



The Canadian Ufologist

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ELGIN COUNTY SIGHTINGS: FROM MUFON ONTARIO FILES

by
Victor Lourenco

Elgin County, Ontario, on June 1981 around 4 p.m. ...

Carol (10 yrs. old) and her sister Laura (7 yrs. old) sat in the backseat while their mother drove into town for a doctor's appointment.

Carol was gazing into the clear, blue sky, when she sighted four black objects which were flying above tree top level in a diamond formation. She stated that the objects did not resemble a plane or helicopter, that they did not omit any trail of smoke and that they appeared to be smoothly travelling at the same speed along side the car.

Carol excitedly attempted to alert her sister Laura and her mother to the flying objects. Laura acknowledged that she could see them. However their mother remained in a trance-like state throughout the episode. She failed to respond to the verbal urgings of both children and the urgent tapping on her shoulder by Carol.

Carol elaborated that the sighting lasted about fifteen seconds and that the objects disappeared into an empty sky while she was attempting to get her mother's attention. Carol stated that her mother spoke once the objects disappeared but that she had no recollection or acknowledgement of the occurrence.

Carol now in her early twenties stated that she witnesses UFO sightings every few years ...

When Carol (17 or 18 yrs old) was driving by Iona Station area on Highway 3, she sighted a large, bright light hovering in the sky.



Computer art by Victor Lourenco

A few months later, while driving past the exact spot around 5:30 p.m., she noticed a man staring up into the sky from his parked car. Carol stated that she saw for the second time the same large, bright object hovering in the sky.

In late October 1995, Carol and her husband were driving west on Highway 401 when she sighted a "thing" or neon green light moving across the sky from NW to a SE direction at the speed of a falling star. Carol's husband stated that he thinks that he saw four green lights all close together in a square formation. The sighting lasted for only a few seconds.

Vague memories and dreams...

As a young child Carol remembers having a presence of a "cartoon" character in her bedroom, looking and floating by her.

It seems that her sister Laura, who feels it is not the right time of her life to talk about UFOs, has had her own strange events and dreams during her childhood.

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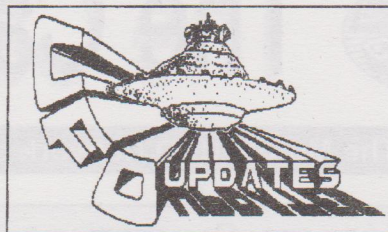
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LIGHTS ABOVE YELLOWKNIFE

Man Sees Strange Lights Above YK

Mutual UFO Network has 50 recent reports from NWT

A Yellowknife man is the latest in a string of Northerners who says he saw strange lights in the sky. "There was a row of rotating lights," said long-time Yellowknifer Albert Wilson. "There was red, yellow, green and blue." When Wilson came out of his bathroom about 8 p.m. Friday, [ed. note: February 16, 1996], he noticed the strange, colored lights over the sky near the Legislative Assembly, and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. He went into his bedroom for a better look and watched the lights for about half-an-hour. "They were rotating clockwise," he said. As bright as the lights were, Wilson said it was too dark above and below them to see what they were. Being disabled, Wilson couldn't get out to check the lights himself. He tried to contact local radio stations but couldn't get through. Then he contacted the emergency dispatcher at the RCMP detachment, who said she'd send somebody out to investigate.

Since January, several Northern communities have reported sightings of strange lights in the sky above their communities. Michael Strainic, Canadian director of the Mutual UFO Network, said he has had about 50 reports of sightings of strange lights from the NWT in recent weeks. "We have a pile of names and reports," he said, from his Vancouver office. "We'll probably be left with a good 10 percent that can't be explained. Not all of these are misperceptions. This has come on quickly and built rapidly... it'll basically die out in a couple of weeks or all hell will break loose."

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FROM THE ARCHIVES...

by

Clay Foley

THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED (December 1919, Boni-Liveright New York)
(Charles Fort)

I recently presented readers with the first examples of UFO literature in book form. Conspicuously absent from this discussion was Charles Fort's The Book of the Damned as it belongs in a class by itself.

Charles Hoy Fort was born in Albany N.Y., on August 9 1874. From an early age he had demonstrated a keen, if not obsessive interest in collecting various data in what was a gargantuan "...attempt to find the underlying in all phenomena". Fort ruined his eyesight while spending 26 years collecting information on anomalous phenomena largely from the British Museum and the New York Public Library. His notes were scratched in pencil on small pieces of paper where he employed a host of cryptic abbreviations obviously intended for personal use. For reasons best known to Fort, he destroyed 25,000 such notes that had occupied various pigeon holes in a wall at his home. An additional 40,000 would be amassed and broken down into 1,300 headings. In retrospect, Fort had assembled an important collection of accounts pertaining to unusual phenomena that also included vintage UFO reports.

Fort's The Book of the Damned was published in 1919 at the insistence of novelist and friend Theodore DREISER, who also suggested to publisher Horace LIVERIGHT that he may have to publish elsewhere. Subsequently, three other works on enigmas; New Lands, (1923), Lo!, (1931) and Wild Talents (1932), would also be published.

Fort defined such "damned" phenomena as that belonging to a body of data "...that Science has excluded". A favourite of his "damned" phenomena were falls of unusual debris from the sky such as; frogs, fish, toads, ice, blood and iron. On display under glass in his Bronx apartment was a substance that had the appearance of "shredded asbestos" that fell from the sky and had covered several acres. Fort would later refer to the cause of such enigmatic events as "teleportation". Of particular interest to the Ufologist however, are the numerous accounts of anomalous aerial phenomena that Fort presented.

For example, he reported that in August 1894 a disk was seen to *project* an orange object which resembled "an elongated flatfish". In 1898 a pair of luminous bodies *united* in an aerial display that lasted 5 minutes. In Wales a group of lights were observed moving perpendicularly, horizontally or in a *zigzag* manner, while fluctuating

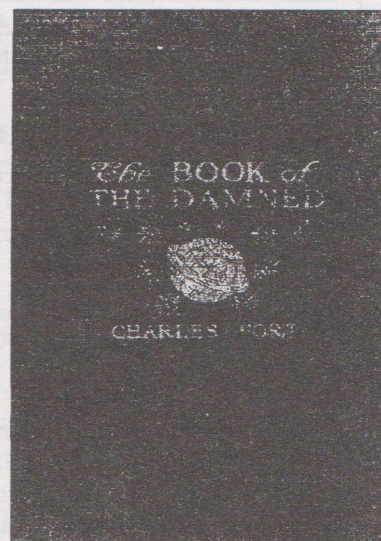
dramatically in brightness. Further to the above, Fort cited a *number* of cases which involved sightings of "dirigibles" or "torpedo" shaped objects over England in 1882.

