

British UFO Research Association



*Top personality
Ted Bloecher addressing
the Birmingham Conference*

bufo journal

Vol 5 No 5 January/February 1977

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Personal column: 2p a word. Display rates: whole page £10.00; half page £6.00; quarter page £3.00. Outside back cover: £12.00; half page £7.00.

Advertisement copy: 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS

Editorial: 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA

Distribution: 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST

Cover design: Richard Beet

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BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 5 Number 5

January/February 1977

Editorial Address : 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA

Contents

Trident tracks UFO	1
Lecture Summary	3
Uforum	4
Statistical Analysis of Northern UFO Activity in 1975	7
Book Review	9
Birmingham Conference	10
Controversy	17
Sighting summaries	18
Points from the Press	iii

Editorial

In view of the contents of this issue—which are much more interesting than anything I am likely to write in an editorial—may I just wish you all A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Norman Oliver.

Exchange Publications. Will all Journals, home and overseas, please note that copies for exchange should be sent to The Editor, Bufora Journal, 95 Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA and NOT to any other address—Thank You.

Trident tracks UFO

This case was investigated on behalf of Bufora by Sigap, the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. An account of the first incident was published in the Northern UFO News for November '76 and it is from this that the sighting details have been taken. Our acknowledgements and thanks to Sigap for a really interesting report.

The events occurred on July 30 1976 at 20.00 GMT. A British Airways Trident was flying to Faro, Portugal with a highly experienced crew. Its position was 38·30°N and 08·30°W (just South of Lisbon). Height 29,000'; Bearing 195°; Airspeed 500 knots. Lisbon control asked a Tristar ahead of the Trident if they could see a UFO that had been reported. They said they could, and on looking the Trident crew could see it also. They described it as a big white headlamp, stationary at 90° bearing 30° elevation. It was in view for several minutes as they flew by. After some while a brown sausage shape material-

ised by its side, followed thirty seconds later by a second similar object. Both appeared out of nothing and were surrounded by vapour. A Portuguese Boeing 727 also reported seeing the objects as did the passengers on the Trident—who were asked by the captain to look.

Radar contact (Sigap report). The aircraft landed, refuelled and took off on the return flight to London. The crew decided to switch on the radar and scan the area where the initial contact had been made

continued overleaf

Captain: We took off and an hour and a quarter later we came up to this area again—we had a note of the latitude and longitude on a card. Well, I thought, I'll turn on the radar: I tilted the radar which is in the nose of the aircraft and can be tilted up and down. To see aeroplanes on the radar you really have to know where they are: we saw the Tristar going down because we knew exactly where it was, we knew it was two minutes ahead, we were able to look about eighteen miles ahead on the radar scanner and you could see a tiny speck and that was the Tristar.

I turned on the radar, and in the same position where we had seen these objects I got a return with the radar 5° tilt up and I was climbing through 28,000' going for 31,000'. With the radar 5° tilt up, it scans then from about the lateral attitude of the plane upwards. I got first this big 'blip' and then a couple of others close to it. The big 'blip' was much bigger than any ship I have ever seen (Question . . . by ship you mean an aircraft?) No, I mean a ship, because you can pick up the ships as you come over the Channel, they're much bigger 'blips' than aeroplanes are. I know how big these things are and a ship, say a big tanker, a 200,000 ton tanker, would look an eighth of an inch long. This thing—this blip—was at least three times as big and there were others that were not as clear. You had this sort of elliptical image on the radar screen which was just solid, and there was no way that this could have been an aeroplane, there was no question of that. The lights in the cockpit were dimmed and there was just a backdrop of stars, the moon did not seem to be around anymore, there were just stars and nothing to see at all.

We had the radar return at 20 miles and stationary and we passed climbing: gradually they disappeared on the starboard side, which is what one would have expected, as that is where they were and the closest that we reckon we got was seven miles. As the image gets close to the bottom of the radar screen, it gets rather diffused and you can't really read it, but that was the last straw as far as I was concerned. It was a good radar, they vary a bit, but this was a good one. At night, of course, you can see the radar screen very much better than you can during the day, because the lighting in the cockpit is very dim, you can read the details much more clearly and that's about it

1st Pilot: On the way back, it was dark, very dark: quite clear—a completely cloudless sky. We thought we would have a look on the radar in the same position, so when we got within about 50 miles we turned the radar on,

pitched it up—of course we were still climbing—and blow me if we didn't get some enormous returns on the 20 miles scale. There were no clouds in the sky: they were ten times the size of any aircraft returns that you ever get on any aircraft radar—very large: there appeared to be a cluster of them. We turned the lights down and started to look for them, but we couldn't see anything and yet we had this completely positive 'ident'. It was about 10° off to the left and it went down the left hand side as we passed. We went within seven miles of it and never saw a thing. Any doubts we had about these things having solid middles—well, that confirmed it, that sold us at that stage.

2nd Pilot: We took off again and about two hours later we passed the same spot; we returned on the same track, the skipper had turned the radar on just to see if anything was there, and we got these very strong returns (blips) at about twenty miles away, about 5° up from our position. You can get this information re distance and inclination from the airborne radar.

The returns appeared stationary and we closed with them as we flew along. We came down their port side and passed about six or seven miles away from them. They were very strong returns and if they had been aircraft, we probably would have seen 'nav' lights as it was a very clear night. They could have been military—they don't always carry 'nav' lights, but they were very strong returns and it's surprising we didn't see anything.

Your Editor has just launched a commercial venture in the sphere of cassette tapes on two separate subjects: Astronomy and Ufology. The Astronomy tapes are concerned mainly with the Sky Exploring and The Solar System: those on UFOs—at first—are elementary and aimed primarily at the general public: later tapes will be thematic in nature and of interest to many ufologists also. Included with all tapes will be a list of UFO groups countrywide, so that as well as—hopefully—being profitable—they may also be a source of recruitment to ufology. These are not amateur 'home-made' tapes, being professionally recorded at the Speech-Plus Recording Studios in Southwark.

If you would like to receive details of both available and projected tapes, write to *SKY-QUEST (B7)*, 95 Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA.

Lecture Summary

1 May 1976, Kensington

Contactee Experiences :

Timothy Good.

Tim is one of the country's leading proponents of contactee cases and has travelled extensively throughout the world investigating them. This talk provided a fascinating introduction to the modern attitude towards this puzzling aspect of our phenomenon. At one time, he said, most people rejected contact cases out of hand. They acted as a block to scientific respectability. Now, scientists such as Dr J Allen Hynek were taking them very seriously and believed that we must have an open-minded attitude in order to discover the motivations behind them. It would appear that what we now observe is but a modern-day update of something which has manifested in various ways throughout history. It showed every indication of deliberately trying to confuse us—and the many forms of the alleged 'space visitors' was probably all a part of this confusion. Tim believes that Adamski was not an out and out fake, but in fact had a hoax perpetrated on him by the 'aliens'.

In this talk some rather startling observations were made, which, if true, throw some interesting light on the phenomenon. For example, he stated that some high-ranking officials, such as President Nixon, had been con-

tacted. Also that UFOs have established bases on this planet and are working with a select band of scientists on a project which is under the highest possible security regulations. All of these statements seem even more relevant in view of some of the recent statements uttered by contactees.

Mrs H, the Belfast contactee claimant investigated by Bufora's Northern Ireland branch presented the above information as an integral part of her story.

So we are left to ponder whether we are beginning to come closer to the true nature of the phenomenon. It would seem that we are more likely to make progress in this pursuit by a close examination of contact cases.

