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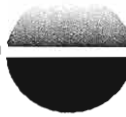


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June 2001



British UFO Research Association



The British UFO Research Association (BUFORA Ltd, by guarantee)
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BUFORA BULLETIN

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Welcome to what is the mid-summer issue of the BUFORA Bulletin – hopefully you will approve of the evolution of the magazine, and see the improvement in quality as we have moved to full digital printing.

As we noted last time, Ufology got press coverage, but for all the wrong reasons over the announcement by Dennis Plunkett that the BFSB was closing - although I understand that Dennis has now reconsidered, and has bemoaned that he got more publicity for announcing the closure of the group than he ever did when he was trying to promote it!

We also noted that BUFORA, along with many other groups and researchers sent numerous letters and press releases to the newspapers concerned, stating that Ufology in the UK was far from dead! What is perhaps curious is that none of the newspapers who ran the blatant 'anti-Ufo spin', thought the reality of the situation was worthy of a single column inch, so no 'right of reply' was granted. The only paper to begrudgingly acknowledge that there are still over 100 active research groups in the UK was the Sunday Express, in a preview by Beverley Glick on Steven Greer's Disclosure Project. As I commented last time, was the anti-Ufo angle deliberately timed to take the public's attention away from possible interest in something like the Disclosure Project? Don't think that the powers that be won't use tactics to keep the public's focus away from certain 'news', or what might be termed 'Big Brother' wants us to know. It has only come to light this week that Northumberland farmer - Bobby Waugh - alleged to be responsible for the Foot & Mouth outbreak in this country, is being pressured to sign the Official Secrets Act before he is allowed to clean up his premises and claim

compensation from MAFF. This seems a very strange manner in which to eradicate the alleged cause of the disease! I suppose not a good headline as we were in an election campaign!

The Disclosure Project itself doesn't seem to have achieved its goal of getting discussion on the subject of Ufology into a wider and more serious domain (echoes of the Campaign for Alien Acknowledgment in the mid 1990s). Many Ufologists and researchers do not feel that Greer's personal agenda necessarily sits well with his attempts to move discussion to a professional and academic level, and others comment on his at times all-too-obvious 'commercial motivation'. Despite the pre-publicity for the Disclosure Project, many have felt that the quality of the data presented did not match expectations, but then again when all such data has to be based largely on anecdotal evidence, rather than something more tangible, then the media at large are not going to be impressed. That said, quite how 'tangible' evidence might be described is open to debate – short of having a solid 'flying saucer' or flesh and blood 'alien' on stage. I get the feeling that the media, and hence the public, will remain sceptical. This attitude was seen recently at Georgina Bruni's lecture at the Oxford University's group Open Minds – when young people in the audience thought that 'mere drawings' made by witnesses, and a photograph of the alleged landing site were evidence to mock and laugh at. What did they expect, were they seriously expecting something out of the X Files?

As I noted last time, the AGM scheduled for 28th April was inquorate. I apologise on behalf of the council for the change of date and venue that became necessary – the feedback we'd received was that an AGM on the Monday evening was not desirable, and that a Saturday afternoon was preferred. The

Harrow Campus of the University of Westminster was found at relatively short notice, but unfortunately I presume that the late change lead to difficulties for many of our members in arranging travel. I hope to have seen as many of you as possible at the rescheduled AGM before the BUFORA/TEMS mini-conference on 24th June.

You will note from the list on page 2 of this magazine that a number of people have either retired or otherwise stood down as Directors. We are almost down to the minimum number of directors defined by our articles, and while we can still proceed with council business, it would be desirable to have new directors with new ideas (and not a little enthusiasm) to maintain progress on the evolution of the association and company. You will know from recent magazines that ultimately we may aim to revert to a simpler association status, but until that time we are governed by the needs of running as a company. If any of you members out there feel that you wish to get more involved in the day-to-day running of BUFORA, then do get in touch with us via head office. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who feels they have the skills to take on the position of Treasurer – this is an important role, but one that needn't take up a huge amount of anyone's leisure time.

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It's a Small World...

An intriguing UFO case has been forwarded to by correspondent Thomas Olsen, of a report originally made to the Phoenix-based UFOIRC.

The sighting occurred on 13 March 2001, in Urawa City, Japan. A woman was walking her dog at 4.00am, when she encountered an odd object in the grass verge. It was small disk, only about 30cm in diameter, and appeared metallic. The disk had 4 flickering orange lights equally spaced on its upper surface. The disk also vibrated slightly, and this was said to have prevented the woman from touching the disk (presumably due to fear). Another curious factor in this encounter was that her dog would not move, nor did it bark – although we do not know its normal behavior.

It would of course be very easy to dismiss this as a mistaken report of a child's toy – Japan is after all the world's leader in electronic toys and gizmos. Why did the witness report the behavior of her dog if it were not unusual – I'm sure that many people will relate that pet

dogs all too often will playfully attack and damage electronic toys!

Thomas conducted a search of the UFOIRC database for similar objects, and perhaps against expectation, there are a significant number of reports of objects less than 1m in size, and 227 reports of objects around 30cm in size – although this covers all shapes and not just disks, so covers instances of ball lightning.

Small 'UFOs' are of course not unusual in the UK – small shining disks and spheres, as well as glowing balls of light are frequently reported in association with crop formations, and have been captured on photo and video on many occasions

It is worth noting that reports of what seem like small objects are not limited to UFOs or disks, as tiny humanoid figures are also reported in association with small 'UFOs'.

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An OOB Experiment...

Tony Bassett's Mind Machine

By Malcolm Robinson and Judith Jafaar

Introduction.

This is a follow on article to the one I wrote a short time ago for the London based TNT magazine and also the BUFORA magazine [See Bulletin numbers 22 and 23].

To re-cap for those who haven't read my article. It concerned a gentleman by the name of Tony Bassett who had invented a machine called a 'Bio-Energiser' which he claimed could induce an Out of Body Experience (OOBE). His device, he claimed, could transport one's consciousness to the past, present, future, indeed anywhere where one so desired. Big claims indeed, but could his invention really do what he claimed. Well after the interview there was only one way to find out, and that was to put his device to the test.

An Experiment of consciousness!

And so it was that on the evening of Saturday 17th February 2001, some members of BUFORA and interested individuals met up at my home in Ealing London to put Tony's claims to the test. Those participating were, myself, Judith Jaafar. (Vice Chair of BUFORA), Robert Rosamond, Edward Gracie, Richard Conway (BUFORA), Simon Greenberg, Gloria Dixon, (Director of Investigations for BUFORA), David Moncur, and David Conway (a practicing clinical hypnotherapist) The anticipation in the room could clearly be felt as all those gathered waited with baited breath to see if anything

would transpire. I (Malcolm) briefly explained before we started how I came to learn about Tony and mentioned various aspects of the Interview that both Judith Jaafar and I conducted at his Hamstead home several months before. That done, I turned the meeting and experiment over to Tony himself who went about explaining a little bit about himself and what one could expect once he had switched his device on. Looking around the room at the assembled people I could see the expectancy if not trepidation on the faces of those gathered and wondered if they really wanted to go through with this. However Tony quickly put them at ease and did say that anyone who wasn't comfortable in proceeding could leave the room. (no one did!) Thoughts raced through my own head as to what would happen, this was something new for me. I was well aware of what could happen during out of body experiences but not ever having one myself I wasn't entirely sure what I was letting myself in for, but being the typical researcher with the ever inquisitive mind I just 'had to know'. Reading about things of this nature is one thing, getting an opportunity to experiment was another.

Before the experiment started proper, Tony invited each and everyone of us to sample the power of his 'Bio-Energiser'. He invited everyone to come forward to the middle of the room where he had placed his device on a small table and carefully place their hand several inches above the device. At this juncture, with the individual's hand carefully placed above the device, he switched it on.

The machine began to make a soft humming sound and I guess made the whole scenario look and feel even more dramatic. He then gently stroked the person on the ear and asked if they could feel anything, each and everyone felt a distinct tingling effect as their ear was being stroked, clearly something was happening!

After everyone had had a chance to experience this effect, the lights were then dimmed in the room and Tony asked everyone to be relaxed and sit with their hands either by their sides or resting gently on their legs. That done, he then asked us to close our eyes although he stressed that it wasn't specifically necessary to do this for the effect to take place. Nonetheless all in the room closed their eyes (I, Judith, was the last to close mine).

It was at this point that I (Judy) and David Conway looked at each other and smiled. With both of us being involved in hypnotic practice and training, we recognised immediately what Tony Bassett was about to do, and we weren't disappointed. (JJ)

A sky full of stars...