That such reports are relevant to Ufology is evident upon one conducting a comparison of them to contemporary cases. Once completed it will become evident that current UFO terminology such as; *mother ship*, *transformation*, *stair step manoeuvre* and *wave*, are synonymous with Fort's descriptions. Of further interest are the accounts of "triangular" and "cigar" shaped aerial objects and also those of unusual "cloud" phenomena. These and other anomalies persuaded Fort to speculate that Earth was being visited by "...beings coming to explore". This amazing hypothesis preceded the modern UFO era by some thirty years.

Fort also presented an array of curious marine phenomena which is also of interest to the Ufologist. Consider the following report from the British India Company's steamer Patna, while navigating the Persian Gulf late one evening in May 1880. Two enormous submerged luminous wheels suddenly appeared on each side of the vessel. Witnesses to this strange spectacle calculated that they were approximately 500-600 yards in diameter and contained some 16 "spokes" each being 200-300 yards in length. The most curious aspect of this account however, is that the "whirling" spokes, "...seemed to brush the ship along", as it paced the vessel.

One would be tempted to dismiss this account were it not for the fact that Fort presented several other similar unrelated cases. A number of other accounts document the

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A RESPONSE TO NOVA'S PROGRAM ON THE UFO ABDUCTION PHENOMENON OR SCIENCE IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT SCIENCE PROGRAMS DO

by
Budd Hopkins

Budd Hopkins asked that his press release concerning the WGBH NOVA program 'Kidnapped By UFOs' be widely distributed...

Readers familiar with the writings and lectures of the late Allen Hynek may recognize in the above title an expanded version of one of his most quoted bon mots, "Science is not always what scientists do."

After pre-viewing the soon to be aired NOVA program which systematically and outrageously distorts the UFO abduction phenomenon and my work in the field, it's fair to say that NOVA has abandoned its right to be thought of as either objective, balanced, or scientific.

However, I suppose it's a perverse sort of honor to find my work trashed by people with the same intolerant mindset as those who also trashed the research of Dr. Hynek, Dr. James McDonald, and so many others who have labored in the same unfashionable vineyard.

What NOVA presents in its luridly titled program, 'KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS?' is a mangling of the truth, a polemic having absolutely nothing to do with scientific investigation. Typically, on a show filled with hostile authority figures with little or no acquaintance with the data, astronomer Carl Sagan said that he believed all abduction accounts are delusions or hallucinations. So far, NOVA appears unconcerned that Dr. Sagan has yet to mount a serious investigation into even one abduction report. Should we be concerned with a program so obviously biased? After all, my informal inquiries reveal that TV critics, media professionals and especially scientists almost universally view Nova as a slick operation pandering to the same sensation-seeking audiences as commercial TV. This NOVA UFO program was designed to air during 'Sweeps Week', the period when the ratings war is at its hottest. Consequently, before they plunged in the knife later in the show, the producers began it in the most sensational tabloid style imaginable, with eerie music, foggy re-enactments and spooky lights, suggesting that NOVA was now going head-to-head with 'Hardcopy' and 'Entertainment Tonight'.

But for anyone interested in truth, we must care about NOVA's misrepresentations. The show undeniably

reaches many public television viewers and is still regarded by those outside the scientific and intellectual communities as a science program. Its deceptions, unfortunately, will mislead a large, ultimately world-wide audience now, and in later reruns and videotape sales.

The main reason for the program's destructiveness is its message, implied and delivered directly, that all abductees - all - are weak-minded patsies, delusional, or victims of repeated hallucinations. In other words, liars aside, all who report such experiences are, to some extent, mentally abnormal.

What evidence does Dr. Sagan, for example, present to buttress his sweeping - and to the abductees, damning - indictment of their ability to separate fantasy from reality?

None. None whatsoever. For a man regarded within popular culture as a kind of 'Pope of Science' to offer such a wholesale denigration of UFO abductees with no supporting evidence is worse than irresponsible. In the psychological literature there is only one report of an in-depth, blind study of the mental health of abductees - the 1983 report by Dr. Elizabeth Slater - and it shows that Dr. Sagan's opinion is totally unsupportable.*

Did NOVA make any effort to find out if there is any evidence supporting Sagan's 'diagnosis' of the abductees he'd never met? More to the point, how many abductees on the show did NOVA ask to submit to psychological tests, psychiatric interviews and the like? To my knowledge, none. John, a former counselor and one of the abductees who appears at length on the program, informed NOVA by letter that he would present himself for any type of test, medical or psychological, that they wished to administer. If NOVA were trying to do an objective, scientific study as they claimed, they should have instantly accepted John's offer. Instead, they chose to ignore it.

When one considers the destructive conclusions NOVA presented about the abductees they showed on camera, they cannot argue that they refused John's offer out of concern for his reputation. There seems to be only one reason to decline the opportunity of conducting psychological tests: the fear that the results might destroy their theories and thus expose NOVA's deceptions.

Having declined to employ any scientifically valid testing, the producers went on, in effect, to have John diagnosed on the air by 'experts' who'd never met him. This was the program's basic modus operandi: material that I presume was carefully pre-selected was presented, for negative comment, to experts ignorant of the mass of

The Canadian Ufologist

UFO abduction case material and who were given no opportunity to interview the witnesses. Their comments therefore have the same degree of validity as the diagnoses issued by pop psychologists on daytime radio and TV after two - or three-minute conversations with the caller, a practice NOVA's producers would otherwise be the first to condemn.

But even worse is the show's blatantly dishonest presentation of a family case to which they devote a great deal of airtime. The young mother of two small children had written a letter to me, and with her permission I presented a copy of it to producer Denise Dilanni of the NOVA staff. In her letter the young woman said this about her abduction experiences:

"My memories are real and I have not had to use hypnosis to remember them."

From a life-long series of encounters she records the following details:

"The 'little men' as I used to call them would enter my bedroom from the same place in the wall... (They) were small, had large heads with large dark eyes that seem to look right through me."

Describing painful physical procedures, she added:

"The tears would roll down my cheeks into my ears, an uncomfortable feeling. I was unable to wipe my tears away..."

She described the alien figures as moving in unison, and in another encounter:

"being slowly lowered into my mattress, so slow that I would think 'hurry up, I just want to feel my mattress under me and go to sleep.'"

On another occasion she saw her brother being taken in broad daylight:

"He looked so tired and was slumped over... I remember being very worried that he was too little to get into that object in the sky."

In these accounts and in later, face-to-face interviews with the NOVA crew present, she described many more experiences from childhood to the present, all recollected without hypnosis. What's more, her husband vividly described watching their little son being floated out of the house by the aliens while he lay paralyzed on the floor of

their front hall. With NOVA's camera recording it all, he lay down exactly where he remembered having fallen and described where each alien had been standing. He explained that the master bedroom was on the other side of the wall he was leaning against. Desperately trying to alert his sleeping wife, he showed us how he tried in vain to move his leg enough to bang against the wall to summon help.

