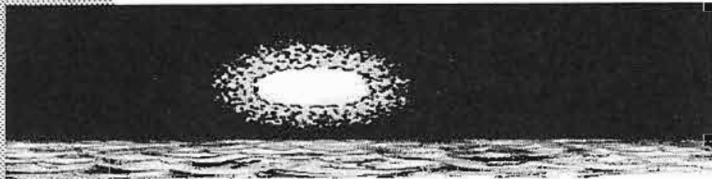


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UFOs: Examining THE EVIDENCE

The Proceedings of the
8th BUFORA International UFO
Congress



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The British UFO Research Association was founded in 1962 and currently has 1000 members in the UK and abroad. The investigation team comprises of over-120 field investigators. The aims of the Association are:- 1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of UFO phenomenon throughout the UK. 2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs. 3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the UK and co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

Membership to the Association is open to all who support the above aims.

Contacts

BUFORA Central Office

1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW tel: 01924 444049

Investigations

Philip Mantle (address/tel no as above)

Research

Steve Gamble (address/tel no as above)
Email: bufora@stairway.co.uk

Publications

Mike Wootten (address as above)
tel: 01352 732473
Email: mike.wootten@pandorasbox.org.uk

Inter-Group Liaison

Phillip Walton
22 West Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1RF
Mobile: 0956 569101

Newsclipping Archive

Michael Hudson
71 Knight Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8PY



President Major Sir Patrick Wall MC VRD RM (rtd)
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Chairman John Spencer
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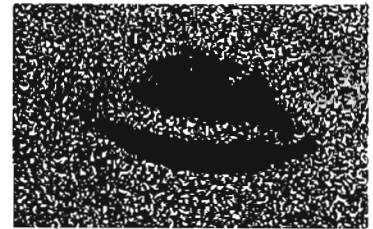
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Editor *Mike Wootten*
Assistant Editors *Ken Phillips*
Marion Sunderland
Artist *Simon Waller*
Production *Mike Wootten*

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UFOs: Examining THE EVIDENCE

"The biggest and best UFO conference of '95"



Profile

Walter H. Andrus, jr.

As one of the founding members of MUFON in 1969, Walter H. Andrus, Jr., has been the International Director of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., since 1970, succeeding Dr. Allen R. Utke. He has served on the staff of *Skylook* and the *MUFON UFO Journal*, starting in 1968. Walt is presently the Associate Editor. He has been the Editor or Coeditor of the annual *MUFON International UFO Symposium Proceedings* since 1972.

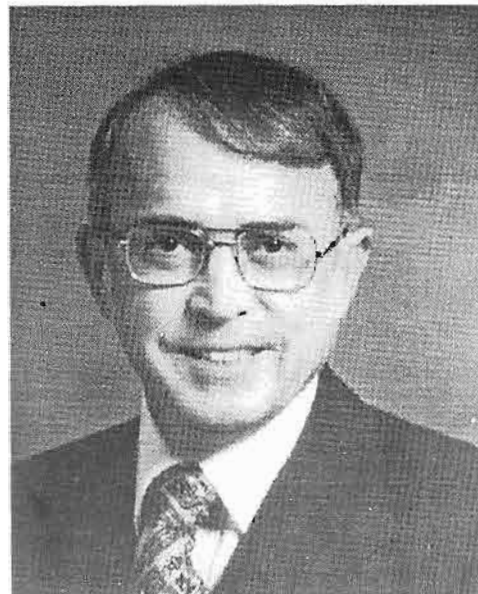
Born in Des Moines, Iowa (1920), Mr. Andrus is a graduate of Roosevelt High School (1938) and graduated from the Central Technical Institute in Kansas City, Missouri (1940). He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Electronics Technician Program during World War II and taught in both of the above schools.

Walt was formerly employed by Mid-Continent Airlines as a station manager in Quincy, Illinois. From 1949 to 1975, Mr. Andrus was employed by Motorola, Inc. in successive capacities as Assistant Plant Manager, Manager of Quality Control, and Operations Manager in their Quincy, Ill. facility. In 1975, he transferred to the Seguin, Texas plant as Production Manager. After a tenure of 34 years with Motorola, Walt retired at the end of 1982 to devote full time to the management of the Mutual UFO Network. Even though being retired, he continues to provide ESD consulting services to the Motorola Seguin Plant.

The MUFON administrative offices were moved from Quincy, Ill. to Seguin, Tex. in 1975 where MUFON became a Texas Nonprofit Corporation and an I.R.S. Tax Exempt Organisation. Walt and his wife Jeanne are the proud grandparents of two lovely granddaughters, Chelsea and Natalie, both residing in Chicago, Ill., and a great grandson, Derek Nickolas Guillen. Chelsea is a post doctorate candidate in Psychology at Loyola University and Natalie is employed as an analyst with the mutual funds publishing firm of Morningstar. Walt and Jeanne's son, Donald and daughter-in-law Mary Lynn now live in San Antonio, Tex.

Mr. Andrus has been interested in the UFO phenomenon since August 15, 1948, when he, his wife, and son had a daylight sighting of four UFOs flying in formation over downtown Phoenix, Ariz. An amateur radio operator since 1939, Walt's present call letters are WSVRN. He obtained a private pilot's license in 1947. In addition to presenting slide-illustrated lectures in the U.S.A., Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, Italy, and Mexico, he has appeared on national television numerous times, however more recently with Oprah Winfrey, Larry King, and "Encounters."

Walt is Vice Chairman of the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR) with headquarters in London, England, a member of the Board of Directors of the Joint USA-CIS Aerial Anomaly Foundation and a board member of the CUFOS-FUFOR-MUFON coalition of the Bigalow Foundation.



Introduction

John Spencer
Chairman, BUFORA

Welcome to the 1995 International UFO Congress

BUFORA has a long tradition of staging successful, wide-ranging and thought-provoking congresses. The 1995 event is certain to be the best of the best.

Delegates are flying in from all around the world; Africa, the former Soviet Union, America, Europe and the United States. They bring with them their perspective which will show, as it always does, that UFO research is a truly global undertaking, though one that has fascinating regional characteristics as well.

In some aspects, UFO research has come a long way since Arnold's 1947 sighting that 'defined' UFOs as 'things in the skies'. We now examine a wide-ranging set of experiences; objects and light, abductions, cult-belief, memory-definition, trauma, and so on. There are those who believe that the boundaries of UFO research have in fact widened too far, but that is the reality of the subject as it stands today.

We also study a wide range of theories, serious UFO researchers having made a stand against the ETH being of necessity the *only* explanation for *all* events. Nevertheless the ETH is the subject's - and the media's - firm favourite as has been shown by the intense speculations that have arisen from the 'Roswell autopsy' film that we propose to show at the Congress. It is controversial, but so is the subject. BUFORA is proud to be putting this highly emotive film before the UFO specialists and the general public.

We stress, of course, as we have always stressed, that BUFORA holds no corporate view on the film or any other aspect of UFO research. We believe we must be a broad church that allows researchers from all viewpoints to work with us. We are proud of having widely different views within the membership and Council of BUFORA.

And like all membership-driven associations we need a constant inflow of new members and new ideas to keep the work driving forwards. If you would like to join BUFORA please complete an application form that can be obtained at the Congress, or speak to any of the Congress administration during the event.

I hope you enjoy the Congress and find it stimulating. And I hope your further association with BUFORA will be equally so.



Scottish Ufology and New Horizons

Malcolm Robinson

Strange Phenomena Investigations

It was 7.20 pm on the evening of October 27th 1992 as the Forsyth family car was travelling on a short journey to Stirling from Denny. Patrick Forsyth had made this journey many times before, and his two young sons, Barry (11) and David (6) sit quietly in the back discussing the school activities of a few hours earlier. It's dark, and the road is fairly quiet. Suddenly, a vision unfolds to Patrick as he notices that up ahead a strange aerial device is hovering motionless above the surface of the road.

"This is strange," he thinks to himself, "what on Earth is going on here?" Not wanting to alarm his two young sons, he says nothing at this point, hoping that whatever it is, it will have went away by the time he reaches it in his car. However, his fear remains, for as he drives ever closer to this object, he observes that, whatever it is, it's certainly not going to move. He also observes that this object does not conform to any aircraft or helicopter he has ever seen before.

Seconds later, and Patrick finds himself only a few yards from the object. He calls out to his sons in the back - now accepting that whatever the object is, it isn't going to go away - "Boys, can you see this?" "Yes," they replied in unison, "What is it?" Before Patrick could give an answer, this black, 2-tiered object with small green lights moving around its underside, was obscured by a sudden and instant 'fog bank', or what at least 'appeared' to be a 'fog bank', which stretched from one side of the road to the other.

Patrick quickly applied the brakes and slew the car through this rectangular 'fog bank', which was not puffy or misty like fog, but rather as if one had placed a large sheet of white cardboard across the surface of the

road. As he ground to a halt, he noticed another car up front - which had been further up the road during his approach to this object - almost crash into the side of the road as it too went through this 'instant fog bank.'

Thankfully, Patrick and his two sons were safe. He quickly looked up into the dark night sky and observed that this strange wingless object was gone. His son, Barry, said that he looked out of the rear window and saw the object shooting across the sky at an incredible rate in the direction of Grangemouth, a town a few miles to the west.

This was but one in an incredible series of UFO sightings in and around the town of Bonnybridge in Stirlingshire, Central Scotland, that SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) investigated, and which began during the month of November 1992 and lasted until September 1993 (Indeed, the sightings are still ongoing, albeit to a smaller degree). Ever since the famous Livingston Incident of November 9th 1979, Scotland has seen a steady increase in UFO sightings. Prior to the Livingston Incident, which I'll relate shortly, I investigated a huge wave of UFO sightings in and around the town of Moffat in the region of Dumfries and Galloway back in 1980-81.

Many strange aerial devices were reported in this region by many different people. A multiple witness case with photographs emerged which, to this day, has never been satisfactorily explained; although a colleague of mine, a Mr. Stuart Campbell, seems to think that the object caught by the camera (a grey coloured object moving slowly in the sky), was in fact a mirage of a distant mountain top; a view I certainly don't concur with.

Malcolm Robinson

Born in May 1957, Malcolm Robinson first became actively involved with UFO and paranormal research in 1979, joining the now since disbanded Scottish UFO Network (SUFON). He also joined BUFORA, and in late 1979, formed his own research group, Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI).

He is currently the Scottish representative of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the Chief UFO Investigator in Scotland for BUFORA. He also edits the Scottish UFO and paranormal journal, ENIGMAS, which has subscribers in the UK, Norway, Germany, USA, France, Australia, Belgium and Russia.

Articles written by Robinson have appeared in the *Psychic News*, *The Missing Link* (USA), *UFO Brigantia* and various other UFO and paranormal publications. He has also assisted the *People Newspaper*, *The Scottish Daily Record*, *The Scottish Sunday Mail*, *The Scottish Sunday Post*, *The News of the World*, *The Scotsman* and various other major and local newspapers in regards to stories/articles on UFOs and the paranormal.

Travelling extensively throughout the UK on research projects, he has lectured to various organisations throughout Scotland. He has also assisted, and taken part in, BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio Moray Firth and Central F.M. Radio broadcasts.

His television work has included appearances on Scottish TV's 'Scottish Women', BBC Reporting Scotland News, S.T.V.'s Scotland Today News, American TV's 'Sightings' programme, a Japanese UFO documentary. He was interviewed 'live' at the GMTV studios in London by both Lorraine Kelly and Eamonn Holmes in regards to a ghost case that SPI had been working on.

Mr Robinson's daily working job is for United Glass in Alloa, where I am a product checker.

His goal in life is to continue researching cases pertaining to the strange world of UFOs and the paranormal, and to hopefully provide some sort of answer to account for, what at present, eludes us.

Strange Phenomena Investigations can be contacted at:

41 The Braes, Tullibody,
Clackmannanshire,
Scotland, FK10 2TT



A repeater witness (one who claims to see UFOs regularly), a Mrs Joyce Byres, discussed with me of her many night time observations of small silver-ball-shaped objects seen in the sky making incredible manoeuvres as they swooped down from the sky towards the ground.

Some of Joyce's more alarming UFO sightings were of one particular object which she fondly called "Big Bertha". A large oval-shaped object which featured a structured appendage attached to its rear which, when seen, made a noise similar in sound to a waterfall.

Some nights, she sat for hours watching from her bedroom window as this strange aerial show unfolded before her eyes. Joyce wasn't alone in her UFO observations, as many other people attested to her sightings. Although, as is usual, some UFO sightings turned out to have natural explanations, this particular region, Dumfries and Galloway, did at that point in time, see quite a lot of UFO activity which, for the moment at least, has appeared to have died down.

In 1982, I was again on the trail of UFOs, this time in another, what we ufologists call 'Window Areas,' that is, an area which receives a high concentration of UFO reports. This time, the locality was Central Scotland; Denny to be precise. Little did I know it then, but 10 years later, I would be back in this region conducting similar research. I spoke to another repeater witness, a Mrs. Elsie Beveridge, who claimed to have been observing UFOs on and off for roughly 18 months. Mrs. Beveridge, a pleasant, charming woman in her late forties, was not prone, I believed, to making up tall stories. Rather, she related in her own way her sightings of unusual shapes seen in the sky; shapes that have also been seen by her husband and daughter.

I learned that the first time Elsie had observed anything unusual in the sky was back in 1971 in Glasgow. Mrs. Beveridge and her daughter observed a silver domed-shaped object, which had been stationary for a matter of a few minutes, shoot suddenly up into the sky at an alarming rate. It wasn't until Elsie moved to Denny, a good while after staying in Glasgow, that she began to see UFOs more regularly. So regularly in fact, she kept a diary to document them all. Elsie told me, "I've seen dozens of

UFO 'Attack' At Livingston

Of course, the biggest event ever to have occurred in ufological terms in Scotland was, what has been termed, the 'Livingston Incident,' of which so much has been written about and, as such, I will only give the briefest of details here.

On the morning of November 9th 1979, forestry worker, Robert Taylor, entered Dechmont Woods near Livingston, Central Scotland, accompanied by his Irish Red Setter dog. Robert worked for the Livingston Forestry Department and was checking that no sheep or cattle had strayed into the woods. It was whilst doing this, that he encountered what he described as a 'spaceship' resting just above the grass. As he stood transfixed at this amazing scene, 2 small, and what resembled Second World War sea mines, rushed out from below this larger object and raced towards him. One of these small spheres extended its rod-like extension onto his trousers, pulling him forcibly in the direction of this large, round object with a flange going around its perimeter.

At this point, the shock was too much for Robert, and he passed out, but before he did so, he told me in an interview a few days later, he remembered a "swishing sound" like if one thrust a cane through the air. He also remembers a terrible acrid smell which he likened to burning car brake linings. Robert eventually regained consciousness and observed that the large object and the two smaller ones were gone, leaving many impressions in the grass. He then found that he had a terrific thirst and pounding headache. Robert eventually managed to stagger home and told his wife of his strange encounter in the Woods. A short while later, BUFORA, along with SPI, became involved, and the rest, as they say, is history.

We at SPI still have in our possession the actual trousers that Robert wore on that eventful day (which were on display at a UFO Museum in London in July 1993). SPI felt that this major case, the biggest in the annals of Scottish Ufology, deserved to be publicly recognised, and to this end, we commemorated the case in May 1992, with the assistance of the Livingston Development Corporation, by erecting at the site of this important event, a cairn with a worded plaque. A commemoration of a UFO sighting has never been done anywhere else in the world, and SPI is the first research group to commemorate such an event.

We decided to commemorate it purely to draw attention to how serious the UFO enigma is (wherever the true conclusion lies!), and in doing so, we hope we have drawn attention to the complex subject of UFO sightings and their effects on the watching witness.

strange craft in the skies; they range from dome shape to cigar shape. They have varied in size, and some have coloured lights on them. They can move very fast, or else just hover completely stationary as if they were watching or listening?"

Why do some people see UFOs more than other people? This has been a major talking point in UFO circles for a number of years now and many theories have been put forward. One such theory, and perhaps one in which I myself would tend to favour, is that certain UFO witnesses are, after researching their claims and discussing their experiences, are generally found to be psychic, and it is suggested that they may, therefore, see images that are lost to our own viewing spectrum. They may, in certain conditions, get a glimpse into a different reality to view objects operating on a different wavelength. Speculation, sure: but something we should at least consider. The Denny UFO Window Area was interesting and little did I know it then, I would be

back 10 years later researching the same area all over again, this time with different witnesses.

Since 1979, I have researched a number of UFO reports within Scotland; too many to go into this short article. Some cases that stick in my mind are the following: We hypnotically regressed a Glasgow man, due to his constant fears of 'alien intrusion' into his life. He lost his wife and job through the pressure of his experiences of UFOs and aliens. Under regression, he recounted being on board a UFO in which he found himself rigidly fixed to a raised bed-like table in a circular room devoid of any furnishings/equipment of any kind. In front of him was a huge TV-like screen which was showing pictures of Planet Earth from space, and huge mushroom-type explosions rising up from its surface. He then recalls being terrified of huge, slanted, staring, 'yellow eyes.' He remembers very little else about this episode, and in our last meeting, still told of being troubled by these

recollections.

Another area which seems to attract strange lights in the sky is near the village of Muchalls, which lies in between the towns of Stonehaven and Aberdeen on the North-Easterly side of Scotland. Tom Allen, the principal witness regarding these sightings, tells of viewing strange lights in the sky stretching back to when he was a boy growing up in the area. Now this area does see a fair bit of air traffic, particularly helicopters excursions over the North Sea to ferry persons to and from the oil rigs. But the UFOs that Tom has witnessed (he assures us) are not helicopters or aircraft. Tom has actually filmed on video these strange lights, some of which, it must be said, are similar to those lights/UFOs seen in the video, 'Messengers of Destiny,' which details UFO sightings over Mexico City. SPI are still currently working on the Muchalls UFO sightings, and we hope to continue filming these objects which will, hopefully, provide an answer, or, at least, go towards providing some form of conclusion as to what exactly these balls of light are. Paul Devereux's 'Earth Lights' maybe? Something akin to those mysterious lights seen in Hessdalen in Norway, who knows?

This brings me to the wave of UFO sightings around the town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, Central Scotland., which more or less started in November 1992 when many locals observed strange balls of light and 'structured objects' in the sky above their town. A local councillor, Billy Buchanan, collected these early reports, whereby soon after I became involved. Both Billy and I soon realised that, here in Bonnybridge, something truly unusual was going on.

After being featured in the local press, I was swamped by people telephoning me to relate their own personal UFO experience. Beginning our research, we soon uncovered the fact that 'some' of these UFO sightings had natural, down-to-earth explanations, i.e., aircraft etc., but this still left a high residue of unexplainable reports which demanded an answer; there clearly was a 'case to be answered.'

Close proximity UFO sightings were made. One witness claims to have seen a strange craft hovering above a field (similar, it must be said, to a UFO that repeater witness, Joyce Byres of

Moffat, had seen some 10 years previously!). The witness described the object as having the sound similar to that of a washing machine on its final spin (a fast humming sound). The object departed seconds later and was soon lost to view. Another witness has a large unidentified object pass above his car near Bonnybridge, and which featured a 'crucifix pattern of lights' on its underside. The sightings continued, and one family was terrorised on a lonely country road by a bright object which flew above their heads, then landed in a nearby field.

The family, a mother, daughter and son, took to their heels, and upon doing so, turned round to notice that the large ball of light, which had landed in a nearby field, had now moved and positioned itself in the centre of the road. Further along the road, the family claim to have been 'blinded' by a burst of brilliant light which shone forth from a group of trees. This particular sighting has gained the most publicity when the media descended on Bonnybridge.

The sightings continued and were brought to the attention of one, Junichi Yaoi, a UFO researcher from Japan who produces UFO documentaries. Junichi and his film crew visited Bonnybridge in May 1993 on a whistle-stop tour of the world's UFO 'hot-spots'. He told SPI, "I have heard so much about these Bonnybridge UFOs from English researcher, Tony Dodd, that we just had to come over and see for ourselves." Sadly, they never saw anything themselves, but what they did do was to interview several witnesses to the UFO phenomena around Bonnybridge. Junichi and his assistant, Mitchi Nakamura, were clearly satisfied that 'something' very peculiar was going on above the town of Bonnybridge.

Not since the Livingston Incident of 1979 has Scotland experienced such a public awareness of UFO sightings. The Scottish Media was alive with UFO reports. Patrick Forsyth, whose account opened this article, will certainly never forget what he saw; the vision is still imprinted firmly upon his mind.

The UFO challenge is still with us. It's like the proverbial carrot dangling in front of the donkey; we see something tangible, but are still trying to grasp what appears to be forever out of

reach. This UFO subject is as elusive as it's ever been, and although it appears that there are different components which could make up the full UFO picture, these components are themselves not providing us with any clear-cut clues. The E.T. Hypothesis may be favoured in the US, but across the 'Pond' in the U.K., we see it differently.

Why have we not any cases of small, grey 'beings' being reported here? A few, yes, but nothing like the wealth of sightings reported from the US.

This UFO business is complex and is fraught with absurdities, and we researchers are forever being kept on our toes as to what might happen next. Scotland, like anywhere else, has its UFO problem; we are no nearer a solution now than we were 40-odd years ago.

The UFO phenomenon won't go away, neither will its investigators, and until such times as we listen to one another and share in one another's views, ideas and speculations, then perhaps we might begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel. But as it is right now, I personally believe that whatever the UFO phenomenon is, it's certainly not prepared to give up its secrets yet. The continuation of abduction reports, cattle mutilations, etc., seems pointless and begs the answer, "Why?" Why continue: ain't you got enough genetic information?

I've been researching this subject for only a short while now (around 15 years), and in that time, the subject has become deeper and more complex. The ufological 'zoo' of different opinionated people, which has at times dragged us through the quagmire, the New Age ufology is becoming more and more like a religion to some who see it as a hollow to be filled in in their lives. The UFOs are our saviours, the 'New Gods' if you like (as a Glasgow rock group sing about). All this has been said before, but I hope that when silence finally wakes up to the UFO problem, then, and only then, will we begin to see new horizons which may effectively lead us into a new understanding, of not only ourselves, but the universe around us - here's hoping anyway.

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Double Moons - And Other Recent Phenomena over Denmark

Per Anderson

Chairman, Scandinavian UFO Information

Double Moons

During the months of October and November 1993 several witnesses called SUFOI (Scandinavian UFO Information) concerning some very unusual sightings of the moon and a moon image close to the true moon. In total 5 sightings have been investigated by SUFOI:

Around September 1, 1993: Walking from the train station, the female witness observed a moon and an image of the moon. Both were identical in color, but the image was more blurred and the light dimmer. The moon was full and the distance between the moon and the image was just 75 % of the moon diameter.

October 19, 1993, 17.15-18.00: Four witnesses looked at the setting moon in open air when they saw a second moon close to and right for the real moon.

October 22, 1993, 21.00: An observer from Fredensborg saw a double moon through the window. She thought at first it was a reflection in the glass and went out on the terrace, but the double moon was still there. At this time the moon was only about a half-moon. To the right of the real moon there was an identical picture of the moon, only the fake moon was not so clear, weaker in light and more cloudy than the real moon. The distance between the two moons was 75 % of the moon diameter.

October 27, 1993, 00.00-01.00: A 67 year old housewife looked out the window where she saw a full moon in western direction. The unusual thing though was that a little to the left of the moon was something like a shadow of the moon. At first the witness thought it could be a reflection in the window and she therefore went outside to have a closer look. But it was not a reflection in the window, as the double moon was still there. The

"fake" moon overlapped the real moon a little and this was a little more grey in light. The witness spoke with two other people who also had seen the unusual double moon. Distance between moons: 85 % of the moon diameter.

October 27, 1993, 01.00-01.30: A person in observed a double moon, where the fake moon was a little oval, but clearly defined. In this case the fake moon was apparently to the right of the real moon.

Lack of similar sightings

It is noteworthy, that no know literature seems to have described similar sightings. While numerous double images of suns and moons are documented, none have been described that are as close as one moon diameter apart. The closest is an observation of "extra edges" on the moon. Again a phenomenon somewhat different from what is described here.

Standard text books in this field published by Minnaert (The Nature of Light & Color in the Open Air), Corliss (various books) and Menzel (books giving meteorological explanations on UFO sightings) does not have any similar sightings. Meteorologists, that SUFOI has contacted, do not know of this phenomenon either.

The sightings occurred in a period with high air pressure. From the middle of October, the pressure increased and this resulted in lower temperatures and dry weather. From October 12th, the average temperature dropped from a level above 10° C to a level around 5° C. In general, the wind had low speeds at the times of the sightings.

Theories

SUFOI has investigated, how these observations of double moons can fit into the theories of reflection/

Per Anderson

Per Andersen has a Master degree in Computer Science from the University of Aarhus (1983). European Research Director for International Data Corporation (IDC) which carries out IT market research.

He has been involved with UFO research in Denmark since 1976 where he joined Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI). Since then he has taken various positions within the organisation, including Research Director and Vice-chairman 1979-1986 and 1991-1993, as well as Chairman from 1993.

As a research director, Per has been responsible for a wide range of research projects in Denmark. These have included:

- * Project Double Moon to investigate sightings of a secondary moon image during October of 1993.
- * Project UFODATA that initiated registration and computer analysis of Danish UFO/IFO sightings.
- * Development of a new Report Form suite to be used in field investigations.
- * Statistical projects to analyze UFO and IFO reports.
- * Project Prometheus, a survey to analyze the typical profile of a ufologist.
- * Project Scientist, a survey to measure and analyze the attitudes of Danish scientists to the UFO phenomena.

Per Andersen was the Danish representative in ICUR and he is on the board of the Danish Fund for UFO Research.

He has published various articles in UFO-Nyt, SUFOI Newsletter, UFO Forskning, and Skeptica. Books and reports:

Dobbeltmåner (1995)
Dansk UFO-litteratur 1950-1990 (1991)
Bibliografi over Dansk UFO-litteratur (1986)
Projekt UFODATA Kodevejledning (1984)
Cheops, Pi og Talmanipulationer (1982)
Håndbog for Rapportoptagere (1981)
Projekt UFODATA (1979)
Tidsloven (1978)
LU78 (1978)



refraction of light in ice crystals and/or layers of inversion in the atmosphere - the latter being a transition of air from cold air and warmer air above this. Both types of phenomena is known to result in strange aerial phenomena, in particular reflections/refraction of light from the Sun or the Moon.

While these theories do not match the sightings 100 %, the most probably explanation is the reflection/refraction of light in ice crystals in the atmosphere. This is supported by the fact, that the times of the sightings correlates to the times during the month of October, where conditions resulting in ice crystals were found.

The fact, that the image seemed to be an exact copy of the Moon indicates a reflection of light rather than a refraction.

However, the issue that is most difficult to explain by the theory of reflection is the very small angle between the Moon and the image of the Moon (less than 1 degree). This can then actually be explained by the theory of refraction of the light, if one assumes that the light passed ice needles with an horizontal orientation in the atmosphere. No spectral light, though, was observed, which is normal in the case of refraction.

In any case are these sightings of "double moons" another example of the fact, that nature by itself creates a wide variety of spectacular phenomena - of which many is still not

fully investigated and documented.

Sightings from the North Sea

The above sightings of "double moons" actually surfaced following media exposure of some quite different sightings from the North Sea:

It is wednesday October 20th 1993 and the time is 4.50 a.m. Danish Mean Time. The weather observer on the production platform Tyra East is outside to study the cloud cover. A procedure which is repeated evert quarter of an hour. Just over the platform the weather observer sees a round and orange-lumious phenomenon, which is only a few degrees west of the zenith. The phenomenon seems to have diffuse edges and the size is about "half" a full moon. (But it can not have been the moon as it had not risen at this time).

As the weather observer cannot give an immediate natural explanation for this, he contacts Denmark's Meteorological Office (DMI), which asks him to contact the Naval Operative Command (SOK), who then ask him to contact SUFOI's Alarm Centre.

At 5.30 a.m. the weather observer phones SUFOI Alarm Centre and gives a short description of the phenomenon, which can still be seen.

Not only on Tyra East can the orange

light be observed. On the Gormfelt (which is about 18 km. south of Tyra East) two crane drivers also see a similar phenomenon near the zenith. But contrary to the weather observer on Tyra East, they not only see one, but two phenomena close to each other.

Finally the phenomenon is also seen from two ships, which lie close to Tyra East. On board one of the ships try to photograph the phenomenon, but unfortunately there is too much movement of the ship, so one cannot photograph it.

Several times a cloud slides in front of the phenomenon, which then disappears. In the beginning of the sightings the sky is clouded by 2/8 to 3/8 clouds. But gradually the cloud cover concentrates and finally the orange light disappears completely behind the clouds. At this time the hour is 6.10 a.m., and all together the phenomenon could be observed at least for 60 minutes.

Investigation

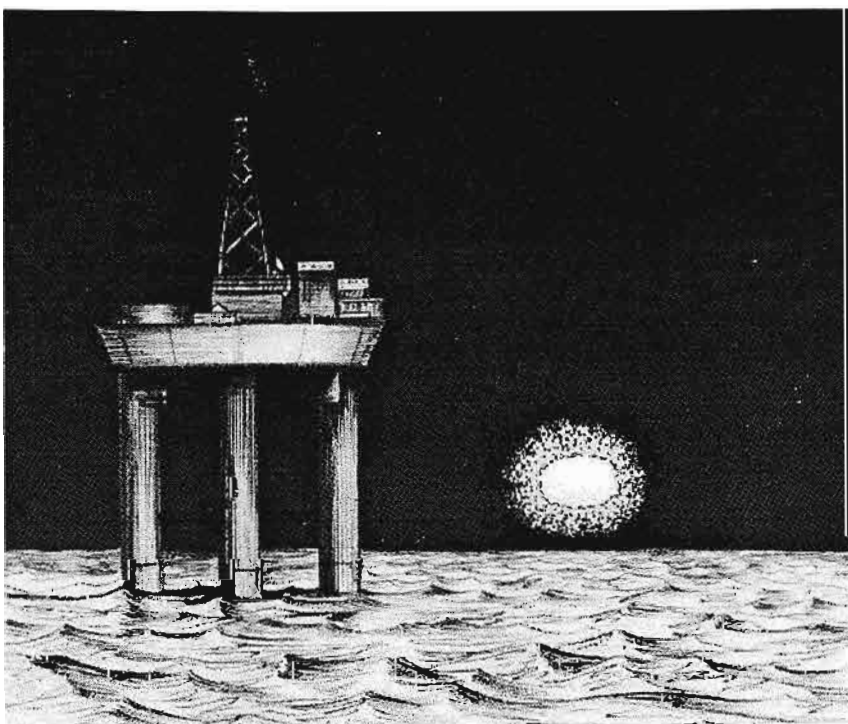
It was first thought, that the phenomenon could have been a chemical cloud lit by the sun - emitted in connection with a space experiment. To receive confirmation or invalidation of this theory, the European Space Organisation ESOC was contacted. There they stated, that to their knowledge no chemical experiment had been carried out in the sky above the North Sea at the time of the observation mentioned.