For a few moments all was silent apart from the soft hum coming from the machine. Tony gently broke into the silence and asked us all to imagine that we were standing in front of our own front door. He asked us to strongly look at the door, looking at its colour its panes of glass (should there be any) and focus intently on it. A few moments later, he then asked us to visualise us moving up from the door and moving onto the first floor looking at the window. After a short while he then asked that we move on from there and visualise us being on top of our house looking all around at the roof and the surrounding gardens and district. That done, we were then to visualise us moving on from there into space to look at the stars. During all this, he

step by step asked everyone what they were experiencing

I (Judy) decided to go along with the guided visualisation technique of waking hypnosis that Tony was employing, willing to accept that perhaps with the aid of the box the process might in some way be enhanced. I easily rose up to the roof and looked around my garden and surrounding areas, but the minute I tried to move to locations that I did not clearly have a map of in my conscious mind, the process failed. For me at least, it was pure conscious visualisation. In my imagination, I tried to project myself into the stars with limited success, and then the whole episode was brought to an abrupt stop when a huge tidal wave appeared out of nowhere in my mind's eye. I couldn't get past this image, so opened my eyes (JJ)

Richard Conway, managed (like me) to rise above the roof of his house and position himself within the stars but somehow couldn't move on from there. Edward Gracie saw himself walking in a meadow whilst David Moncur saw himself floating above the roof of his tenement flat in Edinburgh. Moving on from there and finding himself above another building, he someone knew that the premises were haunted and that he just 'had' to investigate it. Tony Bassett in an understanding and calm voice asked Dave to stay where he was and do some investigating and that he would return to him soon. As for myself, (Malcolm) I could clearly see the front door of my house, I then moved up from the door (as Tony Bassett had instructed me to do) and found myself on top of my roof. I was looking down intently at the tiles on the roof but this more in my 'mind's eye' rather than a clear and concise picture. Tony then instructed me to visualise myself rising up from the roof and moving into the stars. This I couldn't do, so Tony then asked me to visualise a bright point in space and move

towards it. Suddenly as he said this, I found myself racing away from above my rooftop and moving quite rapidly towards a bright point of light. I then, (much to my surprise), found myself encased in a tunnel of pure white light but not that bright that it hurt my eyes. The most surprising thing about this light was the fact that it was ribbed (just like being in the belly of a whale!!). Tony then asked me to try and touch the walls of this bright tunnel of which I then leaned over and moved my hand out towards the wall. I was intrigued as the wall gently parted as my hand touched it - it was just like moving your hand through a cloud! I can't recall actually seeing myself in this tunnel, but I do remember my hand gently parting the wall of this bright tunnel.

Rome?

It was what happened next which gave me the biggest surprise, for no sooner was I looking at my hand parting the wall of this bright tunnel, than I found myself sliding down the top of what appeared to be a slanted Roman edifice. This was something else! I wasn't sliding down quickly, but very slowly as if I was somehow in control. This edifice was very bright and clean, it didn't appear to be a ruin in any way but it was as if it had just been built. (very bright, very clean). I then found myself turning around in the air and was moving down in front of this edifice in which I could clearly see that it was indeed Roman, and was pillared. There was a round 4 pillars in all supporting this slanting roof. The actual edifice itself, was only as described and there was only the one façade. This was quite a surprise to me because I wasn't expecting this at all. Admittedly when I found myself in this tunnel of light, my initial thoughts were that I was in the so called 'Heavenly Tunnel' which people who experience Near Death Experiences have found themselves in which lead them to what

they claim is heaven. I, on the otherhand, did not find myself in Heaven, but strangely found myself on top of some kind of Roman structure!! No sooner had I found myself looking at the fluting on these large white pillars, than I opened my eyes, why I don't know, I didn't consciously want to. I closed them again, but found that I couldn't regain the image that was so clear in my mind.

David Conway after finding himself in the stars, couldn't (or decided not to) pursue this any further and opened his eyes Gloria Dixon and Simon Greenberg also opened their eyes as they too were not getting anything out of it. By this time, Edward Grace had also opened his eyes. Tony, upon seeing that all assembled had now opened their eyes, asked everyone to relax and brought the session to a close. I then invited questions from those assembled as to what they thought of the session and what 'they' got out of it. The main consensus of opinion by those gathered was that the whole exercise was nothing more than over active imagination. I would tend to agree, but having said that, I cannot explain why I found myself in that tunnel and also being in front of that Roman structure.

Tony employed the tried and tested method of open-ended questioning throughout the guided visualisation, using the subject's own words and images to feed back to them and take them further into the trance state which he was either wittingly or unwittingly trying to induce. The whole experiment was so obviously based on hypnotic protocols that I must say I wondered what part the "Mind Machine" could possibly play, other than that of a convincer. We could all have had the same experience without the box being present. Some people are just better at producing internal imagery than others. I, as a trainee hypnotherapist, was somewhat concerned to note that David Moncur, who was last known to be in a haunted house in

Edinburgh in the 1920's, according to him, was not brought back properly to London in the present in accordance with the very strict hypnotic protocols (JJ).

Tony explained to those gathered that he would require a number of sessions with those that felt that they had got something out of it (myself Malcolm included!) For one experiment doesn't reach any firm conclusions (I agree). He stated that we would eventually move away from what we felt was our imagination and move into a more clearer realm of vividness of which we couldn't deny. Judy, who actually has had an Out of Body Experience, told me that what she experienced with Tony Bassett's machine, bore no resemblance whatsoever, to her OOBES. She informed me that on that occasions she sensed with all her five senses, and the quality of the experience was so real, and the information brought back (in some cases later corroborated) was so correct that there was no disputing that she had found herself in a completely different environment. The Tony Bassett experiment she felt, didn't

even come close. Judy does accept however, that this one single experiment doesn't mean that Tony's machine doesn't do what he claims it can do.

Conclusions...

All in all then, it had been quite an interesting night, some of us had got something out of it, and the others nothing. Was our imagination being stimulated by Tony's machine? If we had have sat any longer would we have got something very striking? There is no doubt in my mind that we have to continue with these OOBES Experiments, certainly until such times as I feel that there can be no justification in doing so. These are interesting days and the experiments will go on, and I shall no doubt be informing you of any further mind reaching experiences.

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Skywatch Diary

Well, here we are in the clement summer months (yes, they have arrived, although by the time this magazine is published, summer could be over....) Why not get out and about on pro-active skywatches – you never know, you may just see your first UFO! Two organized events are coming up, details as follows...

RENDESHAM FOREST SKYWATCH

SPI England are planning to hold a skywatch in Rendlesham Forest Suffolk on

Saturday July 14th 2001

We invite you and your colleagues to attend this skywatch. We plan to meet up at the Cherry Tree Pub near the village of Bromeswell on Saturday 14th of July at 9:00pm. Should you decide to come along, please bring with you the usual items for a skywatch, ie. Binoculars, Telescope (if you have one), camera/s both still and video. [Not to mention warm clothes – Ed]

UFOlogy (as I'm sure you'll agree) is all about participating and getting involved in things and we hope that you and your colleagues may participate in what hopefully will be an interesting night.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press, Chris Martin has confirmed his intention to attend the skywatch, with a view to video-recording the entire evening's watch, and of course Chris has had more than a little success in capturing UFOs on film!

Directions.

From the A12 turn off for Woodbridge, follow the road past a crossroads and continue straight ahead through Melton. Cross the train tracks at the level-crossing. On your left will be a pub called the Willford Bridge. Continue past this onto a roundabout ahead. At the roundabout take a left and follow the road for about half a mile. The Cherry Tree pub (our meeting place) is on the left, just before the village of Eyke. Leave the Cherry Tree Pub and continue past the left turning for the village of Eyke. About 4 miles down the road you'll see a turning on your right hand side [Signposted as Forest Visitors Centre]. Go down the forest road and at the end you will find a car park (past the East Gate entrance to Woodbridge Airfield). Head into Rendlesham Forest (Track 12) and this will take you to Mr Boasts field also known as 'Ground Zero'. (My thanks to Richard Conway for the above information)

Should you wish to become involved, then please e-mail organiser Malcolm Robinson on spi_spi@hotmail.com or call him on 020 8998 4936 (or) 07949 178 835.

AVEBURY SKYWATCH

SUFOG and APRA will be holding a skywatch in the henge monument of Avebury, Wiltshire on

Saturday August 4th 2001

The Southampton UFO Group and the Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency will be holding the 3rd summer skywatch at

Avebury, from dusk on 4th August till dawn on 5th August (Weather permitting!). Last year we numbered nearly 30 people during the midsummer night's skywatch, so why not come along and join in. Don't forget that in the past two years the assembled skywatch team have seen UFOs and other anomalous lights, to mention only some of the occurrences! If you recall from last year, another group were doing a parallel skywatch at Rendlesham on the same night, and they too experienced many odd events, so as Malcolm suggests, get out there and see for yourself!

We will be assembling at the Red Lion in the centre of Avebury, ready to make our way to the skywatch site on one of the banks within the henge at dusk (at this stage we hope that the henge will be reopened after the F&M restrictions). If you don't know where Avebury is, just take the A4 from Marlborough to Calne, or A4361 from Swindon to Devizes, and follow the tourist signs (Note its recommended to use the car park in the middle of Avebury, not the signposted NT car park).