A few years ago the basis of Tim's talk would have seemed fantastic—or we would only have expected it from a pseudo-religious fanatic. Tim is by no means one of these. He is a dedicated and well-respected researcher and his views, no matter how fantastic they appear, must merit serious consideration.

Jenny Randles.

ARCHIVES—required to complete our collection: BUFORA Journal Vol 1, Number 1, published 1964, also other early issues, and LUFORO and BUFORA publications.

GIFTS from members to complete our files would be greatly appreciated. Write: Publications Dept, c/o A West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.

National Skywatch 1976

For a variety of administrative reasons, mainly delays in notifying members and groups concerned, the National Skywatch on the night of September 25/26—postponed from July 3/4—was not as well-supported as in recent years, only five sites being fielded. The weather, also, was not by any means of the kindest, driving rain, and in some cases thunderstorms, rapidly causing complete abandonment. It is anticipated that Robin Gandi of the Hampstead Observatory will organise the National Skywatch in 1977.

Uforum

The letters in this issue are rather lengthy, but they are also very interesting and I felt that no cuts were merited. All letters are welcome, but please keep them as brief as possible consistent with the subject matter.—Ed.

Dear Mr Oliver,

Your editorial in the Sept/Oct 1976 Journal entitled *Aliens—where are you?* echoes some thoughts that I have had recently. Friends ask me 'why don't UFOs get in touch with people on earth?', and I usually quote some of the well-known contactee cases which are invariably greeted with the remark 'of course, everything in America is exaggerated'. And indeed, compared with our densely packed little island things there do tend to be larger than life.

The huge areas of desert and prairie with clear skies in other parts of the world would surely be more suitable for a landing of a 'nuts and bolts' type of UFO. As Charles Bowen points out in *The Humanoids*, incidents are rarely reported in or near thickly populated areas.

Psychiatry is a fashionable, flourishing and respected profession in the United States, and I notice that some contactee cases have come to light only through hypnosis, eg the famous one of Betty and Barney Hill, more recently, the Maine UFO encounter, *FSR Vol 22, No 2*, and the Rhodesia UFO encounter and teleportation *FSR Vol 21, No 2*.

Has Bufora or any other British UFO research group a consultant psychiatrist experienced in deep hypnosis techniques willing to give his/her services? I am sure that such cases would not come within the scope of the NHS, and that Bufora has not the financial resources or fees. Would the reserved British public be willing to

participate in this kind of experiment anyway? Some overseas cases have not attained respectability, eg criticism of the handling of Travis Walton, *FSR Vol 22, No 2*.

There seem to have been several potential cases for intensive investigation within the last few years, such as Mr Collett of Sussex, who, while driving a truck of titanium castings (a reminder of Mrs Appleton whose humanoid visitor was looking for titanium) had vehicle interference and saw a UFO. This example from Robert Chapman's book *Unidentified Flying Objects*. Other cases are: Peter and Frances Nightingale in *Bufora Journal Vol 4, No 3*: Humanoids in Bedfordshire, *Bufora Journal Vol 4, No 7* and Encounter in Little Houghton, *FSR Vol 22, No 1*.

What about Charles Lockwood's investigations into vehicle interference? How many of these cases involve UFO sightings and possible time discrepancies by witnesses? Perhaps some of the above-mentioned cases would become classics if we had the resources of some of the American investigation groups. Certainly we do not lack experienced and well-qualified investigators. We also have the advantage of a comprehensive folklore tradition and historical background compared with some of the newer continents. Fairies, or their modern counterparts 'humanoids' are still seen. Perhaps this aspect of some sort of parallel dimension is worth more consideration.

*Valerie Martin,
Tankerton, Kent.*

Dear Sir,

I confess my reaction on reading Stuart Campbell's letter (*Controversy 2, May/June 1976*) was to exclaim 'rot and balderdash'. Unjustified perhaps: intolerant certainly. But then, Stuart is putting forward a scientific theory (the Plasma Hypothesis), which should really be done in a scientific manner. Alas, all too often scientists, when they stray from the safe confines of what they learnt at school and university, abandon the rigours of scientific proof for half-baked arguments which would disgrace the third-rate science fiction from which so many of their ideas seem to originate.

As Stuart so rightly says, 'no-one knows what ball lightning is, or how it behaves,' (though I doubt that it is 'the size of a car' or 'the colour of aluminium, discoid in shape and hovering'); in fact, one suspects that plasma is a conveniently vague pseudo-scientific excuse for ignoring fearful facts. The truth is, plasma is a state of matter in which, by reason of intense heat, the atoms are rushing about at such speed that the electrons are stripped from the nuclei; a similar effect may be obtained by electrical excitation of a gas at very low pressure, as in a neon tube or the Aurora Borealis. It is said that on occasion a glowing mass may detach itself from the aurora and rush from one magnetic pole to the other; to suggest that it may descend to the lower atmosphere, let alone land and disgorge occupants, is frankly ridiculous. The amount of energy required to maintain a plasma at normal atmospheric pressure is calculable, and prodigious, even nuclear fission or fusion is hopelessly inadequate to allow a self-sustaining plasma, and it has been suggested that ball lightning is only explicable in terms of total matter conversion—the 'matter-antimatter reaction' of the Starship Enterprise.

Stuart tosses in other astonishing statements without a shred of corroboration. 'It is believed that the nearest advanced technological civilisation is at least 100 light-years away.' If you believe that, you will believe anything; fairly simple logic shows such a situation to be improbable, unless interstellar travel is impossible (in which case perhaps someone should tell NASA to stop planning such a trip?). The arguments for 100 or 200 light-year separations are distinctly shaky, and rest on the implicit basis that 'if they were nearer, we would have heard from them already.' To use this as support for the belief that we have no extraterrestrial visitors is a distinctly circular argument.

'No justification for the further assumption that other races in the Galaxy are so much more advanced than us.' Really! Statistically, the oldest civilisations are likely to have developed some one or two thousand million years ago, and up to ten thousand million civilisations may have developed before ours: to suggest that every single one of these was destroyed within a few hundred—or even a few million—years, seems a trifle pessimistic.

'Nor that they would visit us covertly'. Ah, now that is the root of the problem! How should we expect visitors millions of years ahead of us to behave? It is surprisingly easy to answer this, once the miasma of quasi-scientific superstition is stripped away; and the surprising answer is that the prediction arrived at on a basis of logical probability is that the expected behaviour agrees closely with the reports we have of UFO events. Now although I have described this analysis as 'easy,' it requires a wide-ranging survey of contemporary scientific belief (starting with planetary astronomy and the

continued overleaf

principles of evolution), determining at each stage which parts may properly be classed as 'scientific' and which are mere superstition. Such a survey cannot be summarised in a few sentences; moreover the step-by-step logical approach leads repeatedly to conclusions at variance with contemporary belief, and each one has to be examined carefully in case an error has crept in to the logic. Therefore I am setting the whole process down in the form of a book. Meanwhile, I cannot reasonably expect readers to accept the final conclusions, which, without the supporting logic, are quite incomprehensible. However, for those who may be interested, I will briefly mention two of these conclusions, which are somewhat alarming.

Firstly, the human race is in deadly danger—not from the saucers, but from ourselves. Hardly a surprising revelation perhaps, but my analysis indicates that the aliens are for their own purposes pushing us into this crisis just as fast as they can, which means we will soon be faced with the stark decision—are we going to destroy ourselves through violence, or survive? Or to put it more succinctly—is there intelligent life on Earth?