SUFOI also contacted the NASA, and here received the same negative answer.

If one compares this information with the fact that chemical clouds normally can be seen for maximally 20-30 minutes, it seems certain that it cannot have been chemical clouds.

If the phenomenon was not a chemical cloud, what was it? The most standard explanations (like strong lights from stars, planets satellites etc.) could be excluded. There remained only few possibilities, for example luminous night clouds. Luminous night clouds are to be seen, when clouds of particles high up in the atmosphere are lit by the sun's rays and therewith can be seen at night.

However, in connection with further research it was proved that luminous



night clouds could be excluded. Several facts speak against this theory: They are seen in the summer time, they are always seen relatively low on the horizon in the direction of the sun, and they carry out a distinct motion in the course of only 5-10 minutes.

Several possibilities for a natural explanation were examined, but without luck. At the end, it looked like we were faced with a phenomenon, which we could explain.

The phenomenon is seen again

On Thursday morning November 25th 1993 the phenomenon was observed again from Tyra East! Both with connection to form, colour and position on the sky the new observation was identical with the first observation. The only difference was, that this time not one light could be seen but several close to each other.

All seems to point to the assumption that it was the same phenomenon which was seen on October 20th and again November 25th (only a little over a month after the first observation).

Therefore, we began to investigate the theory, that the phenomenon could be a form of atmospheric reflection of light from the well known flares on oil platform. This was confirmed by the witnesses and is now regarded as the final conclusion of the sightings.

Car Stop Near Viborg

This episode took place in October 1976, but has first reached SUFOI in the beginning of 1994. A man in Stoholm had received a UFO-Nyt subscription as a Christmas present and wrote to SUFOI about an unusual meteorological observation, which he had himself. Apart from that he wrote that a good colleague of him recently told him about an old, exciting case, and that SUFOI could contact the person in question. Therefore SUFOI visited the witness (K) one sunny day in February, a 47-year old woman, who wishes to remain anonymous.

K. recounts: "The time is approx. 8.p.m and we are on our way to have evening coffee with some of our relatives. It is dark and slightly rainy weather and we are driving under the Nybro which is situated between

Ravnstrup and Sparkær. When we had passed through the bridge, we can see four sharp lights over an area which is at a distance of about 15 metres from the road. When we reached the spot, a swampy area, the car simply stops and the light of the car goes out.

Of course we try to start the car again. We are not happy about the situation. This is not something we have seen before. In the car are my pen-friend from South Africa and my former husband, and I am sitting on that side where the lights are, the side face the moor. We sat and talked about what to do. None of us is eager to get out of the car, therefore we stayed in the car. But I rolled down the window to listen whether there would be any sound, but there is none, none whatsoever. There are only the four lights, and they are sharper than any searchlight.

The lights shine down in the moor. All four lights are directed directly down. We are sitting, as mentioned, talking about what it could be, and we are not happy about the situation, I have to admit. I believe we were sitting there about a quarter of an hour.

Above the lights are nothing. And there are no small lights. We can not see a black object or anything else. We are talking of it possibly being a helicopter or something like that, but in that case there would be sounds. An how far these lights are up, I can not say, and I can't remember either. But after this quarter of an hour, all these four lights are drawn upwards in something, they are not simply switched off - they are being drawn up into something, and then there was no more. Then the light on our car went on, nothing else happens, so we can start our car and drive away.

When we got home I phoned the police in Viborg to enquire what we should do. They advised me to phone Karup (Meteorological Station). So I phoned them. I asked whether there had been planes or helicopters or anything else in the area but there had been none of these things. And then they said they would examine it, but I never heard from them again."

Investigation

When SUFOI and K visited the sighting area, K pointed out the place where the car had stopped involuntarily, without any doubt. She

repeated part of the story, and SUFOI took a few photos of the area. We noticed that K was not quite at ease at being at that area again. We asked her how she was. As an answer she asked me to touch her sweaty hands, and she also said she had "goose-pimples" over her whole body.

There were four houses to be seen from the road, and even if it was only a slim chance, SUFOI wanted to examine whether there was someone of those people living there, who could tell anything interesting about the case. However, none of the residents could add anything to the case.

As the case is 18 years old, it is in reality impossible to examine in detail. In SUFOI we can register the report with as many details as possible - and of course have it confirmed by K's former husband (we have done that) and also the pen-friend from South Africa.

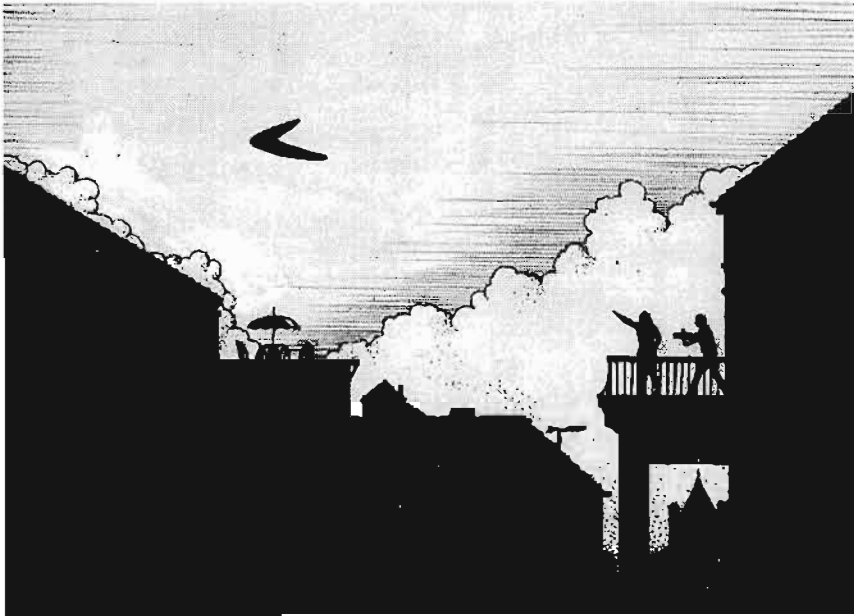
Apart from that, we can evaluate the witness and her ability to describe and remember the details of the experience. It is our clear impression, that what K is telling, is truly something she has experienced. Of course one can have forgotten some important details after 18 years, however, we have the impression that the experience is clear in K's memory.

As the observation is described, e.g. the lights seen down below the horizon, that there was no sound, the witness' credibility and also that there were four witnesses in all - we cannot come up with any natural explanation for the phenomenon seen. The matter is unexplained.

Boomerang UFO Photographed over Central Copenhagen

A female student explains, that she Saturday, May 25, 1994 around 11 am looked through the window in the bathroom of her flat in central Copenhagen. She then witnessed a strange phenomenon that looked like a black "boomerang". It moved towards West in the direction like an arrow.

She ran to her boyfriend, and they both saw the object continue its movement to the West in a straight line. The boyfriend took his camera and took two photos of the strange object. After 4-5 minutes the object



disappeared in the horizon. No sound was heard.

SUFOI is currently examining the photos. They appear to be genuine, and until now no explanation has been found to the sighting.

Mystery of a dead cow - was a UFO involved?

On wednesday morning, november 4th, 1992, at 1.30 p.m. there came a call on the phone:

"I have seen a strange light, probably a UFO. It was yesterday, november 3rd, 1992, at 4.30 a.m. I live on a farm near Rude Strand. I was asleep, but was awakened by a strange sound. cannot tell you what it sounded like, but it sounded alarming. Shortly afterwards I could hear one of my calves roar down in the field.

I got up and looked through the window which faces north. There I could see over my stables a very strong white concentrated light. Almost like a sheet of light, which covered about an area of 100 - 200 square metres. The building, as well as some trees were lit. I watched it for about half a minute, but when nothing further happened and as I was very tired, I went to bed again.

The next morning at about 8.30 a.m. I went down to the field and saw that one of my cows lying dead in the field. It had been bleeding from mouth and nose and had scratched the ground. My first reaction was anger at the loss of a cow, but suddenly I realized that the cow was lying precisely in that

place where I had seen the strange light.

During the day I thought about this and had the dead cow taken away. They fetched it here this morning. But it was then that I started thinking about UFOs and that I once had heard about SUFOI (Scandinavian UFO Information). Well, I know this sounds a little strange, but that is what I thought. Is this of interest for SUFOI?"

This was an interesting report and several questions arose, but mainly, what about the cow? Could it be still possible to have a p.m. done on it? This was the only immediate trail to follow. The observer (S) who wished to remain anonymous thought that it was probably too late since it had been fetched and brought to an institution for destruction. But our conversation had made an impression on the observer, who was also interested in getting an explanation, both on the light and the reason for the cow's death.

Post Mortem

Half an hour passed after the first telephone conversation, when S phoned again. "Now I have found out where the cow is!" he told me proudly. He went on: "I phoned the firm and found out which lorry had fetched the cow and got their car telephone number. I rang that number and told the driver about the matter. He was willing to identify the cow and tied a notice on the cow that it should go to a p.m. He easily identified the cow from my description. It had broken a horn. So now it will be sent for a p.m."

Unfortunately a few days passed before a veterinary examined the cow, not particularly co-operative or ready to speak about it.

The p.m. report was very short. It stated:

- Cow, red flecked, 3½ years old
- Reported by telephone - cow lay in the field, dead.
- P.M. findings: A weak heart was found.
- Left horn was broken off.
- A urine test showed lack of magnesium.

Death reason: lack of magnesium

According to the veterinary's examinations the cow then died of lack of magnesium - a natural reason of death for cows at that time of year, thanks to dampness and cold.

The farmer informed us that his cows have received magnesium for the last five years and that the particular cow had nothing wrong with her. The cow was then burned right after the p.m.

SUFOI then talked to Lars Thomas, who is known from TV and articles in UFO-nytt. He informed us that cows can get digestion problems, if the ground or grass is too sour. This can develop into hidden sickness, which can result in that the cow cannot take in the necessary vitamins and other things (e.g. magnesium). In this case it only helps to move the animals if serious consequences are to be avoided.

There are several other unanswered questions which we will never get an answer to, but we can state that the farmer has reported a strange light phenomenon, which SUFOI so far has not been able to explain.

SUFOI has spoken to several neighbours, but no-one has seen or heard anything that night at about 4.30 a.m. We have no other observations from others for the same time. But we do have from the days around november 3rd, five others observations in the area. Some of them have not been explained.

SUFOI does not think there is any basis/proof for a connection between the cow's death and the strange light. But we have not been able to give an explanation for the light, the farmer saw.

Ufology and the Information Technology of the '90s

The Italian Case

(including a short overview about the photographic evidence)

Maurizio Verga

The early American UFO buffs of the late '40s thought to have collected an outstanding amount of documentation when having a bunch of newspaper clippings in their own hands. They could have hardly imagined the huge quantity of material about their beloved topic available from all over the world after nearly fifty years.

"Available" is not a correct word, as no present single researcher or private association has enough money and facilities to get and store a complete or really comprehensive selection of international books, magazines, newspaper clippings, reports and whatever else published about the UFO argument. Even worse, the documentation managed by each single buff is so bulky that it is really difficult and costly to arrange an exchange of material with somebody else. Information transfer by using traditional media such as printed paper has become a problem since a lot of time: the situation will become more and more difficult in the near future, producing a huge bottleneck in the development of new well-documented research works.

A commonplace example: let's think to an American researcher having a catalogue of close encounter cases and willing to supply it to an European colleague under the form of a collection of text documents and images. First of all, a lot of time and money are necessary to copy all that stuff in a not too good quality, then more time and money is requested to prepare a parcel and mail it. The material will arrive at destination after some time, yet when it will be in the hands of the researcher there are other problems. The way to manage all that amount of information will be quite limited and always very time-consuming: actually, all operations aimed at extracting only some information on the ground of search requests or alternative use of the available documents will be limited by the paper nature of information. Such a situation is one of the causes of the low number of real well-documented research works carried out within the UFO movement.

Information as Evidence

Just as in all the other knowledge fields, information is the basic element. Six years ago, speaking at

Maurizio Verga

Maurizio Verga was born in 1963. He is currently a computer consultant in the field of textile Computer Aided Design, having special knowledges in computer graphics-related topics.

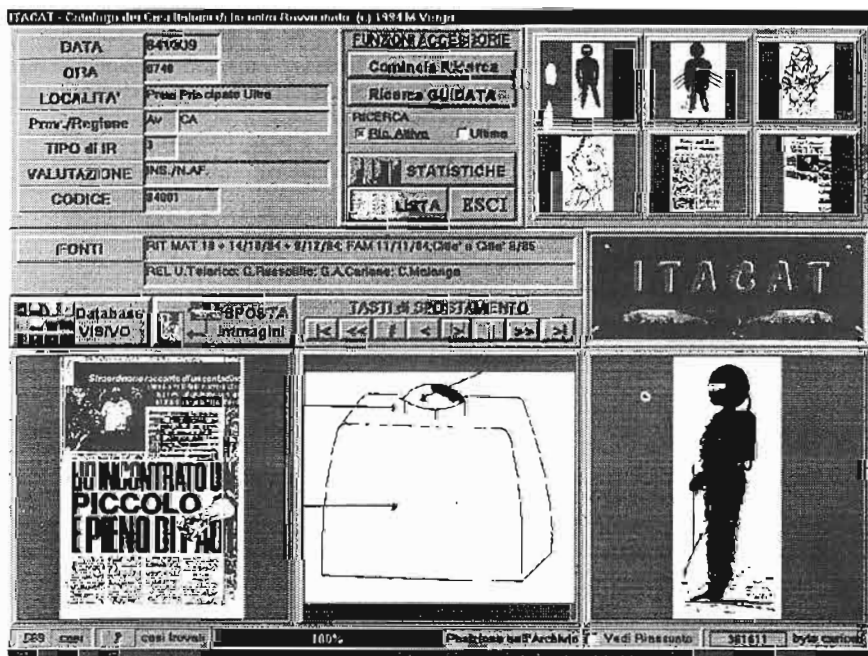
His activity in ufology started around 1976, soon producing an outstanding quantity of studies, papers and articles, several of them published practically on most international and Italian UFO magazines. In 1985 he co-founded with other leading Italian ufologist the Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU), Italy's largest UFO association. Besides lecturing, he is also often requested for interviews on newspapers and TV channels. National and international activity joins involvement with investigation of local UFO cases, including some CE 3.

He is the author of some huge catalogues of Italian cases: ITACAT (close encounters), TRACAT (trace cases) and PHOTOCAT (photo cases). The first two have been published by Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici. Since 1985 he has been very much interested in computer applications to UFO research, running in 1986 the very first European UFO Bulletin Board System. Editor of "The Computer UFO Newsletter", he is currently one of the world leading experts in the computer processing of UFO information. He has collected a huge amount of files about the matter and written original software or adapted existing one just to manage it. A CD-ROM including a remarkable quantity of images, texts and other UFO-related stuff is expected to be released in late 1995/early 1996.

Verga has been a contributing author to the following anthologies:

- UFO 1947-1987 (edited by H.Evans & J.Spencer)
- Phenomenon (edited by J.Spencer)
- OVNI: vers une anthropologie d'un mythe contemporain (edited by T.Pinvidic).

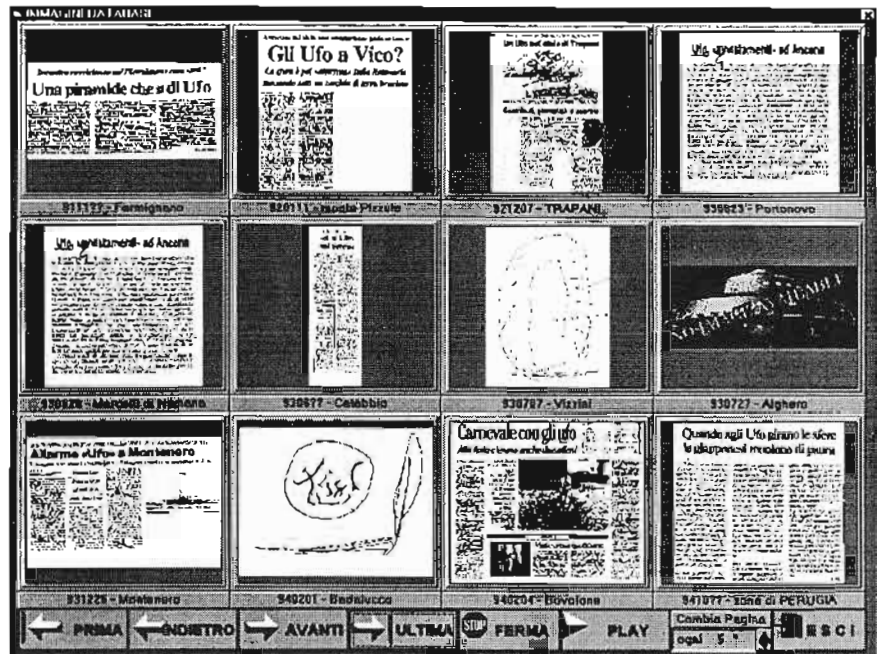
Maurizio Verga may be contacted at:
via Matteotti 85, 22072 Cemenate (Co), ITALY
Maurizio_Verga@msn.com



the 1989 BUFORA Congress, I discussed the problem of information quality taking the Italian UFO sightings (and especially the close encounters) as a landmark. The conclusion stated that the available sources about most sightings had (and regrettably still have) a very low quality: fortunately, the situation is getting better, even though quite slowly. This is one of the main reasons making difficult a scientific-style approach to the UFO question and keeping professional scientists away from dealing with the subject.

Despite the low quality, we have to take the quantitative aspect of the UFO phenomenon into consideration as well. It definitely has a remarkable importance for historical, cultural, social and, last but not least, bibliographic reasons. It is enough to think to studies like those devoted to the press coverage about the UFO subject or to the evolution of imagery of "flying saucers" and related "occupants" to realize immediately how important the availability and quick management of the information are, of any nature it could be.

As a remark of great importance one may state that available information about the UFO subject can be actually considered a real evidence of the phenomenon, likely the only one that cannot be questioned. "Information" means everything produced about sightings and, as a consequence, their study, including the huge artistic and news production from the mass-media. If a historical presence, just having size and time constancy like that one the UFOs had throughout the last fifty years, do exist, it is by itself the undeniable proof of the presence of a big phenomenon, at least at social level. In such a way, nobody may deny the existence of a "UFO question", anyway appearing much more complex than a phenomenon produced by purely cultural or psychologic causes. Something we still are not able to define has aroused, directly or indirectly, a huge quantity of worldwide sightings of unusual aerial phenomena and, as a consequence, further news and cultural influence. We face a situation where current information give birth to new information, following a sort of an autofeeding process. Somebody could wonder information (here meant as cultural background) were directly responsible for new sightings or only the end product of an independent phenomenon: the answer is one of



the main questions of UFO research and unfortunately it seems still quite far from being found.

The historical presence of UFOs in our society is immediately evident through the information being collected from the most different sources: press, literature, movies, television, art, the same UFO buffs. Often it is an indirect information (for example: that coming from science fiction movies or comics), yet it had a great role in the deep diffusion of the UFO concept among people.

Beyond any discussion and controversy about the true value to give to special evidences like alleged photographs and ground traces, the real proof in the hands of UFO researchers is made just by the information present in our society and, especially, in the information collected by the same researchers. Apart from its own quality, it is the real basic starting point for any analysis of the whole question.

One of the major tasks of UFO groups and researchers is the collection and preservation of such huge quantity of material, which has reached a critical mass so that its management and use have become very difficult since a lot of time. Tens if not hundreds of kilos of paper are buried and forgotten in any archive of groups or single researchers everywhere in the world: only in a few rare cases such archives have been methodically classified by hand in order to allow an easier search. Yet even in such a case the possibilities to manage the collected material are quite limited, subjected to

several mistakes and requesting a lot of time that could be used in other more profitable ways. More, a paper-based archive features a danger not to be underestimated: it is vulnerable to the aging and other factors and the risk to have it lost is higher than one usually think. The newsclipping example is meaningful: the tens of thousands of newsclippings collected by each national organisation as a basic starting point for a country-based analysis of the UFO phenomenon are currently filed in traditional folders and cabinets, yet they have no practical possibility to be run. Think just to the time needed to extract all the 1950 cases involving daylight discs where the word "flying saucer" is reported. On the contrary, computer technology could allow us to scan newsclippings with an excellent quality and associate to each of them a given quantity of reference data: then, nearly in real time, it would be possible to find all the newsclippings related to cases matching our searching criteria.

The present situation may be illustrated as follows: we have a remarkable quantity of information which cannot be exploited at their best and made available to research as a meaningful evidence. The main problem is not the presence of documentation, yet its management and common availability. As a result, ufologists have become mainly collectors of news related to an odd phenomenon. Being a collector is an extremely interesting hobby, yet I suppose real UFO researchers would like to do something different from

heaping up case reports, articles, books, magazines, etc

It is clear to everybody it is no longer possible to work properly and efficiently in the collection, classification and delivery of UFO information. We face the same situation when dealing with material taken from the scientific literature and possibly interesting for our research: also in such a case, the quantity of information is so huge that advanced browsing and search tools are really necessary.

Starting around the mid '80s, the personal computer has become more and more popular in the consumer market. Just that time, there have been the early ufologists attempts to use such a new device to carry out an in-house management of available information. Previous works aimed at the establishment of international UFO sighting databases on mainframe computers (available part-time only) failed soon: one of the reasons of that had been the intrinsic difficulties associated with the circulation of information inside the UFO movement. The situation has now changed so much that one may estimate over one quarter of researchers having a personal computer and likely being able to contribute to the electronic archiving and management of UFO-related documents.

Some groups and individuals promoted interesting projects about catalogues of national or international sightings (for example: SWECAT which includes about 12,000 Scandinavian cases collected by the Swedish group AFU, MEXCAT and FOTOCAT from the group editing the mexican magazine "Perspectivas Ufologicas", the nice international database of over 10,000 UFO sightings developed by Larry Hatch Software in America, etc ...) or devoted to special cases (such as the important "Project Becassine" run by the French researcher Denys Breyse, who has patiently collected thousands of close encounters of the third kind events all around the world). Even being quite rare, such projects are clear examples of how it is possible to manage reference data of UFO sightings and quickly put them at disposal of other researchers. Despite the fact these are computer-based catalogues featuring a quite limited amount of data, their contribution to the management and quick retrieving

of information evidence is not negligible.

Unfortunately, well planned and organized projects for archiving and storing of generic or special UFO information are still very few. The reasons of such a situation may be mainly found in both a limited availability of suitable hardware/software tools and a lack of ideas about what one could actually do. More, because of the amateurish feature of the UFO movement, all the projects are spontaneous, as well as hardly coordinated and coordinable. Once again, the limit of having easily and quickly available information is another negative factor decreasing the value of such works: none of them actually offer a complete review and analysis of the related UFO sightings and reports really known. For example, you have a research study about EM effects associated to UFO phenomena and you realize at once the cases taken into consideration are old, poor referenced or even mostly coming from a single country.

Computer and UFO Research

Possible applications of computer technologies to ufology are several, yet those we may actually consider realistic for the present situation of UFO movement are mainly related to digital information production and management of existing printed documents. Fulfillment of such a goal could soon deliver the availability of a huge amount of information being of great use for anybody going to carry out research works, including sophisticated statistical surveys that could be developed in very short

times. In such a way a very first basic result would be achieved: the systematic collection and prompt availability of the information evidence.

More advanced applications are nowadays technically possible, but beyond current resources of most UFO groups and buffs. An example is the use of 3D animation in order to simulate the dynamic of a sighting and carry out a series of controls on the witness' tale or the transformation of alleged UFO pictures into 3D models. Even though I and few other Italian researchers have been experimenting something in such fields, we must be patient: the future will offer us several surprises.

A personal computer with suitable components and a well-organized work plan is the perfect tool to store information in standard format. The concept of "standard" is extremely important: it may made available what has been produced by a single researcher to the whole UFO community, efficiently solving the communication problem. So it is necessary to follow a few simple rules when producing a text or catalogue or electronically archiving a given quantity of information. The priority goal is the easy availability of such computer-based documents, now and in the future, as present standards will be such throughout the next years as well. Such rules are really generic, because they want to be only a common minimum reference level to everybody interested in using the computer for UFO-related works. Last but not least, using these standards allows researchers to get rid easily of

Presentazione di UFO: Opera multimediale di Ufologia

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Desktop History

UFO
Opera Multimediale di Ufologia

An outstanding work, a real "must" for any serious ufologist and all UFO buffs willing to have a complete view about the UFO evidence

"UFO" is a huge collection of programs and files (archives, text documents, images, music, etc ...) offering a full view about the whole UFO question: nearly 2,000 images make it an incredible visual gallery of alleged UFO pictures, UFO-related artworks and a lot of other iconography. Most of the stuff included comes from the Italian scene, offering - for the very first time - a summarized but complete documentation about all the most important Italian UFO sightings.

ITACAT

INFORMATION, KEY OF UFOLOGISTS' WORK

- Available information about UFOs are too much.
- Their quality is generally low or even very low.
- Anyway, it is necessary to deal with them, also for studies where information reliability is not basic.
- Paper-based documents are becoming more and more difficult (and costly) to manage.

problems concerning the data transfer between two different computers (PC and Mac, for example).

These formats refer to standards in data storage rather than in data structure. Their use will definitely deliver great benefits to UFO research in the near future. Anyway, there are some other problems related to the data typology to be discussed and which suggestions of solution should be spread among ufologists. An example: unfortunately, there is no set of internationally common "recommendations" for the definition of a minimum set of data to be used for the electronic filing of sighting cases. A possible suggestion could be that one reported in the next slide. Making it known to people involved in UFO research it could be possible to start a common discussion and achieve a set of "recommendations" to be used as guidelines for all people using the computer for their works. The most direct result would be an important correspondence among the data included in the sighting catalogues (today they are often completely incompatible) and the possibility to establish quickly huge international catalogues on which to carry out first level statistical analyses.

Ufology goes Online

Among the most interesting tools devoted to the spreading of information among ufologists and UFO buffs there are the BBSs and INTERNET. A Bulletin Board System usually is an amateurish system allowing the exchange of electronic mail messages and downloading or uploading of text files or software

through the normal phone cables. The system is really fast and cheap, so that an Australian ufologist may let his British colleagues know about a local sighting the very same day by a simple local phone call, even sending a complete report of the sighting itself. The service is generally free and it already allows you to be update nearly in real time about the international scene, thanks to a network of ufologists based in different countries.

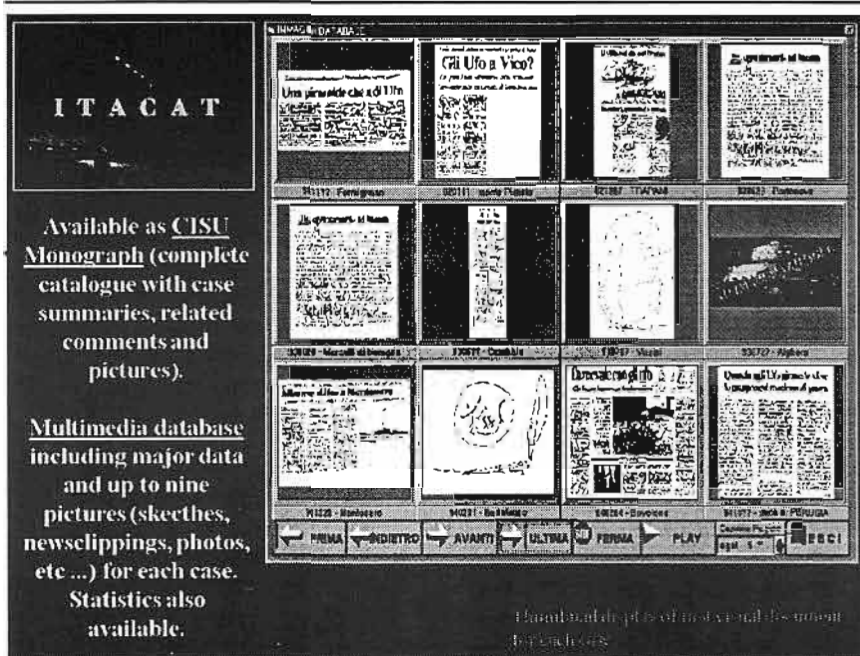
The very first BBSs completely devoted to ufology were born around the mid '80s in the United States, yet in 1986 an experimental BBS was started in Italy by myself. These simple on-line service have limited resources, but they contributed to make available to everybody a large quantity of UFO information: unfortunately, the quality of such information has never been really good because of the quite low number of serious researchers owning a computer with a BBS connection. In 1995 the largest UFO BBS are two and both based in the United States: MUFONET and PARANET. They are based on a real network of tens of satellite systems located in different states of the USA and in other countries, including several in Europe. Both offer a huge quantity of information about various topics, such as recent sightings, articles, news of topicality, discussions, UFO publications, etc, all of them accessible by free (but the phone bill !). They may be considered a real mine of documents of any kind and a great communication tool, still used only in part: anyway, it is likely it will become more and more important for

the UFO movement in a not too distant future.

Also commercial on-line services like Compuserve and America On-Line have special forums open to all subscribers where they can discuss about topics related to UFOs and UFO research. Text files and images are often available by downloading: among them you can find the electronic version of UFO newsletters like "The Swamp Gas Journal" and "The Desert Rat". The moderators of such forums are UFO buffs or researchers, who must manage a high traffic of questions and answers, as frequent or occasional visitors of these forums may be counted in terms of thousands. A new even bigger on-line service is just starting: it is called "The Microsoft Network" and it is expected to have hundreds of thousands if not millions of users in a quite short time. There is already an "Alien Encounters Forum" where, besides a mailing list, it is possible to receive nice multimedia presentations of special UFO topics, plus text and image files.

It is clear that communication and information distribution will come more and more from huge on-line services accessible by computer to millions of people all over the world. They can be an outstanding tool of divulgation for subjects like ufology. Besides offering serious documents able to educate people to the real aspects of the UFO question, they can be really helpful in collecting first-hand reports or information of new sightings.