For more details nearer the date, email me on brian-james@apra.org.uk for any late-breaking news.

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Rendlesham - The UFOs On The Halt Tape Reconsidered

By Brian P James

The 20th anniversary of the Rendlesham Incident passed in December 2000, but interest in "Britain's Roswell" continues to grow. This is no doubt helped by Georgina Bruni's recent book *You Can't Tell The People* (Sidgwick & Jackson/ISBN 0 283 06358 0).

One of the pieces of 'evidence' in the public domain since 1984 has been the 'nth' generation copy of "The Halt Tape". This is the tape allegedly made by Lt.Col. Charles Halt while he was leading an investigations team on a night-time reconnaissance into the Rendlesham Forest at Capel Green, after at least two or three nights of UFO activity and possible landings (the question why this investigation was not carried out in daylight is still one to ponder...)

The tape that has so far been in the public domain was very poor quality, and to be honest didn't sound as if it were recorded while people were in a forested area – there was a total lack of background noise that would be normal in such conditions. During her diligent research into the Rendlesham Incident, Georgina Bruni managed to acquire the 1st generation copy of the original tape, and Georgina is now making this recording available to the public.

To say this 'new' copy of the tape is an improvement over the previous copies is an understatement. We now have background

noise of other members of the team going about their business while in the forest, and this includes Sgt. Adrian Bustinza on the radio to his controllers back on Woodbridge base. Until Georgina Bruni acquired this tape, Halt always denied that Bustinza had been present (although that does seem to have been a common thread of his in denying that other witnesses were present). However, given that we now have some background noise, I am still curious why no sounds of footfalls on the bracken floor, nor the sounds of clothes or equipment being brushed against bushes or tree branches, can be heard – try walking through any similar forest for yourself and listen...

In this article I am not going to cover the investigations that Halt and the team were making, as they clearly did indicate that the team were recording damage to vegetation, as well as various anomalous effects and radiation readings. However, those of you who have heard either version of the tape, you will know that Halt and the rest of the team became very curious, not to say excited, by a number of 'UFOs' that became visible at various points of their horizon during the night. Now that I have the chance to listen in more detail to Halt's recording, it is possible to hear clear indications of times, and of compass bearings and elevations for the 'UFOs'. I took the opportunity to listen to this section of the recording while running the *StarryNight* astronomy/planetarium software,

and these have put a different possible perspective on the 'UFOs' they appear to be observing. The one advantage of *StarryNight* over other astronomy software such as *RedShift* or *SkyMap* is that *StarryNight* depicts the sky as it appears to the eye, with the brightness of stars and planets being imitated on screen – so it could be described as 'real-time' depictions and animations of the sky.

It is true that we do not know the exact date that Halt went into the forest to conduct his investigation, but supposedly it must have been no later than the night of Sunday 28/29th December 1980 (would they really have done this on a Sunday?), but I think it may have been two or three days after this – I will

night(s) of the incident(s) are open to conjecture. Despite the insistence of Ian Ridpath, it is obvious that the Orford Ness lighthouse was no more directly visible in 1980 than it is now, and clearly never was, and never will be, an explanation for all of the sightings. However, I wonder why neither Halt, nor the other men present, referred to any sighting of the beam from the lighthouse, which should have been visible to them once they were at the Capel Green clearing – one might imagine they would refer to it, if only as a known point of reference.

Figure 1 shows the Capel Green clearing as it was in the autumn of 1999, looking southeast. The field has been 'landscaped' since Warren's book was published!

Figure 1



explain why later.

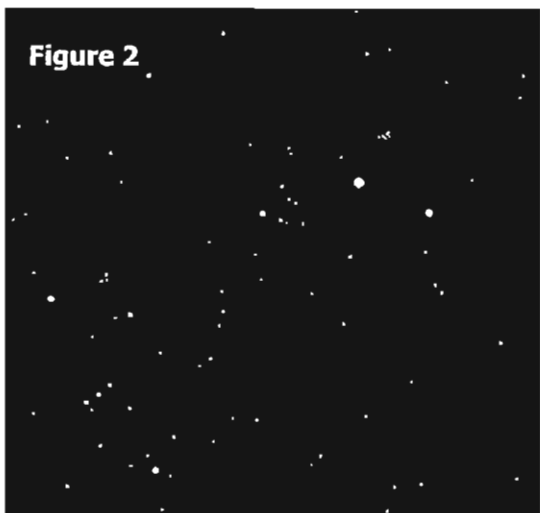
Those of you who have visited the Rendlesham Forest at night in recent years (perhaps like me since Larry Warren's *Left at East Gate* book was published) will realize that the forest near Capel Green now bears little resemblance to what it must have been like in December 1980. The effects of the "October Storm" of 1987 were devastating in that part of East Anglia (some suggest that attempts at weather control got out of hand), and huge sections of the forest were felled by the storm. This means that now, the density of the trees is much less than 1980, and the trees now are nowhere near as high as the mature pine trees in 1980, so our perceptions of what the area must have been like on the

Given the overhead canopy of the trees, Halt and his team would have had a limited view of the night sky - assuming that the sky was clear at the time - my own weather records for the time (for my local area in Oxfordshire) were of skies with patchy cloud, although this should not be taken as a definite record of the weather in East Anglia. The view to the horizon at eye level would have been interrupted by the hundreds of tree trunks that surrounded them. It wouldn't have been until they reached the Capel Green clearing that they would have had a better view, especially eastwards. I have to confess the one issue that I find curious is that at no time does Halt refer to the Moon, which would have been clearly visible if they were in open ground, as it was

waning in the southern sky – but would it have been ‘hidden’ by the tree canopy initially? Even so, it should have been clearly visible once they were at Capel Green. Of course, over the period of a few nights, the waning Moon would have slid lower to the horizon, and by the early hours of the 29th, would have been so close to Jupiter and Saturn that it would have been obvious, and would have made another known point of reference for any observation. So does this indicate that Halt was in the forest on a later night when the Moon was moving closer to the Sun, and thereby not rising during the darkness? This may make the date of his reconnaissance to be later in that week, perhaps Thursday 1st or Friday 2nd of January 1981, by which time the Moon would not have been visible until 0430 hrs at the earliest, by which time most witnesses indicate they were heading back to base. Let’s now consider the UFOs that Halt and his team observed.

Halt gives a clear timecheck at 01.48 hrs and one of the team observes the first ‘strange light’. Halt indicates that it is at approximately 120° from the site, and that it pulsed, changed brightness, with beams coming to the ground. This is the part of the recording that Ian Ridpath took to dismiss, sorry I mean explain, the sighting as being the lighthouse – the lighthouse is below the horizon here, so it is quite obvious that any lighthouse beam, if it were visible, would sweep up and round the sky, not downwards!

Halt later states that the light is at approximately 110°. Looking at *StarryNight*, it is somewhat alarming to see that Jupiter was low to the horizon at that bearing - in fact it was at Altitude: 13° 20' 51" and Azimuth:



111° 53' 28", with a magnitude of -2.0. While no-one seems to be quoted on the weather at the time, some infer that it was misty - is it possible that Halt and his team were misinterpreting Jupiter being distorted by swirling mist and coastal fog? Later Halt indicates that there were two objects. Saturn was very close to Jupiter (not dissimilar to their positions and appearance in the winter of 2000/2001) – Saturn was at Altitude: 13° 43' 8" and Azimuth: 110° 51' 50", at a magnitude of 0.8.

Figure 2 shows Jupiter and Saturn in January 2001—the two bright objects in the upper right section of the image. The Pleiades cluster is above. The two planets and they would have been very similar in appearance during December and January 1980.

If the fog and mist were swirling, it is not impossible that various apparent optical effects of bright astronomical objects could have been observed, which might suggest movement and certainly an apparent movement towards or away from the observer



as the brightness varied.

Figure 3 shows Capel Green, and how the bright stars and planets would have looked at the time East is marked by the 'E' on the graphic. Jupiter and Saturn are the two bright objects slightly further to the south.

Later in the recording Halt indicates that other bright lights were seen around the horizon to the southwest and north, and indicating that at least one had lost altitude during the time they had been watching (nearly two hours). Again using *StarryNight*, it is all too obvious that Sirius was low towards the southwest and sinking to the horizon all the while - many of you will know just how Sirius can become severely distorted due to atmospheric conditions. To the east Arcturus would be rising, and think of the northern horizon - Vega is very low (Altitude: 3° 35' 12" and Azimuth: 9° 22' 45", magnitude 0.03), with Deneb close by. Again, were Halt and his team being lulled into misperception by bright stars being distorted by variable mist and fog?

The next task will be to source local meteorological records for the possible nights of the events, to gain more clues as to what the visibility was really like.

One would hope that servicemen would not have been fooled by distortions of astronomical objects, and I am certainly not accusing them of being so, nor am I trying to fully explain (or indeed dismiss) the 'UFOs' they observed. However, we must take into consideration the fact that the UFO/lights they observed were very close to the positions that first magnitude (and brighter) stars and planets were in the sky. Remember that this might have been the first time that these servicemen had even been in the forest, so they may not have been familiar with the surroundings. In fact I would hazard a guess that there would be many readers of this magazine who would be far more familiar with the forest now that Halt and his team were on that night.