Secondly, fast and easy interstellar travel is possible through 6-dimension-

al space. Whether scientists and the military are experimenting with such methods, I have not the slightest idea; but the analysis suggests they probably are, and if they approach success, the alien pressure will be abruptly stepped up. What form this might take is anybody's guess—but suppose for instance electricity suddenly failed to work. Impossible? Who knows? There are many reports of local electricity failures associated with UFOs; often these are not only inexplicable by contemporary science, but seemingly contrary to logic.

I will close by summarising some of the fields covered by my analysis, so that experts in those fields may if they wish write to me and check those portions of my logic: formation and chemistry of planetary systems: general principles of formation of life and evolution: psychology of intelligent life: violent and non-violent psychology: theoretical possibility of eliminating violence by genetic engineering: properties of elementary atomic particles: physics of 6-dimensional space (Heim et al): subliminal advertising: witchcraft: psychology of manipulating motivation.

*Ian Grant,
16 Eastfield Drive, Solihull,
W. Midlands B92 9ND.*

People

We extend a welcome to the following who have recently been admitted to membership of Bufora:

London: D S Brewis, P Dormer, M D Fenn, Mrs S Jones, T Mallaburn, D Medina, R M Myers, E Pockneall, S Sayer, G Tuohy.

Home Counties: M J Abbott, J Golden, D J Hatchwell, Mrs A Hormasji, Miss E Ives, S J Murphy, A Scrace, Miss S Swarbrick, J R Terry, M J Wilderspin.

National: R Aitchison, Mrs P Austin, S C Battman, Miss S B Bowles, P Carden, T Vollins, T W. Cox, A J Darley, S Davies, T R Dutton, P I Finlayson, Miss S A Gerahty, R Graham, W S Grant, E Greenway, Miss V Hill, Miss H Hulme, B P James, D Johnston, P W Lee, K R Luck, R Lund, J Nash, A Nicholl, P O'Dwyer, R Osborne, G Pike, D Preston, M J Poulton, D Rowse, Miss J Webster.

Overseas: S. W. Greenwood, Mrs R B Kane, P B Gautier, Miss M McGhee, D Weinstein, J Yaoi.

Statistical Analysis of Northern UFO Activity in 1975

Jenny Randles

In Nov/Dec 1975 issue of *Bufora Journal* I gave a review of the statistical survey conducted by the Northern UFO Network (Nufon) for the period 1970-74. Thanks to the continued efforts of many local organisations and independent researchers, Nufon was able to follow this up with a report for 1975. The summary below is taken from that publication.

Actual Figures

Nufon dealt with 128 reports during 1975. This figure excludes N. Ireland, and has been increased by several since the publication of the report. However, a complete codified listing of these cases was then included, so these form the basis of this article. The breakdown into evaluations was as follows:

<i>Aircraft</i>	(37)	<i>Insufficient Data</i>	(21)
<i>Satellites</i>	(16)	<i>Assorted LITS</i>	(13)
<i>Stellar</i>	(11)	<i>Atmospheric</i>	(7)
<i>Balloons</i>	(5)	<i>Hoax</i>	(3)
<i>Birds</i>	(1)	<i>Hallucination</i>	(1)

Fairly rigid criteria were adopted in this evaluation and many very interesting reports, such as the most intriguing photographic case investigated by Digap and presented by Nufon in *Flying Saucer Review, Vol 22, No 1*, were discounted as Insufficient Data. The resulting number of *Unknowns* totalled 13, which is 10.2% of the whole group. Some have been referenced in *Bufora Journal*, others in Contact UK's publication *Awareness* and in *Flying Saucer Review*. For the record a complete listing is given.

continued overleaf

Report	Date	Time	Location	Event	Investigation	Reference
7502	Jan 5	16.30	Uppermill, Gtr. M/Cr.	Disc: Humming	Mufora	FSR 21-6 AW'S Sum 75
7504	Jan 14	20.25	Moorside, Gtr. M/Cr	Close encounter	Mufora	FSR 21-6 AW'S Sum 75
7517	Jan 9	18.45	Leek, Staffs	Multi-witness near-landing	Ufora, Staffs	BJ May/June 75
7531	May 18	22.00	Rainhill, Merseyside	Landing: Physical effects	Napra	BJ Sept/Oct 75
7543	Jul 11	21.00	Rochdale, Gtr. M/Cr	Photographic: Domed disc	Mufora	Incomplete
7549	Aug 15	00.00	Blackburn, Lancs	Disc	Rigap	AW'S Spr 76
7550	Aug 16	03.03	Bury, Gtr M/Cr	Police car chase	Mufora	AW'S Spr 76
7556	Sep 18	22.45	Holmfirth, W. Yorks	Discs	Bufora, Yorks	
7557	Sep 22	05.25	Emley Moor W. Yorks	Blue object w. searchl't	Bufora, Yorks	
75/119	Oct 8	19.00	Wolverh'tn, W. Mids	Oval shape-change	Ufosis	
75/109	Dec 12	18.10	Swinton, Gtr M/Cr	Multi-witness dome	Mufora	AW'S Sum 76
75/110	Dec 13	17.00	Swinton, Gtr M/Cr	Multi-witness dome	Mufora	AW'S Sum 76
75/122	Dec 19	07.50 14.00	Redditch, Worcs	Photographic	Ufosis	BJ Jul/Aug 76

All reports have been published in various monthly issues of *Northern UFO News* and other Nufon special issues. In all, eighteen local organisations subscribed material to Nufon in 1975.

Periodicity

There were some distinctive waves throughout the period. Some of these are evident in the above table. In early January there was a widespread wave centred on the Oldham area of Greater Manchester. (This has been referenced in *FSR* and *Awareness*). There was also a flap in June, particularly in the Midlands, but most of these reports were readily explicable. The dates August 15/16 showed a significant proportion of reports for the third successive year—and this has again been repeated nationwide in 1976. (Skywatch organisers take note!)

There was a flap in N Ireland in October/November which coincided with one in the rest of Britain. It is difficult, however, to evaluate the effect that Nufon's appearance on nationwide television in mid-October had on this. Finally, and most significantly, there was a minor flap over the weekend December 12/14, which produced an exceptional number of reports throughout the UK (but particularly the north and midlands). *APRO Bulletin* for Feb 76 records that parts of the USA mirrored this event.

Other Studies

No work was done on daily temporal distribution, as the existence of a time-law is now well accepted within ufology. However, a study was made of results by day of week (*Fig 1*) with interesting results. This seems totally to refute the Wednesday law as proposed by Keel (in *Operation Trojan Horse*). This is interesting as other studies in the past have backed it up—including previous work by Nufon. The week end minimum phenomenon is also apparently reversed.

Looking at the reports by month of year, *Fig 2* shows the results. The unbroken line represents all the reports for 1975. The broken line is the unexplained reports for 1972-75 inclusive (scaled up linearly to make the total equivalent to the 1975 total). As can be seen there is a distinct correlation (which is certainly interesting), and this emphasises the late year maxima and early year minima noted in the last Nufon report, and also noted by researchers such as Poher.

Thanks are due to all the team who worked with Nufon on 1975. Reports of this type prove that co-operation is worthwhile in the end. Yearly reports will continue to be published by Nufon and an evolving picture of the statistical basis for the UFO phenomenon in Northern Britain ascertained.