Anyway, the real communication system phenomenon is the even too much emphasized INTERNET, a huge planetary network of computer networks able to offer an incredible quantity of information covering practically any kind of human activity. By a computer, a modem and a subscription to a service provider one can connect immediately such an outstanding resource of knowledge, accessing mailing lists and forums of discussions among users located in different continents or databases including data, text documents and images of possible use for UFO research. Most of the information are now available in a very simple and intuitive way, through the so-called World Wide Web (WWW) sites: it is enough to know how to use a computer mouse and follow the directions you see on your monitor, then you'll be able to look up or



Available as **CISU Monograph** (complete catalogue with case summaries, related comments and pictures).

Multimedia database including major data and up to nine pictures (sketches, newspaper clippings, photos, etc ...) for each case.

Statistics also available.

download on your own computer the information you better like.

UFO buffs are always very active and have soon joined the huge possibilities offered by INTERNET, now estimated having about 35 millions of connected users. Some services offering UFO-related information are currently available and among them:

- ### the WWW sites
- ### the Newsgroups
- ### the FTP sites for file downloading
- ### E-Mail and Mailing Lists

The WWW sites (also known as World Wide Web) are services run on computers always connected to the network offering graphic pages including information under the form of text and images or even music and videoclips. They are graphically designed through a visual interface usually very attractive. Such pages are hypertext documents, because selecting words or images marked in a special way one can jump to other pages presenting information related to those mark-ups.

For example, if in the WWW pages portrayed in the slide you click on "CISU Publications", a new page will appear on the computer monitor: it offers a description of the magazines and books published by the Italian Center for UFO Studies, including the covers of some of them. Other hypertext links allows to leave this page and jump to others and so on. The concept of "hypertext" is very simple but very powerful: it delivers the possibility to navigate quickly

through a huge quantity of information in a logic and well-organized way, exploiting a tree-structure that you can follow sequentially or by jumps. Access to these WWW sites is generally free and visitors may download text files (documents, articles, listings, etc ...) or images (designs, photos, etc ...), storing them on their computers: after ending the connection, they are able to read them with enough calm, without any problem with the phone bill. Several WWW sites concerning UFOs are already available on several servers, but usually the quality of information you can find over there is not very good. Anyway, the situation is changing thanks to the more and more frequent involvement of serious researchers now approaching INTERNET. New groups and associations have born just around the network, among people having the same interest for UFOs and computers: an example is the INTERNET UFO GROUP (IUFOG), a small American group managing a WWW site.

The newsgroups are special areas entirely devoted to the exchange of messages related to a given subject. Since some time, INTERNET offers some of them completely devoted to ufology, UFO sightings, abductions and other fringe topics: you may even find a newsgroup for CSICOP-like skeptics ! Despite being quite generic in their approach, such discussions often offer some interesting material and, anyway, are an excellent way to spread news and information. A special interest comes from newsgroups devoted to scientific

disciplines such as meteorology and psychology, where you may find as well as from the newsgroups devoted to subjects having some sort of possible connection with ufology (for example, fortaean subjects and urban legends).

Quite similar to the newsgroups, the mailing lists are public exchanges of e-mail messages managed by a computer named "server" and filtered by a moderator. Even here, among a lot of messages and documents of poor quality, there is sometimes some interesting stuff. For example, during the last months there have been several messages devoted to the footage of the so-called Roswell autopsy and it has been really very funny to know the many rumours circulating about the matter. This may be well considered one of the negative aspects of the ease of circulation of uncontrolled information supplied by INTERNET.

Finally, the FTP sites are computers anybody can connect through the network where there are files of different kinds (documents, programs, images, etc ...) that can be freely downloaded. As regards UFOs, as far as we know there aren't large archives of really interesting material yet, but the situation will definitely change in the future. Collaboration among UFO groups and researchers is still necessary in order to amass their available material (previously stored in digital form) in sites like FTPs where it can be freely retrieved by everybody.

The Italian Example

Unfortunately, UFO research and study activity carried out in Italy is very badly known abroad, mainly due to the language barrier preventing a quick diffusion of the documents. The same problem produced a very imprecise knowledge of the national sightings, where international researchers could actually find a lot of very interesting cases. The very few "classic" events often published in books and magazines are usually full of mistakes if not completely wrong. This is another typical problem of the transmission of information, a problem very common in the past activity of ufologists which now can be solved for its most part, thanks to new computer-based technologies.

It is likely a surprise for many UFO researchers to get acquainted with the

quantity and quality of finished and in-progress Italian projects. It is even a bigger surprise to know most projects are currently carried out by computers and Italian ufologists have been pioneers, together with their American colleagues, in the massive use of the personal computer to run their activities.

Between 1984 and 1985 the very first database programs have been developed on the small Commodore 64 home computer to store and manage generic Italian sightings and special collections of cases. Thanks to the popularity of such a machine, several UFO buffs contributed locally to the collection of all known Italian UFO sightings, soon making available a sample in excess of 9,000 events ranging between 1900 and 1990. Still around the mid '80s there have been the early experiments with software devoted to the automatic presentation of text and graphics about UFOs, ufology, classic sightings and results of UFO research, successfully presented in conjunction with several conferences and shows. In 1986 the very first European BBS completely devoted to UFOs was established and run by myself for more than two years and then disbanded due to personal issues. A new BBS, named "U-Link", was established in 1989 in Rome and it is still active. Between 1988 and 1992 about eight issues of a bulletin completely devoted to the computer applications to UFO research, "The Computer UFO Newsletter", have been published as an early experiment to spread and promote the subject, completely unknown to most UFO buffs. Circulation was quite limited and the reaction from the UFO

movement was quite cool, likely because ahead of the times.

The use of computers is now normal in the activity of most Italian ufologists, so much that three quarters of the material currently produced by the Italian Center for UFO Studies is available as files for MS-DOS personal computers or Macs. A large percentage of exchanges of material (articles, papers, images, letters, etc) takes place by floppy disks, saving money, time and adding a higher flexibility in the management of such information.

Among the works and research projects based on computer facilities, some of them are worth to be introduced as meaningful examples of Italian ufologists activities. Most of these projects have been carried out on behalf of the Italian Center for UFO Studies, the leader organization as regards quantity and quality of produced information and services. Besides promoting the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon, CISU aims at the spreading of information and development/support of research activities, fields where computer facilities may deliver an outstanding help.

ITACAT and TRACAT

A project for the collection of Italian close encounter cases was started in 1977, in order to have a comprehensive well-organized catalogue of all the events of such a kind. In 1985 the project went on computers and since then it has been managed on a database. The Italian Center for UFO Studies published a

first 260-page version of the commented catalogue in 1989 and a new revised illustrated version is scheduled for late 1995.

This huge work offers a collection of nearly 600 close encounters taken place in Italy between 1912 and 1995. Each case is stored in a database program with its basic data, plus up to nine images related to newspaper clippings, sketches, photographs, etc, as well as the full abstract of the event. The researcher having access to the database may display all of these documents together, besides being able to perform any kind of query on the available data. For example, to find all cases happened during the 1978 wave, in December, in Sicily and involving "occupants" is only a matter of one or two seconds.

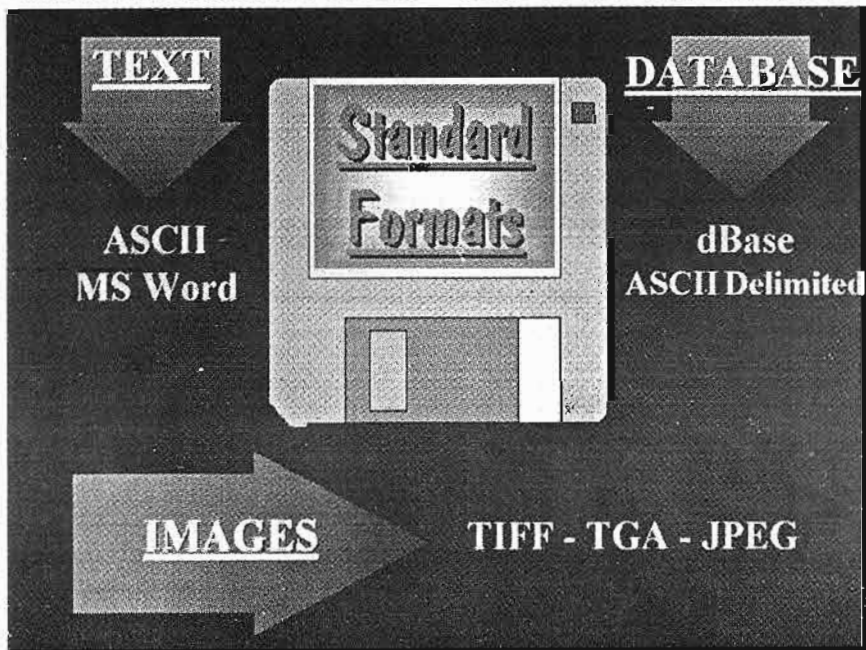
TRACAT is the Italian Catalogue of ground trace cases: started in 1982, it has been published in several different editions, the last one by the Italian Center for UFO Studies, including pictures of traces and detailed comments for each event. The catalogue has now more than 240 entries and it is fully managed on a computer database like the ITACAT one, with photos and sketches when available.

Basic data coming from both ITACAT and TRACAT have been used to process and plot some preliminary statistical graphs. More extensive statistics on a selected range of solid cases will be carried out in the future through sophisticated computer programs.

PHOTOCAT and the Question of Photographic Evidence

PHOTOCAT is the Italian Catalogue of cases with photo or video evidence. Before describing the work behind such a catalogue, it is more convenient to introduce shortly the question of photo evidence.

Thousands of pictures of alleged UFO phenomena have been offered to the general public and UFO buffs as a proof of the physical reality of what has been called "flying saucer" for a long time. Photographs emerged in the early days of the UFO era, in the United States of July 1947, producing a lot of debate at once. Faking a picture, especially in a situation where more blurred details in the image oddly mean more mystery, has been a quite simple art. It was a good way to



foul friends or journalists, as well as an interesting business for those "skilled" guys who have been selling hoaxed UFO pictures to newspapers or magazines or gullible guys eager to see a "real spaceship".

Most UFO researchers consider photographic evidence nothing but a very suspicious aspect of UFO related stories, something like a side-effect of the deeply rooted myth associated to them. Pictures are too easy to be faked to be considered a valuable "proof". All of us have experienced terrible situations, where pictures have been declared "genuine" and "really portraying a puzzling unknown object" and later found more or less complex hoaxes. Some UFO buffs tried to defend clearly faked pictures just in order to have something concrete in their hands able to demonstrate the physical reality of "flying saucers", so to show that they were not nuts. This attitude has been common throughout the whole history of the UFO movement (suffice to think to the highly controversial Gulf Breeze saga), involving also other individuals. The famous Italian case of Mr. Giampiero Monguzzi (a man willing to become a journalist who presented a series of astonishing photos portraying a classic domed saucer landed on a mountain landscape, with a strange astronaut-like figure next to it) is a clear example: the photographer confessed the hoax to a magazine, also showing the original models, yet somebody argued he had been forced to deny the reality of his encounter with an "alien spacecraft".

Many contactees, since the pioneer G. Adamski, showed several photos as "proof" of their wonderful experience with outer space beings: visual evidence has always been one of the most convincing easy-to-be-made tools to make people believed about the reality of their contacts. Unfortunately, nearly all of the pictures supplied by these folkloristic people have turned into hoaxes or look highly suspicious. Other people and journalists have been responsible for photographic tricks produced in order to get publicity, sell the photos or get a "scoop" useful to increase newspapers or magazines circulation. As far as I know no project devoted to a comprehensive collection of photographic evidence cases has never been accomplished, even on national scale. Something seems to have changed during the very last two years, but no real work has been

produced yet with the honorable exception of a Mexican project headed by the staff of the magazine "Perspectivas Ufologicas". It is highly recommended to national UFO associations or active researchers to start a well-organized project aimed at the comprehensive collection of the valuable video-photographic evidence of their own country, possibly making use of computer technology. International catalogues¹ or books^{2,3} devoted to alleged UFO pictures, including "Los OVNIS y la evidencia fotografica" published in 1978 by two Argentinian researchers about a study on UFO pictures and some South and North American cases, have been produced in the past yet these works may be considered far from being complete and, anyway, never updated. Several thousands of pictures should be available all around the world. Archiving of such evidence would be very interesting for two reasons at least:

- a visual collection of directly UFO-related imagery
- an in-depth analysis of the features of such documents, the motifs present in them and the reciprocal influence with the UFO myth.

In 1991 I started a new project within the Italian Center for UFO Studies, fully devoted to the collection of all Italian photo and video documents portraying alleged unusual aerial phenomena. All available material was randomly distributed among private archives, magazines, loose newscippings and often still in the hands of the witnesses themselves. Besides collecting such a material, the problem about how to manage such a mass of documents emerged. Main goal of the project was and still is the establishment of a comprehensive catalogue of photos and videos including their reference data: this is a very first step of a more ambitious work about an in-depth survey of collected evidence under different viewpoints (image patterns,

motif patterns, computer image analyses, comparison between faked pictures and "genuine" ones, reasons of forging, etc). To carry out project's first goal the use of computer technology has been taken into consideration in order to reduce times and allow a more flexible access and distribution of available data.

At time of this writing about 600 cases have been filed in the database and more or less the same number of images has been acquired by scanner, mostly in grey levels. About 70% of the cases has one image at least, even though sometimes coming from low-quality sources like magazines or newspapers. It is expected to increase such a figure to 75-80% at most when the collection project will be really over: it is practically impossible to have access to some original sources, while others don't carry the related pictures at all. The accumulated photographic evidence from Italy now counts in excess of 80 Megabytes of TIFF images, also available in a highly compressed JPEG format.

Besides collecting pictures of alleged UFO sightings, PHOTOCAT features a sub-catalogue where fakes, conventional phenomena and strange-looking photographic effects produced by camera (ie.: lens flares) or development defects have been stored as well. This is an interesting collection of items to be used as a reference sample against the "real" PHOTOCAT catalogue, in order to compare the two sets in search of possible different patterns. At first glance, alleged photos and recognized fakes don't show any evident difference, yet such a matter will be carefully approached by a future advanced research activity.

PHOTOCAT may well be considered the starting point of further more interesting research projects, including photo analyses. Of course such a task requires first generation pictures at least and excellent scanners featuring high or very high optical resolutions: this means that pictures originally stored into the database have to be scanned again. Professional colour scanners and image processing software are required, as well as a quite powerful hardware configuration: what is even more important is a good knowledge of photographic parameters/rules and optics. Without experience in such fields, evaluation and interpretation of

¹ Delair J.B., Cox E. & Twine R. (1975-1978) "A provisional catalogue of UFO photographs" UFO REGISTER Vol. 6, n° 2 + Vol. 7 n° 2 + Vol. 8 n° 2

² Stevens W. & Roberts A. (1985-86) "UFO Photographs around the World" Vol. 1 & Vol. 2, UFO Photo Archives

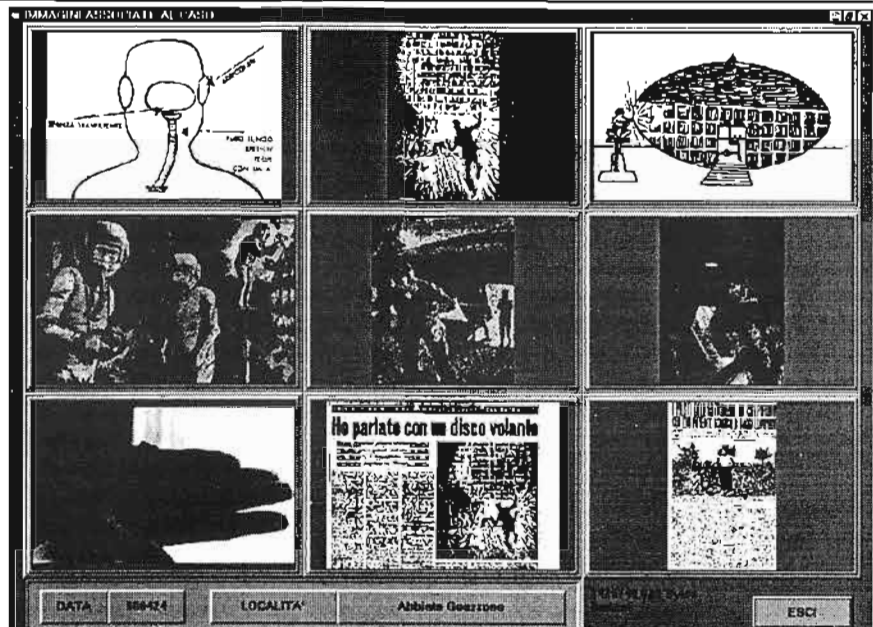
³ Fusco S. & De Turris S. (1975) "Obbiettivo sugli UFO - Fotostoria dei dischi volanti", Edizioni Mediterranee, Italy

results from a computer-based image analysis would be really limited if not meaningless. It is not enough to carry out seemingly attractive image enhancements or filtering, supplying a different, much more "technological", view of the original picture able to wonder enthusiast people. Computer aided image processing must be coupled with rigorous interpretation of the results, otherwise the whole work could be practically valueless. I have personally experienced that computer technology may fail in finding the clues of a faked pictures, such as a thread sustaining a UFO model, even when the thread was actually there ! Several factors must be considered when examing a photo evidence and evaluation of results must be cautious: the absence of a thread, I repeat, doesn't mean necessarily that the picture is not faked. A thorough investigation about a single photographic case takes a lot of time and money, also due to the many different information to be collected and evaluated. Anyway, Italian photo evidence is available to anybody interested in developing a cross-analysis about the best pictures⁴.

I have already carried out a quite extensive survey about a two-photo set taken at Battipaglia (Salerno, Southern Italy) on April 9, 1992⁵, also producing a 20 colour slide collection showing different steps of the analysis, together with related pictures and detailed comments. Results pointed out several doubts about the reliability of the sighting's tale and the real features of the portrayed object: final conclusions, also supported by independent analysis carried out by American researcher Jeff Sainio, refer to the possibility of a model shot next to the camera. This may be well defined the very first in-depth analysis of an alleged UFO picture carried out in Italy by local researchers. Two other colour pictures, reportedly taken in Sicily in January 1995 by two different

⁴ International groups or researchers interested in knowing more about PHOTOCAT and exchanging photographs or videos may write to this author: Maurizio Verga, via Matteotti 85, 22072 Cernusco (Co), ITALY. Please state, if available, a fax number.

⁵ A metal-made looking object was seen to fly slowly over some buildings just in front of the witness' house (the mother of him stated to have seen the object before the son). The young man took two pictures, eight seconds one from the other, by an old Russian camera he had on a table. Then the object took off vertically at high speed.



guys, have been recently examined and one found to be faked: a cool thread was just on top of the domed saucer !

My personal recommendation to international researchers is the start up of a comprehensive collection of their country's alleged UFO photographs and videos. That's a valuable sample of UFO history which features a lot of now neglected information, as well as an outstanding gallery of visual wonders. Preservation of such an evidence, beyond its possible real value as "proof" of an original physical phenomenon, is a real must for any study group or single researcher⁶.

Other Computer-Based Projects

IMAGE BANK is a visual database of UFO-related artworks coming from different sources, something like BÜFORA Picture Library. Images have been scanned and stored in standard graphic format in order to be easily available for any kind of use. A short description for each of them allows quick searches. One of the main goals of such a collection is the future possibility to carry out a research work directed to the study of the evolution of the popular perception of UFOs through artworks and other artistic production. Several hundreds of colorful images are now available, offering an impressive illustrated history of UFO imagery.

⁶ This author is available to anybody interested in such a project for consulting or delivering of suitable information/material.

INTPHOTO is a worldwide database of alleged UFO pictures, now counting about 700 images available as standard digital files. As of the originals, their quality is not always good and most of them are clearly faked, but their value as visual documents, of the UFO myth rather than the UFO phenomenon, is exceptional. This kind of evidence may be studied not only through image processing software looking for possible clues of faking, but mainly as a survey about the evolution of shapes and portrayed UFO features throughout times, the motifs you may find in photos, the tricking techniques and the reasons of a so huge availability of documents from all over the world. INTPHOTO doesn't want to be a comprehensive international catalogue of alleged UFO pictures, at least for the time being: the evidence you may find in all over the world is so huge that a single researcher cannot afford such a task. Merging of different projects could be a reasonable solution.

Project "ITALIA 3" has been started in the early '80s by the CISU member Paolo Fiorino to collect all the Italian cases of close encounters of the third kind, including fringe events such as contactee cases, bedroom visitors, psychic contactism and strange creatures not directly associated to UFO phenomena. The collection is now in excess of 600 entries including the basic data and the original sources stored in a standard database format.

AIRCAT is a catalogue of the Italian sightings having civil or military pilots as witnesses. Managed by CISU

members Marco Orlandi and Renzo Cabassi, it now includes more than 120 cases currently stored into a standard database software for personal computer. Each entry offers several data, including a short description of the sighting.

Another interesting project where the computer plays a basic role is called "1978". It refers to the collection of the complete documentation related to UFO cases taken place in Italy and reported by the press during 1978, the year of the big wave. It is possible to estimate in 2,000 the number of sightings during that incredible year. The project also involves the collection of all the generic UFO-related newspaper clippings published by the Italian newspapers and magazines in 1978, just to be able to carry out an extensive analysis of the press coverage of that time and its bias on the development of the wave itself. A database program is used to store all the information about the collected newspaper clippings, including titles (a study about how journals presented the subject through titles has been planned and funny interesting results are expected) and a short sighting summary. Among the data included in each record there are some "keywords" taken from the text of the press articles, in order to carry out a preliminary experiment: to find possible language patterns in the journalists' treatment of the UFO subject and compare them with tales coming from UFO witnesses. In order to make the information evidence of the 1978 UFO wave even more complete, original newspaper clippings are being to be scanned and linked to each database record as image files.

When looking up the electronic archive, the researcher will be able to have access to all the record information, as well as to the readable image of the newspaper clipping itself. The same philosophy has been applied to another running Project called "Origins". It deals with an analysis of the press coverage during the early very interesting years of the "flying saucer" debate in Italy, namely between 1947 and 1952. Preliminary statistical results from the project are expected in the first quarter of 1996, together with the availability of the whole computer-based catalogue.

Scanning newspaper clippings, especially those directly related to UFO sightings, is becoming a regular activity in many CISU projects, including the maintenance of local sighting databases run by the representatives of the Center. The reference of the scanned newspaper clipping image is linked to each case, so that it could be displayed when accessing the case itself. This is a first step towards the availability of real multimedia UFO catalogues, where researchers can find different kinds of documents just at their fingertips.

Even though not very well known abroad, Italy offers a lot of examples of advanced use of new communication facilities applied to UFO research. As the American colleagues, Italian ufologists have established a UFO WWW site on INTERNET in Italian and English language, and a network of BBSs (Bulletin Board Systems) offering a large selection of UFO-related text files and images, as well as areas for

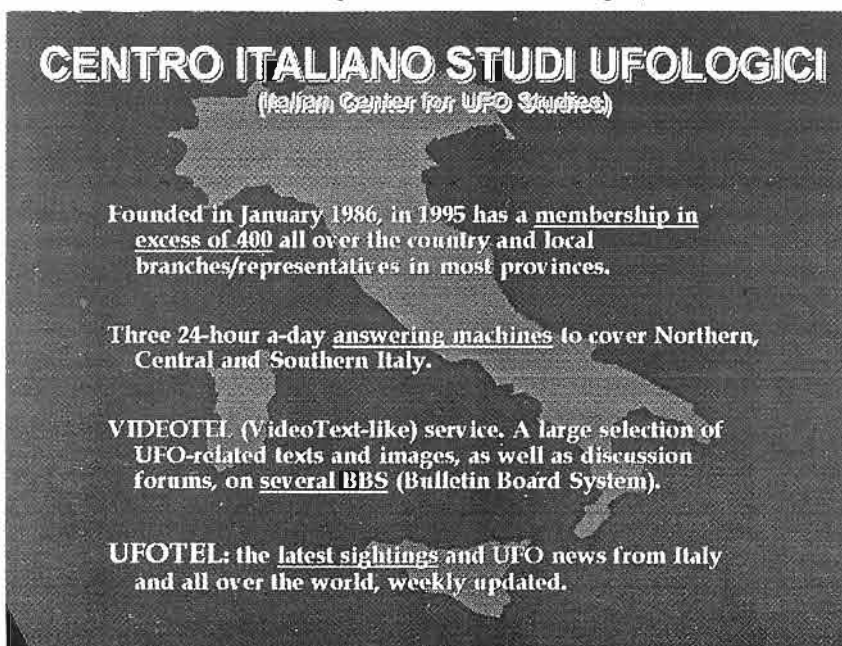
common discussion and presentation of the latest news and sightings. The network is called "UFONET" and counts more than a dozen of different sites all over Italy. The discussion forums have been visited by hundreds of people each month: one of the most direct benefits for CISU is the even more complete coverage of many areas of the country, so being able to get news about alleged sightings in a very short time. These and other kind of information (also coming from all over the world) are weekly offered to all UFO buffs and whoever interested in the subject through a phone service named "UFOTEL". Just paying for your phone call, you may listen to a three-minute report updating you about the latest news from the UFO scene. A similar service is also available through "Videotel", an on-line service run by Telecom Italy (similar to the well known French Minitel) you can connect through a special terminal supplied by the same company. CISU has also three 24-hour automatic answering machines in Northern, Central and Southern Italy to allow witnesses to report their own sightings, plus others locally.

Multimedia Catalogues

Another great application of current computer technology to the management of UFO information evidence comes from the development of easy-to-be-distributed multimedia catalogues.

Special catalogues of UFO events, such as ITACAT, TRACAT and PHOTOCAT, take a lot of physical space under the form of paper documents and related imagery. Of course, handling and distribution of such a huge mass of information is far from being easy and efficient. More, data exchange among researchers is always difficult, time-consuming and costly. Computer technologies, again, may offer interesting solutions through an affordable investment. Most database programs may now handle different kind of information: data, text, images, graphics and even sound and video. That is just the same kind of stuff researchers have to manage in their nuts and bolts archives.

The idea is to make all of this documentation directly available on a computer screen, where the user may decide what to see. Imagine to have a card (called "record" in computer



CENTRO ITALIANO STUDI UFOLOGICI
(Italian Center for UFO Studies)

Founded in January 1986, in 1995 has a membership in excess of 400 all over the country and local branches/representatives in most provinces.

Three 24-hour a-day answering machines to cover Northern, Central and Southern Italy.

VIDEOTELE (VideoText-like) service. A large selection of UFO-related texts and images, as well as discussion forums, on several BBS (Bulletin Board System).

UFOTELE: the latest sightings and UFO news from Italy and all over the world, weekly updated.

jargon) on the monitor for each reported sighting: all main data about the case are displayed, including original sources. More, you have references about different documents linked to that same case: newsclippings, witness' sketches of the reported phenomenon, an abstract of the report, photographs of the sighting environment or possible ground traces, etc ... Displaying these information on the screen is very simple: it is enough to point the mouse cursor on a suitable control button and click. You may imagine the noteworthy advantages coming from such a computer application: to have an on-line comprehensive documentation of each stored case on a cheap support, able to deliver great flexibility in data management. Other side benefits are preservation and easy duplication of the collected documentation, which digital nature may find further use for other projects.

An extension of the concept of a generic database software able to manage different kinds of documents is the development of a special UFO-oriented program. A brand new multimedia product will be soon released by myself as a first example of a new way to offer UFO information to all researchers and buffs. Available on floppy disk (limited edition) or CD-ROM, it delivers a professionally developed software running under Microsoft Windows on personal computers, featuring a very attractive and efficient user interface especially designed for such a task.

Three main catalogues of Italian UFO sightings are available through the product: ITACAT (close encounters), TRACAT (landing trace cases) and PHOTOCAT (photo cases). Each of them comes with an extensive set of highly defined pictures and sketches, besides all the main data and full abstracts with comments for most events. More, a general catalogue of Italian sightings (about 10,000) is included together with suitable software for browsing and queries: this allow the researcher to carry out easily any kind of search on the database. Among the other stuff included in such a huge work, there is IMAGEBANK (an international collection of UFO-related artworks and illustrations able to offer a first appreciation of artists' coverage about the theme of "flying saucers" throughout the years), INTPHOTO (a catalogue with hundreds of alleged UFO photos from all over the world), a

multimedia lecture with a few tens of colourful slides, a complete bibliography of Italian UFO books (including description and cover image of them), a complete presentation of the Italian Center for UFO Studies publications and a set of statistical graphs plotted on the ground of the data available through the included UFO sighting catalogue. Among the more than 350 Mbytes of material making the multimedia project, you may count nearly 2,000 images. Even though mostly related to the Italian scene, this work delivers a lot of material from everywhere in the world. Its new way to present and manage available information, makes it something quite different from the other two UFO CD-ROM now available on the market (others have been announced and will be available soon), namely Wendelle Stevens' "UFO - This Planet's most complete guide to close encounters" (published in 1994) and the interesting Stanton Friedman's "UFOs - The Real Story" (1995).

A Conclusion

... may refers to the awareness of having an incredible evidence in our hands, the UFO information, which is so huge we cannot manage it efficiently. This means that is not fully accessible to the scientific establishment and UFO researchers as well, reducing its outstanding value. Such an information is the real unquestionable evidence of the presence of something reported by millions of people around the world. We must not miss it.

Computer technologies may help us dramatically in making information easily and quickly available to everybody seriously interested in coping with the UFO question. Switching from a paper-based archive to an electronic one is not easy and fast for people like ufologists sharing limited resources. Anyway, the work has been already started and the future will show us the results of such a revolution. Maybe a dusty file is much more fascinating than a cold piece of hardware filled in with chips and wires: probably that's true, but progress goes on quickly and all of us need new more efficient tools to deal with UFO information and related research. Ten years ago, most of the things reported in this paper looked still somewhere in a distant future. now they aren't. In ten years expect even more.

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- 5 in Europe
- 2 in the USA

And access to the following

- MUFON (Mutual UFO Network)
- ParNet Information Network
- alt.alien.visitors
- alt.ufo.reports
- alt.alien.research
- alt.conspiracy.area51

PLUS

- 4000+ UFO text and image files
- InterNet Email access
- & 100+ Usenet Newsgroups
- 100000+ shareware/public domain files

UFONet has been running since February 1994 and has become one of the main UK based information networks for UFO material. It continues to grow with more access points appearing every week.

The aim of the system operator is to create an environment that can be used for serious research and discussion for ufologists in the UK and around the globe.

You can Email
ufonet@stairway.co.uk
for more information

Examining of Evidences of The UFO/IFO "Petrozavodsk Phenomenon" and Similar Events in Northern Russia by the Network of Optical All-Sky Cameras

Dr S. Chernouss Ph.D.