However, having speculated that Halt and the team may have been lulled into misperceptions of mundane objects, this does not of course take anything away from the earlier night's sightings, nor explain the anomalous effects at the 'Ground Zero' landing site that Halt and his team were investigating.

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*A downloadable trial version of **StarryNight Backyard** is available from www.space.com*

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY

By Gloria Heather Dixon, BUFORA DoI

At the time of writing this diary, (24th May 2001) it is one of those warm mellow summer days that the whole country have been experiencing and there is not a UFO in sight in these clear skies, at least not today! So, let us take a look at the statistics of UFO reports coming in for 2001. From 1st January 2001 and to the date of writing, BUFORA have received 55 reports coming in via email, telephone and letters. Email is now the most common contact for reporting sightings to BUFORA clearly showing the increasing use of the Internet for these reports. There are problems though, as follow-up to these emailed reports is a slow process with only about fifty per cent of them giving further detailed information.

January generated twenty of the total number of reports for this year with six being described in the more exotic category of reports, so we are looking at nine per cent lying in the range of what could be defined as high strangeness reports. It will be interesting to see how sightings compare with last year during the next seven months.

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE

On behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to extend my congratulations to Craig Raisbeck from Dover, Kent for completing and passing the Postal Training Course with an excellent examination module submitted.

Craig is now listed a Provisional Investigator with the NIC.

NIC MEETING

Due to many investigators being unable to attend the investigators meeting on 19th May 2001, this had to be postponed and rescheduled for 20th October 2001 and will be held in Ealing as before. Details follow.

Judy Jaafar will be hosting this forthcoming meeting at her home in Ealing, West London. The meeting will be a very informal one for all investigators with discussion on case studies and the diverse nature of UFO reports. Details follow...

Date: 20th October 2001
Time: 2pm – 6pm
Venue: 41 Castlebar Road, Ealing, London W5 2DJ
Telephone: 0208 998 4936
Email: judy@gaja66.freeserve.co.uk

We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this October meeting, which will be an opportunity for investigators to enjoy a social get-together in addition to NIC business. Light refreshments will be available.

If there is anything that investigators feel would be pertinent to the Agenda for this meeting, please contact me.

For details of the location and travel to this venue, please contact Judy by telephone or email and she will give you the relevant information.

REPORTS & INVESTIGATIONS

Date of Sighting: 27th November 1999

Location: Borehamwood, Hertfordshire

Investigator: Lionel Beer

Summary of Events:

At approximately 7pm AD and his wife KD were returning home on Green Street from a trip to Tesco's, when they observed lights outside their home, which initially appeared oval-shaped and then like a conical ice cream cone shape. Upon getting out of the car for closer observation, they observed four rotating lights at the top of the cone shape. Height estimation was thirty feet above ground level and the lights appeared to be equidistant from each other pulsing in and out as they rotated very fast around a centre light with changes in size and light intensity. They described the colour as 'white with greeny-yellow tinge'. Although there was no apparent noise, they heard a faint 'air-draft' or wind sound'. The lights were rotating clockwise as viewed from underneath. Their initial observation time was fifteen minutes.

AD insisted that it was a clear night with no clouds and the weather was still and dry. When the lights moved north, the witnesses followed in their car on the B5378 towards Shenley where the lights hovered over Villa Scalabrini. They stopped the car several times and also noticed another witness observing these lights, which then 'shot across' Shenley. AD and KD followed as far as the gate on the western edge of Coombe Wood on B5378, where the lights were

thought to have passed over Salisbury Hall close to the M25 (near London Colney). Being unable to follow any further, the witnesses returned. The distance of their journey between Green Street and Coombe Wood is approximately one and half miles.

Early the following morning KD contacted Elstree Aerodrome (south-west of their home) to be told that the puzzling lights were seen from the Aerodrome.

Comments from Gloria Dixon: Some of the above description would certainly be indicative of a laser light display, but as AD emphasised to Lionel that the weather was clear without any cloud coverage, it appears this would not be the case.

Date of Sighting: October 2000

Location: Heighington, Lincoln

This report has just come in via email from October of last year. On a clear sunny autumn day AD's son aged two shouted to his mother that there was a star outside. AD went to the front of her home and observed a star shaped object flying very slowly in a northeasterly direction just above tree level. She describes the object as a dull, smooth jet-black colour and dome shaped with five points and around the centre were red dashes. It appeared to be spinning slowly and she was able to observe the object very clearly. It then flipped over once and continued to fly in the direction of her home. As it flew over her home continuing in a straight line for another minute or two it then suddenly accelerated at a 45 degree angle and continued in a vertical track until she was unable to see it. AD describes the weather clear and mild with no clouds or wind. Her perception of the size of the object was about the size of a small car and the red dashes around the centre were still, not flashing. Duration of this sighting

was approximately five to six minutes. There was no audible sound. Records do not indicate any other similar sightings from this area at that time.

Date of sighting: 1997

Location: M6, near Knutsford, Cheshire

PL was driving on the M6 towards Birmingham on night in 1997, when he observed something unusual in the sky. The light moved towards the Pickmere area and he turned off at the Knutsford Junction and drove towards Pickmere Lake where the light appeared to be. When he arrived there he was astounded by what he was observing. He describes objects (lights?) moving vertically into and out of the lake. He watched this for about ten minutes and then left to return home.

A few days later PL returned to the lake out of curiosity to discover that the whole area was boarded off. He observed a platform on the lake but was unable to see what the men on the platform were doing. However, he comments that they seemed to be looking for something below the water.

PL goes on to remark that the lake was still closed off three months later when he passed that way again.

This incident was reported to BUFORA via email on 14th May 2001, but to date there has been no response to an email response for further details.

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To conclude this investigations diary, I would like to document some strange events that occurred in the mid-eighties. This incident were not reported to BUFORA, but came to

me via Jenny Randles after she recorded a programme for BBC Radio Newcastle to promote her book *Time Storms*. A gentleman from Whitley Bay, Newcastle, who had heard the programme contacted Jenny to discuss some very strange events that occurred in County Durham. He felt that these may relate in some way to a case Jenny had discussed on the programme which took place near Barnard Castle in County Durham and Jenny asked if I would contact the person concerned I followed this up and spoke at length to the gentleman on the telephone in February of this year.

The following events took place during the mid eighties just outside the village of Cotherstone in County Durham...

Tom, his wife Melanie (pseudonyms) and his parents rented a cottage near Cotherstone in County Durham. During their six-day summer holiday they experienced some very odd events.

They arrived at the cottage on a Saturday and by the Sunday there were unusual things occurring, beginning with noises that were occurring in their bedroom. The hot water tank was located in their bedroom and they wondered whether there were birds in the eaves and even thought of rats. However the noises Michael describes sounded to him like those of a pneumatic drill, which seemed to get louder and louder and he claims that the ceiling appeared to be moving.

Because of the constant noise and the fact they could not establish what was causing it they went to see the key-holder to the cottage, but he was of no assistance at all and could not explain the cause of the noise. The cottage had originally been an old farmhouse and was now two cottages.

During the week, they went for a walk down

to the river, which flowed at the back of the farmhouse at the end of the field. (I presume this must have been the River Tees). Tom went on to describe some curious events during this walk on that summer's day. Both Tom and his wife had the powerful and extremely eerie sense of other people with them and they heard shuffling sounds and both felt 'out of sync' with things. They had walked down to the river and along the river bank and during that time could feel and hear 'shuffling sounds' reporting that the grass and undergrowth were moving as though people were walking with and around them and they had the impression there were about six people there, although no-one else was in sight.. They commented that there was no wind or breeze of any kind that would have been responsible for this movement in the grass and undergrowth. Melanie became upset and said t Tom 'we've got to go away'

As they approached a small footbridge Tom saw a figure cross over the bridge, which disappeared totally before his eyes. Tom stepped onto the bridge with Melanie calling to him to 'come back'. As he stepped onto the bridge he felt as though he was taking a step down and then another step into nothing as though his foot had gone through the ground. The shuffling noises continued directly alongside them.

Melanie was so very uncomfortable about these events that they headed back to the cottage and consequently she decided that any more walks in the area of the river bank were out of the question.

A culmination of these anomalous events occurred five days later on the Friday night before they were leaving the cottage.

Melanie had fallen asleep in the lounge on the couch, as she was extremely tired due to the fact she had been unable to sleep for the

previous five nights. Tom was watching television when he noticed some disturbance on the television affecting the picture, which was fading. At this point the plug jumped out of the socket. He tried to awaken his wife, but could not do so. He went into the kitchen where the fridge plug also jumped out of the socket and the cable seemed to be moving around. The French windows began to rattle and he then became aware of something over the tree line at the back of the cottage (where the field and river were). He went outside and observed what he described as a 'thing moving very slowly over the tree line, like a metallic purple in colour, oval shaped and massive with a defining deep purple edge. It moved over the cottage - he does not recall any sound - and it appeared to recede as it moved towards Cotherstone and then disappeared. He describes half the horizon being blocked from his view. I questioned him as to whether this was a light rather than an object, but he was definite that this was an object with the purple colour emanating around the edge.

