

After a short coffee break, the Saturday evening session closed with another question and answer session. The panel consisted of the days speakers plus Javier Sierra, Manuel Carballal and Angela Zarini. In response to a question, Bertil Kuhlemann said a few words about the aims and objectives of the International Committee for UFO Research of which he is a past chairman. Following the close of the formal session many of the delegates moved to the restaurant next door where discussions continued well into the night.

The first talk on Sunday was given by Bertrand Meheust of France. His talk was about The Structure of an Abduction. Bertrand gave his talk in French, so the translators were translating French to Spanish, and not able to do the English translation at the same time. However this gave an opportunity to discuss UFO's with some of the other delegates.

Sixto Paz who is a Peruvian contactee then spoke about some of his experiences. The bulk of his presentation was given over to a description of an expedition into the Peruvian jungle to meet his contact. It was just as well that Sixto was to be followed by the long lunch break as he overran his allocated one hour slot by another hour, but he held the audience's attention, and probably could have for at least another hour. Sixto was recently in the UK on a lecture tour. Unfortunately his own speaking engagements clashed with the Congress in Sheffield, so he was unable to attend.

The first talk of the Sunday evening session was given by Fernando Salazar of Mexico. He spoke about underground temples. The final talk of the Sunday session was given by Enrique de Vicente (Editor of the magazine Ano Cero). His title, I think, translates as 'The Key to the Prophecy'. Enrique's talk was wide ranging, but can best be summarised as UFO's are just one aspect of the new thinking we should all be taking on board.

This was followed by the final question and answer session. The panel consisted of Bertil Kuhlemann, Fernando Salazar, Enrique de Vicente, Sixto Paz, Pedro Crespi and John Spencer. Both session chairmen also took part in this final panel. The panel session was followed by a short closing ceremony with brief speeches by the same officials who opened the proceedings.

Although the long coffee and meal breaks give the impression that things were taken at a leisurely pace there were so many people to meet, who either had an interesting case to relate to you or who wanted to know about British UFOlogy, the breaks turned out to be harder work than the conference itself! As I reviewed the notes I made of the talks for this article, they appeared to become less and less the further into the conference we went reflecting the toll things must have been

taking, perhaps I'm just not as young as I used to be.

Videos of the individual talks, of the whole conference or a compilation tape are available. If you are interested in obtaining videos of the conference with English translation (either VHS or Beta format), write (enclosing S.A.E.) to the office who can supply the contact information.

It is all too easy to forget that not all world speaks English, and there is much good work carried out in the non-English speaking part of the world. The A.I.R.U.P.P. Conference did a great deal to redress the balance. In closing I would like to express the thanks of our party to Joan Basseda, Cecilia Ballester, and particularly Sylvia Duran and Alan Jacobs for everything they did to make sure we had an enjoyable time. I am looking forward to the next A.I.R.U.P.P. Conference.

## **BUFORA SCIENTIFIC - OFFICIAL**

Elsewhere in this Newsletter mention is made of installing a BUFORA telephone. As part of the installation we were to gain an entry in British Telecom's Yellow Pages.

Yellow Pages phoned the office, 'What do we classify you under?' We carry out scientific investigation of UFO phenomena came the reply. 'Oh! we don't have a category for that. We'll get back to you.'

At this point the name of BUFORA seems to have travelled up several different layers of management in YP, and in due course back down again. A couple of days later a triumphant lady from YP phoned back. The nearest thing they could think to what BUFORA did was scientific consultancy. So somewhere deep in the Hertfordshire Yellow Pages under Scientific Consultants you will find .....

So there you have it - official from BT.