Polar Geophysical Institute of the Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Abstract

The report describes the activity of the author as of an expert of the Commission on Paranormal Atmospheric Phenomena of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the field of optical studies at the Russian North.

The investigations started in 1977, when a lot of eyewitnesses observed a so-called Petrozavodsk phenomenon - the most spectacular UFO event in the Northwest Russia. Experimental data from the network of the auroral automatic all-sky camera have been used for the examination of the phenomenon as an IFO, connected with the launch of a rocket. Other UFO/IFO events registered by the all-sky camera are also presented

and discussed. A proposal is discussed to use archives of the instrumental measurements obtained with all-sky camera for UFO examination.

Introduction

A report appeared on September 23, 1977 in the Soviet government newspaper "Izvestia" which said, "The residents of Petrozavodsk have witnessed an extraordinary natural phenomenon.

On September 20 at about 4 o'clock in the morning, a huge bright "star" suddenly appeared on the still dark sky, emitting bright bursts of light. The "star" was slowly approaching Petrozavodsk and then sprawled over the city, like a "jellyfish" pouring upon the city a maze of fine beams of light,

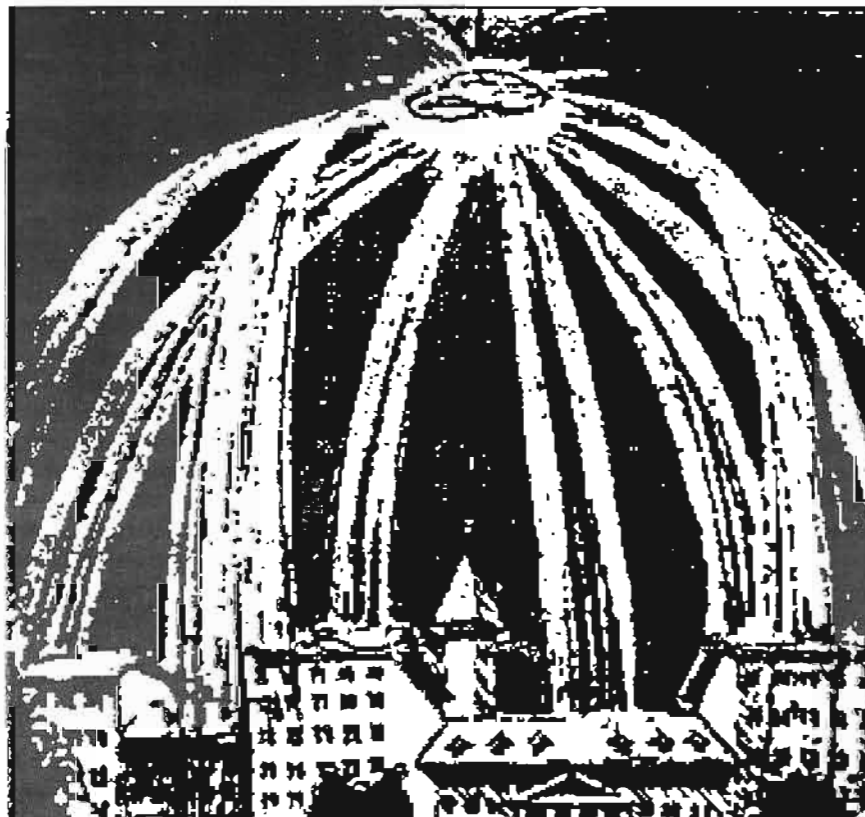


Figure 1 The Petrozavodsk Phenomenon - sketech from *Aviation and Cosmonautics and UFO Aktuell*

Dr Sergey Chernouss Ph.D.

Born 26 January, 1944, Murmansk Russia.
Received MS degree from Leningrad State University in 1966 in Physics of the Atmosphere
Ph.D. from Institute of Physics of Earth in Geophysics in 1977.

Career/employment

Engineer, Heiss Island Observatory, Frantz Josef Land 1967 - 1969
Research Scientist, Polar Geophysical Institute (PGI) 1969 - 1976
Senior Research Scientist, PGI 1976 - 1986
Head of Laboratory of Optical Methods, PGI 1986 - 1991
Senior Research Scientist, PGI 1991 to date.

Specialisation

- i) Main field Optics, Auroral Physics and Geophysical Experiment
- ii) Other fields UFO Studies, Atmospheric Pollution Studies
- iii) Current research interests Optical low light TV and spectral measurements of atmospheric phenomena, Auroral variations and UFO studies, Optical methods in Ecology.

Honours, Awards, Fellowships, Membership

of Professional Societies Member of:
Rogdestvensky Optical Society, American Geophysical Union, Expert of the Russian Academy of Sciences Commission on UFO (Paranormal Atmospheric Phenomena) studies.

Publications

Number of papers in refereed journals 36,
Number of communications to scientific meetings: 56, Books: 3



which looked like pouring rain. After some time the rays disappeared.

The "jelly-fish" assumed the shape of a bright semicircle and started moving in the direction of Lake Omega. According to eye witnesses the phenomenon continued for 10-12 minutes." All sorts of explanations were suggested following this sighting, from a UFO to chemoluminescence generated by "an escape of stratospheric ozone into the upper troposphere" and "a gas discharge of a peculiar shape". It was also rumored that not one, but a cluster of more than 30 objects were sighted (the number probably accorded with the number of received reports), which amounted to a sinister UFO invasion.

The suggested hypotheses were largely based on the parameters of the phenomenon as reported by the eyewitnesses, while totally ignoring the probability of individual error. For example, A. Mezentsev, Petrozavodsk State University came to the following conclusion: the phenomenon unrolled at a relatively short distance from the observers with the estimation of low limit of altitude as 6.5km. The complete lack of the exact measurements push us to analyse the films of the all-sky camera network in the surrounding region.

Method and instrumentation

The all-sky camera network has been established since the International Geophysical Year in 1957 for studies of Aurora both in Northern and Southern hemisphere. Instrumental observations were carried out continuously at night time in accordance with the coordinated international programme during more than 20 years. Thousands of kilometres of films have been obtained in geophysical observatories in different countries.

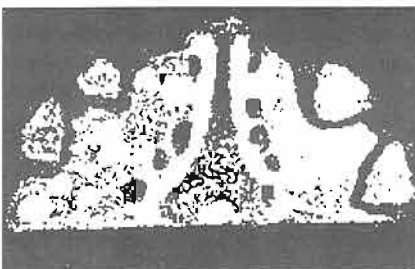


Figure 3 The Petrozavodsk Phenomenon - eyewitness sketch



Figure 2 Example of all sky camera picture of Aurora in Apitity, Murmansk region, Russia

The data has been collected in the World Data Centers in USA, USSR and Japan, partially in the WDC in the Polar Geophysical Institute (Apitity, Murmansk region, Russia). The main instrument used for such observations is a mirror photocamera C-180 with a field of view of 180 degrees. It is used for automatic photographing of the sky in keeping with the preset program. Consequence of film pictures permit us to trace the dynamic development of optical phenomena from different points of observation and to measure their position in space. Limited number of data from the Loparskaya observatory (latitude - 68,3 N, longitude - 33,1 E) and the Arkhangelsk observatory (latitude - 64,6 N, longitude 40,5 E) have been analysed to search for UFOs in all-sky films. In addition, the patrol spectrograph C-180-S data from the same stations were taken into account for precise identification of UFO events by their spectral features analysis.

Observations

First of all, the Petrozavodsk phenomenon as a bright UFO event was under consideration. At the time of the Petrozavodsk phenomenon occurrence, panoramic pictures were

taken in the area of Arkhangelsk and Murmansk (Loparskaya observatory).

The space picture obtained by instrumental all-sky observations is so far from the picture created on the basis of the eyewitness information. The successive photographs indicate that UFO started with a luminous "dot".

At 04.04 hours of Moscow time it was registered only by the all-sky camera near Archangelsk. At 04.05 o'clock the "cone-shaped" object was registered also by the Loparskaya camera which had been registering nothing but aurora before. At 04.06 o'clock the object grew sharply and assumed a "jelly-fish" shape. The dynamic development and morphological features of the object was quite similar to the description done by the witnesses from Petrozavodsk region and the Kola Peninsula and that was a reason to make a conclusion that the all-sky camera registered the same event

On the other side, space scales and position of the phenomenon are quite different but we believe that instrumental observations are more correct. Indeed, human sight can be relied on only at relatively short

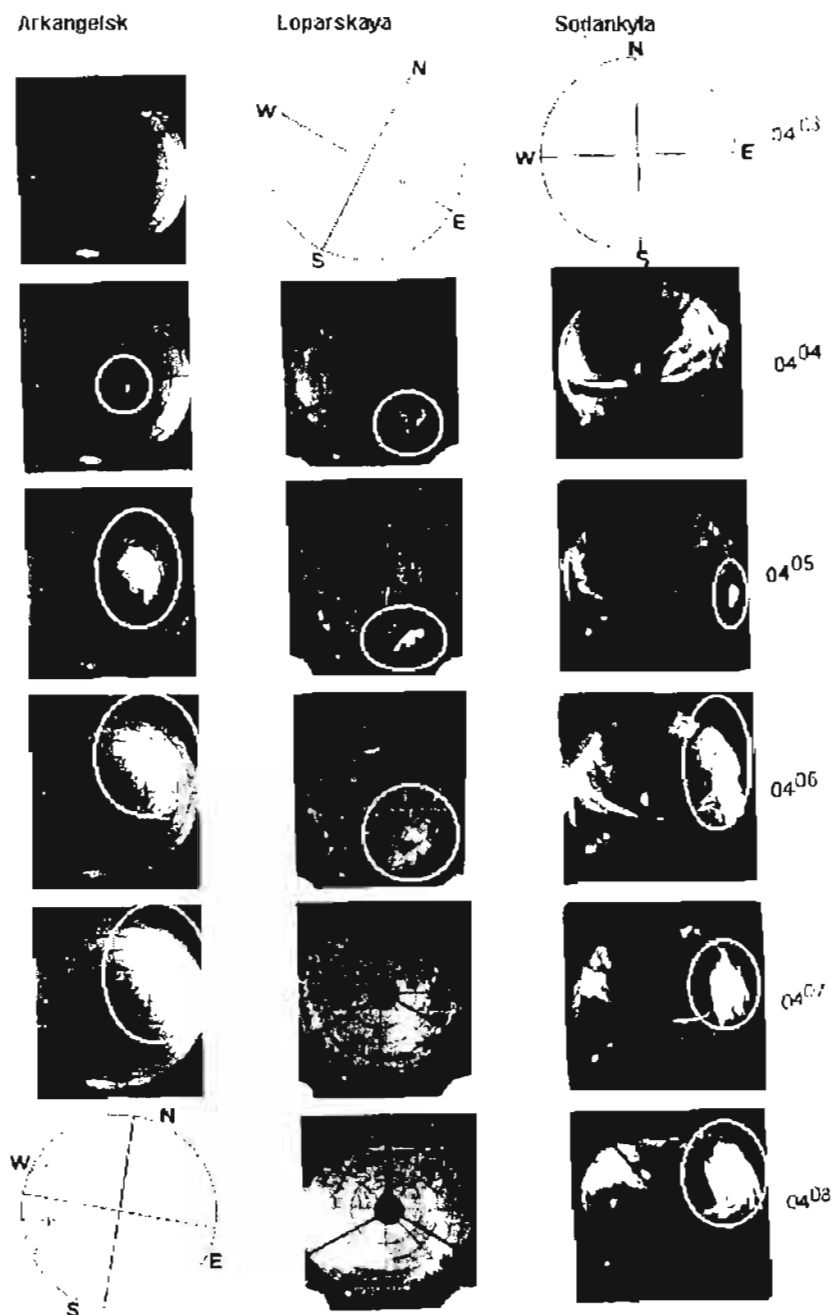


Figure 4 The primary all sky pictures of the Petrozavodsk phenomenon from three observatories

distances and one can judge the size of observed objects only by comparison.

In this particular case it was practically impossible to draw comparison of this kind because it was dark. All we can be sure of is the direction of the object and its angular dimensions. According to the all-sky camera data the Petrozavodsk phenomenon was situated at the height above 200 km and had the linear dimension more than 150 km with the ground projection position onto the Arkhangelsk region. Therefore it was possible to observe it from long distances (for example from Petrozavodsk) but visual observers

gave a wrong estimation of the scales and position of the object. The figure presents projection of Petrozavodsk phenomenon onto the ground, calculated by the real measurements of Russian cameras and all-sky camera from Sodankyla, Finland (latitude - 67,4 N, longitude - 26,7 E)

It is obvious that the main axis of the projection points out the way to a great Soviet rocket range near Plesetsk, the Arkhangelsk region. Thus, it was supposed that a launch of a rocket to be responsible for the Petrozavodsk UFO phenomenon. The conclusion was supported later by NASA (J.Oberg) and Soviet officials suggested that the Petrozavodsk

phenomenon was linked with the launching of the Cosmos 955 satellite.

But what actually took place and how did things develop that night?

The Cosmos 955 was launched from the Plesetsk launch site on September 20, 1977 at 04.01 o'clock Moscow Time in the near to northern direction (orbit inclination - 81.2 degrees). At 4 a.m. on September 20 the altitude of the earth shadow at the launch site was about 200km, and 400km at Petrozavodsk. In other words, the rocket did not pass through the areas illuminated by sunlight right over the launch. But further along the flight trajectory the situation continued to change.

At approximately 04.05 hours the rocket powered by its second stage engine emerged from the Earth shadow and its gas-and-dust trail was illuminated by the sunlight and it was the reason why the phenomenon was observed in a wide region where dark night was yet on the ground. It seems to be an unusual coincidence of described conditions, which resulted in this famous Russian UFO sighting. With more than ten similar events at dawn and dusk were observed during the period under consideration.

Discussion and Conclusion

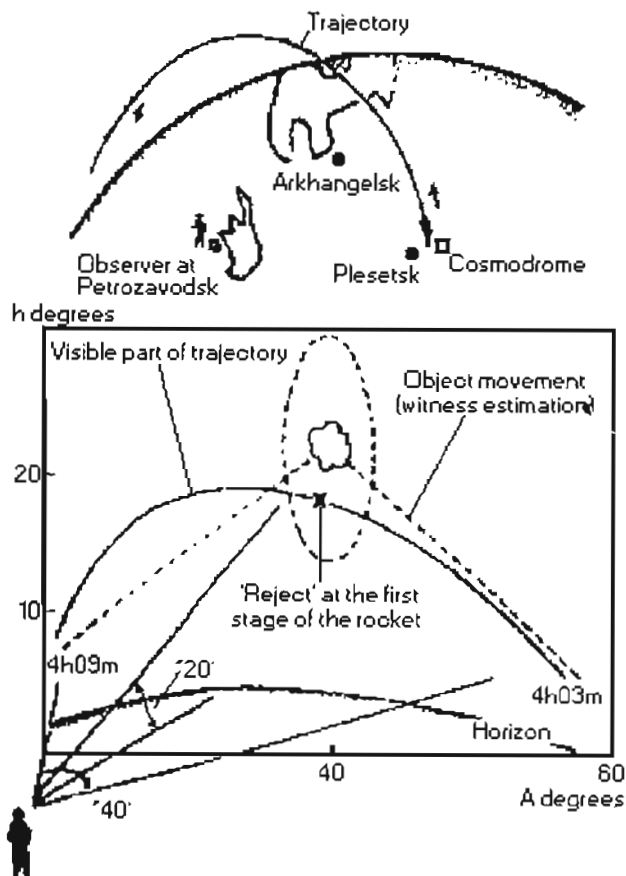
Plenty of letters, messages and documents with the description of the UFO in the Russian North received by the author and most of them have been carefully examined by using of all available ground based optical measurements. Unfortunately, it was impossible to confirm experimentally the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence connected with the UFO.

Most of cases have been explained by manmade technical activity, connected launches and maneuvers of space techniques or space debris. A lot of correspondence was in close connection with artificial plasma clouds experiments or balloon researches. Rare and unusual forms of Aurora were also interpreted as a UFO by inexperienced observers and eyewitnesses. Several events were not checked because of the absence of the experimental data and information. Some optical features of technical experiments taken into account as the UFO by the occasional observers are presented in the report.

The case discussed above demonstrates the complication of the data verification without any special experimental equipment. It is very strange that the available all-sky camera data archives were not used before by a ufologist to examine the nature of the UFO.

As it was said by the head of the Russian Academy of Sciences Paranormal Atmospheric Phenomena Commission academician Vladimir Migulin - "The main nearest future task is in serious and careful studies of the nature of processes responsible for the UFO, rejecting everything what leads us to paranormal sensations. Statistical, theoretical and experimental studies with invitation of wide profile specialists will help us to solve the problem".

Acknowledgments. The author thanks academician Vladimir Migulin and Dr Yuli Platonov for their permanent attention to this work. He thanks WDC B-2 of Polar Geophysical Institute, Apatity, Russia and Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland for assignment of the all-sky films. The Author also wish to thank those who made the participation in the Conference possible. The presentation of the report was supported by Philip Mantle and "Sony Music" company.



Official addresses, fax and telephone no:
 Polar Geophysical Institute, Kola Science Center of Russian Academy of Sciences, Fersman str. 14,
 Apatity 184200 Russia Telephone 7 (81555)37135, home 7 (81555)40975
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UFOs: Examining The Evidence And Evaluating The Experience *

Dr Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D.,
Counselling Psychologist

Introduction

At the 1979 UFO Congress in Brazil, J. Allen-Hynek, Ph.D., noted that physicists are confronted with a paradox about quantum physics: subatomic activity is both particle and wave. Further, he noted that UFO researchers are confronted with a paradox about UFO activity: UFOs are both physical and psychical.

Physical analysis of a UFO experience (UFOE) can be conducted by attending to any physical and biological evidence, e.g., radar and photographic records of UFO activity; soil samples of UFO landing traces; medical examinations of body marks and other physiological conditions of UFO abductees; etc. The evidence is perceived to be 'external' to the UFO Experiencer.

Psychical analysis of a UFOE can be conducted by attending to any psychological and parapsychological evidence, e.g., personality characteristics of the UFOEr; personal interpretations of the significance of UFOEs; mental communications and/or channelled information from ETs (Extraterrestrial Entities, e.g., UFOLKS, Spirit/Space Beings, Time Travellers, Alien Visitors, Interdimensional Entities, Star Persons, et al.). The evidence is perceived to be 'internal' to the UFOEr.

Problem

Most UFOErs are puzzled, and some are traumatised, by their UFOEs. (If the reader/listener has experienced a

UFO encounter and seeks information about some ways to deal with any anxiety about the UFOE, then he/she is referred to the 1991 book by Alice Bryant and Linda Seebach, *Healing Shattered Reality*, and the 1992 book by Ida M. Kannenberg, *UFOs and the Psychic Factor*, Wild Flower Press, PO Box 230893, Tigard, OR 97224.)

Sometimes, UFOErs attempt to confirm or validate their UFOEs by comparing their reports with other UFO reports. For example, UFO Investigators often are asked questions that are similar to the following: "Has anyone reported a UFO that is shaped like a boomerang?" "Have you heard of UFO abductees who have scoop marks on the inside of their knees?" "Have you talked with a contactee who channels information from Ashtar Command?" Etcetera. Combining both physical analysis and psychical analysis may not be accepted by most UFO Researchers as an approach for explaining UFO activity; however, the psychical approach can be helpful in exploring the subjective or personal aspects of UFOEs.

Of course, the major difficulty for employing psychical analysis is the 'morality' (emotional or psychological resistance) of conventional scientists, who fear that being 'subjective' is tantamount to being 'unscientific'. (If the reader/listener is not familiar with the experience centred model of science, then he/she may wish to review the work of Hufford, 1975, and White, 1991. If the reader wishes to explore intellectual and emotional resistance to psychic phenomena, then he/she is referred to Eisenbud, 1967, and Harman, 1988.)

However, if a UFO Investigator is willing to confront these inner doubts and anxieties about losing 'objectivity', then more information can be obtained about the possible personal significance - to the UFOEr - of any UFO encounter.

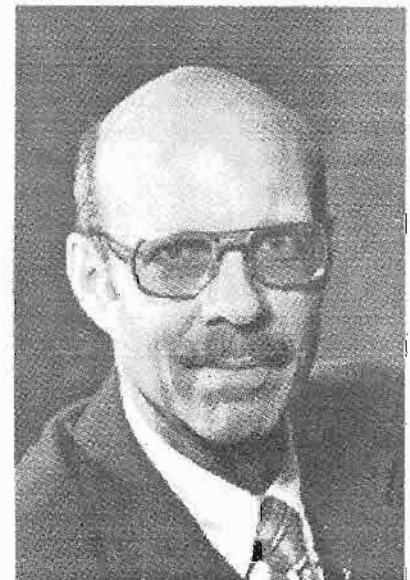
Dr Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D.

Born 31st August 1930, studied Psychology, Education, Sociology and History at the University of Colorado. Attained his Ph.D. in 1961, majoring in Counselling Psychology at the University of Missouri.

Dr Sprinkle's professional career has concentrated upon Counselling Psychology with several major positions at the University of Wyoming. He currently owns and runs his own private practice as well as holding the position of Professor Emeritus, Counselling Services at the University of Wyoming. Dr Sprinkle is also a life member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

His first published work relating to the UFO phenomenon appeared in *The Flying Saucer Occupants* (Lorenzen, C., & Lorenzen, J.) published by Signet in 1967. Since then he has published no less than 40 major articles and scientific papers covering topics such as UFOs, ESP, hypnosis, reincarnation and counselling theory and practice.

As well as presenting significant research contributions, Leo Sprinkle also runs a UFO witness support group and is currently an editorial board member for the *UFO Phenomenon International Annual Review* along with being a consultant for the magazine *Flying Saucer Review*.



* This paper is adapted from a paper presented at the International Symposium on UFO Research, May 22-25, 1992: Denver, CO Proceedings, pp. 203-232. Sponsored by the International Association of New Science, 1304 S. College Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. (303/482/3731).

Methods

There are several methods of psychical analysis of UFOEs, including:-

- A. Individual hypnosis sessions with a professional hypno-therapist.
- B. Groups support and discussion.
- C. Pendulum technique for exploring subconscious memories of 'hidden' UFO encounters (e.g., Fiore, 1989; Sprinkle, 1976/1978/1979).
- D. Self hypnosis or dream analysis techniques for recalling and analysing memories of one's own UFOEs (e.g., Adler, 1958; Hall, 1966).
- E. Channelling information from ETs (e.g., Kannenberg, 1992; Klimo, 1987).
- F. Intuitive or psychical methods of scrying or assessing the significance of UFOEs (e.g., Sprinkle, 1985).

Factors

There are many factors involved in the psychical analysis of UFOEs, perhaps as many as there are UFOEs. However, basic factors can be grouped under the acronym: STARS (Space, Time, Activity and Ruminations).

SPACE. Consider the possible significance of the location of and possible symbolism of the building or facility; if it occurs outdoors, then consider the terrain, climate, weather conditions, etc. For example, if the UFOE occurs inside a car, or a small room, then the location might represent an 'egg' or 'foetus', ready for 'birth'.

TIME. Consider the possible significance of the timing of the encounter; contemplate the year, month, week, day, hour, minute of the encounter; consider the seasonal significance (holiday or special event) of the encounter; reflect on the life development (physical, biological, psycho-social and spiritual growth) of the UFOEr. For example, if the UFOE occurs at night, then the UFOEr may be 'in the dark' not yet conscious of the possible significance of the scenario, until he/she 'sees the light'.

ACTIVITY. Consider the possible significance of the UFOEr's life style and concurrent activity; reflect on whether the UFOEr is alone or with others; note the activities as occupational or recreational; consider the prevailing conditions of the UFOEr in educational, marital, philosophical, religious, sexual, social and

vocational activities. (Occupational: position or job; vocational: the 'calling' or 'true work' to which the UFOEr is attracted.) For example, if the UFOEr is engaged in her/his 'regular duties', then the UFOE might represent the task of integrating the significance of the UFOE into 'everyday' philosophy or lifestyle.

RUMINATIONS. Consider the possible significance of the mood of the UFOEr: emotional and spiritual mood, including feelings, thoughts and attitudes about Self and Others; optimism and/or pessimism about Self, Others, Humankind, Planet, Universe; and any altruism or desire to assist and heal Humankind and the Planet. For example, if the UFOEr has (consciously or subconsciously) been wishing to be of service to God or Society, then he/she may be 'volunteering' (?) for an encounter; for a mission to assist in the merger of 'science' and 'spirituality', or for contacts between Humankind and ETs.

Analysis

With the various factors of STARS as 'backstage', or background, now consider the 'frontstage', or foreground, of the UFOE.

Assume that the unusual 'light' or 'object' is representative of the soul or Inner Self of the UFOEr. If there are several lights or objects, then consider the lights or objects as representative of Significant Others.

Assume (or pretend) that the UFOE is both 'real' and 'true'. In other words, consider the possibility that the UFO(s) is a physically solid object, which is showing the UFOEr an important aspect of the Inner Self: an encounter with one's own Soul, a dramatic display that portrays the UFOEr's inner world.

Using the techniques of psychological analysis of Earliest Recollection (Adler, 1958) and the techniques of dream report analysis (e.g., Hall, 1966), continue to explore the possible connections and mental associations of Self and Others within the scenario(s) of the UFO encounter(s). Consider the possibility that the UFOE is an externalised version of internal patterns of the Self.

Analysis can be continued along these lines:-

A. Using the visual field as an internal 'map', note the directions, movements, speeds, disappearances, reappearances and other activities of the object(s).

B. Note the stated (and inferred?) feelings and emotions of the UFOEr about the initial appearance, actions, changes, shapes and eventual disappearance of the object(s). If the UFO is reported as a 'light', then consider the brightness of the UFO as a possible indication of the brilliance or the enlightenment of the Soul or the Higher Self.

C. Contemplate the UFOE, and any pre and post events, as a guide to the past, present and future development, as well as an indication of the 'direction' in which the life of the UFOEr is moving. (See figure 1, PACTS Model). Ancient Chinese proverb: If we do not change our direction, then we may end up in the very place that we are headed!

D. View the UFOE as an educational guide, not only for self discovery, but also as a communication with the Higher Self and/or Spirit Guides. If the UFOE includes ETs or UFO Entities, then view the Entities as players or actors for the various scenarios.

E. Compare the UFOE with the model of the UFO abductions by Bullard (1987): Capture; Examination; Conference; Tour; Journey; Theophany (manifestation of a deity); Return; and Aftermath of the abduction experience.

F. Consider the relevance of possible past life memories and possible future life dreams.

G. If the reader is confused by these various guidelines, then consider this possibility: Imagine that the UFOEr is located in a huge experimental laboratory for the exploration of ESP or psychic phenomena. Imagine that the Experimenter is some Wizard of Odds; imagine that the UFOEr is the participant or co-researcher in the experiment. Then, imagine that the goal of the experiment is to stimulate the UFOEr to reflect on her/his physical, biological, psycho-social and spiritual levels of development. After the initial shock of 'seeing' one's level of soul development ('Yikes!'), the UFOEr - eventually - can be educated for future Space/Time travel and for communication with other intelligent beings throughout the Galaxy. (Shall we assume that the programme is

The PACTS Model of Abductee/Contactee Experience[#]

| Stage | |
|---|---|
| P Preparation | |
| Family & cultural experiences. | Family and/or cultural tradition of ESP and/or spiritual contacts. Childhood visitation by Spiritual Beings (SBs) Lucid dreams or precognitive dreams of possible Psychic experiences (e.g., telepathy, clairvoyance, seeing auras, etc.) |
| A Abduction | |
| Inducted or initiated, voluntarily, by SBs. | UFO sightings and/or UFO abduction experiences. Loss of time experiences or partial amnesic events. Taken aboard spacecraft by SBs or UFO entities. Unexplained body marks, scars, emotional reactions (why, me?). Feeling of being 'drafted' for some unexplained purpose. |
| C Contact | |
| Inducted or initiated voluntarily, by SBs. | Adult visitations (by SBs or spiritual guides). Psychic experiences (telepathy, clairvoyance, PK, healing, etc.) Lucid dreams and/or precognitive dreams of possible future. Emotional reactions (why me? Purpose of visitations?). Feelings of 'volunteering' for a spiritual mission or task. |
| T Training | |
| Instruction for a mission or task. | Obsessive/compulsive behaviours (reading, travelling, visions, etc.). Reading various materials, including 'uninteresting' materials. Change in personality; feeling of being monitored; 'implanted' knowledge. Review of possible past lives. |
| S Service | |
| Cooperation with SBs. | Channelling verbal and/or written information from SBs. Serving as a 'messenger' by conducting research, talking to others, etc. Providing instruction, healing, and/or assistance to others. Working to minimise Planetary difficulties; giving assistance to Humankind. Feeling that one 'knows' his/her task or purpose in life. |

Figure 1 [#]Sprinkle, R. L. (1988). Psychotherapeutic services for persons who claim UFO experiences. *Psychotherapy in Private Practice*, 6, (3), 151-157. P. 155.

similar to a Driver's Education Course for Cosmic Citizens?)

H. Remember the ancient aphorism: If you seek enlightenment, then lighten up!

Some Examples

If the reader has accepted (or tolerated) these assumptions and guidelines, then he/she can explore the use of these guidelines by applying them to 'simple' UFOEs. These guidelines should not be used to evaluate the possible significance of a UFOE - except by the UFOEr.

Most experts of dream report analysis agree that the best interpreter of a dream is the dreamer. Likewise, the best interpreter of a UFOE is the UFOEr. However; a UFO Investigator can be of significance to a UFOEr in exploring the possible significance of the UFO report.

Here are several examples that briefly describe the personal evaluations of UFOEr's. In each case, I followed similar methods. First, I listened carefully to the UFOEr, not only to the content of the report but also to the

manner and mood of the participant. Second, we discussed the apparent physical (or 'real') aspects of the UFOE, including the doubts and anxieties about the reality of the UFOE. Third, the participant and I explored the apparent psychical (or 'true') aspects of the UFOE. Finally, we mentally 'merged', or we combined our mental activities in discussing and proposing some possible interpretations of the personal meaning - to the UFOEr - of the encounter.

A. Father and Son. A man and his middle school son reported the family experience, some years earlier, of their sighting of several nocturnal lights that appeared over a Wyoming mountain, near their home town. After several 'up and down' movements, the lights rose quickly and sped away in a South East direction. Then, as we discussed the possible personal significance of the observations, both Father and Son recognised the possibility that the 4 (or 5?) lights could represent the financial 'ups and downs' of the family, which led to their decision to move the 4 family members (later, 5, with the addition of another child) to South East USA where their situation, economically,

'rose quickly.' Now they have relocated in Wyoming, where they feel good about their family situation; also, they were pleased about their courage in reporting their UFO sighting.