He felt that his observation time was about four to five minutes, but cannot be sure of this due to not checking the time before or after. He went from the back to the front of the cottage while he observed this and goes on to describe how he felt after seeing this object. His words to me were 'I felt absolute sadness', totally gutted - an empty feeling like dreaming on your feet'. At this point Melanie awoke coming out of her sleep to say 'I'm glad it was you, not me'. Tom did not understand why she said this and neither did Melanie

One of the things that Tom emphasised during our conversation was that throughout the entire week they were at this cottage and indeed in the area, they both felt 'out of sync' with things as though they were a few seconds behind everything'. I asked him to describe this feeling more fully and he said 'it was like

a plate of glass between us and everyone else'.

During the time they were there, they visited the local pub in the evenings just to get away from the cottage and I asked whether they tried to find any further information about the area and the cottage. However, Tom told me that the people didn't seem very friendly, so they did not discuss the events occurring at all as they didn't want to trigger any ridicule from anyone. According to Tom, Melanie had made the comment that it was as though the people they met were people they had known before.

They did not report any of this to anyone. Melanie wanted to totally forget it and Tom searched the newspapers for quite a while after that to see if there had been any other reports or information, but nothing came to light at all.

Tom cannot remember a specific date or even year for these events, so this makes it all the more difficult to corroborate these experiences. The Barnard Castle case referred to earlier occurred in June of 1977 and involved a fuzzy hazy glow, which engulfed a sixteen year-old farm work riding his motorcycle late one night on the B6278 north of Barnard Castle in County Durham, near the village of Lartington. This glow appeared to be linked to a major power loss to his motorcycle in addition to causing physiological effects to the witness. Tom felt that the glow he observed at their cottage in Cotherstone was similar to one described by the witness at Barnard Castle. (See *Time Storms*, page 17-19) Coincidentally, the village of Cotherstone, lies to the north of Lartington and these villages are in very close proximity to one another.

Durham has generated some highly unusual reports and I have personally investigated

several strange cases from Durham, one of which occurred near Brancepeth on the A690. This involved an observation of a very strange small figure very early in the morning of 2nd January 1995. The lady concerned was driving to work when she saw what she describes as a 'small leprechaun-sized man, yellow in colour with almond shaped eyes' appearing to climb the grass verge at the side of the road with a 'puppet-like action'. The lady slowed her car to walking pace where she was only yards away from the figure and observed it walking sideways up the grass verge for a couple of minutes. She emphasises that this was not wildlife of any known kind and was stunned for several days by what she had seen. Subsequent calls to the police did not bring any further answers other than the usual jokes that this form of enquiry would bring. A colleague and myself spent several hours with the lady and her family as well as visiting the location of the sighting.

An interesting footnote to this report, is that in September of 1976 near Fence Houses, County Durham, a lady and her granddaughter were walking from a friend's home in Fence Houses and instead of taking the main footpath, they took a shortcut between the old pit yard and the fire station, which took them on a path down towards Bournmoor. Across the road was the 'Floaters Mill' pub. She noticed a bus passing, but for some reason could not hear it. Half way along the path the lady observed a very strange translucent object, which was egg-shaped and appeared to be on ski runners (the original investigator has described these as being like the runners of a sledge). The lady approached it, as her terrified granddaughter ran off down the road calling for her grandmother to leave it alone. As the lady put her hand on it she described it as feeling warm. In seconds the translucency began to modify into a semi clear object in which she observed two very small figures,

with long white hair and dark costumes and what she described as silvery gloves or hands. She then became aware of the sound of the bus revving its engine up the bank to Fencehouses and her granddaughter crying and shaking with fear. Jenny Randles has documented this case in several of her books and a few years ago I was contacted by the original BUFORA investigator, who sent me a report with details of his interview with the grandmother in the presence of her son. However the granddaughter was not interviewed on the wishes of her father, who felt that it would be too upsetting for her resurrect her bad memories of these experiences.

Meanwhile late one night in November of 1994, a man riding his motorcycle home from work after nightshift was travelling on the A688, near Spennymoor in Durham, when observed a strange light in the field to his left, which appeared to become brighter shining over the field and then illuminating the road in front of him and behind him. Upon arriving home he became aware that he was very uncomfortable and upon removing his clothes he realised the he was covered from head to toe in a red sunburn-like rash, which surrounded the edge of lips but left the lips white. After one and half hours the rash disappeared. Investigation established that there was no police helicopter in the area at

the time and neither were farmers using sodium lamps in the fields. The man concerned was convinced that the rash related to his sighting, but when a colleague and I visited him and the area of the sighting, we were unable to prove whether this was the case particularly as the man had not sought medical advice regarding the rash, although his wife confirmed his claims.

I hope that this has illustrated some of the peculiar reports that BUFORA have received for the Durham area.

I plan to visit the village of Cotherstone this summer and I will conduct some research into the area, so an update will be recorded for Jenny and for the Bulletin in due course.

If any reader has any further information on the above cases, I would appreciate you contacting me through BUFORA Central Office or email me at rbx32@dial.pipex.com. Many thanks.

I hope all our members enjoy a spectacular summer.

Gloria Heather Dixon

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Media Roundup

Our longer-term members and readers may well remember the 'Points from the Press' section of the BUFORA Journal. We thought it was time to again cover the snippets on matters Ufological and similar... that occur in our media.

**Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail
April 8, 2001, Sunday**

STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR UFOS

POST Office bosses are considering issuing a new stamp featuring Scotland's UFO capital.

Bonnybridge in Stirlingshire has become a mecca for alien hunters after numerous UFO sightings.

Local councillor Billy Buchanan has now submitted an out-of-this-world stamp design, depicting - a spaceship beaming down on to the local moors. He is also trying to twin the town with Roswell in New Mexico - where aliens are said to have landed in 1947.

Mr Buchanan said: "We have received intense worldwide interest because of the UFO phenomenon. This would be an interesting stamp for the new Millennium."

**BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
April 7, 2001, Saturday**

UFO sighted and taped over former Kazakh capital on 5 Apr 01 (SOURCE: Kazakh Commercial Television, Almaty, in Russian

1300 gmt 07 Apr 01)

**Excerpt from report by Kazakh
Commercial TV on 7 April**

Presenter: A UFO was sighted over Almaty last Thursday evening 5 April. A city resident, Darkhan Iskakov, managed to record the supposed UFO with a videocamera. He brought the video cassette with the recording to our editorial office.

Correspondent, over video of a glowing spot behind a tree branch, a teenager in a TV studio, people speaking in offices, a photograph of a flying saucer, a sky map, an observatory Darkhan took the brightly glowing spot in the sky for an unusual star. He said that it had first moved slowly down and then poised in the air, which especially attracted his attention. He saw an odd sphere through the viewfinder of an amateur videocamera.

Darkhan Iskakov, UFO witness, captioned, shown in a TV studio It was brightly glowing with a kind of yellow light. It stretched and contracted again, and started moving.

Correspondent After 10 minutes of mysterious transformations, the UFO disappeared behind a house. He watched the flight of the glowing sphere together with his brother and sister. They had no doubt that this was a flying saucer with aliens on board.

Passage to end omitted: Kazakh specialists say it could have been an aircraft, a spacecraft or a star.

Western Daily Press

April 3, 2001

Is the truth still out there? -A riddle for West searchers as UFOs vanish...

PERHAPS it's a job for Mulder and Scully. Just where did all the UFOs go? Not so long ago you couldn't move for the things. Now they seem to have disappeared up their own time-space continuum.

TV used to be full of X File style shows. Newspapers ran streams of close encounter stories. New sci-fi magazines hit the streets every week to follow this plethora of extra-terrestrial activity.

People had strange, inexplicable stories to tell. They had seen glowing red orbs in the night sky as they drove home. They had watched spell-bound as fizzing globs of white light danced tantalisingly across the landscape faster than any earthly aircraft.

Cows had been mutilated by aliens. Why cows? Only the ETs knew and they weren't letting on. Crop circles were spinning their way into latter-day folklore. There were lots of tales of abduction. People had been whisked away for hours according to their watches, even though they thought they had only blinked. And now they had seen an X-ray showing a computer chip had been implanted in their head. Worse still, some folk vanished completely off the face of the earth, taken away by inquisitive aliens, never to return. The truth, they told us, was out there. Now it seems there's nothing much to report out there at all.

If the last half of the 20th century was THE time for alien activity, the great enlightenment apres Roswell 1947 -the "flying saucer" crash in the American desert which still causes great controversy - then the beginning of the 21st

century seems to have reverted to the dark ages. Perhaps the UFOs have other planets to study? The theories accounting for why they have all but vanished are almost as copious as the potential reasons to support their existence.