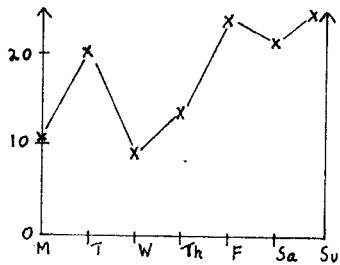


FIG. 1

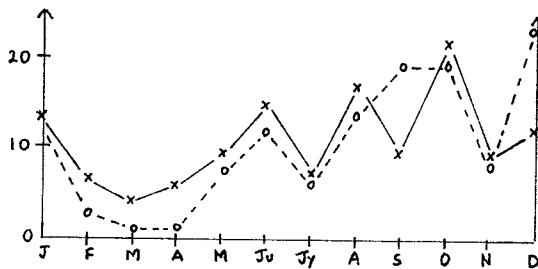


FIG. 2

Book Review

The UFO Controversy in America

by David Michael Jacobs: foreword by J Allen Hynek. Indiana University Press. £8.25, pp 362: photos: index: bibliography.

This text was the basis of Professor Jacob's Ph.D. 1973 thesis at the University of Wisconsin, entitled *The Controversy Over Unidentified Flying Objects, 1897-1973*. It presents a fairly comprehensive historical study of the running battle which used to exist between the United States Air Force and certain civilian UFO groups such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), as well as the story of the Colorado University Project on UFOs and J Allen Hynek's recently formed Center for UFO Studies.

Jacobs takes a fairly detached approach, although he seems to tend slightly to be 'pro-UFO, anti-Air Force,' judging from his selection of quotations from each side of the debate. His style is rather dry, probably because of the academic origins of the text, although it is a useful and well-researched review recording events which have previously been documented only very haphazardly or not at all. Unfortunately, the cost takes the book out of the popular market, although it would be a good standard reference work for libraries, especially in universities. It would form a useful background for research into the sociology of the UFO subject, although it is not directly relevant to the physical sciences.

*Mark Stenhoff, FRAS,
Royal Holloway College,
University of London.*

Forthcoming Meetings

Saturday, 5 February, 1977. 7 p.m.—“Controversy-Hypotheses Galore.”

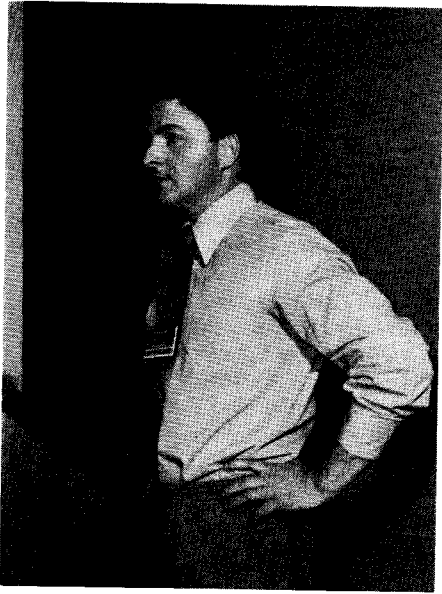
Saturday, 5 March, 1977. 7 p.m.—“Research Evening” (illustrated).

Saturday, 2 April, 1977. 7 p.m.—“UFOs—The Photographic Evidence” (illustrated).

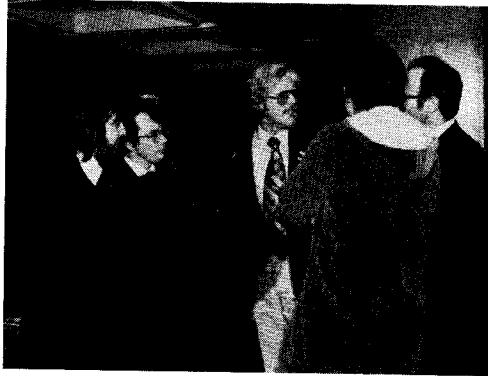
All meetings held at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W8.

STOP PRESS 1—Many readers will have heard on radio or television of the landing and occupant experience claimed by Mrs Joyce Bowles of Winchester and Mr Pratt whilst travelling by car between Winchester and Chilcomb involving a hovering orange cigar-shaped craft and three occupants, two of whom 'inspected' their vehicle. A detailed report will appear in the March issue.

STOP PRESS 2—Bufora's chairman, Roger Stanway, has resigned: again more details next issue. Meanwhile I am sure I speak for all who know Roger in acknowledging the debt we owe him for having worked so tirelessly for Bufora over a number of years, and in assuring him he has the very best of good wishes from his friends both within and outside the Association.



BIRMINGHAM



Listening to a searching question—Tony Pace, Research Director.

Ufosis—local conference organisers, discuss points with speakers.

Over the weekend of November 5 to 7, Bufora held the second of its research and investigation conferences at the Centre Hotel in Birmingham. Its aims were threefold. To provide a signal to science, the media and the public that our subject can be treated with respect: to act as a base upon which to build future research and to be a medium for free-flowing communication between the country's serious-minded ufologists. Opinions indicate it successfully fulfilled these objectives.

Commencing—appropriately perhaps—on Guy Fawkes night, the organisers were pleasantly surprised to see so many people take the opportunity to spend the extra night in the hotel. Bufora Chairman, Roger Stanway, introduced an informal debate on research methodology by presenting a blank cheque and asking everyone to

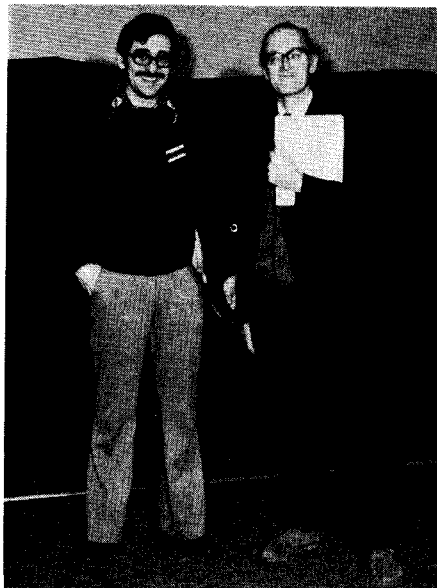
imagine it to be for £10,000 donated for UFO research. How would we use it? A valid point was made by Ted Bloecher, our guest from the USA, who said that the only effective way of dealing with this problem would be by the formation of a committee. Other good suggestions forthcoming from the floor included several interesting ideas such as the development of diffraction grating photography—which is already being worked on by Bufora's Photographic Department. I am sure that Roger will not mind my commenting, though, that the most important point about Friday night was the subsequent discussion around the bar. It allowed an evening free for chat and getting to know other conference members—a vital element of the weekend and one to be preserved in future.

Saturday morning opened with a paper

CONFERENCE



Captivating with a smile!—Bob Digby



Roger Stanway (left) Bufora's Chairman, and Bernard Delair—Contact UK.

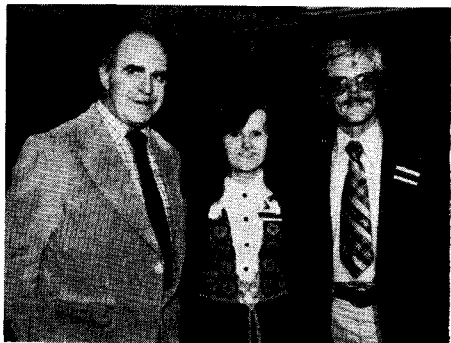
by **Peter Rogerson** entitled *INTCAT —an International Catalogue of Type-1 UFO Records*. Mr Rogerson is associated with *Mufob*, the erstwhile *Merseyside UFO Bulletin*, which has gathered a substantial following as a 'new wave' medium for ufology. Some of the views expounded concerning psychological bases for the phenomenon may not have met with universal agreement, but undoubtedly the catalogue will be of considerable value despite it being based upon the Vallee classification of a type-1 event, which is not without ambiguity. A talk by **Jack Webber**, Bufora RIC for Devon county followed. He has had great experience in observation techniques and data extraction and propounded some basic, but nonetheless highly important suggestions concerning the measurement of bearings and elevations in sighting reports, and their import-

ance in cross relating multiple witness observations of the same event.