B. Mother and Children. A business woman, with university training in biological sciences, described her night-time UFO observation: She was riding in a car, which was driven by her husband who is a professional person with training as an attorney. She tried to direct his attention to some bright lights that seemed to be pacing their car, as they travelled South from Wyoming to Colorado. However, her husband was unable to see the lights before the lights disappeared from her view. She stated that she had seen a large reddish light, followed by 3 small ones (Figure 2).

As we conferred, we moved from a sensory description of the sighting to a perceptual analysis of the possible significance of the experience. However, she was unable to arrive at any satisfactory interpretation of the personal meaning of that event. Then, several years later, the woman telephoned and declared, in a rather flat and resigned tone of voice: "Leo, I now know the meaning of that UFO sighting. I have divorced my husband, and I'm moving to Colorado with my three children." She interpreted the sighting as a precognitive display of future events: the divorce, and her relocation of Self and Significant others.

C. College Student: In a small group discussion, a young woman volunteered information about her own UFO experience, and then she agreed to play the 'game' of analysing the possible significance of the UFOE. I pretended to be the college student; then, I retold her story, somewhat as follows: I am a 7th grade pupil, riding in a car that is being driven by my 7th grade music teacher. The teacher's infant son and her dog are in the back seat of the car. As we drive North and East, over the Prairie, toward the Wyoming/South Dakota border, we notice a bright light in the night sky. As the car gets closer to the light, we notice that the light seems to become bigger and more intense. Finally, the car is underneath the light, the teacher stops the car; we get out; we look up at the huge brilliant light; there is no sound; I'm excited and scared; the baby is crying; the dog is barking;

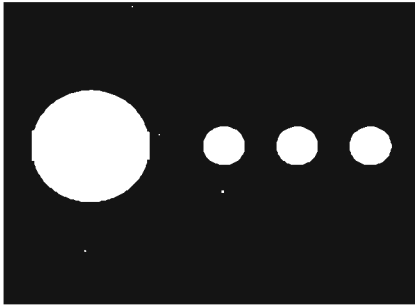


Figure 2

we are afraid; we get back into the car; she speeds away; but the light pursues us! At last, the light goes away as we drive into the city of Hot Springs (SD).

I then interpreted - tentatively - the UFOEr as a 'map' of the future; I then suggested that, someday, 'I' (as the 7th grade pupil) would go to a place of 'great light' or great knowledge, like the University of Wyoming! (She smiled, as if to indulge my bit of humour.) Then, I continued, not only would this light or knowledge be exciting and scary, but also this knowledge would pursue me! Finally, in ending the interpretive comments, I asked her to help me by discussing

her mental associations with the name 'Hot Springs:' healing? American Indians? Suddenly, a puzzled look appeared on her face, and she gasped: "Oh! Do you know that I've been thinking recently? I've been thinking that I should change my major (field of study) to music therapy so that I can go out and help American Indian kids!" She interpreted the UFOE as a significant scenario for her professional plans as well as her current academic activities.

Conclusions

A UFO experiencer, with or without the assistance of others, can conduct psychical analysis to determine if a UFOE has personal meaning or significance.

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Alien Encounters

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An Interview With Ray Santilli

Philip Mantle

Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association

Introduction

Ray Santilli is the man who claims to have purchased actual film footage from a retired US cameraman of the UFO crash at Roswell in 1947. Much has already been written about Mr. Santilli, the film footage and the alleged cameraman. Most of what has been written is based on opinions rather than fact, and rumours rather than research.

In the interview that follows I have attempted to obtain a few details from Mr. Santilli on how he obtained the film, and what he intends to do with it in the future. The following is not meant to be an in-depth interview in any way and it was recorded at Mr. Santilli's office in London on Tuesday 27th June, 1995. The interviewer is Philip Mantle (PM) and the interviewee is Ray Santilli (RS).

PM: All I want you to do Ray is to tell us in your own words, a little bit about yourself, your company, and exactly

what the Merlin Group does, and how you came across the so-called Roswell film footage please?

RS: OK, I've been involved in the media for the last twenty years, from the time I left school. I was first involved in promotion and marketing, managing recording artists and that lasted for quite some time until eventually I formed what was my first record company really, and at that time we were handling Walt Disney products. We handled Disney audio, we had the exclusive rights here in the UK for Disney soundtracks and that lasted for a good few years, and then I got involved in copyright brokerage and master recordings, publishing, book publishing and so forth. So if anyone asks what we do here now we are involved in the marketing, distribution and sale of audio product, video product and book product.

PM: So how did you come across the so-called Roswell footage?

RS: About two and a half years ago we were in the States researching what was a music documentary and

we were looking for some early footage of people like Bill Haley, Pat Boone and Elvis Presley. We came across a cameraman who in 1950's was a freelance. He was working for various different people as and when he was employed, and at one time during the early part of 1955 he was employed by Universal News to film over a particular weekend what was a variety of rock concerts and so forth at different High Schools across America.

The reason he was employed by Universal News was that there was a union strike on and Universal News could not use their usual news cameramen, so he was used and he filmed some footage which we acquired for one of our earlier programmes, and we just bought some footage from him, just gave him cash and we built up a reasonably good relationship with him because the nature of the deal was that we gave him cash and he gave us footage and there was no paperwork.

He came back to us and said look before you go back, would you be interested in something else. He said to us that he had some footage of what was an autopsy of an alien creature. We knew nothing about Roswell or the Roswell event at that time, but we thought well it's an interesting situation, you know, an alien autopsy, you don't get that offered everyday. So we took an internal flight to his house which was some distance away from where we met him, and he showed us on film everything that you have now seen and that everyone has become interested in.

During that very first meeting with him, the first thing that we did, and that was on day one, the very first thing we did was to call Kodak, actually from his house at that time, and say how do we know that this film is genuine, and they asked us to look at the codes and the markings. And actually during that time we relayed to them what the markings were on the film, and at that time they said to us that it was probably 1927, 1947 or 1967, that was almost two and a half years ago.

We then took a frame, well I mean the leader tape and one frame from the film and brought it back to the UK, this was two years ago. We circulated it amongst as many people as possible to say what year is this film and

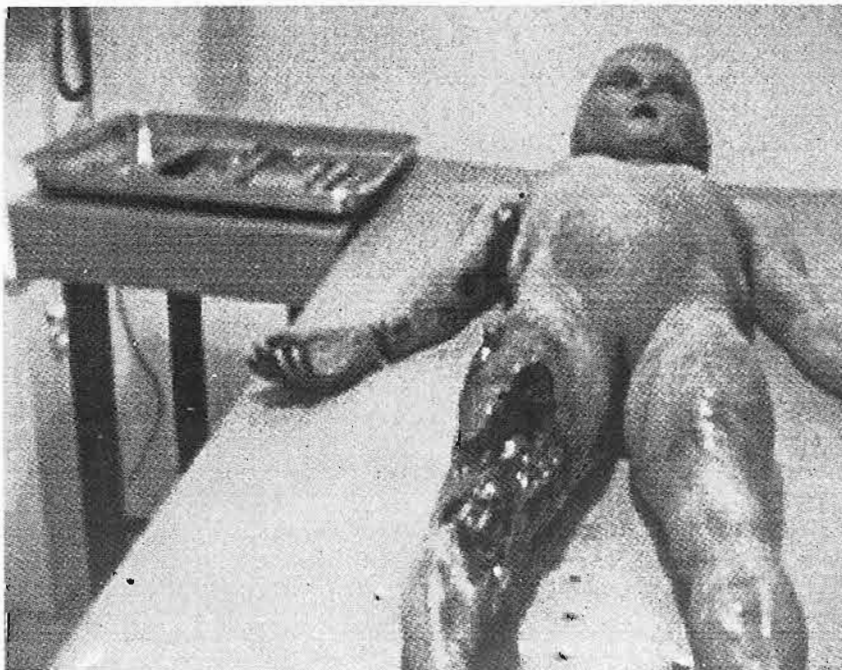


Figure 1 Depicts alleged alien in the autopsy room before autopsy begins. Damage to leg can be seen and female sexual organs are also clearly visible. Six digits on hand is also clearly seen

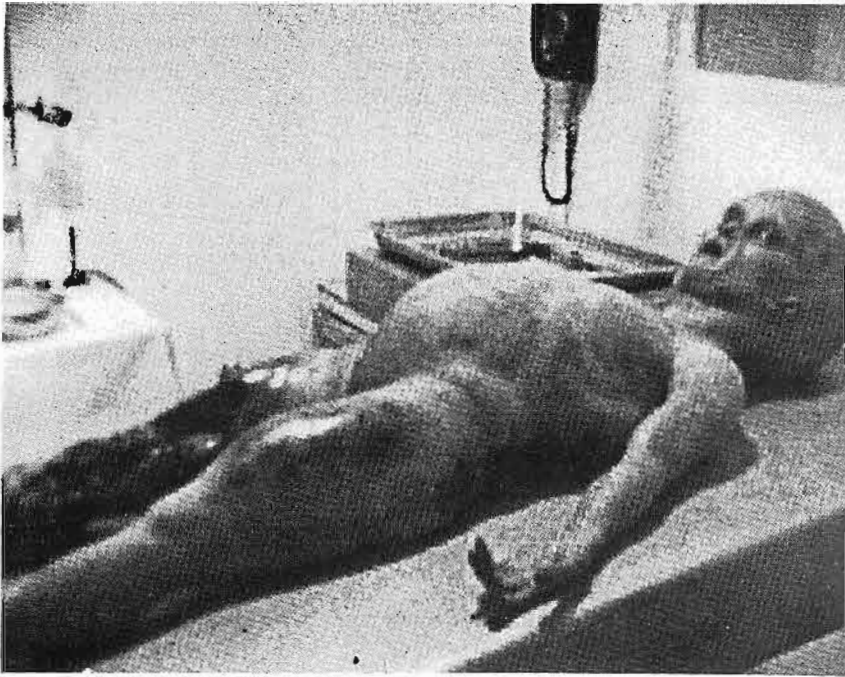


Figure 2 Side view of alleged alien prior to autopsy being undertaken

eventually we satisfied ourselves that the film was genuine. I then presented to the company that I had a very close relationship with, Polygram, I presented them with the possibility of buying what was then the Roswell footage. So Polygram were very interested and they sent out one of their senior directors, in fact he was the managing director of Working Title, the people that have now made the film *'Four Weddings and a Funeral'*. That person was Gary Shoefield, and Gary was sent by Polygram to meet up with the cameraman in order to secure the deal for the footage.

Anyway, due to various problems, and the problems were that the cameraman was taken very ill at the time, he went to hospital. Gary ended up sitting in his hotel waiting for the cameraman to show, he didn't show, Gary then called the cameraman's wife to find out what had happened, and she explained everything to him and Gary then called the hospital to check on his condition. To cut a long story short the meeting didn't happen and Polygram satisfied themselves at that time that the cameraman did exist. However, Polygram didn't want to continue the negotiation purely because the nature of the legalities involved in buying footage that someone doesn't own, because it was owned by the U.S. military.

So eventually the cameraman came out of hospital. He came out to discover that the deal was not going

through because we didn't have the money, so it was one of these situations that we were promising to pay him but we didn't have the money and he had lost faith in us. It took a long time, it took a good eighteen months really for us to turn that situation around in order to rebuild his confidence in us and we finally got the stage at the end part of last year and the beginning of this year that we could hand him money and take the film but it was a very long procedure. And so we eventually did that and from the beginning of this year (1995)

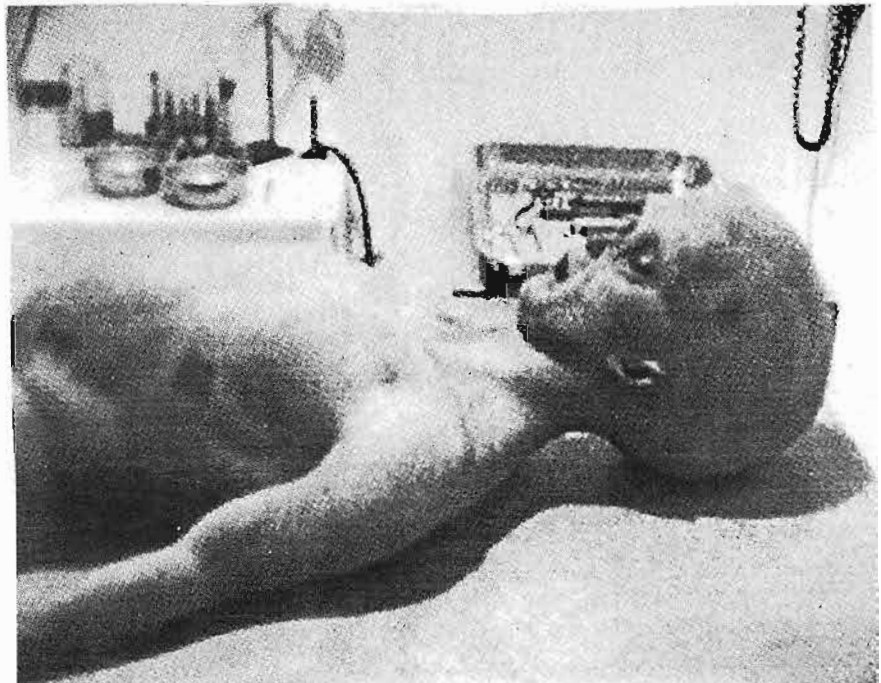


Figure 3 Close up side view of alleged alien. In the background the telephone can be seen on the wall plus various instruments and receptacles

we had the entirety of the film in our possession.

PM: As for authentication, apart from the fact that you mentioned Kodak, what convinces you that this film is the genuine article?

RS: Because I have the advantage of dealing with the cameraman first hand. I'm not dealing with second hand information, it's a person I've known on and off for two years, I've had various meetings with him, we've managed to go through his diaries, his records, his photo album. We've seen his house, his family, we've seen his collection of old cameras, and you know we've heard all the stories. The guy is genuine, I know he's genuine, I believe that the footage is genuine, but in time only people that can do more research will be able to judge it more critically.

PM: What's going to happen next with the film, with the footage itself?

RS: The raw footage, uncut and untreated will be sold through mail order video, then the broadcasters will in the various territories will do whatever they want with the footage. Some are colourising it, some are enhancing it, they will basically have a field day. They have been given carte blanche, it's their property once they have agreed to take it for broadcast.

PM: And what about the future?

RS: I don't know really, it depends what comes up. It depends whether the footage can maintain its ground as being credible or whether it can't. If it can then you know it will become like the shroud of Turin, if it can't it will fall into category of one of those hoaxes. I really don't know. As far as the footage is concerned I really don't know, it changes daily.

PM: And what do you think the possibilities are with regards to the cameraman going on the record in the future?

RS: Next to zero, but I don't know, it changes, but I wouldn't have thought that he would agree to meet or speak to anyone other than myself on the subject but that's changed recently so, I just don't know, it really depends. The original agreement that we had with him was that we would respect his confidentiality and that was a fundamental part of the deal, and we would not have got the film without that agreement in place. If we had suggested anything else then we wouldn't have the film today. So whatever we get from here on we consider as bonus.

PM: Just one last question. Are you open to offers of assistance to help verify this film one way or the other?

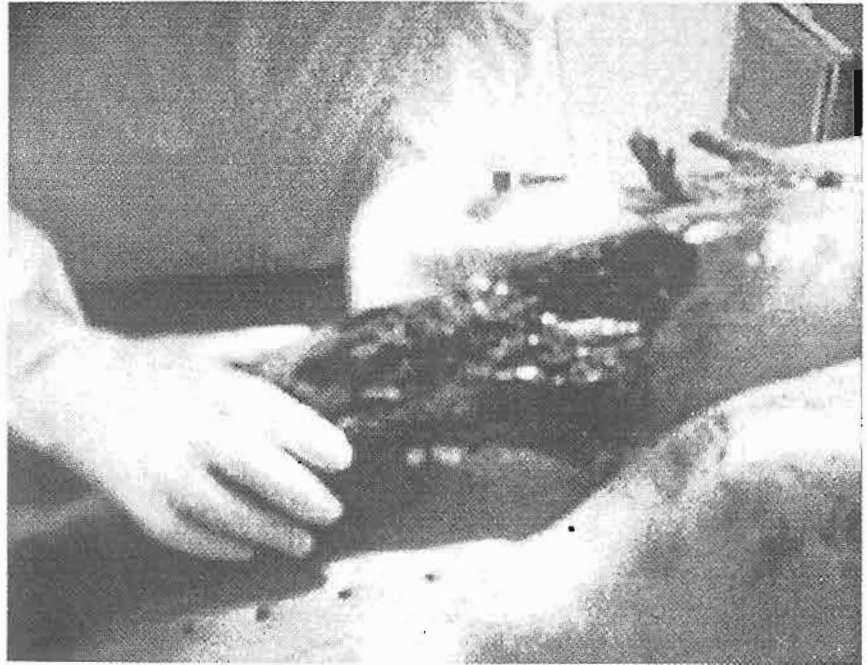


Figure 4 Close up of damaged leg. Leg is being held by one of those taking part in the autopsy

film (a documentary on Roswell currently in production by a UK TV company). But once Kodak are in place, and once the cameraman has done whatever he is going to do. I'm not sure what else can be done. But yes, we'll cooperate with whoever, but if it's a question of can we take ten feet or a hundred feet of the raw

Contact with Jack Barnett?

For quite a number of weeks now Ray Santilli has been trying to persuade the cameraman in question to contact me by phone from the USA. On Thursday 22nd June Mr. Santilli telephoned me at approximately 7.30 pm (British summer time) and informed me that he had just spoken on the phone to the cameraman and that he had assured him that he would phone me later that day.

At approximately 8.50 pm (BST) on the same evening (June 22nd) I did receive a call from a man named claiming to be Jack Barnett who is allegedly the original cameraman. At no time during our conversation did I attempt to 'interrogate' him. Instead I took the opportunity to attempt to sew the seeds of friendship in the hope that I might eventually be able to meet him face-to-face and encourage him to work with us. However he did confirm that his commanding officer was a General McMullan (my spelling) and that he was flown from Washington to film the events in question. He declined politely my offer of going on the record now but did not rule out a meeting with me should I visit the USA. He informed me that due to his age and continued ill health his traveling days were over and that he did not expect to live to see many more Olympic games.

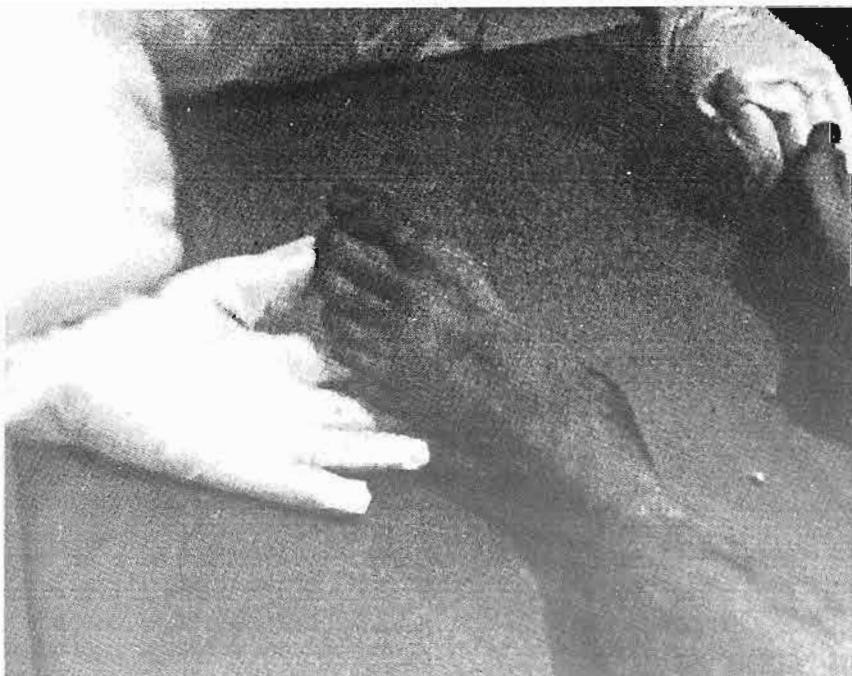


Figure 5 Close up of alleged alien's foot. Six digits are visible

RS: Yes, well, there is only so much you can do as there are only so many hours in a day, but once Kodak are in place, which they are now, even though it's going to be recreated for

footage away, then I'm not sure if that's viable or possible. That's another discussion. But it depends on what offers of assistance we receive.

He continually coughed during our fifteen minute conversation and invited me to ask him specific questions if I wanted to. I informed him that I had at least a thousand questions for him that I would rather put to him in person than on the telephone. He appreciated the situation I was in, thanked me for my various offers of assistance, and stated that if I wanted to put specific questions to him in the future this could be done via Ray Santilli. He did say that he was still somewhat unsure of his legal position as he had sold film that did not belong to him. The entire conversation although brief was courteous and JB did not rule out the possibility of a similar conversation in the future.

I cannot of course offer any proof that the man on the phone on June 22nd was indeed JB, the original cameraman, but if there is the remotest chance that it was, there was no way that I was going to be aggressive towards him. Instead I believe I took the right course of action in attempting to gain his trust but only time will tell if I succeed or not.

I have also checked with Gary Shoefield who was, according to Ray Santilli, sent by Polygram to meet with JB as outlined above. I spoke with Gary Shoefield on the same day as the interview with Ray Santilli in London, and he confirmed that the statements concerning him as outlined above by Ray Santilli are indeed accurate. Unfortunately I was unable to record this conversation with Gary Shoefield but I hope to do so in the future.

For those who are unaware of exactly what film footage I have personally seen I would like to state here that I have seen four different 'segments' of film. This includes the so-called 'tent scene' where it is alleged that one of the aliens is being examined (not an autopsy) in a tent out in the desert by two men in white coats. I have also seen two completely different autopsy films and just recently film of the alleged debris depicting 'I-beams' and other material.

Editorial Note

At this stage, BUFORA cannot confirm whether the film footage acquired by Ray Santilli is genuine or not. By showing the film at this

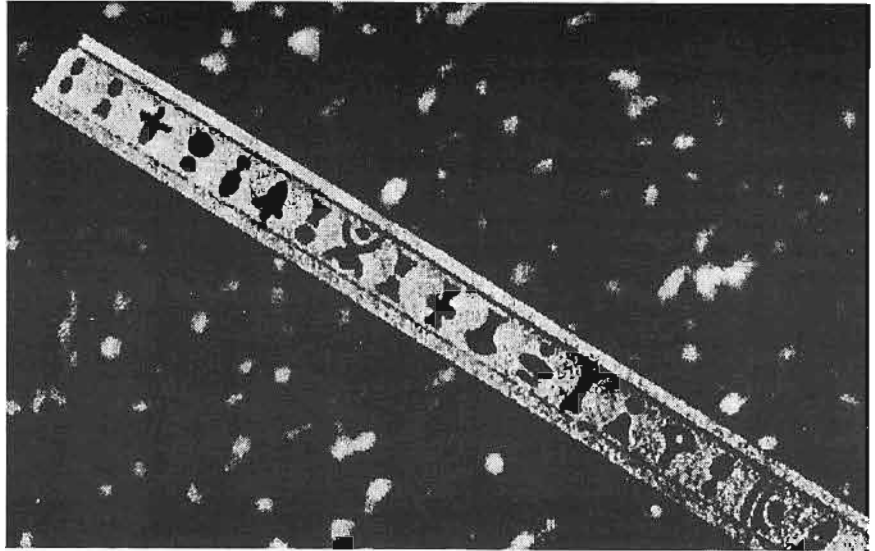


Figure 6 Replica of the 'I Beam' wreckage, duplicated with the help of Major Jesse Marcel's son, Dr Jesse Marcel Jr. who saw the wreckage when he was 11 years old. (Photo courtesy of MUFON)

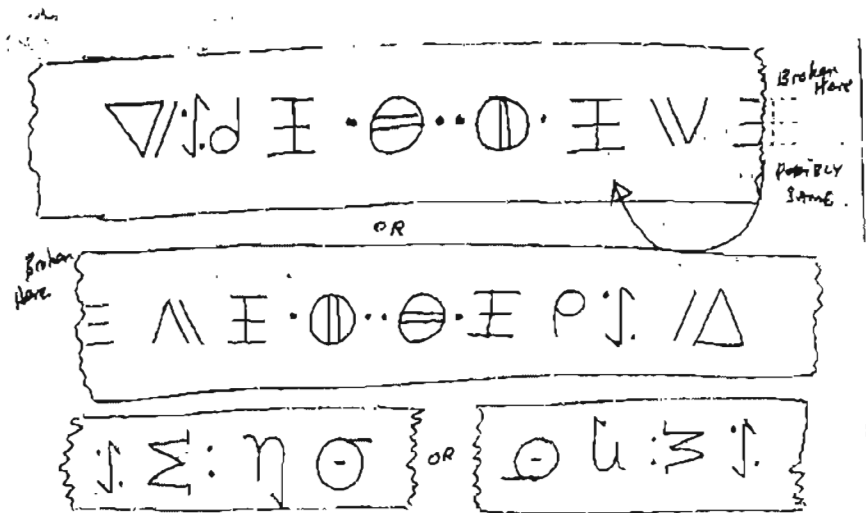


Figure 7 Drawing of 'I Beam' material taken from the alleged crash site footage.

Congress, the Association is not endorsing the validity of the film, but simply presenting it for examination.

From the moment we had confirmed the existence of the footage, all the key Roswell researchers were notified before the press had picked up the story. Indeed, several prominent researchers were informed of the possible existence of the film 18 months ago.

BUFORA will strenuously endeavour to attain independent verification of the age, processing technique and continuity of the film. But this can only be done with the co-operation of Ray Santilli.

We are also willing to work with all interested parties to get to the truth

regarding the circumstances surrounding the footage.

The BUFORA Council appreciate that involvement with the film is heavily laden with risk. However, who said ufology was easy or without controversy. One cannot ignore possible evidence because it seems too hot to handle.

Recent UFO Sightings in Africa - The Cultural Implications

Cynthia Hind

There is never really a totally quiet period with UFO sightings: what happens is that on average I have 6-8 reports per month in Zimbabwe, and perhaps even less in South Africa. Despite the discrepancy in population figures: 22 million in South Africa and 11 million in Zimbabwe, I feel there is a good reason for this.

Awareness! Or the lack of it. People have to be aware what the term UFO implies, although perhaps the letters are used too freely to indicate visitors from other planets, dimensions or time.

Here in Zimbabwe, I am lucky to have a very good friend on radio and she invites me regularly to tell the people about what's going on in the Space World. I write for magazines and, rather rarely, for the local papers (who are not supportive of UFOs): I also give public and private talks, not only in Harare, but in S. Africa and all over Zimbabwe. At one time, I did this entirely at my own expense, but now I find people are charging for the talks and make quite a bit of money, so I do ask for my petrol and accommodation. I have since then been flown to Lake Kariba where I spoke in the local Sports Club to 90 people out of a total population of 300; I've been to Chinyohi for a dinner talk, where all the waiters were dressed in green and had head-bands on with two bits of wire supporting huge eyeballs. The menu was a spaceman's gastronomic delight! When I asked the waiters if they knew who they were supposed to be, they shook their heads and the eyeballs rattled and rolled. But they all listened to my talk and two came up afterwards to tell me of their magic experiences.

Most of the reports I receive are of unidentified lights in the sky and I'm sure if we UFO investigators were familiar with all the satellites launched, of the trails of the new, secret aircraft, we would easily be able to pinpoint their identities. But occasionally we get a real hum-

ding, as we did in Southern Africa quite recently in 1994.

On the 14th September of last year, at 21.04, I was sitting in my study in Harare, when I heard a loud explosion. My first thought was that someone had thrown a bomb into either the President's house, or they had tried to assassinate Mengistu, who has asylum in Zimbabwe and lives a few hundred metres from my front door. I ran outside, but all was quiet, and within a few minutes, I had piled into my car with some friends to scout the neighbourhood.

Nothing was happening, but when I returned home, the phone had already started to ring and never stopped until well after midnight. I later found that the explosion was a sonic boom. So you see, people were aware that I would be interested and were busy reporting to me, whereas only a few years before, where would they have gone?

The most fantastic pyrotechnic display had just taken place and was witnessed in S. Africa, in Botswana, the southern portion of Zambia, nearly all over Zimbabwe and finished off in Mozambique. Most of the reports had come from Lake Kariba, where there are dozens of boats on the lake, anchored at night, with a clear view of the night sky. It is a large lake, the biggest in the world until a few years ago, and stretches for 290 kilometres and is 30 kilometres wide at its widest point. The reports I received were from extremely reliable witnesses; the MD of one of the largest mining companies in Zimbabwe, two pilots, the man in charge of all radio communications on the lake, the owner of a well-known safari camp and a personal friend of mine who, with her husband, owns a large boat on the Lake. They all said, in varying degrees, that whatever it was, it flew in level flight and, at times, fairly slowly. It rose over the hills which edge the Lake in several places and changed course from North to South, to East to SW.

I phoned the Night Editor of THE HERALD in Harare and he said

Cynthia Hind

Born in a remote part of NW Cape Province of South Africa. Educated at Good Hope Seminary, Cape Town, to Senior Matriculation. Registered at Cape Town University for a BA degree in English and Psychology but left before completion to join the South African Air Force. Married Norman Hind and settled in the UK. Two children, Michael and Lindsay. Lived in Southport, Merseyside in the late fifties, the family returned to Africa and settled in Harare, Zimbabwe, where I became a Director of Grillbyo, a family company manufacturing furniture, and from 1979 to 1994 a Director of Edison Products. In 1978 I resigned from the family business and became fully involved in freelance writing and particularly in investigating and reporting on the UFO phenomenon in Africa.

Since then I have attended International Conferences and presented papers on that aspect of ufology in Australia, Britain, the USA, Europe, Brazil and Argentina, as well as in South Africa and locally. Coordinator for MUFON on the African Continent. Contributor in Southern Africa to FOAFTALE (folklorist publication) and FORTEAN TIMES.

I joined Soroptimist International in 1975 and was president of Soroptimist International of Zimbabwe from 1984-86. Together with D. Powell, I founded the Harare Writers Club. I have been on radio and television in a number of countries and continue to write on a wide variety of subjects.

Published Work in Ufology:

UFOs-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS (Gemini, 1982)

UFOs OVER AFRICA (provisional title, in preparation)

UFO AFRINEWS, a magazine, first published in 1988 (Gemini) and biannually ever since.