The void is deeply felt by the world's oldest established UFO group, the British Flying Saucer Bureau, based in a silent, smart, suburban street in very down-to-earth Winterbourne, Bristol. In nearly 50 years of monitoring the planet's skies, the wide blue yonder has never been duller than now.

Chattanooga Times / Chattanooga Free Press

April 1, 2001, Sunday

Solar eruptions seen likely to disrupt communications

BOULDER, Colorado -- Intense storms raging on the sun made the night sky shimmer red and green as far south as Palm Springs, California, and southern New Mexico, and scientists say the storms could briefly disrupt telecommunications as they continue through the weekend.

The biggest sunspot cluster seen in at least 10 years has developed on the upper right quarter of the side of the sun visible from Earth, according to satellite readings.

Friday night, the light from solar flares was reported near cities including Palm Springs and Sacramento, Flagstaff, and Albuquerque and Carlsbad. "It has totally lit up the sky. We've had dozens and dozens of calls. People want to know what it is," said Bill Seigel, a producer at radio station KESQ in Palm Desert, 115 miles east of Los Angeles. "Some people thought it was UFOs."

Just north of Albuquerque, David MacKel

was making the rounds at his security job when he saw the lights. He noted it on his report at 11:23 p.m.

"It was blood red. That's all I can say. It was kind of opaque and you could see the stars through it," MacKel said. He said he had seen the Northern Lights while in Alaska, but "the Northern Light move, this was more gaseous. It kind of got me freaked out."

Eddy County, N.M., Deputy Danny Gonzales described it as a purple haze. "It was very distinct in color," he said. "I have never seen anything like it."

Anthony Watts, a meteorologist in Chico, California, about 170 miles north of San Francisco, said the glow from the coronal mass ejection was interesting, but posed no threat. "There's no danger, however there is the likelihood that we'll have radio or television interruptions," Watts said.

The sunspot, which is a cooler, darker region on the sun's surface, is caused by a concentration of temporarily distorted magnetic fields. It spawns tremendous eruptions, or flares, into the sun's atmosphere, hurling clouds of electrified gas toward Earth.

The solar activity can produce an aurora in the night sky, typically over northern latitudes. The colorful, shimmering glow occurs when the energetic particles strike the Earth's upper atmosphere. NASA scientists said a powerful flare that erupted Thursday rated a class X, the most potent category.

The eruptions triggered a powerful, but brief, blackout Friday on some high-frequency radio channels and low-frequency navigational signals, scientists said. They forecast at least a 30 percent chance of continuing disruptions through Sunday.

In addition to radio disruptions, the charged particles can bombard satellites and orbiting

spacecraft and, in rare cases, damage industrial equipment on the ground, including power generators and pipelines.

DAILY MAIL (London)

March 31, 2001

THE RUSSIAN FLYING SAUCER DESIGNED TO FOOL THE WEST

WITH its shiny surface and distinctive flying saucer shape, it looks like something from another world. But, in fact, this pioneering aircraft was developed by Russian scientists possibly to fool the West into believing that UFOs do exist. These first pictures of the prototype, codenamed Ekip, were released yesterday by Russian scientists who fear that lack of funds will mean the technology being snapped up by China.

Research into flying saucers in Russia began under Stalin, who was intrigued and worried by reports of sightings. By the late Seventies, there was a centre for UFO study at the Moscow Aviation Institute, although its findings have been kept top secret. Development of Ekip began in the Soviet era when it was seen as an aid to spying and it has flown successfully in tests.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, scientists have sought to find commercial uses for a craft that can take off as easily from water as land.

With the project starved of money and promises of investment from the West failing to materialise, the flying machine now lies neglected in a factory in Saratov, southern Russia.

The newspaper Izvestia claimed recently that the aircraft had been offered to China by its developers 'due to persistent shortage of funds'. Scientists behind the project claim that, with the right investment, larger versions

of the aircraft could one day carry up to 1,300 passengers. The initial target is to build a saucer that will carry around 400 people to an altitude of more than 30,000ft. This version would measure 120ft by 85ft, about the length of a Boeing 767, and would be capable of 400mph and a range of 5,000 miles.

The Ekip was made by the same plant that designs the Yak-38 vertical takeoff and landing fighter. The front of the aircraft is pierced by two jet intakes. Exhausts just behind the crest of the 'poached egg' blow over the rear section, creating enormous lift and forward motion. It uses an air cushion similar in principle to a hovercraft. The Russian firefighting service has expressed interest in using the flying saucers to put out forest blazes in remote parts of Siberia. Going back half a century, both Nazi and Western scientists investigated the potential of flying saucers, without getting off the ground. In the late Fifties, a Canadian manufacturer designed a prototype which was bought by a museum in Fort Eustis, Virginia.

The Ekip project has suffered since it was championed three years ago by the disgraced Pavel Borodin, a close ally of the then President Boris Yeltsin and the man who brought the new Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin to Moscow. Borodin is now in jail in the U.S. facing extradition to Switzerland on money-laundering charges.

However, Russian experts such as Vadim Chernobrov, of the Moscow Aviation Institute, are convinced that flying saucers are the future, especially for space travel. 'The human race simply doesn't have any other choice,' he said.

'Our technology will only take us as far as the Moon, and maybe to Mars. 'But we will destroy our planet, if not with weapons, then with pollution. 'Our race is doomed if we do not find a way to travel farther and find

another planet to colonise.'

Off Licence News

March 30, 2001

UFOs sighted

It came as no surprise to OLN that UFOs have been seen above the King's Head at Bonsall, Derbyshire (as we read in the latest newsletter from Batemans brewery).

OLN has intimate knowledge of the King's Head and the hillside village of Bonsall, which lies above the tourist trap of Matlock Bath. Our man managed to get out before the "Bonsall effect" took hold. This takes the form of hallucinations brought on by decades of lock-ins attended by certain inhabitants who spent much of their time when not in the pub partaking of spurious substances.

Either that, or the UFOs belong to the locals...

The Calgary Sun

March 28, 2001 Wednesday, Final Edition

TOWN SETS SIGHTS ON UFO

The one-wicket post office in this Nova Scotia town will have its own postmark come May, depicting, among other things, a flying saucer. That's right. Shag Harbour's new federally approved postmark will feature a UFO hovering over the water with a boat and lighthouse in view. The blue-ink postmark will be stamped on letters and parcels before they're mailed out. Canada Post says it's the only postmark in the country featuring a UFO. It recognizes a mystery dubbed a UFO sighting in Shag Harbour 34 years ago.

NORDIC BUSINESS REPORT

March 28, 2001

Icelandic residents spot UFO

Several residents in Reykjavik, Iceland contacted police last night (27 March) to report a strange object falling from the sky into Faxaflói Bay. People were claiming that they had seen an object with green and red lights fall into the sea, while some said they had seen a dark shadow and others said it had been an aircraft. Some thought that they had seen the falling remains of the Russian spacestation 'Mir', according to the Iceland Review.

The flight tower at Reykjavik's domestic airport apparently responded quickly, saying in a statement that the strange object was not a spaceship and also that no aircraft were missing. Police have said that it was far more likely that the object was a meteorite.

The News of the World March 25, 2001 TRUTH IS UP THERE

TV crew on a quest for credible UFO sightings

A TELLY documentary team is scouring Ireland for people who SERIOUSLY believe that they have spotted a UFO. Their stories will be included in a one-hour programme to be shown on RTE later this year. Producers stress the programme is an earnest examination of the UFO phenomena in Ireland.

They are not interested in staged hoaxes or crackpot tales about little green men from Mars. However, they point out that the stigma of being labelled a 'nutcase' may be keeping many people from discussing sightings. A spokesman for Smirsh Films said: "We're looking for actual sightings yet we're having nightmares trying to get people to talk. Often

they may have seen something but don't want to own up to it. At this stage, I'm only hearing about people by word of mouth." The team filmed a 'sky-watch' on the Curleus Mountains near Boyle, Co Roscommon, on Friday night in the place where UFO-spotters have been gathering periodically over the years. "There is a bit of a reputation for sightings in this area," the spokesman said.

Locals have reported unusual sightings near the mountain range for years, including claims by a group of campers that an alien spacecraft crash-landed on the mountains in the middle of the night in May, 1997. The campers say the silent craft exploded on impact - but when they went to investigate, there was no sign of wreckage - although the tree tops were broken.

A spokesman for the Irish UFO and Paranormal Research Association at the time said the group was taking the sighting seriously. "The fact it was silent fits the pattern of UFOs and the tops of the trees had been chopped off as if something had crashed into them."

Smirsh Films will also be talking to the association's members and the Irish Centre for UFO Studies for insights into the UFO situation in Ireland. Smirsh Films vowed to weed out as many bogus sightings as possible, including sightings of satellites, car lights reflected on clouds and disco lasers that can appear to be UFOs. "The nutty factor has different levels to it but a lot of people who have actually seen sightings have no weird science-fiction obsessions," said the spokesman.