His testimony was the most vivid and important of our visit to their home. It corroborated his wife's account and explained their powerful fear for their children's safety. **But all of this eyewitness testimony and dramatic film footage was suppressed by Nova**. All of it.

In its place, producer Dilanni assembled an emasculated case in which only the vaguest, most tenuous aspects of the family's testimony were presented. Having thus suppressed all of the strongest evidence, NOVA went on to slander my view of the case's validity with the following summary: "Budd Hopkins thinks this (portentous pause) provides compelling evidence: children pausing at drawing, dreams of strange events that feel real, and images of traumatic sexual assault, remembered only under hypnosis !" (my emphasis)

Through 'creative editing' I'm portrayed as trying to ascribe an abduction memory to an innocent child. In addition to the anguished father's eye-witness account of laying paralyzed while he watched the aliens taking his son out of the house, the child's mother had included in her letter the following account of what they went through when their boy was three-years old:

"My husband and I saw blinking lights in my sons bedroom... We continue to have problems with our son at night... When his dad gets him dressed in the morning he will ask questions (such as) 'How do they come through the walls? How do they park it there, there's no road there...' He talks about tables with no legs, 'but those are the kind you don't eat on.' He tells me how chilly it was outside last night."

There is, of course, much more, all of which was known to Ms. Dilanni. But in her script I am portrayed as suspecting the boy's possible abduction solely because of one piece of evidence: A child "pausing at a drawing of an alien". As NOVA well knows, no one on earth would ever describe that isolated, ambiguous reaction as "compelling evidence" - unless their goal was a conscious attempt to make the individual look like a fool.

I won't devote much time to demonstrate the ways NOVA edited my hypnotic sessions to make it appear that I'm leading the witness, though I must provide at least one...

For many years I've used what I call the "body inventory" method to avoid leading hypnotic subjects. When the witness describes being stretched out on an examination table, I say that we will now explore all the sensations that he/she feels from the feet, systematically up through the body, to the top of the head. I explain that the subject might feel a different sensation in some part of the body: pleasure, pain, an itch, a tickle, heat, cold, etc. - or that that part of the body may feel perfectly normal. I begin with the feet, proceed to the ankles, shins, calves, then the thighs, the sexual organs, the lower abdomen, the stomach and chest, the arms and hands, the head, and then the eyes, the nose, inside and out, the mouth, inside and out, and the ears, inside and out. The purpose is to avoid leading the subject to any one particular part of the body by naming most all of them at the very outset. NOVA, of course, didn't devote even three words of explanation to this painstakingly slow and objective process - it can take up to a half hour - but suddenly cut in as I direct the subject's attention to her "female parts..." To put the least damaging interpretation on NOVA's deceptive editing, its result is to suggest that I'm leading the witness directly into sexual recollections or fantasies, something that a full transcript of the session would clearly refute.

When I was originally approached by NOVA's Denise DiIanni, I was told that she would only deal with people who agreed to show their faces on national TV. I explained that of the more than 500 likely abductees I've worked with one-on-one, only about 15 would agree to appear on national TV. Unfortunately, among the 271 who declined to appear were all the police officers, the (7) psychiatrists, the scientists, Ph.D.s, business executives, psychologists, physicians and even a NASA research scientist with whom I'd worked; in short, the people with the most to lose by subjecting themselves to potential public ridicule. Obviously, this reluctant 97% included the most highly credentialed and scientifically sophisticated abductees, the very individuals one would think NOVA should be most interested in interviewing if the program were to have scientific relevance. I asked if some of these highly credible people might be allowed to discuss their abduction experiences on camera, backlit or in silhouette, but NOVA declined, refusing to interview anyone outside the self-selected 3%. This decision alone demonstrated to me Ms. DiIanni's preference for potentially sensational TV footage over any attempt at scientific depth or inclusiveness.

The very brave handful who agreed to appear on national TV were mainly young and independent and for the most part not subject to the career risks of corporate politics. None were offered, and none requested, financial remuneration. All agreed to appear as a way of helping other abductees, in much the way a few rape victims will also come forward publicly, despite potential humiliation. Rape victims are guaranteed to receive sympathy. However, the abductees on Kidnapped by Aliens? were subtly but thoroughly discredited, beginning with that lurid title and the question mark that cast doubt on their testimony before it was even heard. Their bravery and generous spirit of cooperation was rewarded by NOVA's implication that all of them were either deluded, hallucinating, or simply weak-minded because, as NOVA's 'experts' said, such experiences simply cannot happen. At one point, physicist Paul Horowitz, who apparently has no idea of the range of evidence supporting UFO reality, categorically stated that UFOs don't exist and have never landed!

NOVA interviewed me at length in my studio, and, knowing all the fashionable theories debunkers use to discredit anyone reporting an abduction experience, I chose to stress the reports that fell outside these conventional explanations. I dealt with the huge number of abduction accounts that surface without the use of hypnosis, knowing that NOVA was sure to deride the process. True to form, the program implied over and over with sledgehammer thoroughness that hypnosis should be thought of as the generating cause of these (automatically false) abduction accounts. My discussion of contradictory data - the mass of non-hypnosis abduction reports wasn't even mentioned on the program.

I showed producer DiIanni a collection of photographs of the physical marks and scars that are the common sequelae of UFO abductions, and urged her to interview some of the people bearing the more dramatic wounds. Since these individuals were among the 97% unwilling to run the risk of ridicule by appearing on camera, NOVA not only refused to film them in shadow, but the slides of their wounds and marks which I was asked to lend to NOVA were never shown.

Also suppressed were the photographs I submitted showing ground traces and alterations of the soil caused by UFO landings. NOVA staffer Liesl Clark, in charge of the program's Internet Web, informed me that to show such physical evidence would be "to open a can of worms". She was right about that.

So, after being told that the abduction phenomenon was merely an artifact of hypnosis, the public was also deliberately denied any chance to see, to hear about and to consider photographic evidence of reported alien physical procedures and UFO ground traces. Thus, another of the debunker's false but favorite myths was reinforced:

"There is no physical evidence."

It's one thing, of course, to disagree as to the meaning and the degree of probative weight to ascribe to physical evidence, but it's another thing to suppress that evidence altogether.

Knowing that 'sleep paralysis' is one of the most preposterous general explanations of abduction reports yet offered, I described to NOVA's representative the existence of hundreds of accounts of abductions that took place in the daytime with all of the participants fully awake, and I cited examples. Since this fact also wasn't mentioned during the program - which naturally restricted itself solely to those cases which more plausibly fit the sleep paralysis theory - the public was misled yet again: "It's always hypnosis, there's never any physical evidence. and like sleep paralysis, it always happens at night." Ms. DiIanni knew that thousands of case reports prove all of these statements false, but chose to suppress that information, too, on her show.