Chapters on UFOs in Africa contributed to PHENOMENON and UFOs 1947-87 (edited by J. Spencer and H. Evans) and to THE UFO STORY 1990, by T. Good, as well as a chapter on AFRICAN UFOs in collaboration with J. Spencer, in UFOs-THE DEFINITIVE CASEBOOK.



immediately that the lights had been identified by a local astronomer as being a "spectacular meteor shower." This was verified by Ewan Nesbitt, a geologist on leave in Zimbabwe. I accepted what I was told as I too had suspected that this is what it might have been; but this was before the reports started coming in. From all that I was told, I could no longer accept that this was a meteor shower, but of course, I did not have the expertise that the other had, so I really didn't gainsay what I was told.

A week later, Prof. Ewan Nesbitt had flown to London and conferred with the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and had been informed that a Russian satellite, launched on 26th August 1994, had ejected its nose-cone on 14th September and this is what had been seen over Southern Africa. Apparently, they had known of this coming occurrence and expected it. What I cannot understand is why they did not notify the governments of the countries involved, as the falling debris could quite easily have struck some of our remoter villages. I heard later that pieces of the nose-cone had fallen in Karoi, NW of Harare, and in the Chokwe River in Mozambique.

BUT, meteorite or nose-cone, there were still many conflicting reports.

How can a nose-cone, obviously unmanned, rise over the hills and then change direction?

And what about the following reports?

The sky was completely lit with what appeared to be a long sausage-shape of brilliant light with numerous flashing lights around it and was moving across the sky from left to right (in a southerly direction), very slowly. It seemed to be merely skimming the roofs of the houses in the distance.

Jo Hensman of Harare said, "I saw the lights at 20.50 hours right over Ruzilukulu Bay on Lake Kariba. At

first, I thought it was a small plane coming towards me. I was on the shore and decided to go back to the boat. The family were on shore having a barbecue. I had a very powerful torch which belonged to my husband and was quite complicated and not very easy to switch off. The torch was alight at this stage. I thought I could see a huge plane on fire and that it was going to crash. There was no sound, and our guide said it was a meteorite. As it came closer, I became afraid as I felt the torch was attracting whatever it was. I could not switch it off in my nervousness, so I hid it behind my back, and then the light veered off and went in another direction. It was flying low over Kariba at tree-top level, but it lifted over the hills and then changed direction."

Cecil Alexander, of Hatfield, Harare, who has worked in Civil Aviation for the past five years, said he saw the light at approximately 20.45. He viewed what he thought was a 'craft' of sorts for about 5 minutes. At first, he thought it was a Jumbo 747. It appeared to have two engines on the wings; the left engine emitting a continuous flame, while on the other side, wing sparks were spitting out. He thought there was an exhaust pipe at the back of the object, also emitting sparks. He felt the object was in some sort of trouble and was de-canting fuel before landing, although there was no aircraft sound. He watched it moving towards Harare Airport at an altitude slightly above tree-top level.

Grant Nel, of Bulawayo, thought it was a plane in trouble. There was no sound and it was flying very slowly (two people reported they were able to walk along underneath and observe). It seemed to be on fire.

Mukurawo Jonasi had an interesting theory. He had read about the collisions on Jupiter sometime before and suggested that these lights was rubble scattered from this collision; scientist must bear this in mind.

So I want to say this is harmless rubble that came from the collision that occurred in August and these (stones) did not fall on our planet Earth. I think they fell in the sea so we could not discover them.

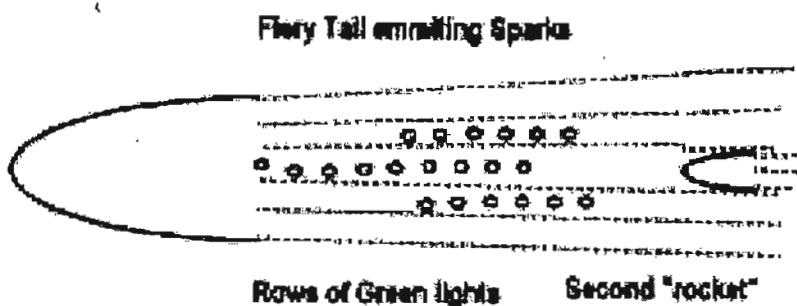
There is no doubt, however, that the majority of the 100 plus reports I personally received were descriptive of the ejected nose-cone. Many dozens of drawings were done and most of these were typical of the crashing nose-cone.

But what of the other reports? Misidentification, poor observation, highly imaginative people? In some cases, yes, but not in all. So was there 'someone else' watching together with us Earthlings?

It is my theory that UFOs and their occupants, whoever and whatever they are, are extremely curious. When something occurs which catches their attention and it is not a natural phenomenon, they want to see or know what is going on; viz, their monitoring of new scientific development, the testing of new weapons and hovering over highly secretive military bases. One of the most significant of all cases of their curiosity appeared in the MUFON JOURNAL of January 1989 (No. 249). I am not going into detail here, but I have copies of the original report and will hand them to those who are particularly interested.

The final analysis of the happenings on Wednesday, 14th September 1994 still remain slightly shrouded in mystery, but the final report has not yet been completed, and perhaps it will present a totally different picture when it is.

As a follow-up to this exciting event, on Friday, 16th September, an even more momentous UFO event occurred in Zimbabwe! I had a phone call from Tim Leach, who is BBC correspondent for this portion of Africa. It was just after 14.00 on that day and he asked me if I knew that an object had landed at 10.15 that morning at Ariel Primary School in Ruwa, about 20 km from the capital, Harare? I did not know about this but he asked me if I would like to go along with him after the weekend to film the incident and talk to the children, 62 of whom had witnessed the event; I readily agreed. In the meantime, I contacted a veterinarian friend of mine who lives in close proximity to



the school and she gave me the name of the parents involved, plus their phone numbers.

One of the names was that of Alyson Kirkman, a physiotherapist, who has a daughter at Ariel school, and who was on voluntary Tuck-shop duty on 16th September. She confirmed that something had landed on that day but said she had seen nothing. She said "Luke Nel, one of the older boys (aged 12) rushed into the Tuck-shop to tell me that he had seen a small man in a silver suit, with a band around his head, running around the playground." Alyson was very sceptical of his report, but she could see the children were very excited. Some reported seeing a 'whitish' object about 100 metres from where they were, which had landed in the grounds near the school. They said the object was "glowing". Alyson felt she was not prepared to leave the Tuck-shop with all the loose money and sweets and cakes, etc. with all the children around. Besides, why should she go and look for something which she felt did not exist? She added that the children had told her they could hear a 'whirr-whirr' sound as the craft landed. Then it rose and came closer (2 landings?). Some of the children were hysterical with fright, especially one little girl. When it came down again, it appeared to change to a golden colour. Some said the object looked like a bowl.

When I spoke to Fifi Kirkman (aged 10). Alyson's daughter, she told me that she saw this 'silvery-white' light coming down behind the trees. After a while, there was a 'whirring' noise and the object landed on the ground. Fifi also said that some of the children said they saw little men in black suits, with greenish colour skin (I did not hear this from anyone else!) and big, funny eyes. She did not see the little men, but some of her friends did.

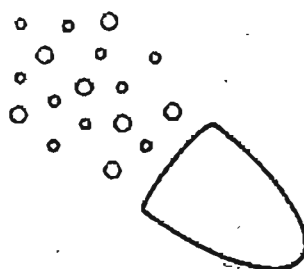
Tertia Nel (aged 10) saw more than one object, golden in colour, with little lights switching on and off. From where she was standing, it was about the size of her little finger, perhaps a little bigger. It looked like a pencil in the sky with a shiny light at the back, and then suddenly, it just vanished. When she saw it, it was quite high above the trees.

Barry Downing (aged 11) said he saw three silvery objects with flashing red lights flying over the school. He told me, "First I saw a crowd at the bottom

end of the playground, then I saw the object myself. It had flashing lights around the rim. then a bright light flashed and the objects disappeared and re-appeared almost immediately, somewhere else. This happened three times. Then, what looked like a little black ball came down and landed near two gum trees. This was about the size of my thumb-nail held at arm's length. Some of the children saw a little man appear on top of the object, dressed in black, with a long, skinny, scrawny neck and eyes like 'rugby balls'.

Then the little man disappeared and re-appeared again. When all this was happening, a very strong wind came past us."

Fungai Mavengere told me that he saw two little men who climbed down from the 'craft' and ran around the grounds in front of the children, as



though 'confused.' One of the little girls said that she thought the little men moved 'in slow motion.' When I spoke to Colin Mackie on the Friday, I suggested we have the children go back in the classrooms and draw what they had seen. The pictures, which are very similar, seem to concentrate more on the eyes; huge, black and slanting upwards. It is interesting to note that the children could see the features so clearly. Gunter estimated that it was at least 200 metres away from them, or perhaps even a little more. But John Spencer told me on the phone that he had a recent case in the UK where details were observed from more than 1/2km away.

There were many reports from the children, varying in detail as to what they had seen, but with a similar overall impression. However, this is shown on the video tape which I am going to show presently and would merely be repetitive if I gave you all the information here.

Ariel School, although not isolated, is on a large stretch of ground, bordering on small-scale farms and with big areas of bush. The playground has been cleared with

patches of grass as being in the midst of a drought; the lawns cannot be maintained. The adjacent bush is thick and overgrown and forbidden to the young children (aged 5-12 years) because of snakes, spiders and small animals. Also, the fact that once into this area, one is soon lost to sight.

Tim Leach, Colin Mackie (Headmaster of the School), Gunter Hofer (a young technician who helps me with investigations), my son Michael and I, trailed into the bush. This was fairly sparse at first, but then the bush grew thicker and the School and the children were lost to our sight within a matter of moments. We were accompanied by Guy Gibbons and Fungai Mavengere, two of the more articulate children. They pointed out that the objects had come into land - 3 or 4 of them - along the electricity pylons which led to the school and had landed between the 3rd and 4th pylon. Gunter Hofer tried the Geiger Counter and metal detector in that area, but nothing of particular interest showed up. There were some short, sharp stalks embedded in the ground, left over from a recent cutting of the reeds in that area, but I could find nothing flattened or disturbed.

Guy Gibbons told us that he had gone with the Headmaster, Colin Mackie, shortly after the event, and there had been three distinct burn marks on the ground. But despite our searching carefully that whole area, the burn marks seemed to have disappeared. Fungai told me that he thought the objects had not actually rested on the ground, but had hovered. I also think that there was some difficulty in pin-pointing the spot (which they should have marked on the Friday), but Gunter did take soil samples from where they felt the craft had landed, and some control samples, and I have details of the analysis of these, with some inexplicable results. Both Fungai and Guy pointed out the numerous ant-holes in the alleged landing area, none of which appeared to have any ants around.

Guy told me that they had found a lot of dead ants in the area (I never actually saw any), but there did not seem to be any insects in that part of the bush, which to say the least, is most strange. Colin Mackie thought they weren't coming out of the ground due to the lack of water and the excessive heat (it was about 38°C that day), but not being an

entomologist, I have no idea of the significance if this should be so.

The two boys, and subsequently some of the other children, mentioned a very bright, shining light which emanated from the top of the rise in that particular bush area. It was almost like the sun reflecting off glass. Fungai said at first he thought it was the sun shining onto the windows of a house, but then he realised there were no houses up on the rise; nor even near there.

When Tim Leach eventually sent the video tape to the BBC for their news service, there were one or two problems. One of these was that when the BBC received the film, they wanted to know what the bright light coming from the rise could be? They asked Tim to re-film that portion, taking the video at the same time of day, to see if the light would re-appear. Tim went out and re-filmed that portion of the video and there was no light!

After the visitation to the bush, we went back to the staffroom to film the children, and Tim asked me to ask the necessary questions. We had a cross-section of the children there, and each one told their story; some of which will be on the video I am going to show. Not all had seen the little men, and some were more articulate than others.

Guy Gibbons told us that when he first heard the children shouting, he went to see what was happening. He saw this round object on the ground with several smaller nearby (none of the children were absolutely sure how many there were; some said 3, some said 4).

Some of the children had seen legs on the ground, whereas others did not, but as the playground is uneven in many parts, it is quite logical that some of the children had a greater depth view of the object than others.

Guy Gibbons said that as he watched the object, he saw a little man get out of the craft and some running across the terrain. The man was about the size of a Standard Six child (approx. 1 metre). He had long, straight, black hair and a tight-fitting black suit. Later, one of the little girls said that the suit was shiny, like a wet-suit.

Guy demonstrated how large and slanting the eyes were. He also said

he had a tiny slit of a mouth and that he could see nostrils. As he was watching what was going on, two of the smaller children (6-7 years old) came past him, crying, so he went to them and asked them why they were crying. They said, "We're afraid as the little man will come and eat us!"

Ariel School is a private school and that means it is expensive, but the school is made up of black, coloured, Asian and white children. There are about 250 children at the school and it appears well maintained and the children are of a high IQ level.

When Guy mentioned about "being eaten," I knew immediately that the children he referred to must be black children, as in African tradition, mothers often warn naughty or crying children, "Be good, or else the Tokolosh will come and eat you," something which has long since exited from Western Society. I can just imagine the look of horror on a psychologist's face if people in Britain threatened their children in a similar manner.

Guy said to me, "Listening to them, I also became afraid!"

Some of the Standard Four's (10-year olds) had a discussion earlier that week in one of their general discussion classes about UFOs. This worried me as I felt they might have been influenced by this (and some perhaps were!), but the little ones and the older children had not been involved, and, in fact, they were the really articulate ones and the best observers. What also surprised me was the analytical manner in which the children reported their sightings. None were gushy; they were all thoughtful and deliberated as to what they had actually seen.

My impression is that the children, and I spoke to many of the 62 witnesses, were telling the truth, although there might have been some embroidery from the more imaginative ones; but on the whole, their evidence was straightforward and convincing.

I also gained the impression that a lot more could or would have been said but for the presence of the teachers and the Headmaster at all times. Mackie himself told me, "I don't really believe in UFOs, but the children are not lying. They would not lie to me." Mackie, I believe, is a strict

disciplinarian and the children handle him with deference and respect.

I plan to see more of the children on their own when I return to Zimbabwe and obtain a more comprehensive story.

Zara Vernon, one of the teachers at Ariel School, reported that one of her colleagues, a black teacher, had a nephew who was driving home on Saturday 17th Sept. It was about 20.00 hours and he left the school in the school-truck and drove along one of the back roads. All of a sudden, he could see people coming towards him on the road. He said they looked like 'dead' people. He couldn't explain who or what they were, but he tried to avoid them and swerved sharply to the left. But there were more of the 'dead' people there, so he swerved further and hit something. His head jerked forward and he was struck on the forehead. He does not know how long he was unconscious, but when he came to, he ditched the truck and ran hurriedly back to the school. He had quite a large cut on his head.

On the Friday morning, before the children saw anything, Mrs. Ailsa Stevens, who lives not far from the school - in fact, overlooking it - got up early to go to the bathroom. She said, "When I wake, I often stand for a while and look outside; perhaps at the dawn or night sky. On this occasion, I saw this glow over the chicken-run. At first, I didn't have my glasses, so I went to fetch them. The glow had a very definite shape to it: a very big, orange 'thing' just above the chicken-run. I went to call my husband to come and see, but by the time we got back to the window it had gone.

Dr. John Mack, who flew in from America to see and talk to the children, interviewed them for 2 or 3 days, and came up with some startling evidence which he himself will soon reveal. My interviews were certainly not done at his highly professional level (he is a child psychiatrist), but I am not an inexperienced interviewer and certainly did the best I could, with, of course, the assistance of my team.

To my mind, this is one of the world's best UFO cases for 1994.

Cynthia Hind,
P.O. Box MP49,
Mount Pleasant,
Harare,
Zimbabwe, 7.

Atmospheric Mass Loss on Mars and the Consequences for the Cydonian Hypothesis and Early Martian-Life-Forms

Helmut Lammer Ph.D.

In July 1976 NASA's Viking spacecraft acquired a strange image in the Cydonia region in the northern hemisphere of Mars, which appeared to be a human face staring straight up into space from the Martian surface.

DiPietro and Molenaar, two engineers at the Goddard Space Flight Center rediscovered the image several years later. They found a second image of this feature that had been acquired in slightly different lighting conditions. Digital image enhancements of this second image revealed a bisymmetrical object having features suggestive of eyes, a nose and a mouth (Carlotto, 1988). In a subsequent investigation, other nearby objects which seemed to be related with the face were found. These features are polyhedral objects in the southwest of the face (Figure 1).

Due the controversial nature of the subject, these results were published independently of the planetary scientific community. Recently,

McDaniel a member of the technical staff of AT&T Bell Laboratories applied Fractal Analysis on these features. The results of this examination support the hypothesis that the face in Cydonia is artificial (McDaniel, 1993). In 1989 John E. Brandenburg, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar presented at the MUFON Symposium in Las Vegas, Nevada a paper called the Cydonian hypothesis (Brandenburg et. al, 19~9). They suggested that planet Mars was once the home of an "indigenous" race of intelligent humanoid beings which constructed a humanoid face (or faces) in the Cydonia region, pyramids and other strange Martian surface features. They suggested that the motivation for the construction of large faces and pyramids was similar to the God-King worship of ancient Egypt, since the objects look similar in appearance and psychology to ourselves. 'The Cydonian Hypothesis works with the principle of mediocrity and requires a long-lived earth like biosphere (at least 34 billion years) on Mars, to allow the formation and evolution of such a culture. The Cydonian Hypothesis requires also the death of



Figure 1 View if the "Face" from the "City" (Dr Mark J. Carlotto, The Analytic Sciences Corporation.

Dr. Helmut Lammer,

Born 1965, studied Astronomie, Meteorology and Geophysics at the University of Graz, Austria.

Dr. Lammer received 1987 his first diploma in Astronomie and 1992 his Ph.D. in Geophysics. He published several scientific papers in noted international scientific journals in the field of planetary science and works currently as a space scientist.

He is involved as a research scientist on the forthcoming Mars-Global-Surveyor mission (NASA), the Russian MARS-94 mission and the Cassini/Huygens mission (NASA/ESA) to Saturn and its large satellite Titan. Dr. Lammer is a member of the European Geophysical Society (EGS) and the scientific UFO-research organisation MUFON-CES (Mutual UFO Network Central European Section) and consultant at Quest International's UFO MAGAZINE.

Dr Lammer published his first book in 1995 (in German language) about the UFO-phenomenon. H. Lammer / O. Sidla; UFO-SECURITY - The background for the world wide cover-up: recovered saucers, animal mutilations, abductions and secret documents; Foreword: Dipl.-Phys. Illobrand v. Ludwiger (Chief of MUFON-CES), Herbig, Munchen, 1995.



the planetary atmosphere, since Mars is presently hostile to Earth life. For the evolution of life-forms similar to that found on Earth we need to find the evidence of liquid water. With the exception of Earth, liquid water appears to be uncommon on the inner planets, only Mars shows evidence of possible ancient water flows. The evolution of the now thin atmosphere of about 6 mbar is thought to have proceeded by some combination of "escape to space" and "surface absorption." This work, therefore, has the aim to investigate with our present knowledge of atmospheric escape, climatological and geological studies, if Mars had once a long-lived earth like biosphere.

The atmosphere of Mars is very thin (the average surface pressure is about 6 mbar) and essentially composed of carbon-dioxide CO₂ (95%), nitrogen N (2.5%) and argon Ar (2%). Oxygen O and water H₂O vapour are not very abundant. The abundance of argon and the isotopic ratios (D/H, ¹⁴N/¹⁵N) show that the planet's gas losses during its history were much higher than the mass of the current atmosphere. The stratifications observed around the polar caps demonstrate the existence of medium term climatic variations. It is important to establish whether, at some point in history, Mars could have had conditions that would favour the appearance of life, such as substantial quantities of water in liquid form on the surface and a thick atmosphere that would protect the planet from ionizing radiation.

The geomorphology on Mars shows the probable existence, at least in the past, of important quantities of water on the surface or in the superficial layers of Mars. There are outflow channels which large-scale fluvial features appear to have been caused by catastrophic flooding events (e.g. Baker, 1982), associated with the rapid drainage of ice underground reservoirs (Carr, 1979). The channel networks observed in the ancient formations in the southern hemisphere have similarities with fluvial systems on Earth and lead one to think that flowing water (or mud) were responsible. In contrast to the outflow channels, the channel networks could not form under current atmospheric pressure conditions. Some of the channels have complex dendritic networks leading into the main channel and are suggestive of formation by rainfall (Masursky et al.,



Figure 2 Dendritic channels found in the ancient terrain are most probably formed by surface runoff following precipitation. The crater overlying the channels indicate that these features formed about 3.8×10^9 years ago. This evidence for the stability of liquid water on the Martian surface is the primary motivation for considering the possible origin of life on Mars.

1987). These networks are commonly found in the ancient cratered terrain in the southern hemisphere, the oldest Martian terrains and are rarely found on the younger northern plains (Figure 2). This suggests that the networks are old, and they are believed to have formed about 3.5-3.8 billion years ago (Carr, 1986).

The current atmosphere is very dry and the reservoir made up by the polar caps would only supply about ten meters of water on the average Martian surface. However, 200 meters would be required to explain the observed shapes. Therefore, a part of the water was lost to space and the other part must be stocked in a reservoir that could be permafrost (permanently frozen soil composed of a mixture of ice and rock) several kilometers thick in the sub polar regions. Current surface temperatures are too low for allowing such flows. Therefore, an increase in the main atmospheric constituent CO₂ is necessary, given the extent of a greenhouse effect that would be needed to exceed 0 °C and at least an atmospheric pressure of about 1 bar.

The amount of water and carbonate that has escaped to space in the past must be determined by modelling the

atmospheric loss processes backward in time. Atmospheric escape occurs, when atoms or ions move upward with velocities greater than the escape velocity to an atmospheric level, where the collision probability between the atmospheric constituents is low (i.e. the critical level or exobase). Because of the weak gravitational acceleration, a possible negligible small intrinsic magnetic field and the small size of the planet, all atmospheric loss mechanisms work on Mars (e.g. Lammer and Bauer, 1991, 1992; Luhman et al., 1992). Several important constituents, namely H, H₂, N, O, C, CO, O₂ and CO₂ are known to undergo thermal and non thermal escape mechanisms. If we calculate the atmospheric loss rates back in time we get a much denser atmosphere in the past (at least 0.14 bar). This calculated oxygen loss is equivalent to a planet-wide 50 meter depth ocean of liquid water (global surface depth) (Luhman et al., 1992). However, these loss rates of volatiles due to atmospheric escape are insufficient to deplete the initial endowment of water and other volatiles. Therefore, most of the volatiles may still be on the planet in surface reservoirs.

The current knowledge about the amount of CO₂ that was available for forming and maintaining a dense CO₂ atmosphere and for sustaining a wet warm climate in the early history of Mars is not well constrained. The estimations of out gassed CO₂ for Mars are in the range from 1-10 bars (Pollack et al., 1987). CO₂ partial pressures of 0.75 to 5 bars are needed in the early Martian atmosphere to raise the surface temperature to the melting point of water ice. The critical unknown in the possibility of the origin of life on Mars is, how long clement conditions prevailed after the first occurrence of liquid water on the Martian surface. Mars would have lost its dense CO₂ atmosphere as it was transformed into carbonate rocks (e.g., Pollack, 1987), increasingly absorbed by regolith as the temperatures became cooler (e.g., Zent et al., 1987), or reacted with surface materials (Huguenin, 1976). The formation of carbon at rocks would have proceeded on Mars as long as liquid water occur and ceased once the pressure dropped so low that liquid water could not hold on any longer (Kahn, 1985).

The time scale for decreasing atmospheric CO₂ from 1 bar to its present value by carbonate formation is estimated to be 10⁷-10⁹ years, including volcanism (e.g. Pollack et al., 1987). In the absence of "recycling", the lifetime of such an early dense atmosphere would have been very short. On an "active" planet like Earth, subduction of ocean sediments at plate boundaries followed by decomposition of carbonates in the mantle is the primary mechanism for completing the long-term geochemical CO₂ cycle. Mars does not have sufficient heat flow at present to cause the global scale recycling of volatiles incorporated into crustal rocks, nor is there any sign that Mars has, or ever had, crustal dynamics akin to plate tectonics. Space-missions found no hot-spot volcanoes, like the Hawaii islands on Earth which are the result of crustal dynamics (Figure 3). Mars' large shield volcanoes (Figure 4) like Mons Olympus are consistent with a one-plate planet (Solomon, 1978). The geological evidence for stable liquid water and the atmospheric models developed to explain this stability, suggest that the conditions on Earth and Mars may have been similar during the first hundred million years and perhaps for as long as 10⁹ years (McKay et al. 1989).

Subsequent planetary evolution led to very different histories for the two planets. Current understanding of planetary evolution would suggest that the main cause of the unfavorable conditions for higher developed Martian life-forms was the incorporation of CO₂ into carbonate sediments. The accumulation of carbonates was a direct and inevitable result of Mars' small size and hence its inability to support and retain sufficient heat flow to power plate tectonic activity and thereby

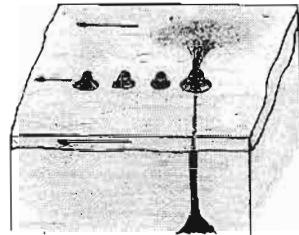


Figure 3 Sketch of hot-spot volcanoes, like the Hawaii Islands on Earth which are the result of crustal dynamics.

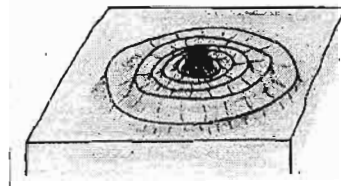


Figure 4 Sketch of a large shield volcano like Mons Olympus. The evidence of shield volcanoes is consistent with a one-plate planet. Mars does not have sufficient heat flow at present to cause the global scale recycling of volatiles incorporated into crustal rocks, nor is there any sign that Mars has, or ever had, crustal dynamics akin to plate tectonics.

recycle the atmospheric constituents in a long-term geochemical cycle. The theory for the origin of life on early Mars is based on the evidence that the conditions on early Earth and early Mars were similar. Life appears to have been widespread on Earth and existed in ecological communities by 3.5 billion years ago (Schopf and Packer, 1987). Thus the time interval for the origin of life on Earth is between 4 and 3.5 billion years ago (Schopf, 1983). Liquid water was on the surface of Mars at the termination of the late accretion phase, some 3.8 billion years ago, and therefore there must have been a warm atmosphere of approximately 1 bar CO₂. During and after this time, there was extensive crustal and volcanic activity. However, habitats suitable for the origin and survival of life may

have existed for hundreds of million years up to one billion years. The period of most interest is between 4.5 and 3.5 billion years ago. During this time, life arose on Earth and reached a degree of biological sophistication. Since Mars is not covered with an active biota today, it seems probable that if there was life during an earlier period it is now extinct.

Murray et al. (1973) discovered that the eccentricity of the Martian orbit varied with two superimposed periods of about 95,000 and 2 million years. The resulting periodic insulation variations on Mars could be perhaps a trigger of catastrophic floods (Baker and Milton, 1974) and meteorological variations, but no source for the formation of a Martian biosphere. The time-scales for these variations are also too short for the evolution of higher developed life-forms. If somehow life has survived to present times, then it has not fully adapted to current conditions on Mars and exists only in restricted habitats. However, these results have "bad consequences" for the Cydonian Hypothesis.

The Cydonian Hypothesis requires a long-lived earth like biosphere of about 3-4 billion years, to allow the formation and evolution of an ancient Egypt like culture (Brandenburg et al., 1989). The time-range for an earth like biosphere on Mars was too short for the evolution of intelligent humanoid life forms. The accumulation of CO₂ in surface material and the very strong atmospheric escape are direct and inevitable results of Mars' small size and hence its inability to support and retain sufficient heat flow to power plate tectonic activity and thereby recycle the atmospheric constituents in a long-term geochemical cycle. Therefore, future Mars missions will probably find archeobacteriological fossils, but no skeleton of a Martian born being. The results and conclusions above eliminate the evolution of higher developed Martian life forms and the Cydonia Hypothesis of Brandenburg et al. (1989). Therefore, stories of people like Ed Dames (ex. intelligence and the Director of PSI TECH) like: "Apparently some 150 million years ago the Martians were living comfortably on Mars." (Stark, 1993) are scientific nonsense or disinformation! Since Mars was 150 million years ago the same dead red planet like today.

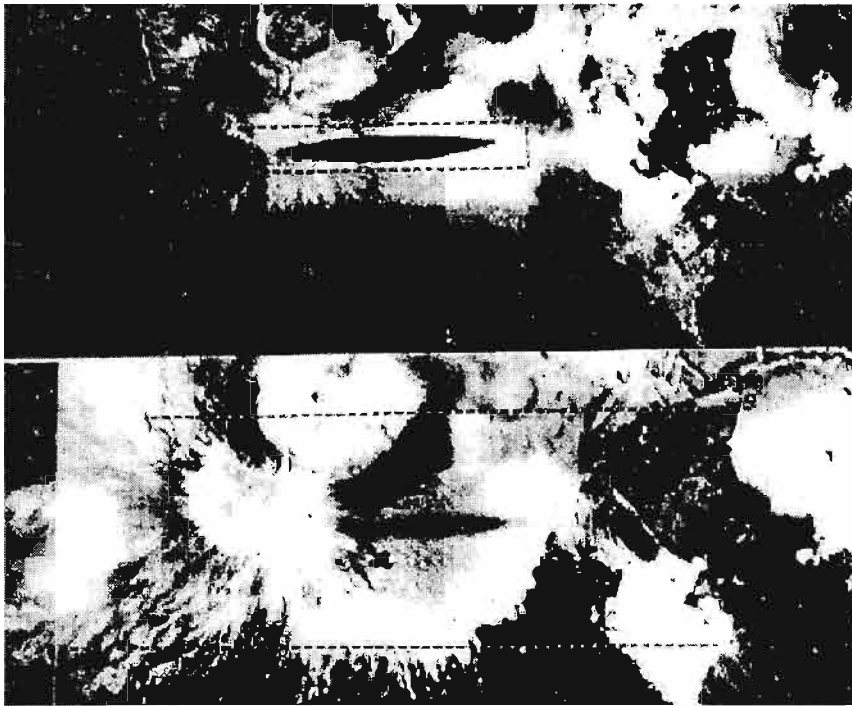


Figure 5 No UFO-shadows! Visible (top) and infrared (bottom) data from the first of the March 26 panoramas taken by Phobos 2. North is towards the top. The shadow of the Martian moon Phobos can be seen within the boxed portion of the visible data (Murray et al., 1991).