The afternoon was given over to group sessions, which on the whole appear to have been disappointing. There were sessions on investigation methods and photographic techniques which were largely a question of sorting out administrative matters. A contingency plan was outlined in the case of a landing with physical traces, and as this is of such importance it is given separately on pages 16-17. It was in the other two sessions that current research work was considered. Charles Lockwood and Tony Pace headed a group which developed ideas for instrumental methodology as applied to UFO research, and this will continue to expand Project Audi, initiated in 1975 largely to look into the question of electronic detec-

continued overleaf

tion equipment. Jenny Randles and Bernard Delair met with another group studying the various methods of data filing and extraction, and the means by which data can be made available to the ordinary member for research. Chiefly this appeared to be through the medium of catalogues. Overall, the wide range of people involved in the various groups made them somewhat difficult to organise, and there would appear to be a need in future to devote more time than the one-and-a-half hours allocated this year to what could be a much more important aspect of the conference week-end.



FSR editor Charles Bowen (left), with Jenny Randles and guest speaker Ted Bloecher.

After refreshments the conference reconvened to hear a paper by **Bernard Delair**, Secretary of Contact UK. He gave an interesting insight into the preliminary work on UFO waves and their prediction which has come out of an analysis of Contact's files. With ample chart and graph illustration two types of wave were proposed—a ten-year, and a six-year cycle, and some attempts at correlation with such things as sunspot activity were cited. Although no pointers are apparent for a spatial prediction of a future wave, all indications seem to show that tempor-

ally we might expect it in the autumn and winter of 1977. It was suggested we should mobilise our resources and plan co-ordinated skywatches for the whole of this period.

Several hours were then left for general discussion, and it was during this period that lengthy discussions went on between the leaders of the administrative teams of Bufora, Contact and Nufon. Fruitful inter-relationships with other important figures in British ufology, such as Charles Bowen—editor of *Flying Saucer Review*—were also possible and there is no doubt that such discussions, which are paving the way towards a more unified approach in this country, are proving a valuable side-effect of these conferences.

At 8 p.m. the conference gathered expectantly. Swelled by members of the public, who were allowed in for the Saturday evening only, an added item proved a bonus when a specially recorded informal talk was given by **Dr J Allen Hynek** of the Center for UFO Studies. He gave a fascinating discussion on various subjects, including some revealing reminiscences about his days as the official USAF consultant to Project Blue Book. He also gave some information on the multi-million spectacular *Close Encounters of the Third*



Trevor Whitaker (right) introduces Bufora Evaluation Officer Tim O'Brien.

Kind, a sequel film to *Jaws*. Scheduled for release under a blaze of publicity during 1977, this apparently gives a very fair coverage of our subject, dealing as it does with an investigation into a UFO landing with occupants.

Following this came the highlight of the weekend, the paper by our guest from Mufon and the Center for UFO Studies in the USA—**Ted Bloecher**. Ted presented a monumental paper lasting over two hours, but few were glad to see it end. He provided some very important observations on the subject of humanoid sightings, which he argued most logically should henceforth be termed *Entity* cases. As well as interesting visual material and some fascinating case studies, he defined a classification system for *Entity* reports and gave ample evidence that *Humcat*, (which is the report which he, Dave Webb and their colleagues in the USA are working on for publication through the Center for UFO Studies), will be a highly important piece of research. Others, I am sure, picked out different points from the paper, but the one which caught my attention most was the observation that the activities of the entities give every impression of being stage-managed. As he commented, they do not *have* to collect rocks when people are watching them, and yet at times they appear deliberately to do so. One should ponder on the meaning of that.

And so to bed—well, not for most. Many people remained in the bar until well into Sunday morning and it was turned 3 a.m. before the comfort of my hotel bedroom began to beckon me. During this period, for example, the Statistics department of Bufora was born and several hours were spent thrashing out various terms of reference for their work.

By this time night was quite markedly merging into day, and Sunday morning seemed to arrive before Saturday evening had finished! Possibly it was ambitious to plan to start at 9.30 a.m., and in fact most people did not arrive at the lecture theatre until about 9.45. Proceedings were running a little late, therefore, but we soon got going with **Tony Pace** giving us an insight into Bufora's Vehicle Interference Project which has now been under way for two years and is reaching its latter stages. It promises to be yet another important contribution to ufology, and indeed it would appear that the next year or so is going to see several most important publications of research results which might considerably enhance our case for scientific recognition.

Following this came one of the best-presented papers of the whole weekend. This was from **Bob Digby** of the Photographic Department who, with excellent backing from other members of the team, presented some basic facts about the investigation of photographically produced evidence. The marvellous title, *They Shoot UFOs—Don't They?* was a key to the whole tone of presentation, which came not only with a smile—which captivated all the female ufologists—but also with a considerable amount of good sense. Examples were shown of some still and movie films under investigation and it was quite apparent from the comments afterwards that this was one of the most enjoyable periods of the conference. Maybe that's a hint to would-be lecturers—use more visual material!

Bufora's evaluation co-ordinator, **Tim O'Brien** was next to appear. He gave a review of a series of talks he has been giving over recent years based on intensive research he and his wife have been making into the phenomenon.

Here he presented the conclusions they have reached, which may appear startling to some. Basically they view the phenomenon as extra-terrestrial and watching over our somewhat dangerous current phase of development, having played quite a hand in our previous phases. Certainly it was fascinating and personally I am looking forward to the book they are writing on their results.

Time was beginning to run short, and this was not helped by a minor crisis in the hotel kitchens where staff shortages caused chaos over the meal break. However, we finally managed to sort things out and return to the lecture room for a long afternoon which saw three more papers and reviews of the various group sessions held the previous day.

First to come was **Roy Dutton**. He is an aeronautical engineer and displayed some complex graphs to illustrate the results of what had obviously been a long and very detailed study of the phenomenon. His basic theme was to plot the entry and disappearance points of UFOs in relation to the Earth's terminator to try to produce a prediction for the time and location of UFO events based on variable seasonal factors. He seems to be getting somewhere and scored a very close hit in a 'spur of the moment' prediction during the lecture. He was followed by one of Bufora's newest scientific members, physics student **Mark Stenhoff** who is interested in the little understood ball lightning and related ionic plasmas phenomena, and hopes to set up a department within Bufora to analyse these. There seems little doubt that some kinds of UFO event could more properly be classified under these headings and consequently a study of them is not only important to isolate them from our records, but also it may contribute substantially to

scientific knowledge (which, after all, is why we are in this business). Finally, the proceedings were brought to a close by **Ian Grant**, a meteorologist, now a freelance computer operator. He has been running logistics tests on the phenomenon and has come up with some rather interesting conclusions which appear to tie in quite closely with those of many other ufologists and emphasise the point Ted Bloecher made about the appearance of 'staging' by the phenomenon. He too is writing a book. Certainly if they all live up to expectations we are in for a good time in this department in the near future.

Considerable thanks are due to all the members of Ufosis, the Birmingham group, who worked hard all weekend in face of some difficult problems with hotel facilities. Without such a dedicated group of people a conference such as this could never even be considered. Thanks must also go to the members of the Photographic Department for supervision of the visual aids and exhibition, and to Robin Lindsey and Nigel Watson for tape-recording the proceedings.

Proceedings of the conference will be made available, and if the foregoing has not already convinced you, let me advise everyone to get hold of a copy. I am sure those who were there will not need telling!

Report by Jenny Randles

* * *

Bufora Statistics Section

Peter Hill.