Though it's been painful having to spend so much time describing some of NOVA's many systematic deceptions, distortions and omissions, the denigration of thousands of decent, mentally sound people who have reported UFO abductions cannot be left unchallenged. Not once did any of NOVA's on-camera, debunking consultants admit that any of these people might simply be telling the truth. I was not naive enough to think that NOVA having produced an earlier program opposing the reality of UFOs, would now turn around and proclaim the reality of UFO abductions.

I was naive enough, however, to credit the producers and Ms. DiIanni in particular, with sufficient honesty to make a very small admission: that despite all the debunkers' theories, all the data has not been explained and that an intriguing mystery does remain. In my wildest imagination I never thought they would have the arrogance to imply that all abduction experiences can be explained away by these (mutually contradictory) debunking theories, or that in doing so NOVA would be so unscrupulous as to deliberately suppress all evidence to the contrary.

People who trust NOVA will also unknowingly accept falsehoods such as the following, as true:

NOVA said that after the film 'Close Encounters' appeared, the number of UFO sightings increased, an example of the media generating 'false reports'. But in fact during that time, the number of new sightings actually decreased. For my part, NOVA often referred to me as "a therapist", thought they are well aware that I've never made that claim and have never charged an abductee a penny for any help I've given.

But the acceptance of false information isn't the worst result of NOVA's deceptions. Far more damaging is the fact that anyone currently thinking of going public with a personal abduction account will be extremely hesitant to do so. Any physicians, policemen, psychiatrists, scientists, military officers or the like who have experienced UFO abductions will now have even more reason to keep silent. Having seen how NOVA distorted and dismissed other abductees accounts, few of these potentially valuable new witnesses will agree to step forward. In the light of all this, it's fair to describe NOVA as having both tampered with evidence and intimidated future witnesses.

On top of everything, Ms. DiIanni's show is being hyped for all the sensationalism and controversy that NOVA could squeeze out of the subject, going so shamelessly low as to beg the on-camera abductees to appear in promotional spots without first informing them how they would be treated on the program. It was as if innocent people were being asked to sell tickets to their own public humiliation. What NOVA produced was not a science program but a kind of middle-brow Jenny Jones or Geraldo. Denise DiIanni and executive producer Paula Apsell and all those responsible for the final edit of this show should be ashamed of themselves.

*Slater, Dr. Elizabeth et al., 'The Final Report on the Psychological Testing of UFO Abductees', Washington, D.C.: Fund for UFO Research, 1983.

For reprints of this article on the NOVA program, write to:

Budd Hopkins - Intruders Foundation, P.O. Box 30233, NY, NY, 10011.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Ms. Denise DiIanni (NOVA)

When I was first approached about doing your program concerning my involvement with the alien phenomenon I had my reservations, for obvious reasons. After much contemplation I felt that since Nova had somewhat of a reputation for being a scientific program, you would handle this piece in an honest and objective way, showing both sides of the issue and letting your viewers decide the truth for themselves. After all, without showing both sides of an issue how can anyone make a reasonable, intelligent assessment of the situation.

After viewing this distorted, misleading, one sided program I see that I couldn't have been more wrong about your and Nova's intentions. Nor could I have been more wrong about Nova's alleged reputation as being "the show you can trust".

It is very apparent to me now that from the very beginning your intentions were to present myself and the other abductees and experiencers as delusional and misguided. It is also very clear that this was an attempt at character assassination, directed at myself, the other abductees and experiencers and more pointedly at Budd Hopkins and John Mack.

The so called experts that you had on this program made their diagnosis of our mental health without ever meeting or talking to any of us. Most of your "experts" are well known skeptics and have long ago made up their minds that the alien phenomenon could not be a reality.

Carl Sagan who has no training in psychology, said in no uncertain terms that we are all hallucinating. He made this diagnosis with what credentials? As far as I know he is an astronomer and not qualified to determine the mental state of anyone.

It was very interesting to me that these experts of yours were able to sit and watch the tape of our group discussion behind the safety of a monitor and then draw their own conclusions about us.

A truly scientific, objective program would have had the abductees and these "experts" sitting face to face discussing this issue. Of course if one's agenda is to present a one sided, distorted view, one would not have done that.

The conclusions or theories drawn by these so called experts are completely unfeasible, which any one of us could have shown your viewing audience if given the opportunity to do so. Of course, as you already know, we were not given that opportunity.

The editing of your program, the misrepresented information that was given as fact, the comments made by the abductees and experiencers that were distorted or completely left out of the film exhibited a calculated mendacity that is just beyond my comprehension.

With programming such as yours and others like it, the public is being deceived and they are the ones that will ultimately pay the price.

When you and I discussed doing this program, I was assured that it would be an honest and objective view of the alien phenomenon. We obviously have very different definitions of the words honest and objective.

You can not hide the truth by distorting facts and ridiculing people. There are just too many people that know the validity and reality of this phenomenon because they are also experiencing it.

No matter how much doubt and ridicule we endure, we will not be silenced, especially not by ignorant, prejudiced and fearful "experts" who draw conclusions but don't want to be bothered with the facts.

Operating out of ignorance, prejudice, greed or fear will only leave you and your so called experts in the dark and to remain there is absolutely your right. However, imposing your narrow minded view on the public through this film, by distorting and contriving facts is unconscionable!

I truly regret believing you were a person of integrity, obviously you don't know the meaning of that word either.

Sincerely,
Denise Kobal

APPEAL

MUFON Ontario is in the process of re-opening an investigation. If you have information about any UFO cases during the period of 1950 - 1955 in North Bay, Ontario please send us a copy.

UFOLOGY IN THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

by

Michael Strainic

MUFON Canadian National Director

Presented to MUFON 1995 International UFO
Symposium in Seattle, Washington, USA.

Part Three

Mutilations and the Circle Connection

Canada has had a great number of mutilation cases, some of which are truly bizarre. Still other mutilation cases have a strange connection to crop circles, a trend we hope will not catch on. Among the "standard" mutilation cases, a good number — especially those from the Province of Saskatchewan — are "oatmeal innards" type cases, *i.e.*, animals whose internal organs have been liquified.

Liquid calf

Typical of these unusual reports is one from April of 1993, near a town named Success, close to Swift Current, Saskatchewan. A rancher, Mr. Thiese, and his wife heard their cattle becoming agitated around 2:30 AM. Later in the early evening of the same day, they discovered a dead and mutilated seven-week-old Black Angus calf. The calf was 200 feet from the house, and it was missing an eye and an ear, and the soft tissue of the nose was burned away. An autopsy showed that the lungs had been charred, and the internal organs were destroyed. Electrocutation was considered as a possible cause, but the lack of power lines, a thunderstorm or scorch marks of any kind effectively ruled this out.