Claims of writer Zecharia Sitchin that the Phobos 2 spacecraft filmed a shadow on the Martian surface of a cylindrical UFO is also nonsense (Sitchin, 1991). The long-elongated UFO was nothing more than a shadow cast by the Martian moon Phobos itself (Figure 5), in unusual circumstances (Murray et al., 1991; Birdsall, 1993). Horizontal white lines on some pictures before or near the moon Phobos are also no UFO-light-tracks (Figure 6). They represent locations of the KRFM ground tracks from the TV-imaging experiment VSK-Fregat on the Phobos 2 spacecraft (Avanesov et al., 1991) or picture failures.

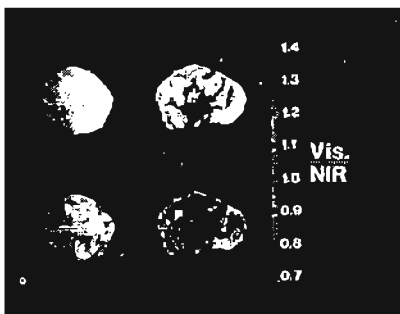


Figure 6 The horizontal white lines before the Martian moon Phobos are no UFO-light-tracks. They represent locations of KRFM ground-tracks from the TV-imaging experiment VSK-Fregat on the Phobos 2 spacecraft (Avanesov et al., 1991).

Therefore, we have to consider other hypotheses for the origin of these unusual surface features. Brandenburg et al., (1989) proposed two other alternatives for their origin. One such alternative is the Null Hypothesis, which represents the meaning of the scientific community. If this hypothesis is true, then the objects discussed are the result of random geological and erosional forces.

However, three-dimensional analysis of the Face revealed that the facial features are also present when the object is viewed from radically different perspectives (Carlotto, 1988). Such is not the case for familiar terrestrial analogs. McDaniel (1993) used Fractal Analysis to support the hypothesis that the face in the Cydonia region is artificial. Fractal Analysis is based on the finding that natural terrain tends to follow the rules of fractal mathematics, while the Martian surface features do not follow these rules. These facts and the close proximity of other unusual objects give small likelihoods for a second and a third alternative hypothesis. The so called Prior Colonisation Hypothesis suggests that these Objects owe their appearance to a culture that was not indigenous to Mars. This hypothesis requires no long-lived earth like biosphere nor its subsequent death. Such a civilization would possess capabilities for

interstellar/interdimensional travel and the colonization of other planets. An earthly hypothesis is the Previous Technical Civilization Hypothesis which suggests that in the prehistory of our race, a previous technical civilization had developed, gone to Mars and left the surface features as a message to the future (Hoagland, 1992). However, it is the author's belief that the Viking data are not of sufficient resolution to permit the identification of possible mechanisms of the origin for these objects, although some results to date suggest that they may not be natural. I think that these mysterious objects deserve further scrutiny by the forthcoming Mars missions. If one of these mission finds that the face on Mars, the pyramids and the other strange structures are indeed artificial, then the "unlikely" Prior Colonisation or Previous Technical Civilisation hypotheses would give an answer.

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Continued on page 47

JEFF WAYNE'S MUSICAL VERSION OF THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

THE NEW FILES

A Profile of Jeff Wayne and his Music

Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of "The War Of The Worlds" was released June 9, 1978 with a spectacular multi-media launch at the London Planetarium. The following week it entered the official UK Music Week Album Charts, and stayed there for over 6 years achieving multi-platinum status with worldwide sales now over 5 million double albums.

Internationally, the double album has been equally successful in many territories including: Spain, Holland, New Zealand, Canada, West Germany, Austria, Italy, Portugal, Israel and the Scandinavian countries. In Australia, "The War Of The Worlds" has passed 12 times platinum status and retained the Number 1 Album position for 7 consecutive weeks. In the USA the double album stayed in the Billboard charts for 7 months with sales exceeding 475,000 albums (although incorrectly listed as a movie soundtrack for most of its stay in the USA album charts!)

Foreign language versions of the complete work have also been released, including one for Latin America with Anthony Quinn taking the Richard Burton part. In Spain two versions of the double album were released: at its peak the Spanish version reached Number 1, the English version reached Number 7 and in the singles charts "The Eve Of The War" reached Number 1- all in the same week! A German version, featuring Curt Jurgens, was also successfully released three years after the original English recording.

Four singles taken from the complete work reached the UK Music Week charts. Two of these, "Forever Autumn" and "The Eve Of The War" have enjoyed international success - the latter again topping the UK pop, dance and 12" charts the end of 1989.

In 1979 the double album won the "Best Recording In Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy" in the United States, (the judging panel included Stephen Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock and other film luminaries).

In 1980 Jeff Wayne and Jeff Wayne Music Publishing Ltd. won two Ivor Novello Awards for the "Best Instrumental and/or Popular Work".

"The War Of The Worlds" has become an extremely popular piece to perform. Regular requests to present the work are received from: schools, professional and amateur theatre groups, orchestras, planetariums, laser+firework companies, sound+light companies etc.

Since 1978 "The Eve Of The War" has been recorded by many artistes and used as the main theme to many television and radio shows throughout the world. It has also been performed to by gymnasts, jugglers, dancers, ice-skaters, magicians, fire-eaters and animals!

The Compact Disc of the double album was released in the UK In December 1985 and topped the CD charts in its first week of release.

Also in 1985 Jeff Wayne's Video Game version was released in the UK. Available only for the then popular Sinclair Spectrum it topped

the video game charts selling over 40,000 units.

In 1987 for BBC Radio One, the Gallup Survey of "The Best Selling 100 Albums" of the past 25 years placed "The War Of The Worlds" at Number 30 and the Number "original" double album.

In 1989 CBS Holland relaunched the double album and single and both went Top 5.

In 1992 Sony Australia relaunched the double album which peaked at #2.

In August 1995 Sony UK will be re-marketing the original recording, releasing new club mixes and a new single.

Jeff Wayne

Jeff Wayne was born and raised in New York then moved to London when his father, singer/actor Jerry Wayne, created the part of .Sky Masterson in the musical "Guys and Dolls" at the London Coliseum. Four years later the Wayne Family returned to New York, Jeff attending Forest Hills High and studying classical piano and then jazz with John Mehegan (of the Julliard School of Music).

Moving on to California, Jeff graduated from Grant High then L.A. Valley College, with an A.A. degree in journalism but then switched to music upon entering California State. During those years Jeff supported himself playing keyboards in local bands and teaching tennis, a sport that saw him Captain and play Number One in High School and College, and today still competes actively.

Music being the slightly greater passion swayed Jeff to pursue the music field full time. In 1969 he joined his father back in London to compose the score for the West End Musical "Two Cities" with Edward Woodward, at the Palace Theatre.

Between 1970 and 1977 Jeff composed, arranged and produced for commercials, radio themes, films and records including the David Essex albums containing many hit singles, amongst them the USA No.1 "Rock On" (Grammy nominated and winning Jeff the UK NME "Best Produced Single" Award) and the Top 10 UK hit "Star dust", the title track from the David Putnam film.

In 1978 Jeff's musical version of "The War Of The Worlds" was released. The recording became an international hit with sales to date of over 5 million double albums, and hit singles including "The Eve Of the War" and "Forever Autumn". The recording stayed in the UK album charts alone for over 6 years culminating in 2 Ivor Novello Awards for Jeff and his publishing company.

Since "The War Of The Worlds" Jeff's work includes: a solo album with Justin Hayward "Night flight"; the score and soundtrack album of The Who's UK Number 1 film "McVicar"; an album "Illusions" by multi-woodwind ensemble Winds Of Change; the title song for the television movie "The Knowledge"; "Jubilation" the theme for ITV's The Big Match; "Matador" the theme for ITV's World Cup; title music for BBC's "Showcase"; TV-am's

"Good Morning Britain"; BBC's "Sixty Minutes"; ITV's "The World of Sport" and ITV's "Sports Logo".



September 1992 saw the release on Columbia Records of Jeff's 2 hour work 'Spartacus' featuring Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta Jones, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and other guest artistes.

Jeff has recently completed producing

Catherine Zeta Jones debut solo album for Jeff's new label WOW! Records to be released in 1995.

In addition to film and television assignments, Jeff's compositions have been recorded by artistes ranging from the London Symphony Orchestra to The Human League.

Jeff has also appeared as Guest Conductor with the London Symphony Orchestra and Choir in Gothenburg, Sweden and the Royal Albert Hall conducting music from "The War Of The Worlds".

Jeff is Chairman of the JWM Group, now in its 27th year, offering a complete composition, production, supervision and copyright information service to the film, television, advertising and multi-media industries. The Group offers its services through its 3 divisions and 16 full-time staff and Directors.

Jeff and Geraldine Wayne live in Hertfordshire, England with their four children Anna-Marie, Jemma, Zebidiah and Joab.

January 1995

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Researching the Bentwaters/Woodbridge Incidents: Some Notes on Left At East Gate

Peter Robbins

Concerning government, it is...in both these respects in which things are deemed secret; for some things are secret because they are hard to know, and some because they are not fit to utter.

Sir Francis Bacon*

Introduction

On a moonless night in late December, 1980, a nineteen year-old Air Force Security Policeman, armed with an M-16 rifle, stood guard at a remote perimeter of RAF Bentwaters, an American airbase in Suffolk, East Anglia.

There he monitored an unusual series of radio transmissions. They described unidentified lights above the forest several miles to the southeast. The guard was soon ordered to close down his post and await pick-up; a truck arrived for him shortly after that. It stopped briefly at the motorpool to attach a portable high-intensity light, then joined the vehicles and personnel already assembling at Bentwaters' Main Gate. When all were accounted for, the convoy moved out into the darkness.

No one on the guard's truck knew what was going on. Some sort of War game? Not likely. The fact that each was carrying a loaded weapon and live ammunition off base had already put them in direct violation of America's treaty with Great Britain. No, this was not an "exercise."

The convoy travelled due south for about five miles. As it approached the western perimeter of Bentwaters' sister base, RAF Woodbridge, an American military roadblock came into view. They were held briefly, then signaled on by a Security cop. An order was given to turn left onto a rutted logging road just beyond the base's East Gate, and one by one, the vehicles proceeded into the woods.

Several hundred yards along, the road widened to a rough circle; drivers pulled in and cut their engines. The men were told to disembark,

surrender their weapons, and assigned in four-man patrols. The patrols were ordered deeper into the forest to "investigate a disturbance." The "disturbance" sat in a farmer's field just beyond the woods, and it turned out to be a machine of undetermined origin or manufacture. So began Airman First Class Lawrence Warren's involvement in what is now commonly regarded as Britain's most significant military-UFO event on record.

Buried in security from the start, the true nature of the episode was suppressed and confounded under the American National Security Act of 1947, and Her Majesty's Official Secrets Act. It was soon relegated to the colorful realm of East Anglian folklore, and for all but a few stoic investigators, remained so. Then, on 2 October 1983, the story literally exploded in the English press; variations of Larry Warren's account (under a pseudonym) were central to the coverage. By month's end, Parliament had witnessed highly vocal debate on the subject, and behind closed doors, a potential diplomatic crisis had been set in motion.

Officially, the matter has never been deemed worthy of investigation by any branch or office of the Ministry of Defense or the Department of Defense. Both acknowledge it happened, but maintain that whatever it was, was not a threat to the security of Great Britain or the military bases which dot it.

The intention of this brief paper is fourfold:

to introduce some of the findings of a recently concluded investigation, to cite my involvement in it, to acknowledge the witness who sparked the investigation, and to discuss something of the book which resulted

Peter Robbins

Educated at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1965-67 and the School of Visual Arts, New York City, 1967-1970; Certificate of Fine Arts, 1970; Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1980. Completed Post-graduate psychology courses, Department of Continuing Education, New York University, New York City.

Attained teaching positions at the Painting faculty, The School of Visual Arts, NYC, 1973-1988, Fine Arts faculty, St. Ann's School (for gifted children), Brooklyn Heights, NY, 1976-1981 and Arts Encounters (Oklahoma Arts Council summer intensive project for children), fine arts and drama faculty, 1985-91

His UFO career has included:

1978 – Research Assistant to Maj (ret) Colman VonKeviczsky on "United Nations Secretary General's [requested] Report (A/33/268/Oct.6,1978), for the establishment of a UN-UFO department." Directed to the Special Political Committee, Thirty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

1979-80 – Editorial Assistant to Maj VonKeviczsky on "Blue Memorandum," for House of Lords.

1980-85 – Art Director and investigator for The Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI), a New York City-based civil-ian/police UFO research and investigative organization.

Assistant to Budd Hopkins; irregularly since 1983, regularly since 1992.

Peter has presented many papers across the United States in relation to the Bentwaters/Woodbridge case and has made several radio and television appearances. He was also a contributing researcher for the Network First Rendlesham Forest documentary produced by Central Productions/ITV.



from our collaboration. Left At East Gate: A First-Hand Account of the Bentwaters/ Woodbridge UFO Incident, Its Cover-up and Investigation, was co-written by Larry Warren, the first and loudest of the Bentwaters whistleblowers. The heart of this book is his story, in his own words. It marks the first time a bonafide military witness has come forward to give us such a fully detailed (and may I add, well-written) account of a service-related UFO incident, and its devastating aftermath. Authentic military witnesses are uncommon at best. *Verbal* authentic military witnesses, whose stories can be verified, are a positive rarity. My co-author is one of them, and the body of our book documents it.

Meeting Larry Warren

I first met Larry Warren in 1984, less than a year after he had come forward under his own name. The "controversial witness" my colleagues and I knew as "Art Wallace," appeared normal enough, and seemed to be doing his best to answer our questions, but if even a quarter of those answers were honest, the man was as wreckless as he was courageous. If he was only relating a disillusion, or just plain lying, he was certainly good at it.

When we met again four years later, the Bentwaters/ Woodbridge incident was America's best-known English close encounter. This, despite the fact that relatively little had appeared on it in the States. Soon afterwards, Larry asked me to consider writing a book with him. His offer was straightforward enough. As long as he got to tell his side of the story, I was free to pursue and publish whatever findings I could substantiate -- no matter how they might reflect on him. Neither of us would have the right to censor the other, and anything we made would be split equally. Not the kind of offer you expect from someone with someone to hide. As it turned out, there were things he was keeping from me, and with good reason. They all came out in time though; Left At East Gate took eight years to write.

To "fireproof" someone is Air Force slang for ruining their credibility. Larry Warren was a controversial witness, and I considered his proposal carefully before deciding. By 1987, my co-author had already weathered accusations (though never to his face)

of being an intelligence agent, a counter-intelligence agent, a drug addict, a liar, an idiot, brainwashed, or a Bentwaters wannabe. He was even accused of never having served in the Air Force to begin with. As far as I was concerned, if only one of these rumors proved true -- or a single line of his involved personal account did not check out, I would come down on him in print like ten tons of bricks. My reputation was not going to be dragged down with his; it was all I had. Still, he certainly *seemed* to have been through something traumatic in the Air Force, and still seemed to be at its effect.

Armchair research came first -- months of it. Larry had copies of almost everything then published on Bentwaters and I read it all. This was supplemented by the New York Public Library's collection of newspapers on microfilm, books and articles on post-war history, the American presence in England, and the two country's intelligence agencies. I made contact with several of the researchers whose investigations pre-dated ours, secured unpublished interviews with other of the witnesses, began to mail out inquiries, and made plans for a visit to Suffolk. That was five visits ago.

Larry's personal and Air Force-era papers were another source of raw information, he had kept quite a few. He also kept the letters his mother had sent him, and she of course had held on to his. Not only had he written her about the incident (in under a week), he had telephoned her about it a day after the fact -- and been cut off in the process. Both referred to it in their letters, and each had a witness to the brief conversation.

Although his service record had been classified since 1981, what Larry had retained of it confirmed crucial dates and details of his training, posting, duty assignments, and more. This was gratifying, but such revelations were soon in the shadow of others. These began during our first visit to Suffolk, and continue as I write.

With Left At East Gate, Larry Warren has quite literally chosen to put himself, and the incidents in question, on trial. He has a case, but I wouldn't ask you to take my word for it. Friendly and hostile witnesses have been questioned, depositions taken, sites re-visited, and exhibits placed into evidence. These are some

examples of what we will cover, and what we have uncovered:

What makes a whistleblower? What made one of Warren? Upbringing, character, and tenacity -- the willingness to stand up, and remain standing for what you believe in, no matter what. In this case, a long history of UFO-related experiences was also a factor.

Why were Larry, and some of the other men he went through basic training with in Texas, put through an additional battery of psychological tests; ones which inquired into the subject's para-normal and UFO-related interest and experience? Was it just coincidence that several of these individuals ended up together in the Rendlesham Forest?

Russian Connection?

During the first night's events, Bentwaters Deputy Base Commander Charles I. Halt's team found and measured a series of impressions in the forest floor. They also checked the site for radiation. After reading Col. Halt's 1981 memorandum, a professor of engineering in Voronezh, USSR (and one of the central investigators of that city's 1989 UFO landing site), informed us "that the initial shape and dimension of [USSR] depressions were perfectly identical to England ones." He also noted, "The visible form and dimension of Voronezh and Bentwaters vehicles were also alike. So, maybe these UFOs were of the same type?" The Russian one also left radiation traces.

Contrary to popular misconception, Larry Warren was not the only witness to the second night's events who is on record as having seen non-human intelligences by the side of the craft.

The soil at the precise spot where the craft sat has been dramatically altered. The results of the soil analysis, as well as how the authenticity of the site was determined, are fully covered. Photographs taken as late as 1990 clearly show the results of the alteration.

The debriefing: a full account of what transpired, who conducted it, and what happened afterwards.

Larry developed eye problems immediately after the event. The earliest medical appointment he could secure was on 2 February 1981. His

original Air Force Appointment Form notes the retinas of his eyes have suffered "burn exposure." This had been independently confirmed.

Discharge

Though honorably discharged in May of 1981, a bleak economy found Larry back at his Air Force recruiter's that autumn. But re-entry was barred and the recruiter could not determine why; all records pertaining to Warren, Lawrence, had been classified. Larry's congressman enquired on his behalf, and was informed "that Mr. Warren was permanently disqualified by the USAF Air Training Command Surgeon on September 17, 1981, [four months after his discharge] by reason...[he] cannot fully extend his right arm." He can.

Col Halt's 13 January 1981 memorandum still stands as the only official written confirmation of the event's reality.

An action initiated by Larry Warren in 1982 directly contributed to the paper's release in 1983.

In 1984, Larry suddenly began bleeding through his skin for no apparent reason. No cut, scrape, or lesion could account for the blood, and his wife, a medical professional, insisted they drive to the emergency room of the hospital she was affiliated with. Here he was examined and questioned by a small team of doctors who then ran a series of tests. The paperwork presented reflects their belief that the former airman had been exposed to a nuclear source, most likely in 1980.

The most extensive series of interviews with Bentwaters witnesses to appear in print.

- A review of the original press coverage -- in all of its permutations.
- A fair look at other investigators' theories and findings.
- Specifics of the 1956 Bentwaters/Woodbridge UFO incident.
- A series of elements I haven't begun to touch on here.

I welcome the opportunity to make our presentation at this conference, and hope to be able to introduce my co-

author there as well. Unfortunately, his passport has been retained by the State Department since last September; something about speaking out on sensitive defense issues in a public forum, on foreign soil. English soil to be specific. We are optimistic that his travel privileges will be restored by then, but if they have not been, I will give whatever update I can.

It is the nature of governments to keep certain things from their people - for the public "good" or to maintain official control. But the process results in the gradual erosion of democratic institutions in the name of "national security." In the Bentwaters case, truth and reason have been the casualties for the citizens of Great Britain and the United States.

* from Secrets, Sissela Bok, Pantheon Books, NY, 1982, p.172

Helmut Lammer

Continued from page 42

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The Results of Research of the Physical Nature of Anomalous Phenomena received by The Academy Sciences in Russia.

Yu. V. Patov

Introduction

The History of the Development of UFO Investigation (Paranormal Phenomena) in Russia.

Even a superficial acquaintance with the history of UFO research in the former USSR shows a limited development in this field, to certain degrees.

At the beginning of the 50's, if this 'problem' was mentioned in the press, it was only as a subject of perplexity or as a joke! However, at the end of the 50's various amateur UFO groups began to assemble information made accessible to them from foreign publications, and more significantly and rarely, domestic information about sightings of strange phenomena. During this early period "soviet ufology" was obviously changeable in character with many aspects to it.

In 1967, one of the UFO amateurs, Ph. Zigel, had published in some popular magazines a series of intriguing articles about UFO sightings and he made an attempt to organise a public committee on the UFO problem. Such a committee was created, however its existence was of short duration. After a month, the committee was closed. Moreover, in the Academy of Sciences (AS) of the USSR, a decree was accepted that "agitators" were to blame for interest in the UFO problem. Although the committee had been officially dismissed, it did not mean that the amateur UFO study groups that had formed during this period disintegrated. Indeed, their activities continued in a sort of half-official, half-legal nature; on the one hand the state did not support the groups, on the other they were not prohibited from indulging a "harmless hobby".

It is important to note for the sake of validity, that professional researchers, including scientists from the AS, were among the people interested in UFO

case histories noted up to that time. For example, the secretary of the Department of General Physics & Astronomy, Dr. V. Leshkovtsev, had collected and analysed the large file of UFO case histories, and although he was not enraptured with the extra-terrestrial origin hypothesis, rather the contrary, at least he empathised with the enthusiasm of UFO researchers on the whole.

At this time around the country, there were very many of the "samizdat lectures" by authors of varying abilities and attitudes, ranging from the fanatical to the slapdash! This "literature" has gained popularity due to the lack of real information available, resulting in the spreading of sensationalist rumours and huge agitation around any unusual cases. There is an absence of skilled estimation of real events coupled with constant criticism by "official science" who adopt a completely negative attitude and a disinterest in "the problem of the century". All these circumstances served to create favourable openings for the formation of an organisation for research into paranormal phenomena in official bodies.

The event which really occasioned the beginning of such work, was called "The Petrozavodsk Phenomenon". This surprising optical phenomenon was observed early in the morning on 20th September, 1977 in a large area of territory in the North Western part of the USSR, as well as in Finland. It was later identified with the launch of the satellite Kosmos-955 from the cosmodrome near Plesetsk. Interpretations of the phenomena (bolide, aurora, destruction of the ozone layer) were naive enough, but also gave the chance to some UFO amateurs to mock "science". This was also their basis for an explicit statement that this phenomenon could be nothing other than a genuine UFO, i.e. it could only be an alien spaceship.

Yu. V. Platov

Born 19th September 1943 in the Kirov region, Russia, Yulii Platov studied in the Department of Chemical Physics at the Moscow Physical-Technical Institute from 1960 to 1966. He continued his postgraduate training at the same institute, studying Plasma Physics until 1968. He was a candidate (doctorate) of Physical Mathematical Sciences in 1972.

Platov started as a Junior Research Scientist in 1968, rising to his present position Leading research Scientist at the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere and Radio Wave Propagation (RAS).

His scientific experience includes the dynamics of plasma in magnetic fields, studying the mechanisms of solar prominences and the planning of observations of solar eclipses, aurora, airglow and active experiments in the atmosphere.

With his experience, Yulii Platov as utilised his expertise in the study of paranormal phenomena including UFOs and currently holds the position of Vice Chairman of the expert group of the Russian Academy of Science which investigates paranormal phenomena.

He has published more than 60 papers with 20 concerning the physics of paranormal phenomena, with one monograph entitled, "The UFO and contemporary Science."

Yulii is married with one son.



The main result of this story was the decision to organise research into the physical nature of paranormal phenomena in the AS.

The Statement of Researches into Paranormal Phenomena by the A.S. of the USSR

At this time, in comparison with a more or less stable outlook towards the UFO problem by Western countries, the situation in the former USSR was very contradictory and confused. The overall aspect here however, was approximately the same. UFO research being basically carried out by amateurs, more rarely by professional researchers. Amateurs usually standing out for the extra-terrestrial hypothesis, whilst the professionals prefer to search for concrete explanations using the most interesting, authentic and informative cases of recordings of paranormal phenomena.

The AS organised a data collection from a wide source, gathering enough total, objective researches from official channels as well as from casual, amateur observers. On the basis of cases received, the bank of data to the mid 80's numbered about 3000 files.

For analysis of material assembled, researchers from various scientific fields were brought in. There are atmospheric physicists, optics, geophysicists, geochemistry and others.

From time to time we have conducted laboratory analysis on samples purported to be related to interesting "events".

Interpretation of data includes the analysis of conditions of lighting during events, geophysical conditions, correlation with processes of a technical activity, in particular with launches of rockets, flights of high-altitude balloons and the execution of artificial experiments in the upper layers of the atmosphere.

The Results of Researches

The phenomena most frequently estimated by eyewitnesses as paranormal are usually optical effects, and accompanying rocket launches. Concrete physical development of these phenomena is determined by conditions of visibility i.e. the rocket plumes, and more importantly the

scattering of sunlight on rocket exhausts in twilight conditions, when the observer is in the shadow of the Earth, and a rocket is in a position to be lit by the sun. The first person to describe this effect, in print, was D. Oberg of the USA

Conditions of lighting of the rockets vary considerably with the seasons, time of day, locations of the observers as well as the rocket itself. The accuracy of observations (and consequently the frequency of reporting sightings) of such phenomena is a complex function of these parameters. The paranormal aspect of such phenomena amplifies with the possibility of proximity to the location of the cosmodrome, (about 1000 km from the rockets position) and in distant regions where the rocket and satellite engine switching on and off can be seen.

Second in significance are the sightings of high-altitude balloons. The huge sizes of modern balloons (up to 100 metres and more), the different shapes ranging from a simple sphere to some of pyramidal contours, the height of flights (up to 40 km), a long lifetime and a complex trajectory of drift, as well as colour effects from the scattering and reflection of light on the balloon surface help to determine the level of their "paranormal" aspect.

The observation of astronomical objects in unusual atmospheric conditions are also the reason for frequent UFO reports. The planets Venus and Jupiter and also the Moon and Sun, when near to the horizon and in unusual conditions of refraction, generate reports.

The reasons previously listed certainly do not show all possible explanations for paranormal phenomena but are the main ones.

We have also conducted a series of researches into so-called "UFO landing sites". In some cases there were marked physical deviations from the surrounding area. However, the connection of these places to a "UFO landing" is a problem question. From results, we can only say that there are on Earth a significant quantity of localised spots with some physical deviations from the background area. During 15 years collation of information at the AS, cases of "UFO landings" and contactees did not appear. As to descriptions of such

cases assembled in "private" collections, there are big doubts in their reliability.

The performing of this work has allowed: the creation of a bank of data of authentic observation of various paranormal phenomena; to construct physical models of development of the most typical phenomena thus enabling identification of more than 95% of such phenomena in accordance with their descriptions; to conduct research to separate the most interesting events; to pick up on some authentic cases which do not have a clear enough interpretation at present.

The Structure of a "Ufological" Community in Russia.

There are only a few professional organisations in our country carrying out research into paranormal phenomena. They are the expert group on such phenomena, in the area attached to the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the Academy of Sciences of Russia, the Siberian centre of study of paranormal phenomena attached to the Polytechnic Institute (Tomsk), the section of paranormal phenomena of the meteorite and space dust commission (Novosibirsk), the section of the study of paranormal phenomena attached to the commissions of applied physics of the Dalnevostok Scientific Centre (Vladivostok), the Research Institute of a study of paranormal phenomena attached to the aerospace company the "Vertical" (Kharkov, Ukraine).

The analysis of cases of paranormal phenomena, their identification and classification, an estimation of their possible scientific importance, interaction with other organisations conducting research into the subject are related duties of this expert group.

The Siberian centre executes researches connected with ecological problems, and with the question of the monitoring of paranormal phenomena. In particular, there are investigations into anomaly fluctuations of natural physical fields and technical systems.

The collection and analysis of cases of observations of UFO's in the Eastern region of Russia is carried out in Novosibirsk and Vladivostok.

The main direction of research in the Institute of Kharkov consist of the

development of methods of active detection of paranormal atmospheric phenomena, and the study of any interaction of paranormal phenomena on the environment.

There is a quantity of amateur groups in various cities throughout the country. The quality of their work is very erratic. As a rule the activity of such groups is reduced to acquisition of data of UFO observations and much diverse discussion "of working hypotheses on UFO's". However, serious groups are also represented. For example, there are some in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Uljanovsk. Co-ordination of these amateur groups could not be called successful because of the discord and confrontations between them. The number of journals produced by these UFO associations is quite high. However, the scientific and professional approach of these journals is generally very low.

The Estimation of Attitudes to the Problem and the Outlook

The existence of unexplained anomalies in different fields of researches is fairly common and natural, something that stimulates research. But most such "anomalies" fail to catch the eyes of the public. For example, there are such anomalies as the isotopic composition of lunar material or the difference between the theoretical and the actually measured solar neutrino flux. It seems to be more important for science to understand them than a flight of "a bright luminous body" observed in many regions of the European part of Russia.

Sensationalism is always the result of a "nontrivial" analysis of odd phenomena.

The natural sciences have reached a stage of development when further progress requires highly specialised experiments with highly sensitive equipment and a precise analysis of the results achieved. It becomes increasingly difficult to discover new and hitherto unknown phenomena. This does not mean, of course, that our studies of the subject are drawing to a close. This simply means that we have approached processes, objects and phenomena which until quite recently could not be studied by any available methods. This being so, should we assume that what we call paranormal phenomena also belongs

in this category, or should we say that we are dealing with, in this case, some entirely different new processes or even something connected with extraterrestrial civilisations? To our minds it is a safe bet that this probability is infinitesimal. We know that many extremely rare phenomena have been explained in sufficient detail, or at least described in sufficient detail.

The investigations conducted by different organisations have identified several types of the more widespread effects of natural and antropogenic origins perceived as something anomalous. The unidentified event does not fit into any specific class. Most likely, this is evidence that absolutely random reports get into this group.

I would like to stress that assumptions about a "confrontation" between "official science" and amateur Ufologists are hardly admissible. If there are strange sightings and they have a place, they could be analysed and who specifically should do this is of secondary importance, though certainly the level of professional training of researchers should correspond to the level of questioning. But I think there is a basic difference between the two types of approach to the whole problem. It is inadmissible to replace really comprehensive

research by a search for confirmation of any hypothesis no matter how attractive it might appear. The latter case is a veiled refusal to do serious research.

Acknowledgements.

I would like to express sincere thanks to all my colleagues in Russia as well as in other countries for joint researches into paranormal phenomena and the discussions of the results.

Firstly, I relate them to V. Rubtsov, S. Chernouss and D. Oberg (USA). I also express special gratitude to academician V. Migulin who has lead this field of research in Russia since 1977.