Is Science Close To Accepting Ghosts?

Have we seen a change in stance from one of Britain's foremost sceptics (I am tempted to say debunker)?

While the British media had its recent anti-UFO phase [As covered in the last magazine] it was still looking at other aspects of the paranormal more positively. Dr Richard Wiseman and his team have recently published their results of a study of the claimed ghostly goings-on in the Edinburgh Vaults – supposedly one of Britain's most haunted locations.

I have little doubt that the predictions were that once again ghosts would have been disproved, but now even Richard Wiseman is puzzled and is having a re-think, although that is not to say he is suddenly looking for esoteric explanations!

During the 10-day study, numerous volunteers reported chilling encounters in the vaults – such as seeing apparitions, hearing sounds (including a name being called), and even physical effects such as clothes being tugged. Photographic anomalies were also recorded, but they sound similar to those recorded by others, and Wiseman claims that as a proportion of the total number of photographs taken the anomalies are a very small fraction, and that chance alone will allow for small numbers, but the photographic anomalies were captured in the most haunted vaults!

Perhaps the most important part of the survey were the 'blind' tests with 250 members of the public, who reported a higher percentage of odd feelings in the allegedly haunted vaults than should have been possible by chance alone. Wiseman is actually quite excited that there is now something in the paranormal to study. However, don't expect him to acknowledge the existence of ghosts just yet – according to the study, the haunted vaults are of a different size to the others, so this is seen as important, and also it was acknowledged that people reported more eerie feelings when the lights in the outside corridor were off (this was also a factor in ASSAP's night vigil at Oxford Prison in November last year).

Did Wiseman himself witness any strange events in the vaults – apparently not, he didn't spend much time in them, as he claims to be afraid of the dark!

Oh well, we nearly had academia and science on our side, but still I congratulate Richard Wiseman for at least being objective – unlike some of his peers and colleagues who openly state they will never 'believe' in the paranormal, whatever evidence may be presented to them by any type of research. Sorry chaps, but the paranormal is there to be explained, not dismissed—there is a big difference!

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Synchronicities Within Anomaly Reports

By Brian Allen

Similarities Between the Windwhistle Hill Encounter and the A70 Abduction.

Regarding the excellent report by Heather Dixon in the last BUFORA Bulletin on the occurrences at Windwhistle Hill, in my opinion there are some aspects of the case that are strongly reminiscent of events described in Jenny Randles new book *Time Storms*, e.g. the characteristic orange light and the humming. There are also some consistencies with reported abduction scenarios, particularly the missing time episodes, the appearance of 'people' approaching the car and an apparent time dilation effect as reported by Garry Woods and Colin Wright during the A70 Abduction. While these concepts fit some of the patterns, other facets suggest a different scenario. Although there will probably never be a final answer to this paradox, in view of the history surrounding the place, I think it is feasible to make some suggestions.

As Heather rightly contends, the answer lies somewhere in the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum and how human beings react to various EM fields. The mention of odd occurrences in antiquity suggests that the area is well served with natural geomagnetic sources. This scenario has been proffered to explain numbers of otherwise inexplicable road traffic accidents on stretches of road that are not in traditional accident blackspots. Researcher, author and astrophysicist Ian Campbell has commented that many of these spots are close to the sites of old churches and

in some cases standing stones; this is no accident. Before dealing with the events described in Heathers article, I will examine the correlation between the blackspots and the proximity old churches etc.

It is extremely likely that if the victims of the inexplicable crashes were interviewed, it would be discovered that they are Electrically Hypersensitive (EH). This being the case then the crashes begin to make sense. Since it is recognised that churches, particularly old ones, are built on or near Ley Lines, then it is reasonable to suggest that there is likely to be source of geomagnetism at hand. This is also the case with standing stones. If an EH person should drive through such an area, then the presence of the field interacting with the condition could produce a temporary seizure, probably not even noticeable to the person affected. This may account for stories of vehicles unaccountably swerving off given stretches of road in good weather while the driver has not fallen asleep and is not under the effects of alcohol or drugs.

While this explains some car accidents, it does not completely explain the bizarre series of events as described by Heather, here we must look further. The odd series of events described by the Walker family closely parallels those encountered by Garry Woods and Colin Wright in the famous A70 Abduction case. I recently conducted an interview with Garry Woods (who, incidentally, last year successfully passed a polygraph test relating to his experience)

while re-evaluating the A70 case and I now believe that this particular case was not about abduction by extraterrestrials, but something else entirely. I also believe that the Walkers were fortunate to have escaped from the area of Windwhistle Hill virtually unscathed.

Based on my own research, I now believe that that these two cases were the result of a 'dimensional window', a portal, a weakness in the fabric of space /time created either naturally or artificially. I base this conclusion on recent work into the field of quantum physics, in particular 'superstring theory' and the hypothetical existence of extra dimensions and universes called 'D' Brane or membrane universes, current research suggest the existence of eleven of them. They are infinitely wide, infinitely high and infinitely thin and exist in parallel with our own, but existing at a different rate or frequency. I further cite the findings of The Scole Group during their five-year investigation to discover incontrovertible proof of life after death. During this investigation, they uncovered the existence (captured on frames of videotape) of an interdimensional entity they named 'Blue'. The entity 'Blue' is indistinguishable from a 'Grey' and given that the Scole findings are reliable, and 'superstring theory' is viable, then the entire field of UFOlogy and the paranormal in general is confronted with a whole new and equally challenging paradigm.

In the case of the Walkers, the distorted figure they saw at the roadside could have been in the act of transition through the 'window' hence the perceived distortion. The cigar shaped orange light could well have been the actual source of the 'window'. The open door and the five figures approaching the car after

it had cut out bears a strong similarity to the experiences of the A70 abductees. The light flooding into the car was also reported by Garry Woods during my interview, but oddly not at the time of the original abduction. It is not generally known, but Garry and his family continued to experience some strange events in the wake of the abduction. During my interview, Garry told me that after the abduction, he and his two sons were driving back to his home from a nearby town, when the car was abruptly enveloped in a blinding white light, he describes it is a 'magnesium whiteness' that swept over the car from front to back. The event was over in a matter of seconds and Garry pulled over to the side of the road. One of his sons was vomiting and the other was dazed, both of them had seen the intense light. Incidentally, following this encounter, the car developed a curious form of corrosion, a white powder that formed over all the surfaces both inside and out, he removed it several times but it always came back.

I am convinced that Windwhistle Hill is a natural locus for EM phenomena, and the addition of a cellphone mast will not improve matters. The power lines and the underground reservoir are both sources the EM radiation, the power lines are obvious but unlikely as it may seem, the underground water is a source of ionisation. Interestingly, the site of the A70 abduction has abundant geomagnetism, a fault line and a nearby reservoir. These observations do not fully explain what actually occurred to the Walkers or Garry and Colin, but it does add other factors for consideration.

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BUFORA investigates UFOs and Related Anomalies

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Flying Saucers From The Archives

In this occasional series I thought it might be interesting to look back, not at reported UFOs and flying saucers, but actual aircraft designs that seemed to mimic the craft alleged to be flown by ET's! Much of this material will be from my own archives of cuttings from Royal Air Force Flying Review (RAFFR) magazine. My late father subscribed to the magazine in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The publication was semi-official journal of the RAF, and might be thought of as the predecessor of today's many and varied newsstand magazines dedicated to aircraft and aerospace.

What I found curious about the RAFFR was the number of references to "flying saucer's" in both a speculative sense, and also looking at experimental aircraft of the day. A number of flying triangle and delta designs were also covered, and we'll revisit those in future issues. What of course should be remembered is that while the aerospace industry suggests that research into disk-like designs never

resulted in a successful aircraft, there was a lot of research going on in the late 1950s – how much further might aerospace research be advanced today?

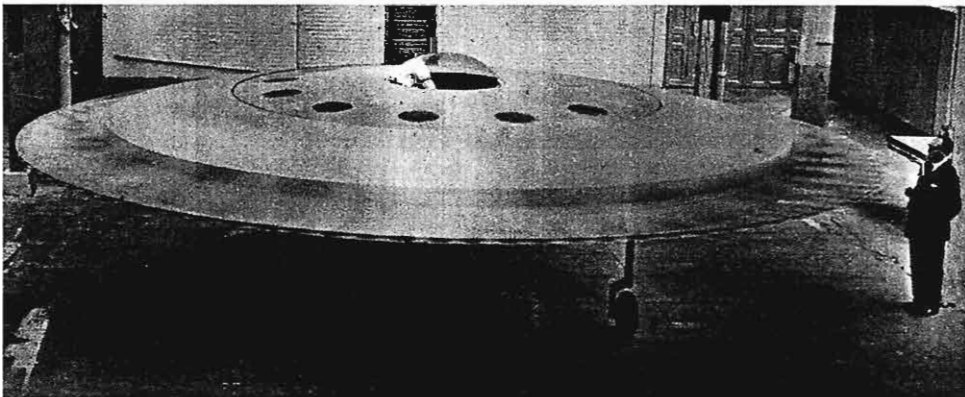
COUZINET'S SAUCER

This particular "flying saucer" was featured in the October 1955 issue of RAFFR.