Shortly after discovering the calf, Mr. Thiese, along with his wife and brother, witnessed unusual lights over the field where the animal was found. The lights changed from orange to red, then to blue and then to white. As Mr. Thiese described them, "It was hard to say what size it was, but it was brilliant, especially the whitish-blue colours. It was like a bunch of welding machines going." After about 45 minutes, the lights shot straight up in the sky and out of sight.

Much was learned about this event after the fact, and through serendipitous circumstances. First, there was much that the veterinarian did not tell anyone. Basically, the story given to the media by the vet was, to be charitable, an avoidance of complete truth. The story

given to our investigators was far more accurate, but still, much was deliberately left out. The most complete story we have been able to piece together says that the calf, rather than having been dumped and later picked up for disposal, was in fact picked up by persons unknown — ostensibly, government-types — and taken to a forensic laboratory in Saskatoon, some 150 miles away. Also, when we interviewed the witnesses, we discovered that the wife had had a classic missing time experience more than twenty years ago.

Goodbye, Porcupine Flat

Prior to this next case, only two or three other crop circle cases had been reported which involved the possible demise of an animal. When we learned of this particular event, we were hoping that it would be the last crop circle case with casualties; sadly, it was not to be.

The 1991 crop circle season had begun with a whimper, and the likelihood of another year like 1990 seemed slim. The 1991 circles were sloppy, unconvincing for the most part, and none of the peripheral "paranormal" effects had been reported at all. However, Daniel Clairmont, MUFON Provincial Director for Saskatchewan and investigator *par excellence*, was on his way to Milestone, Saskatchewan, to investigate a crop circle case that was to be a milestone of sorts. A dead and flattened porcupine had been found in a crop circle formation on the farm of Joe Rennick.

The animal originally was discovered lying on top of the usual flattened (yet still undamaged) wheat. This incident of laminatory porcupinage leaves many questions to be answered, as we do know that the grain beneath the animal was not damaged to any noticeable degree, and that the poor porcupine was flattened — *in situ* — to approximately a one- to three-inch thickness. To appreciate the full impact of this, it should be noted here that the cute, cartoonish conception of a porcupine can be quite different from the reality: in addition to the obvious problems posed when encountering porcupine quills, a porcupine is a very sturdy and often very hefty animal, sometimes weighing in at from 22 to 27 kilograms (50 to 60 pounds). Flattening one would not be an easy proposition under any circumstances.

The Milestone formation itself was, simply put, a mess, as were most of 1991's formations. Rather than the precise cookie-cutter effect of classic circles and agriglyphs, this one appeared to have been designed with the precision and subtlety of a sledgehammer. On close inspection, however, it did have many of the traits one would expect to find in a genuine formation. For lack of a better description, this formation would have to be categorized

as a triplet of joined circles, although "circles" is far from accurate — irregular rectangles would be a far better description. Each rectangle had an irregular center of standing wheat.

When Danny Clairmont arrived on the scene in Milestone, he learned that the porcupine in question would not be available for an interview - or anything else. By the time Mr. Rennick discovered the formation — and corpse — the porcupine was already badly decomposed. Not suspecting that anyone would be interested in actually examining it, he simply phoned the local newspaper, took some photos, and then disposed of the carcass.

However, some four weeks after the event, evidence testifying to the passing of the porcupine was still quite visible. The trace marks which were left on the ground suggest the following sequence of events: the animal, while attending to typical porcupine affairs, was suddenly, and without any warning, caught up in whatever force or mechanism is responsible for the creation of the circles. At what point the porcupine actually shuffled off his mortal coil is impossible to say. But it is apparent that it was dragged — or pushed, or maneuvered, or perhaps had even dragged itself — through the mud and wheat from one corner of the formation, a total of somewhere on the order of 40+ feet, to its final resting place, where it was ultimately found.

The porcupine was discovered lying on top of the flattened grain. The quills on the porcupine were arranged in such a way as to suggest that they had been swirled by the same force that had affected the wheat. Quills and wheat were intertwined. As well, the porcupine had been pushed right down into the mud — there was mud on the animal, and there were quills and wheat left in the mud. The mud, including that with porcupine parts, was highly compressed and completely dried out. The mud was so dry and so compacted that pieces of it could not be broken by hand.

There were — well after the fact — some interesting *sequelae* to the Milestone/porcupine events. Months later, Danny Clairmont was invited to speak to a group of gifted students at a school in Regina, Saskatchewan. He went into his basement to retrieve some of the grain and seed samples from the Milestone formation to take along to show the students. When he looked, he found that all of his samples from the affected areas were gone; the control samples were still there. Danny lives in an area where it is practically impossible to approach his house without being seen, and even more difficult to avoid alerting the animals. Yet the samples were missing.

Later, at the school, Danny was getting some photocopies of some UFO material made up for the teachers, and he happened to have a piece of the porcupine-laden mud with him on a nearby table. Suddenly he heard a woman's voice: "Oooohhhhhhhh!" He looked around, and behind him was one of the teachers, swaying and unsteady on her feet. She was holding the piece of mud. Danny reached out to steady her, and asked what the problem was, to which she replied, "I don't know; I feel so.....good." Danny thought little of the incident until later on, when, on another floor of the school, the incident repeated itself with another female teacher. When his lecture was finished, Danny stopped by to see Ruth Walde, our former MUFON Director for the province. He nonchalantly mentioned that he had brought some of the famous mud with him, and asked her to hand it to him. When she picked up the mud, she reacted somewhat and said that the migraine headache she had had all day long was suddenly gone. In total, three females who handled the mud had similar odd reactions to it, yet no effects were ever noted by any of the males who handled it.

It was during the extensive investigation of this bizarre event in Milestone that Danny learned that this was not the first time a local porcupine had checked out in an odd way. It had happened before, not too long ago, and not too far away. In 1989, when the remains of a porcupine were discovered in a grain field near Estevan, Saskatchewan, the circumstances involved were sufficiently unusual that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) were called in to investigate.

The remains of this porcupine were found in what appeared to be a charred, or perhaps oily, circular blackened patch of wheat. All that remained of the porcupine was the skeleton — or most of the skeleton: the jawbone and parts of the spine were missing. The blackened patch of ground was connected by a pathway of sorts to what was evidently a crop circle formation, suitably sloppy, and very similar to the Milestone formation.

The RCMP investigation was carried out because the circumstances — the charred wheat, the dead porcupine, and missing porcupine parts — suggested that some sort of ritual sacrifice had taken place. That old perennial favorite "cult activity" had been receiving its usual media hype, so the RCMP were focusing on finding proof of this. Specifically, they wanted to know if burning had been involved in the termination of the porcupine. For some reason, the crop circle formation itself seems to have been overlooked completely, perhaps written off as a curious byproduct of the assumed ritual.