The Statistics Section had its first meetings at the Birmingham conference and is now well established. The members are Peter Hill (Co-ordinator), Roger Bailey, John Hind, Ken Green, Anthony Grogan, Susan Lewis and Nick Simon. The following terms of

reference for submission to the Research Department were drawn up:

- 1 To collect data on reports, initially in the UK.
- 2 To analyse the data by any relevant attribute.
- 3 To isolate statistically significant correlations with any potentially relevant parameter.
- 4 To endeavour to compare findings internationally.
- 5 To publish findings.
- 6 To make these available internationally through the Center for UFO Studies.

The Section will also be pleased to give advice on statistical, indexing and data processing matters. Anyone interested should write to *Peter Hill, 1 Cambridge Gardens, Leigh, Edinburgh EH5 5DH* or telephone 031-554 5030.

* * *

UFOs in Focus

John Shaw

It was apparent from the syndicated photographic sub-session and comments from delegates at the Birmingham conference that there is a real need for some form of basic training in photographic principles and practices to be given to investigators. The general standard of knowledge in these matters does not seem to rise above pointing the camera and pressing the button! While, of course, this statement is not intended to be detrimental to the standard of investigators, many of whom do admirable work for Bufora and ufology, it must be remembered that if residual traces at a possible UFO landing site are to be recorded with any value, or if cases involving photographs or films are encountered by the investigator, at least a basic knowledge of photographic techniques and applications is not only desirable, but necessary.

It is to this end that we, in Bufora's Photographic Analysis and Investigations Department, intend to initiate some form of photographic teaching to be included in the investigator training programme shortly to be introduced, and possibly also a regular inclusion in the *Journal* so that the course would also reach the general readership.

The final format for the course has not, as yet, been decided, but the methods taught will lean heavily on the practical aspects and obviously be so weighted as to return acceptable results from simulated UFO landing occurrences and effects. A brief resume and demonstration of optical and emulsion faults and effects will also be included so that photographs showing optical flares and processing abnormalities will be filtered out of the investigative system at an early stage leaving greater time and energy to be devoted to potentially more important cases.

One aspect which sometimes confuses the situation, is that quite a few of the many UFO magazines on the market have a 'print regardless' opinion when it comes to photographs, hence all manner of obvious lens flares and processing marks are printed and held up as 'genuine UFO photographs.' Where are the serious researchers who can recognise these for what they are? Other photographs show obvious models of saucer-shaped craft, complete with occupants, or alternatively, ornate car hub-caps hurled into the air.

So, where do we start? A comprehensive library of 'UFO' photographs and associated data is needed so that references can be drawn from it for investigator training. Contact UK have already initiated this project in their *UFO Register*, an excellent work listing in chronological order data and references of photographs from all over the world. It is envisaged we will

work in close co-operation with them on this project with a free flow of information between us. The *UFO Register* has omitted obvious specimens of lens flares, accidental optical effects and spurious images produced by inferior processing where it has been possible positively to identify such blemishes, and although it does not contain any photographs, it lists several sources for each inclusion. Using this catalogue, we hope to be able to build up the library of photographs not only for training use, but also for several other projects we have in the pipeline.

The photographic department within Bufora was formed early in 1976 and is rapidly gaining momentum. It advises on all aspects of recording photographically UFOs and their residual

traces as well as conducting investigations into UFO sightings where photographs or films are involved.

Bufora has recently instigated several important scientifically-based projects on various aspects of research into the UFO phenomenon, and we in the photographic department are pleased to have come into being at probably the most important time of change and achievement in UFO research in this country. The P.A.I.D. can be reached via the NIC, Ken Phillips or direct to me at *5 Vardens Road, London SW11 1RQ.*

John Shaw is head of Bufora's Photographic Analysis and Investigation Department (P.A.I.D.).

BUFORA CONTINGENCY PLAN for LANDING & TRACE CASES

There will be certain cases (*Classes 1 and 2*) where traces will be left. It is vital that immediate action is taken so that the necessary evidence for a proper scientific investigation of the phenomenon may be uncovered.

It would be unreasonable for Bufora to expect any one person to be able to cope with all the necessary work.

In association with members of the scientific community Bufora has been able to establish Scientific Investigation Teams. These are located at strategic points throughout the country. The establishment of these specially trained teams was felt necessary because:

- 1 Since we do not really understand the nature of the phenomenon, there is a possibility there may be biological, chemical and/or radio-active contamination associated with these sites. We have people trained in handling these agents.*

- 2 Specialised site photography is required.*
- 3 Site surveys are required.*
- 4 On-site soil mechanics and geology are required.*
- 5 Special techniques requiring use of liquified gases may be required. (Liquid Nitrogen boils at minus 196 degrees centigrade and special training is required in its use).*

In the event of a trace case occurring, the following actions should be taken:

- 1 Immediately contact the emergency control: 01-969 8847** (Bufora NIC). If unobtainable ring one of the following: 01-452 0520, 01-223 3388, 01-902 0582. (It may be necessary from time to time to redirect you).

continued on page 17

Controversy

Mark Stenhoff, FRAS.

The chief reason for lack of general scientific interest in UFO phenomena is the strong emotive element that surrounds them. Many members of Bufora are, in line with the emotive element, of particularly strong persuasion that UFOs represent something of an esoteric nature, even though the question of the reality or otherwise of a genuine problem for study has yet to be resolved by the scientific community. Bufora has therefore acquired the image of a group of enthusiasts who would like the UFOs to be something extraordinary, and who would be very disappointed were they to turn out to be 'mundane' events such as hitherto unrecognised atmospheric phenomena. This is the image that has filtered through to the scientific community.

Mention has been made of the possibility of improving Bufora's image to encourage scientists to work within the Association. However, this overlooks the way in which scientists work, and consideration of the emotional environment described above shows that any amount of research carried out by Bufora will still fail to convince scientists that their involvement is warranted.

Bufora's efforts would be best directed toward putting the UFO phenomenon in a normal scientific context. If Bufora really thinks it has cases "on file" which are probative evidence for genuinely new phenomena, it should write these up in appropriate scientific language, with emotive language removed and subjectively reduced to a minimum, and ask one of the scientific consultants to submit a paper to a suitable scientific journal. This would, if published, stimulate work within the conventional university research en-

vironment, which, after all, is the proper place for work to be carried out. The question of publication is not so difficult as has been suggested (after all, publication in British scientific journals has probably never been attempted!). *Nature*, for example, has published reviews of books on UFOs, as well as an article on the Center for UFO Studies.

It will naturally not be practicable to make a frontal assault on the scientific community with claims of extraterrestrial visitation. Rather, the cases should be presented empirically without interpretation, and if interpretation is to be made it should be in terms of recognised and possibly unrecognised physical atmospheric phenomena.

I have proposed that a section be established within Bufora to investigate the hypothesis that '**the sightings involve natural events which are not observed often enough for scientists to have produced suitable scientific explanations.**' (*Bufora UFO Investigation—Appendix 15*).

This section would be a suitable means of attempting publication in the manner described above. I will be glad to provide further information to any interested members or non-members of Bufora.

Birmingham Conference

continued from p16

- 2 Give details of the case**, including date and time of incident, location and duration of sighting. Give 6-figure Ordnance Survey map reference if possible. Local landmarks will aid the team to find the site.

A team may be despatched immediately. If possible you will be told the approximate arrival time. You may be asked in some cases to prevent sightseers, etc., from damaging the site.

Sighting Summaries

As from this issue all sighting report details received from Investigations will be tabled by their code reference. Some of the more interesting reports will be extracted and given in detail, and any evaluations which have been arrived at in respect of current or past reports will be shown.—Ed.