51-year-old M. Rene Couzinet, had a small workshop on an island in the River Seine just outside Paris. He loathed the term "flying saucer", but this didn't stop him being inspired by the reports of the day, and he sat at his drawing board to sketch and design a "real" saucer, or more accurately an Aerodyne.

To quote M. Couzinet:

" The idea is very simple. A conventional aircraft propels its lifting surfaces through the air in a straight line until it has sufficient lift to leave the ground. But why start in a straight line ? It wastes so much space.



" My idea is to have 96 miniature wings revolving round a fixed centre so that they produce as much lift as a single aerofoil of the same total area. By that means we are able to achieve vertical take-off. Once in the air, my machine will be propelled by a small jet engine."

Couzinet insisted that the machine shown in the photograph was only a workshop model or mock-up. This model was three-fifths of actual size, and is fitted with two small Lycoming engines. The prototype manned Aerodyne was to have been some 13.5m in diameter. A glance inside the mock-up's cabin showed that there would be more than enough room in the prototype for a pilot and crew of two. The pilot would sit with his head in a Perspex dome at the centre of his " saucer," with perfect all-round vision.

The photograph, taken during an engine-running test, shows the Aerodyne as would have looked just before vertical take-off-with its contra-rotating vanes merging into a blur – lift off was achieved with the rotors running at around 80 rpm. It must be said that M. Couzinet was very confident, standing just inches away from the rapidly rotating rotor vanes!

Structurally, the Aerodyne was a very simple

affair. Two collars or crowns, each resembling a shallow bowl with its centre cut out, are free to rotate around a central drum whose upper and lower surfaces follow the curves of the crowns. What this photograph does not show is the single conventional jet engine in a nacelle underneath the lower hull, which would have been used to achieve horizontal flight. The craft had a retractable tricycle undercarriage, with conventional wheels - presumably to be used for ground manoeuvring or taxiing.

The Couzinet Aerodyne was due to have flown in 1956 (before I was born!) – although I have yet to find any reference to a successful flight.

Who says the Cosmic Joker isn't around? When I scanned this cutting, my OCR software decided that the original heading of "Couzinet's Saucer" should be translated as "Couzin ET's saucer" I kid you not!

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UFO Hunters Stake Out Korea

From correspondent Thomas Olsen, news from Korean UFO Research

Whether you believe in aliens or not, mysterious objects have been seen buzzing the skies of Korea. A simple Internet search will reveal hundreds of Korean UFO home pages. So far, no crashes. No abductions. But that doesn't mean you can shelve your camera. Seo Jong-han has dedicated 20 years to studying, tearing apart, and occasionally verifying the twenty or so UFO photographs that crop up every year.

Apart from his day job as computer game developer, Seo is a member of the Korea UFO Research Association (KUFORA), a small group of analysts that subjects each reported sighting in Korea to close, computer-aided scrutiny. "When I was in the fifth grade, I read a magazine called 'Boys Central.' They had articles about UFOs every month, and I just got curious about it," Seo said. Each photo is examined through a computer for traces of forgery. Seo compares the reflection of sunrays in the photograph to the alleged position of the photographer at the time it was taken. He checks astronomical charts to see if planets, shooting stars or solar flares were visible. He considers the testimony of the photographer and looks for inconsistencies in the reports of other witnesses. He then sends the survivors to another researcher in Japan for a second opinion. "Ninety-nine percent of the photos I get are fakes," Seo said.

Korea has a long history of UFO sightings.

During the Korean War, both American and Korean pilots reported encounters with flying saucers.

In March 1979, two Korean Air Force pilots participating in the Team Spirit joint military exercise reported seeing a "very bright, lighted plane." Nothing appeared on their radar screens. The pilots alleged that the ship had flashing lights on the sides and what looked like a "burning furnace" in the middle. It then reportedly shot sideways, stopped, and then moved rapidly upwards and out of sight. In 1982, people reported three separate sightings, making it the "year of the UFO" in Korea. Having studied each case in minute detail, Seo shared the lessons learned from his successful UFO observation with The Korea Herald. It's not enough to just set up a camera, he explained. To ensure that your photo survives scrutiny, it's important to use the proper techniques.

The best method Seo recommends is using the eponymous technique developed by an American named John Bro. The "Bro Method" is designed to detect UFOs hiding in the sun's rays. Take a video camera or timed camera and put it on a tripod. Place the tripod just under the eaves of a house or building, with the lens at an 80-degree angle. The shadow of the eaves will fall over the camera, reducing glare and highlighting flying objects that would otherwise be obscured by the sun. "UFOs often hide by placing themselves directly in front of the sun," Seo said. "With the Bro technique, you can still catch them on

film."

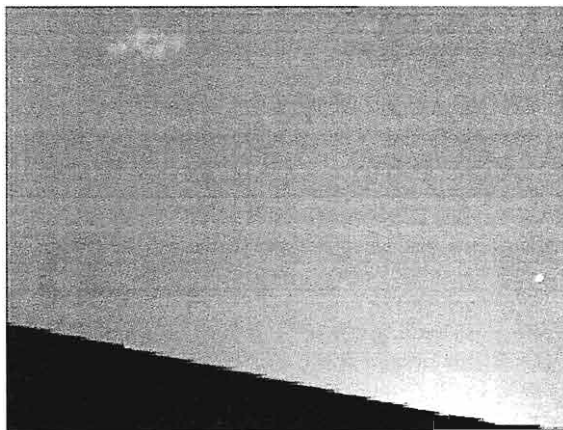
As in real estate, location is key. Once a UFO is sighted, there's a good chance it can be seen again in the same area. While UFOs have been seen all over South and North Korea, the best place to pitch a tripod is Kapyeong, in Gyeonggi Province. With two UFO sightings and a slew of military bases in the area, Kapyeong is fertile ground for film. Yangdong, in North Chungcheong Province, is another popular place for UFO hunters to stake out. Seo went to Kapyeong after a reporter from the Munwha Ilbo photographed a UFO there, hovering in the sky. Seo shot his film at the exact spot the reporter stood. He claims the video, still under examination, caught a "moving cloud," which he believes is an alien spacecraft. Finally, patience is something no researcher can work without. It might take years to get the shot, the reward for hundreds of rolls of film, moments of elation and disappointment, and endless public negativity. "If you get a shot of a UFO, don't bother sending it to us," Seo said. "Sooner or later, they all wind up on my desk." Seo says a UFO can be distinguished from an airplane or weather balloon by its rapid movement, its ability to turn on a dime and accelerate almost instantly. This violation

of the law of physics, he says, is what leads most scientists to view UFOs as a phenomenon rather than an object of study.

Those who manage to get a rapidly moving object on film should not be disappointed if it doesn't look like a flying saucer. There are over ten identified classes of UFOs, some believed to be from different planets. Among the most common UFO types reportedly seen across the country is the cigar, "load," type, also referred to as the "mother ship." There's also a "ball" type, triangular type, "clover with a dome" type, "round with a dome" type and "half a sphere" model. A Korean Web site, www.ufokorea.net, lists even more. In competition with the multiple types of UFOs are multiple types of non-UFOs. Pictures of planets, dragonflies, and the scourge of lens glare may have interesting imagery, but proof of unidentified flying objects they are not. Using a string to lift a model around in front of a video camera may also get a few yuks, but won't fool a serious investigator. Clever use of the "copy" and "paste" functions on a computer may shock co-workers, but it's a shocking waste of time for KUFORA

A reminder of the sort of images that can be captured on film by using the Solar Obliteration Technique—referred to in the above article as "The Bro Method".

This image were captured in the skies over Oxfordshire, England in August of 2000.



Spacewatching



The photo left also shows Venus to the middle left, and the second trail below Venus is of one of the regular commercial flights out of Heathrow on its way to America. This clearly illustrates just how bright the ISS is compared to conventional aircraft lighting.

In some recent issues of the BUFORA Bulletin, we have mentioned the possibility of the International Space Station Alpha (ISS or SSA—whichever you prefer) being mistaken as a UFO by an inexperienced/casual observer. So just what does the ISS look like when passing over.

The photo below shows the ISS as it climbed higher into the sky, eventually passing almost overhead—although it soon eclipsed and was lost to the naked eye.

These two photos will hopefully give you some clue as to the potential magnitude, even while still under construction. The two photos are 20 second exposures, so the ISS trails as it traverses the sky, and were taken on one of its higher-elevation passes over my home in Oxfordshire in February of this year.



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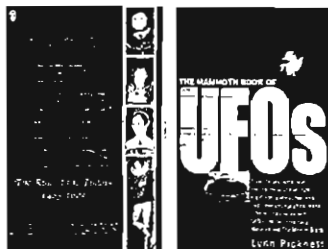
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