As the photos taken of this site clearly imply, the porcupine remains had indeed been burned in some way. When the samples were sent to the forensic laboratory for analysis, the only thing that was being sought was verification (and if the results were positive, perhaps the nature of) of the assumed burning process. This in itself raises a few questions — why was this the only thing being checked? The laboratory report clearly indicates that no other tests were carried out, at least not at that particular facility.

In a classic example of "the more you learn, the less you know," when the analysis was completed, it was learned that there was no evidence of burning.

So, if no burning was involved in this incident, just what exactly did strip the flesh so cleanly and thoroughly from the skeleton? It was stated that there was no evidence of burning. Did this also include the possibility of chemical burning? We do not know. Or radiation burning? We do not know. What caused the charred appearance? If we assume that this one laboratory analysis is indeed the only one which was ever done, we don't know that either, and most likely we never will.

Another Casualty

A year after Milestone, Danny Clairmont again uncovered a bizarre case which further reinforced the connection between crop circles and animal mutilations. His flat porcupine case was grotesque enough, but what was in store for him next was even more so.

Danny Clairmont received a call that some crop circles had been found not too far from him — and again, with something a little extra. There was a grouping of five circles — three in-line and two offset — in a barley field, and a single circle was found some 450 feet away in a flax field. All the circles were exactly 10 feet in diameter and were swirled anticlockwise.

The little something extra was, unfortunately, the family dog.

The flax field in which the dog was found was one-quarter mile from the farm house. The event occurred in late summer, and all the windows in the nearby houses had been open, yet nothing was heard by anybody. The dog, a 15-year-old Blue Healer, was completely blind and had not left the yard in years. The dog had gone missing on 18 August 1993, and was not found until the middle of October when the owner, Mr. Lischynski, was swathing his flax field.

The badly-decomposed remains of the dog were found 20 feet from the circle in flax. After closer inspection, it was obvious that something was missing, namely, the dog's head. After searching, the dog's head was found 200 feet directly north of the body. There were no tracks between circle and the dog's body, nor between the body and head. The head was cleanly severed, though no obvious marks were found on the head or spinal column to indicate the use of a blade of any kind. There was a long flap of hide attached to the head, at the base of the neck area where it had been severed. This gave the impression that the skin had been excised around and down along the spine, and then rolled up towards the head. Whereas the body was quite badly decomposed, the head appeared to be in much better condition.

I discussed this case with a veterinarian who has worked with us on mutilation cases previously, and learned some interesting facts about the Blue Healer, a breed I must admit I had never heard of before. Blue Healers are commonly used as farm dogs, and are particularly good at herding and rounding up other animals. They are also known for their extremely erratic behaviour. As an illustration, I was told that a Blue Healer can lick your face one minute, and remove your nose the next. When I mentioned that this particular animal was totally blind, I was told that that would definitely make the animal even more difficult to approach in any way.

We also learned that flax is a rather unusual grain crop. It is very fine and its growth is very dense, so much so that you usually cannot walk more than a few feet into it, and many farmers are unable to remove it after the growing season and have to hire someone to do the job for them. So, the questions mount up. How did an elderly blind dog, one that had not left the yard in years, manage to get itself a quarter-mile away into what would be considered an impenetrable field? How was someone/something able to get close enough to actually decapitate it? And how did six crop circles form that close to houses with open windows without anyone seeing or hearing anything? These are, of course, rhetorical questions that we have all heard before.

Unknown UFOs

Now we are going to focus on two exceptional "nuts 'n bolts" UFO cases. Both these cases have certain commonalties: they are incidents that should have garnered an incredible amount of attention, but somehow did not. In the Montreal case, the investigation began during the event, as the investigator was also one of the many witnesses. In the Shag Harbour case, the investigation began just a year ago, after the case had lain

dormant for 26 years. Although I often refer to these two cases as being exceptionally good examples of a well-investigated case, I almost never mention one thing: not wanting to depress and disillusion a potential UFO investigator, I try to avoid mentioning that both of these cases were the very first investigations done by that particular investigator.

Montreal '91

This case occurred in 1991 in (and over) the city of Montreal, Quebec, population 3.1 million. There are many curious aspects to this case. For one, although the witnesses numbered in the 70s including the media, and although the object was visible and practically stationary for nearly 2.5 hours, all we have to show for it are two photographs. Perhaps the oddest — or maybe the most telling feature — is the fact that nobody in authority evinced any interest whatsoever in either the event or the object. The original report has been published in its entirety in Timothy Good's *Alien Update*¹, and was featured on TV's *Sightings*, and still the case has remained relatively unknown.

The date was 07 November 1991, and the time, 7:15 PM. The place was the Hotel Bonaventure in downtown Montreal, Quebec. The Hotel Bonaventure is part of the Hilton chain, and it is a very elegant hotel with an outdoor heated pool on the rooftop, the 17th floor. When the object was first noticed at 7:15 PM, the sun had already set some three hours earlier. It was a cold evening, but clear with some scattered cloud at between 5,000 and 8,000 feet.

An American tourist was the first to notice the object, and she quickly contacted hotel security. The security officer, Mr. Albert Sterling, saw the object hovering in the "almost cloudless sky" and immediately telephoned the Montreal Urban Community Police. The time was 7:38 PM. Just a few moments earlier, the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* was contacted. At this point in time, there were 12 witnesses on the rooftop of the Hotel Bonaventure. Before the evening was over, at least 75 people witnessed the object.

At 7:55, the object became brighter. The Montreal police were telephoned again.

At 8:00 PM, Mr. Marcel Laroche, a journalist with *La Presse*, arrived on the scene. Officer Francois Lippé of the Montreal Police arrived at 8:11 PM. Officer Lippé described what he saw as a luminous round object that did not appear to move. There were three yellowish lights each of which emitted a single beam of light.

Officer Lippé, Mr. Laroche, and another witness all saw a small private aircraft ("Cessna type") fly directly beneath the clouds and much below the object. Officer Lippé felt that the object was "...much higher than the plane," and Mr. Laroche estimated the airplane was at an altitude of 1,200 feet. A witness has come forward claiming to have been the pilot in question, filled out a MUFON report form, and now refuses to talk to anyone.

At 8:15 PM, a woman and her daughter in southwest Montreal saw two large white spots of light in the sky along with some smaller lights that did not seem to move. Their location was 4.2 miles from the Hotel Bonaventure.