(Presentation by Pauline Grego).

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
Uncoded	Autumn 1944	1500/1600	Maida Vale	Spherical object		BOB EASTON
Uncoded	Summer 1964	2300	Swanscombe, Kent	Oval object	C3b	L DALE
Uncoded	1968	1100	Anglesey	'Classical flying saucer'	C3b	JENNY RANGLES
Uncoded	December '72	0100	Catterick, Yorks	Delta-shaped object		N MALORET
Uncoded	Summer 1972	1900	Maldon, Essex	Object like pylon with dome		A COLLINS
73-099	—	—	Hartshead Pike, Lancs	Rotating cone-shaped object	C3b	P WHITEHEAD
74-136	—	—	Leeds, Yorks	Large disc		T WHITAKER
74-138	—	—	Cosham, Hants	Silver-grey disc		N MALORET D ALMOND
75-094	20.10.75	2000	Wakefield, Yorks	Oval, dotted object		T WHITAKER
75-104	19.11.75	2030	Bole Moor, Yorks	Lits	C4c	T WHITAKER
75-131	18.11.75	1710	Barnsley, Yorks	Spherical blue light		D STRICKLAND
75-146	12.12.75	2030	Acomb, Yorks	Torpedo-shaped object		T WHITAKER
75-230	1975	—	Nass, Eire	Large red sphere (Also see 76-148)	C4c	M JOHNSON
75-231	27.1.75	2330/45	Dudley, Worcs	Lits	C4c	SUOR
75-232	—	—	Southbourne, Hants	Cigar-shaped object		N MALORET
75-233	July	2300	Prescott, Lancs	Pulsing Lits	Blc	P WARRINGTON
75-234	27.4.75	0055	Wimbledon, London	Semi-circular 'thing'	C3c	D HAGER
76-086	20.4.76	1920	Leeds, Yorks	Comet-like object		T WHITAKER
76-088	17.4.76	2345	Whatton, Notts	Brilliant pink Lits	C4b	MURO
76-113	8.6.76	2245	Whitstable, Kent	Lits	C4c	Mrs V MARTIN
76-114	6.6.76	2230	Whitstable, Kent	Lits with tail	C4b	Mrs V MARTIN
76-115	September 1975	—	Whitstable, Kent	Brilliant flashing 'white line'		Mrs V MARTIN
76-117	25.6.76	Midnight	Gillingham, Kent	Dull bar with rotating lights	C3b	J CASTLE
76-118/9	6.6.76	2240	Herne Bay, Kent	Light with burning trail		Mrs V MARTIN
76-120	2.8.76	2130	Whitstable, Kent	Lits	C4b	Mrs V MARTIN
76-121	—	—	Swalecliffe, Kent	Bright drifting object	C4c	Mrs V MARTIN
76-122	2.8.76	2355	Whitstable, Kent	Glowing oval object	C4b	Mrs V MARTIN
76-124	3.2.76	—	Tonbridge, Kent	Bright white object		M FORD
76-125	25.2.76	—	Hildenborough, Kent	Objects and lits		M FORD

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
76-126	25.2.76	—	Hildenborough, Kent	Objects and lit		M FORD
76-127	3.2.76	—	Tonbridge, Kent	Lits		M FORD
76-128/33	Period of Months	—	Basildon, Essex	' Number of objects '		
76-134	—	1200/1230	Hull, Yorks	Lits	C4b	
76-138	27.6.76	2359	Wakefield, Yorks	Star-like object		T WHITAKER
76-141/2	28-30.3.76	—	North Wales	Metallic Discs	C1b C3b	N. STEPHENSON
76-143	3.6.76	2350	Chelmsford	Manoeuvring lits	B4c	A COLLINS
76-144/5	—	—	Basildon	Lits	C4b	A COLLINS
76-148	1976	0200	Naas, Eire	Large red sphere (Also see 75-230)	C4c	M JOHNSON
76-149	—	2210	Stoke-on-Trent	Lits	B4b	UFORA
76-150	7.6.76	2250	Torrington, Lancs	Lits changing colour	C4b	A TOMLINSON
76-151	28.5.76	1655	Stoke-on-Trent	Manoeuvring Lits	C4c	UFORA
76-154	20.4.76	1215	Handsworth, Birmingham	Moving dull-red glow	C4c	UFOSIS
76-155	4.4.76	1900/2000	Birmingham	Lits	C4c	UFOSIS
76-156	6.6.76	1015	Colchester	Three hovering lits	C4c	A COLLINS
76-162	1.7.76	2130	Canvey Island, Essex	Glowing oval object with tapered ends	C4b	A COLLINS
76-163	7.7.76	2130	Dagenham, Essex	Bright bar-shape changing to ball	C3c	A COLLINS
76-164	24.6.76	2225	Dagenham, Essex	White star-like objects	C4b	A COLLINS
76-165	14.6.76	0130	Colchester, Essex	Descending disc-shape	C4c	A COLLINS
76-166	24.6.76	2110	Dagenham, Essex	Line-shaped object be- coming shrinking ball	C4c	A COLLINS
76-174/5	11.7.76	—	Longton, Staffs	Oval object following aircraft	C3b	D JAMES
76-176	30.6.76	2015	Knutton, Staffs	Black cylindrical objects	C4c	C BOURNE
76-177/8	30.6.76	0903	Newcastle, Staffs	Vertical shining object	C4b	C BOURNE
76-179	6.6.76	2240	Kidsgrove, Staffs	Bright spot changing shape	B4a	C BOURNE
76-180	6.6.76	2230	Longton, Staffs	Bright object with trail	C4a	—
76-181	4.4.76	2230	Cosham, Hants	Bright star-like object	C4b	M HANDLEY
76-182	4.4.76	2235	Cosham, Hants	Bright star-like object		D ALMOND
76-184, 5/6	18.6.76	2215	East Malling, Kent	Lits	C4b	J CASTLE
76-187	25.6.76	2045	East Ham, London	Bullet-shaped object	C3b	A COLLINS
76-188	2.8.76	2110	Basildon, Essex	Motionless bright sphere	C2b	A COLLINS
76-189	27.7.76	0100	Bridlington, Yorks	Round spinning object		D SHELTON
76-190	3.7.76	2105	Irlam, Manchester	Cylindrical object	B3c	JENNY RANGLES
76-191	13.5.76	0400	Lymm, Cheshire	Descending lits flat- tened grass	B4b	J LONGHORN

The following identifications/evaluations were made: 75-104—Repairs to BBC transmitter; 75-146—Aircraft; 76-118/9—Meteoric fireball; 76-138—Satellite; 76-180—Bolide; 76-188—Possible mock-sun.

Uncoded Autumn 1944. 1500/1600
Maida Vale, London.

On a clear day, about the beginning of September 1944, the witness was observing the approach of 4 VI flying bombs, flying astern and heading in the direction of Marble Arch. Suddenly she noticed a bright spherical object moving at rapid speed in the northern sky 'like a rolling ball,' approaching the formation of VI's. The sphere, which had the appearance of a 'soap bubble,' slowed and paced the flying bomb formation for a few seconds. When the 'bubble' approached the leading VI, the bomb began to descend and the witness immediately took cover. After the explosion she looked again in time to see the object climbing at an incredible speed towards the NW as the other VI's began to fall in the Pall Mall area.

Inv. Bob. Easton.

Uncoded Summer 1972. 1900.
Maldon, Essex.

The witness and a friend were walking in some fields near Suffolk Road, when they saw what looked like an electricity pylon with a dome on top. The dome emitted a bright white light. The 'pylon' section of the object was grey in colour and appeared to be transparent. After studying the object closely for some time, the witness's friend became apprehensive so they left, and on looking back a second time, the object had disappeared.