(I am also very grateful to Sony Music/Columbia and the organisers of the congress, who have allowed me to participate in the work of the 8th BUFORA international UFO Congress. In particular Philip Mantle, who has offered his support and hospitality.)

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UFO Declassification in Spain

Military UFO Files Available to the Public: A Balance

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

More than three years have elapsed since the Air Force made the historical decision of removing the secrecy on UFO information. Hardly with the United States as the only major precedent, Spain has reached an enviable (and in fact, envied) position among the rest of the countries, in respect of making these files available to those who want to know. The present paper will review the contents of the material released until now.

The date of April, 14, 1992 meant a turning point in the history of our national ufology. On that day, the Joint Chiefs of the Staffs (JUEM) of Army, Navy and Air Force held one of its periodical meetings. On that occasion, one of the subjects on their agenda went beyond topical military issues: they were dealing with UFOs. In fact, Air Force chief of the Staff Lt. General Ramón Fernández Sequeiros drew his distinguished, uniformed colleagues attention to the most extensive and accurate report ever been prepared by the military on the UFO business. The purpose of all this was to propose the declassification of the Air Force UFO files.

Background History

In order to decipher some of the keys which caused this to occur, including the role I played myself on this development, it is worth going back to some months before. In 1990, I decided to bring up around the Air Force Staff the need to raise the burdensome secret of its UFO documentation, placed at level of confidential since 1968 and considered as a *classified matter* since 1979.

There was a reason for my concern. Since 198 I was researching, in collaboration with my colleague Joan Plana, every aspect related to UFO sightings involving military men. I tried to establish the specific treatment actually given and the procedures applied to UFO information by each branch of the armed forces in my country. I was quite determined to see the secret barrier broken once and for all

To this end, I addressed the Air Force authorities with arguments and reasoning I thought suitable in order to achieve this hopeful change. I started to mail letters and memoranda trying to 'sensitise' the Air Force Staff. Then I found the opportunity to present my proposals personally to some officers of several departments, in the course of many non-official meetings which took place during 1990 and 1991 at the Air Force Headquarters in Madrid. As reference material, research papers, UFO report questionnaires used and case analyses performed by ourselves were handled as well. In the past, the Air Force had an ugly experience with a journalist and I had to prove that ours was a scientific-oriented and serious drive, opposite to a publicity seeking motivation.

All these steps yielded a profit and in May 1991 the Colonel in charge of the UFO archives saw it suitable to write an internal memo recommending that UFO files be declassified. It initiated a chain reaction within the Air Force.

One of the highlights in this chronology (especially exciting for me who lived it so closely) was the transference of the actual UFO files to the Air Operative Command (MOA), located at Torrejón AFB. It was in January 1992. The chief of the Air Force Staff (JEMA) commissioned Lt. General Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal, MOA commander in chief, the management of all information related to the UFO subject.

In particular, General Chamorro was instructed that available documents were analysed and professional procedures to manage the information were prepared for JEMA's approval including the setting of a clear-cut methodology for the declassification of current and future UFO files. Immediately, MOA Intelligence officers got on with the task. Two months later, a report describing the history of the Air Force involvement in the UFO affair, the contents of the files and the global evaluation of the information had been finished. It concluded that the spreading of information would not endanger

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

Born in Valencia, Spain, 27th December 1948. Acquired a Computer programming degree along with a background in Physics and Industrial Engineering. He has also studied finance related topics including risk insurance.

Since 1976 he has been employed by the Ford Motor Co.. Presently he holds the position of Manager, Insurance and Benefits (Finance).

Research

Mr. Ballester Olmos has been actively and uninterruptedly engaged in the study of the UFO phenomenon since 1986. He has specialised in the areas of data collection, field investigation, evaluation along with cataloguing and statistical analysis of close encounter cases in Spain and Portugal.

In recent years he has focused on military aspects of the UFO problem and was instrumental in the Spanish Air Force Joint Chiefs of Staff decision to withdraw the *secret* classification of UFO reports in 1992.

A compiler of bibliographies of scientific and technical papers to the study of UFO, he is also the author of over 300 articles and papers published around the world. Ballester Olmos has contributed to a number of UFO books including: UFOs in Two Worlds, edited by Charles Bowen for FSR (1971), UFOs 1947-1987, edited by Hilary Evens and John Spencer (BUFORA 1987) and the Spectrum of UFO Research edited by Mimi Hynek, (CUFOS, 1988).

Personal

Vicente is married with three children, is an avid reader and correspondent and has an unhidden passion for country & western music.



70 Declassified Cases

1962 - 1979

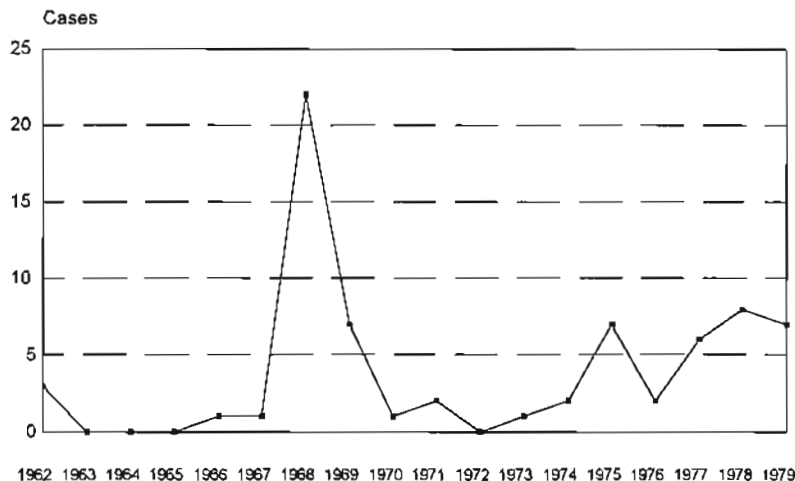


Figure 1

National Defence. The report suggested that the material should be declassified after each individual case review.

Early in April 1992, MOA established a document - "Norms to follow after reporting of sightings involving strange phenomena in the national air space". This General Instruction, issued as IG-40-5, represents the present-day official rules regarding UFOs used by the Spanish Air force.

General Features (49 Files - 71 Cases)

| | IFOs | UFOs |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|
| Radar | 12 | 4 |
| Scramble | 11 | 3 |
| CE | 7 | 2 |
| Photos | 10 | 0 |
| Civil Pilots | 20 | 2 |
| Other Official Bodies Involved | | |
| Civil Guard | 3 | 0 |
| Police | 2 | 0 |
| Navy | 4 | 0 |
| Army | 2 | 1 |

Equipped with such advisory reports, the chief of the Air Force Staff attended the aforementioned JUJEM meeting on April 14, 1992. After his exposition and some deliberations, the Joint Chiefs of the Staff decided to downgrade the reserve level, delegating the authority to declassify UFO information to the Air Force boss. Since then, MOA Intelligence began to study one by one the existing 66 UFO files, in order to provide to ufologists and general public what we had requested for

decades: free access to secret UFO archives.

On September 25, 1992, the first UFO file was declassified. It consisted of three sightings reported by the same person in the surroundings of San Javier AFB (Murcia), in August 1962. Copies of files are kept in the Air force Headquarters library, where these can be read and photocopied by those interested. Files do contain all the information gathered by the Air Force Staff over the years. Only one restriction, the names of witnesses and officers involved, which are deleted. Some of the reports, unfortunately, are poor quality copies.

Files typically start with a case summary and an index to all documents therein contained, which include internal official correspondence, memoranda and reports by military judges appointed to conduct in-the-field investigation, questionnaires filled by eye-witnesses, drawings, radar overlays, pilot and air controller reports, maps, meteor, flight and astronomical data, facsimiles of photographs, etc. In brief, a mine of information to analyse.

Main Case Features

At the time of writing (May 1995), 49 files have been declassified, consisting of 71 distinct sightings (there are files with more than one sighting) and summing up 1,108 pages. 70 cases cover the time span 1962 to 1979.

A very recent case has also been released. At early hours of March 31,

1993, a myriad of lights were seen moving at a very high altitude over the Northeast of Spain. They came by in a Northwest-Southeast direction, and the luminous carousel had crossed the skies of England and France previously, along the same flight path. Sightings were associated to the re-entry of the Cyclone rocket booster of Russian spy satellite Cosmos 2238. SEPRA, the French authority on spacecraft decay (part of the National Centre of Space Studies), announced the proper identification. I provided this to the Air Force for knowledge. Then, MOA resolved to facilitate this information through a new file as a public service.

In the cases registered, there are 16 instances where flying objects or echoes were tracked by a radar facility. It resulted in 14 scrambles or attempts of interception by military aircraft. Moreover, 22 aeroplane crews of commercial airlines sighted strange-looking phenomena as well. Photographs -both by military and civil personnel- were taken during 10 of the reported events (five of them by one individual). Nine cases reflect a close vicinity phenomenon-to-ground as to be classed under Hynek's close encounter division (five of these stories include humanoids descending from a landed craft -all reported by the same person). Over the Air Force involvement, other official institutions have participated in the unrolling of the experiences: three times the Civil Guard (rural police), the Navy four times, the Army three times and two from the police corps.

66 files were submitted to MOA from Air Force Headquarters. In this three-year period, I have personally found that intelligence officers strived to find reports lost by the military bureaucracy (those which never found their way to the highest Air Force ranks). Additionally, other Air Force sources sent to MOA newly-found old records, and some modern cases have added too. As a result, over 30 cases have been traced. These will see the light at a later date. I expect over 120 sighting reports to be officially known by the Spanish Air force in the last 30 years.

The First Wave

If we review the military census we know now, we observe that reports are not distributed homogeneously along this period. As we can see in figure 1, year 1968 shows an

Number of UFO Reports Received by Air Authority During 1968 - 1969

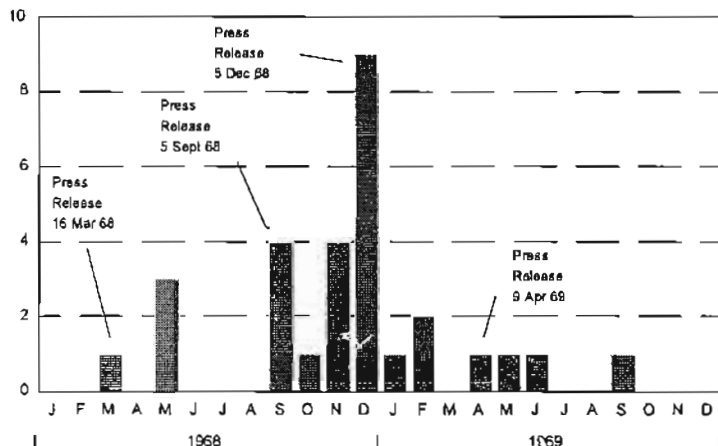


Figure 2

important increase in the number of cases reported to the Air Force. But was this something spontaneous? In general, 1968 (and half of 1969 as well) recorded a considerable increase of press news related to UFO sightings in Spain. For example, our files of CE I (oldest UFO organisation in Spain) have collected several hundreds of reports only in 1968.

According to the cases exclusively reported to the Air Force authorities, there were some spectacular -but not necessarily unexplained- cases in March, May and September 1968, which gave rise to the publication of the first official press releases on UFOs from the Ministry of Air. Finally, because of the stir created about the matter, the Ministry of Air's Press Office delivered a major communiqué to Spanish mass media on December 5, 1968. It formally asked witnesses to report UFO sightings to the air authority.

| Time of Day (49 Files - 71 Cases) | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| | IFOs | UFOs |
| 12 -18hr | 8 | 1 |
| 18-24 hr | 39 | 2 |
| 00-12 hr | 11 | 2 |
| 06-12 hr | 7 | 2 |
| Unknown | 1 | 0 |

This opened Pandora's Box: some citizens who saw lights in the sky thought it was their duty to report them to the Air force. On top of that, between November 1968 and February 1969 the relative astronomical proximity of planet Venus with respect to the Earth was

significant, turning it up every evening like a very brilliant source of light on the South-western horizon. Conjunction of both events managed to produce an expected situation.

Figure 2 plots the monthly distribution of cases occurred in 1968 and 1969, with indication of publication dates of press notes distributed by the Ministry of the Air. Specially in the December month peak, a perfect correlation between cause and effect is noticed: Six out of nine cases reported that month were confusions with planet Venus.

Characters

Two Intelligence officers have been responsible for the declassification during this period. The first one was Lt. Colonel Angel Bastida, who initiated the work, developed a computerised data base and began the declassification process. Bastida supervised 22 out of the 49 released files and he was the author of the best official monograph on "UFO's and the Air Force", an article published in *Revista de Aeronáutica y Astronáutica*, August 1992, the Spanish Air Force journal.

Lt. Col. Bastida left MOA Intelligence section in July 1993, in order to be in command of another unit (an essential requirement to promotion). He was substituted by Lt. Colonel, Enrique Rocamora. Although he was then transferred to Operations, his new duties were additional to his UFO task.

Although programming and evaluation of air exercises and travelling take

most of his time, Rocamora has applied himself with all his might to the labour entrusted by his commander-in-chief.

MOA's first chief, General Chamorro retired in 1994, and he was replaced by Lt. General José Luis Tojeiro, who has continued the steady flow of files. In the meantime, JEMA General Fernández Sequeiros also reached retirement age and Lt. General Ignacio Quintana Arévalo was appointed by the Minister of Defence as new chief of the Air Force Staff.

Are There Genuine UFOs in the Military Files?

Indeed, this is the million-dollar-question and the *raison d'être* of UFO research, our aim consisting in defining whether or not UFO reports can be explained conventionally. To that end, available analytical tools and multidisciplinary expertise is used. If a UFO event becomes a real anomaly, by depicting exotic properties, then hypotheses are to be tested in order to evaluate its true nature.

Our purpose is to study every case in full detail. Assisted by professional help of consultants in areas like Astronomy, Telecommunications, Physics, Civil Aviation, Meteorology and other disciplines pertinent in UFO research, we believe to have found a reasonably convincing explanation for 64 out of the 71 sightings. Seven cases (barely 10% of total) defy an explanation or are still under investigation, therefore these are potential UFOs. Following table lists Spanish Air Force cases per category after screening.

| IFOs by type of Explanation (64) | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Astronomical | 25 |
| Venus | 15 |
| Star/Planet | 5 |
| Meteor/Fireball | 4 |
| Moon setting | 1 |
| Hoax | 16 |
| Meteorological Balloons | 11 |
| Miscellaneous | 12 |
| Rocket/Missile | 4 |
| Aircraft | 3 |
| Reflection | 3 |
| Re-entry | 1 |
| False echos | 1 |

The hoax category may seem shocking, when speaking of military-sourced cases. Yet in all

33 Months of Declassification Pages Released

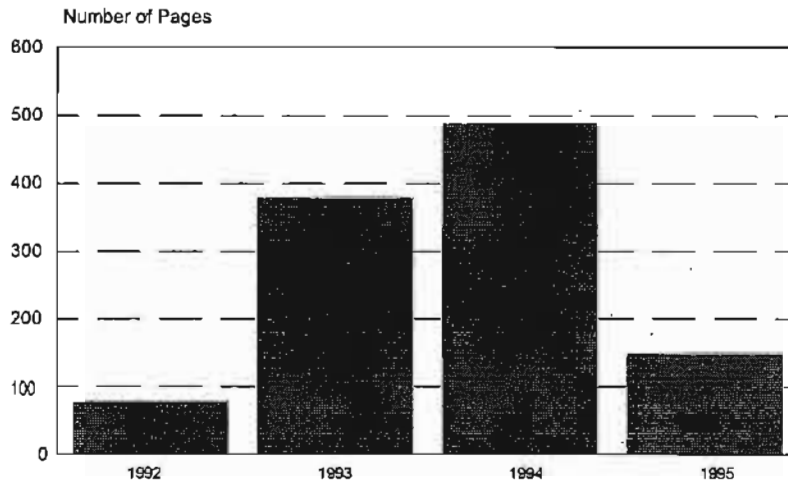


Figure 3

instances there were civilian witnesses (suspicious stories, faked photographs, low credibility subject(s), and three people contributed 14 out of 16 cases, e.g. "repeaters", as we use to call them.

Sample of Unexplained Cases - Abstracts

1st January, 1975 (06:25), Quintanaortuño (Burgos).

At the time of their sighting, four soldiers were fulfilling their military service in the Army Engineers Academy at Burgos. They were returning from Santander after

Christmas leave, when at 14 km from Burgos, the driver stopped the car after seeing the high-speed parabolic descent of a strange light. At that moment they all saw on their left a very intense light, comparable to that produced by "a light tower on a soccer fields". Intrigued, they got out of the car, crossed the highway and saw 400m away a luminous body "with the shape of a truncated cone" that seemed to be hovering about two metres off the ground.

It was about two metres in height and three meters across the base, it emitted a yellowish light that was whiter on top, and on the bottom were

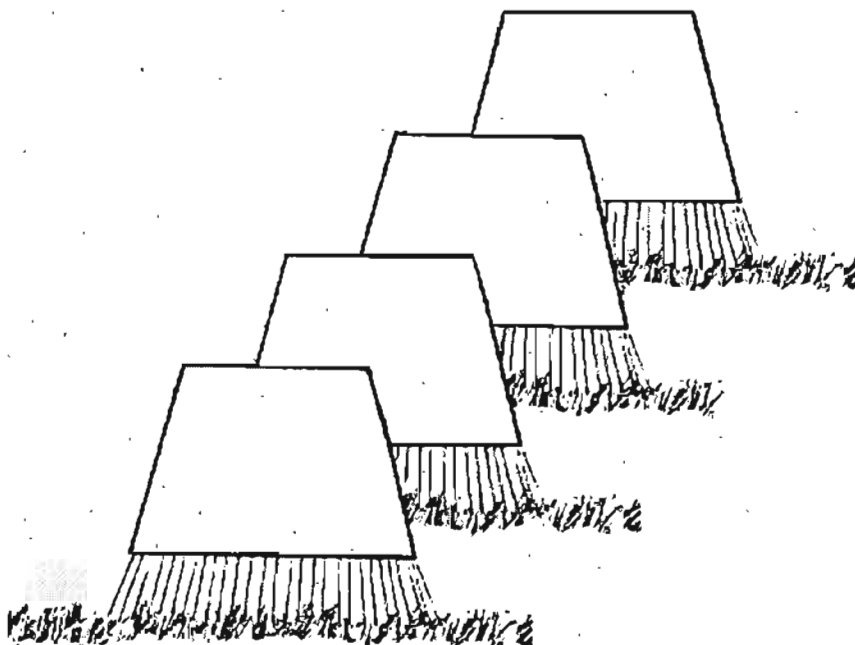


Figure 4 Air Force File 1st January 1975 Author's reconstruction

something like "luminous spurts" that were aimed at the ground. Suddenly the phenomenon went out and almost immediately four other bodies in a row lit up successively. They were exactly the same, with hardly any space in between.

After about two minutes, the witnesses, somewhat nervous, decided to continue their trip, though about 50 meters ahead they stopped again, seeing that another car had stopped about 800m behind them and a third was on a nearby highway. Resuming their trip again, they continued while looking out the windows at the four lights. When they reached the town of Quintanaortuño, less than one kilometre away, they stopped again, now seeing only two lights. Rather excited and fearful, they resumed their trip to Burgos for somewhat more than three minutes later. No sound was ever heard. The area was over-flown by plane but no trace was visible. Days later, some burnt spots were found in the surroundings but seem unrelated to the phenomenon reported by the soldiers. (This summary includes supplementary information to the military files)

2nd January, 1975 (22:55), Bárdenas Reales Firing Range (Navarra).

A soldier on duty near the main tower of the Air Force firing range saw a motionless, bright red light on ground level. Thinking it was a non-authorized vehicle, he called the corporal guard, who went outside in the company of three soldiers. The light was between two and five kilometres away from them. After five to ten minutes, it rose up to 25 or 50 metres from the ground, flying slowly in the direction of an auxiliary tower. When the light reached the tower, it changed course and increased speed and height, moving towards the main tower. Very rapidly, it disappeared in the north-west.

At 23:10 the corporal reported the sighting by telephone to the sergeant on duty, he who went up to a mound and through binoculars he saw an object shaped like an inverted cup, with white lights on top and bottom, plus pulsed amber and white lights on every side. Its position was that of the initial sighting. Size was assimilated to a long truck. Object lighted the environment over 100m in radius. Similarly, the light rose up and flew

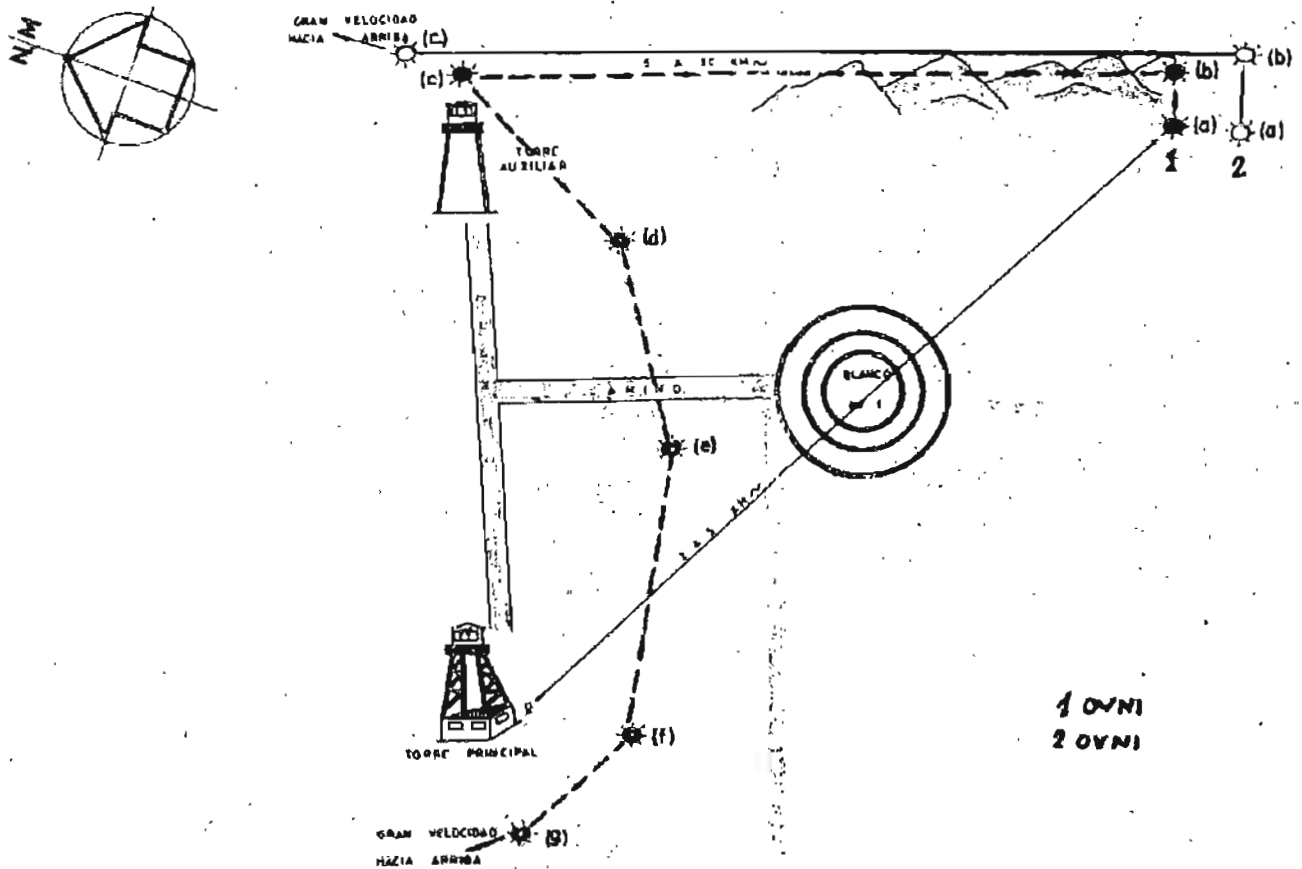


Figure 5 Air Force File 2nd January 1975 Military map of UFO flights over the firing range

towards the auxiliary tower, disappearing this time to the north,

This was also seen by the five soldiers standing by the main tower guard post, although they could not figure out any shape. No ground traces were found. No unknown radar track was detected by the Defence system. On the following morning, the local Civil Guard called to the military facility inquiring whether any aircraft had crashed the prior night. Sightings of lights over the firing range had been reported to the Police corps of nearby town of Tudela.

20th July, 1978 (01:20), Agoncillo airdrome (Logroño).

A soldier was on duty in the main gate of the military airdrome when he observed a strange object in the air. He gave notice of it to the guard post. A second lieutenant and a corporal went to the site in time to see during five more minutes how a flying object was moving from east to west at some 1,000m off the ground. Flight was slow and noiseless. Two of the

witnesses described it as lozenge-shaped, while the other two said it had the shape of a triangle. All agreed that there was an intense white light flashing at one second intervals in the very centre of the structure, while they differ in the number of additional white lights which were placed on every apex of the object's body, i.e. three in the triangle and four in the rhombus. The object continued to fly steadily until it disappeared from sight.

March 13, 1979 (10:59), Mediterranean Sea.

The surveillance section of the Operations Centre of the main radar site at Torrejón AFB (Madrid) detected an uncorrelated echo located north of Algeria, over the Mediterranean sea. It was displacing at 840 knots (1,556 kph) in a north-west course. Track was named KL-553 and classified as unknown. Three minutes later, a scramble was ordered and a Mirage III aircraft took off from Manises AFB (Valencia) to identify the trace. Before it could intercept it, the trace vanished

from the radar screen. It had travelled 115km. Four minutes later the echo reappeared in another position, yet static, therefore it was now thought to be a ship's reflection. In spite of this, the military aircraft was vectored toward that point.

When the interceptor was at 15km distance, the radar echo started to move in a Northwest direction again. It accelerated to 730 knots (1,352kph), climbing to a height in excess of 24,000m. Six minutes later, the track changed route to north-east and in two minutes it was lost. There was no visual contact by the Mirage III pilot.

17th November, 1979 (17:20), Mediterranean Sea.

Pegaso's Operations Centre (mainframe radar of the Defence system) in Torrejón AFB detected an unknown track some 40km south of Mornil (Granada), where a radar facility operates. During 15 minutes it was outside Spanish sea limits, but then it headed towards the Spanish

coast. At 17:45 a Mirage F-1 took off from Los Llanos AFB (Albacete) for interception purposes. While the aircraft was approaching, the echo was fading intermittently; at 18:07 the jet plane arrived in the area, and at 18:12 Pegaso reported having lost the trace. Position of track was over the radar site when it vanished. At 18:16 the Mirage pilot gave up and came back to his base.

Minutes later, the pilot saw three lights in the shape of a triangle; these were apparently 19km away and on 9,100 meters level. These were strong lights, red-yellow in colour. The

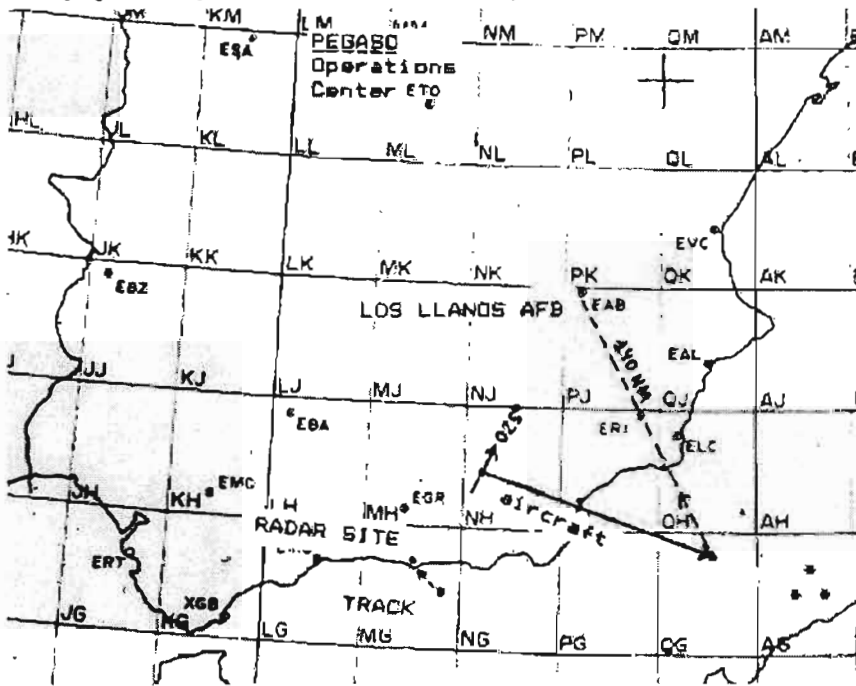


Figure 6 Air Force file 17th November 1979 Credit: J. Plana

pilot vectored his aircraft towards that point and focused his 70-km range on-board radar to the set of lights. There was no detection at all. Moreover in spite of a cruising speed of 0.95 Mach (1,160kph), the Mirage could not reduce separation distance to the lights, which were seen in the direction of Algeria.

After 10 minutes of fruitless pursuit, the military pilot decided to quit and started to return. During his slope way back, something curious happened. Some childish voices were heard through UHF-11 channel which linked pilot and Operations Centre. In Spanish, these laughed and said, 'Hello, how are you?, hello, hello'. The interference lasted for 30 seconds and it occurred over a maritime area. It was not heard by Pegaso's ground control.

A Question of Reliability

I have kept this process under continuing surveillance from the beginning and as close as possible. The knowledge I have acquired Through many sincere and straight forward discussions with the officers in charge, allows me to guarantee the objectivity and crystal-clear attitude of the Spanish Air Force in the official declassification of UFO reports.

I have got the conviction that no information is concealed and that the reports surfaced have not been manipulated at all as some

sensation-seekers pretend to invoke. What becomes obvious is that in the last decades, UFOs have been a marginal subject within the Air force, that no centre was ever commissioned to co-ordinate efforts on UFOs and that an unknown number of files was missing (because papers never escalated to the Air Force's top quarters).

My investigation has found no trace of smoke-screens or any deliberate deceptions of the sort "society is not prepared to accept the great truth about UFOs". All this is part of the stories fabricated by those who love paranoid theses and who are misery sellers.

On the contrary, I have verified that officers responsible for UFOs apply to the finding of cases buried in old record books or kept in forgotten

archives in military units far away from Madrid.

This is a fact.

As the months go by the entire declassification process will have finished. Only then we will be able to assess how much our air authority knew about the UFO phenomenon, and what events really defy explanation.

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