At 8:20 PM, Officer Lippé telephoned in for backup. When Sgt. Masson arrived as backup, he was overwhelmed by the object in the sky. At 8:44, the stunned Sgt. Masson called the RCMP. He was told that an Investigator and an Inspector would be assigned to the case. Officer Lippé, at 8:52, telephoned Dorval (Montreal International) airport and was told that he was not the first to call about the object, and that nothing showed on radar. At 9:00 PM, Investigator Morin of the RCMP was dispatched to the scene. Before he left home, he telephoned Major Thompson, Commander of Military Operations of the DND, who told him there were no military operations in the area.

Between 9:00 and 9:05 Mr. Laroche took the two photographs.

At around 9:30 Officer Lippé contacted the superintendent of a 45-story commercial building under construction across from the Hotel Bonaventure and asked him to turn off the extremely bright lights atop a construction crane. There was no effect on the object from extinguishing these lights, and there was no possibility that the object was a reflection of these lights.

At 9:58, 28 minutes after he first saw the object, Investigator Morin phoned the Montreal Headquarters of the RCMP for more assistance "...to solve this mystery."

By 10:10, the object had disappeared from sight due to increasing cloud cover.

At 10:15, Officer Morin of the RCMP left the scene. All of the Montreal Police officers left at 10:30.

Between 10:30 and 11:00, Mr. Pierre Caumartin saw some "very odd lights, a strange luminous object in a boomerang shape, ...low in the sky, at about the level of clouds." The light were described as "very big and

strong.” Upon arriving near his home, Mr. Caumartin watched the object hover near the Hydro-Quebec Longue-Point electrical power station which receives 120,000 volts. When he got out of his car, he heard a “purring” sound. The sighting lasted from 10 to 15 minutes.

Between 11:08 and 11:50, there was a power failure at the Longue-Point Military Base. This base is fed by a 12,000 volt lead from the Hydro-Quebec Longue-Point power station. It is the only one which broke down.

As for the object itself, based on witness descriptions, a reasonable estimate of the angular size would be 27 degrees of arc. If the object subtended an angular width of 27 degrees and was hovering at an altitude of 3,500 feet, it would have been a mere 1,783 feet across. It had six lights, each of which emitted a beam of light which appeared to end abruptly. One of the most remarkable features of this event is the fact that no-one in authority seemed all that interested in what was going on. One rumour is that the city police and the military got into a bit of an argument over this — allegedly, it was decided to send a plane up to investigate, but the big question of the day was: Who was going to pay for the gas for the airplane trip? Also, so far, there has been a noticeable paucity of government documents relating to this event. This lack of interest by officialdom has caused a great deal of speculation, and the most logical answer would have to be that there was no particular interest because *they already knew that the object was there and, possibly, exactly what it was.*

Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia, 1967

The Shag Harbour case may well prove to be the most important UFO case ever to come out of Canada. It has already been compared to the Roswell Incident, though it has one important element that Roswell does not have — documentation. Shag Harbour has a paper trail a mile wide, from various government and military agencies, as well as film of the actual retrieval operation which was shown right across the country on the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) evening news. After the event, and after the government’s claims that nothing of any import occurred, it faded away completely. Faded, only to be resuscitated 26 years later by the indefatigable Christopher Styles, a researcher from Halifax and MUFON’s Assistant Director for Nova Scotia. Chris’ work on this case is nothing short of phenomenal, and all the more exemplary considering this was his first formal investigation, and was accomplished almost single-handedly.

On the night of 04 October 1967, shortly after 11:00 PM, a UFO some 60 feet in diameter was seen to hover over the water near the tiny fishing village of Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia. The UFO, which displayed four bright lights that flashed in sequence, tilted to a 45-degree angle and descended rapidly towards the water’s surface. Upon impact, there was a bright flash and an explosive roar. Concerned witnesses began calling the nearby Barrington Passage RCMP detachment. None of those witnesses mentioned anything about a UFO. Most believed that a large aircraft had ditched into the harbour and that there might be survivors.

Eventually, three RCMP officers arrived at the shore near the impact site. Corporal V. Werbicki and Constable Ron O’Brien, dispatched from the Barrington Passage Detachment, were approaching from east of the site. Constable Ron Pond, who was on highway patrol on Highway #3, was heading towards Shag Harbour from a position west of the impact site, and his position allowed him to view the UFO while it was still in flight. The unusual lighting configuration and flight characteristics tipped Cst. Pond off to the unusual nature of the object long before he heard from Cpl. Werbicki, who received his information through the initial complaints to the detachment.

When all three officers met at the impact site they found that the UFO was still floating on the water about a half-mile from shore¹¹. It was glowing a pale yellow and was leaving a trail of dense yellow foam as it drifted in the ebb tide. Neither the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Halifax nor the nearby NORAD radar facility at Baccaro, Nova Scotia, had any knowledge of missing aircraft, either civilian or military. Cst. Pond reported that the object had “changed” during its descent to the water’s surface, *i.e.*, it changed shape, and that it appeared to be “no known object.” Later, other local witnesses described much the same details as those of Cst. Pond. Also, a coast guard lifeboat from nearby Clark’s Harbour and several local fishing boats were summoned to investigate, but the UFO had submerged before they reached the site. The sulfurous-smelling yellow foam continued to well to the surface from the point where the UFO went down, and a 120 by 300 foot slick developed. Search efforts continued until 3:00 AM and then resumed at first light the next day. Everybody involved was convinced that “something” — that is, something *real* and *unidentified* — had gone into the water.

The next morning a preliminary report was sent to Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa. After communicating with NORAD, Maritime Command was

asked to conduct an underwater search ASAP for the object responsible for the concern in Shag Harbour. Seven navy divers from the HMCS Granby searched throughout the daylight hours until sundown of 08 October 1967. On Monday, 09 October 1967, Maritime Command canceled the search effort claiming "nil results." Outside of the local area, media attention quickly faded.

The Shag Harbour crash/retrieval became Case #34 in the infamous Condon Committee Reportⁱⁱⁱ which would serve as Project Blue Book's swan song. The case was brought to Dr. Condon's limited attention by the late Jim Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). Dr. Levine, the investigator assigned to the case, allocated the grand total of two long distance phone calls to this investigation. One call was to the Watch Officer at Maritime Command and the other was to an RCMP spokesperson. Dr. Levine was assured that there was nothing to the case and that further investigation was futile. Thus, interest in the Shag Harbour case withered away, and the case remained dormant until the spring of 1993.