Inv. A. Collins.

75-234 27 April 1975. 00.55
Wimbledon, London.

Whilst preparing for bed, the witness saw a 'semi-circular perspex thing' passing over the block of flats where she resides. Underneath and internally, the object displayed yellow, green, blue and red lights switching on and off alternately. The object also emitted a 'whooshing sound' similar to air escaping from a li-lo.

Inv. Dick Hager

76-141/2 28 March 1976.
North Wales.

Whilst on holiday, 28-30 March, the witness saw several discs performing complex movements in the sky over Mt Snowdon. The objects reflected the sunlight, giving the impression they were metallic. A photograph was taken and the results are awaited from the Photographic Department.

Inv. N. Stephenson.

76-143 3 June 1976. 23.50
Chelmsford, Essex.

At 23.50 on 3 June 1976, the witness was out walking his dog, when the dog displayed signs of agitation. Wondering over the cause of this, the witness looked up to see a light in the

eastern sky, white in colour and observed by the witness for two or three minutes. The object then executed a 45 deg turn and disappeared behind some clouds.

Inv. A. Collins.

76-164 24 June 1976. 22.25
Dagenham, Essex.

The witness was tending his garden when he noticed a white star-like object moving from SE to SW at high altitude. Intrigued by this, he called his wife in case 'anything else' appeared, and five minutes later another light appeared, following the same path as the first. A further five minutes later, a third light appeared, and then a fourth.

In all, seven lights were seen, the last five at least, having emanated from the same spot in the sky. Of the last three, one came straight overhead, disappearing in the north. At one stage, when a light aircraft approached one of the objects, it extinguished like a bulb and did not reappear, but the strangest occurrence happened after the fourth object was sighted. An orange-red beam or band of light shot across the sky in an arc from SW to SE, appearing much lower than the lights, and of 1 sec duration.

Inv. A. Collins.

76-165 14 June 1976. 01.30.
Colchester, Essex.

The witness was in his back garden when he observed a descending light, and as it descended, a disc shape could be discerned which was red in colour, metallic, with a dome on the top. The object emitted a sound similar to a 'flock of swans overhead' and its apparent size was that of a football at about 500 feet altitude.

Inv. A. Collins.

76-169 6 June 1976. 22.40
Kidsgrove, Staffs.

The witness observed in the SW at an elevation of 60 deg, a bright spot/star which later appeared as an oblong with a tail emitting sparks. The object moved to the NE and decreased in size, whereupon an orange object was seen to continue the flight path.

Inv. Chris Bourne.

76-187 25 June 1976. 20.45
East Ham, London.

The Varney family had just left East Ham swimming baths when their daughter, Maxine, drew the attention of the rest of the family to a horizontal cigar or bullet-shaped object hanging motionless in the sky. It was reddish-orange in colour and after approximately five minutes it began to move off at an increasing speed with no sound audible.

Inv. Andy Collins.

76-189 27 July 1976. 01.00
Bridlington, Yorkshire.

The witness was in bed when he heard a loud humming sound emanating from outside and his bedroom appeared to be illuminated by an external source. On looking outside, he observed a round object with yellow spinning lights which vanished after a few seconds.

Inv. Derick Shelton.

76-191 13 May 1976. 04.00
Lymm, Cheshire.

Two Police Officers on patrol in their Panda Car in the Silent Valley area, saw a bright light that descended behind some trees. Immediately the Officers drove to the area and discovered a wide patch of flattened grass but no trace of the object.

Inv. John Longhorn—Contact UK.

Points from the Press

The Times, August 16 and *Reveille*, September 24, both reported a 'Ufoport' inaugurated on August 15 at Ares, a small french town of some 3,000 inhabitants 30 miles west of Bordeaux. Incorporating a 30 yd by 20 yd landing pad, welcoming flags, a windsock, lights and a banner, 'OVNIPOINT ARES,' the spaceport was set up by M Robert Cotten, a 41-year-old civil aviation electronics expert with the backing of M Christian Raymond, mayor of Ares.

M Cotten gave it as his opinion that 'the reason Flying Saucers have never landed is because there are no airports for them,' hence the Ovniport. It will be open 24 hours a day and the first saucer to arrive will be exempted from landing fees!! NB—The word Ares is also another name for Mars.

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The Kentish Observer of June 18 carried a three-column item on UFOs featuring Mrs Valerie Martin of Tankerton, Bufora member and investigator, who became interested in UFOs several years ago following a 'flap' over Whitstable and Tankerton. Amongst other cases which demonstrated her factual and practical approach, she had been investigating the many varied accounts of bright lights flashing across the north Kent coast sky earlier in June.

* * *

Reveille of September 24 refers to Eduard Maier of the Swiss village of Hinwil, who alleges meeting a 'young'

lady—Semjase—a thousand years old from a planet called Erra in the Pleiades when she emerged from a disc-like craft which landed nearby when he was driving his motor cycle along a country road. Since then he claims further meetings with Semjase and other space-visitors.

* * *

The Nottingham Evening Post of July 27 printed a letter from R W Morrell, chairman of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society concerning the discovery of nitrogen in the Martian atmosphere and its significance regarding the possibility of there being living matter on Mars, and the further significance of such life indicating the possible existence of advanced extra-solar civilisations.

* * *

In the *Sunday People*, August 15 it is disclosed that August Worner is bringing a private prosecution in West Germany against Karl Veit (publisher of *UFO Nachrichten*). He alleges that Karl is a spy for a Martian invasion fleet. The charge—Treason!

* * *

Finally, the *Edinburgh Evening News* of August 2 refers to the appearance of two large parallel furrows in a mountain valley above Nice, and the sighting by Mr James Watt and his family of Bonnyrigg, holidaying in Capiere, 25 miles from Nice at the time. They all saw 'a fairly round orange object larger than any jet' in the sky near the valley.

Books and Leaflets

Title	members	non-members <i>(all post free)</i>
Investigators Handbook	£2.00	£2.75
Guide to the UFO Phenomenon	45p	65p
The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra-terrestrial Spacecraft <i>David Viewing</i>	30p	50p
Investigation Procedures <i>Trevor Whitaker</i>	30p	50p
An Engineer's Look at UFO's <i>Leonard Cramp, ARAS, MSIA</i>	30p	50p
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Journals as available	35p	50p

(In some cases, only photocopies of Journals can be supplied, at cost, plus handling and P & P).

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Arnold West, Bufora Publications, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.

Personal Column

SKYWATCH UFO DETECTOR: Successful magnetic needle type detector incorporating latching circuit and audio alarm, battery operated. £9.00. Stamped Addressed Envelope for explanatory literature. Malcolm Jay, 102 Nelson Road, Chingford, E4 9AS.

(The use of the word 'successful' should not be taken to mean you will automatically see a UFO, but Malcolm's literature DOES quote names of purchasers who have—Ed.).

SKYWATCH CARAVAN, Warminster. It is regretted that this facility has been withdrawn from Autumn 1976, and will not be available in the future. A.W.

E & O E Dept. Ian Vinten wishes to point out that the area XZ has been omitted from pp 82/84 of the Investigators Handbook. He is RIC of the area which covers Somerset and West Wiltshire. **Barry King** has asked me to acknowledge that the Brownstown, Illinois UFO photograph in our May/June issue was provided by him. Barry has also pointed out the date should read 5.1.75 and not 5.1.76. The report 'Humanoids seen in Epping Forest' in our last issue, should have been credited to the **Essex UFO Study Group** to whom our apologies.

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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