Chris Styles, inspired by the work of the late Leonard Stringfield and Stanton Friedman, felt the time was right to re-open an investigation of Shag Harbour. With a modest grant from the Fund for UFO Research and much kind advice from veteran researchers Don Berliner and Stanton Friedman, Styles began to sift through the large legacy of documents and witness testimony that the Shag Harbour crash generated. Since the spring of 1993, here in point form, is a list of key points that have become apparent as a result of the research effort:

- Of the witnesses who called the Barrington Passage RCMP Detachment, not one said anything whatsoever about a UFO. It was the authorities, *i.e.*, RCMP, RCN, RCAF, NORAD and Coast Guard that first referred to the possibility of a UFO being the object responsible for the Shag Harbour crash. It is also especially interesting to note that in the intervening years, many persons in authority warned Styles that this particular or that particular witness was a drinker. However, not one of these people gave testimony that was in any way exaggerated, fanciful, suspicious, or contradictory to other testimony in any way. All the truly astounding observations and statements came from the professionals involved in the search effort, the military brass, or the witnesses to the peripheral related sightings that are part of the 04 October 1967 *milieu*.
- A vast amount of documentation — including most of the military orders and communications between the

military bases and CFHQ — was unclassified and readily available to the public in Canada's National Archives file RG 77. The composite picture that is painted is one of an extremely serious search effort for a UFO with the belief that it may in fact have been a vehicle of extraterrestrial origin. This was a serious consideration right up through the cancellation of the Maritime Command search effort and afterwards

- Within the Canadian military, concerns about Shag Harbour and other high-profile cases such as Falcon Lake, Manitoba (Stephen Michalak) caused the topic of UFO responsibilities to be brought to the attention of then Defense Minister Leo Cadieux. After lengthy consultation with Canada's Scientific Advisor, the Chief of Defense Staff Dr. H. Sheffer, Brigadier Ross and staff at the RCAF's "AIR DESK" (Canada's Blue Book equivalent), UFO responsibilities were transferred to Canada's National Research Council. A document, sent to the Chairman for the Advisory Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research and signed by the Defense Minister, was released to Styles by Department of National Defense's (DND) Directorate of History. It states Canada's belief in the possibility that "UFOs exhibit advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research."^{iv}
- The night of the Shag Harbour crash there were several sightings over eastern Canada that were every bit as solid and significant. Some of these were hidden in "X-file reports," were unavailable, or were simply forgotten. The sighting of four UFOs by the crew of the M.V. Nickerson, a dragger with 18 men fishing off Sambro, Nova Scotia, had solid returns on its Decca radar for over two hours (this was from two hours till one half-hour before Shag Harbour began). Sightings all down the Nova Scotia coast in the hours just before Shag Harbour roused both 12-year-old Darrel Dorey and Shelburne insurance salesman R. Grandy Irwin to file official reports before Shag Harbour ever hit the headlines. Air Canada Flight 305 of 04 October 1967, while westbound on V 300 between Sherbrooke and St. Jean, encountered UFP activity that caused the pilot and co-pilot to file official reports in the hours just before the Shag Harbour crash.
- Newspaper clippings published after the search effort was officially terminated show that in some military circles the interest in Shag Harbour and related sightings from that area and time period still ran high. An extremely interesting story dated 02 November 1967 — almost a month after the Shag Harbour

incident — ran in all the southwest Nova Scotia weekly papers. It bore the title “Military wants UFOs reported.” It was credited to a Major Victor Eldridge. Styles discovered that the Major wore many hats. Besides serving as a town councilor in the community of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and doing military columns for the southwest Nova Scotia weeklies, Victor Eldridge also served throughout the entire Shag Harbour incident as Chief Administrative Officer for CFS Barrington at nearby Bacarro, Nova Scotia. This base was a key staging area for the Shag Harbour search effort and was a NORAD radar facility as part of the Pine Tree Line. Unlike practically everyone else — the RCMP officers and RCAF and Navy personnel who have talked both on and off the record — Styles discovered that the major had absolutely no memory of the event or of any other UFO incident involving the base. And neither did his CO. This stance became even more suspect when a RCMP UFO report dating from November 1970 mentions that the CO from CFS Barrington, one Colonel Rushton, called the Barrington Passage detachment to request the completed copy of the RCMP UFO report on what would later be known as the Smith Brothers sighting of Shag Harbour. Colonel Calvin Rushton also requested a list of civilian witnesses from Cst. Ralph Keeping. Though having “no memory of Shag Harbour or the subsequent search effort,” Major Eldridge, in a 01 May 1993 telephone interview with Chris Styles, assured him that, “There was not enough to it to warrant any journalistic treatment.” A strong opinion indeed from a man who did not know what he was being asked about just seconds before. It is also an opinion not shared by the military witness (Cpl. Timothy Nielson) who experienced the same Close Encounter and missing time episode as the Smith Brothers of Shag Harbour.

- The role played by Father Michael Burke-Gaffney in the Shag Harbour crash and other UFO cases was largely unknown before Styles’ investigation. This former and now deceased Jesuit priest was an astronomer and cornerstone at St. Mary’s University in Halifax. What was less known — and would have made UFO debunker Donald Menzel proud — was that Father Gaffney also held a position with Canada’s NRC as a UFO investigator and government contact person. Requests from Ottawa can be found in Canada’s RG 77 file calling for the priest to gather physical samples from UFO trace cases and Close Encounters to send to NRC headquarters for detailed analysis. Despite this high level of involvement, the father was often quoted in the press *apropos* his “being

sick to death about UFOs.” In a 18 October 1967 interview in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, Father Gaffney claimed to have no interest in the phenomenon, and then states that speculation on the topic did no good. Hmmmmm. This statement would appear to be somewhat at odds with the files, in fact **genuine RCMP X-files**, which Styles found among the personal papers of the late astronomer. Two of those x-files are replies to Father Gaffney from the superintendent of the Nova Scotia RCMP, assuring the father that he would receive UFO reports from southwest Nova Scotia as quickly as was reasonably possible. In fact, personal notes in archives from this period of October 1967 show that he took notes on the details of UFO sightings given to him over the telephone, even before they could be mailed or telexed. Time seemed to be an important concern for this scientist who had “no interest in the UFO phenomenon.”

- The Story! Perhaps the most exciting element of Styles’ investigation is the story of an attempted recovery operation at a point some 25 miles up the Nova Scotia coast from the impact site, near the community of Shelburne. At this point in the investigation, this story is only just that, a story. However, though hard documentation is so far lacking to confirm the details, there are documents that support the belief that there was in fact a second search effort other than the one confirmed at Shag Harbour. Also, some of the military personnel in secondary roles have gone on the record regarding their roles, their instructions and orders, and their second-hand knowledge of this other naval operation off Government Point. Men who were directly involved have told their stories, but have requested anonymity due to the usual and familiar concerns about family and pensions. The “story,” unlike other crash/retrieval scenarios, has what we might call a “happy ending”: after ships sat over the submerged UFO for a week, watching it being repaired by yet another craft, the flotilla is ordered to show challenge to a soviet submarine that decided to violate the then 12-mile international limit and attempt to make contact with the underwater UFO. As this confrontation unfolds, both UFOs leave the area underwater and move toward the Gulf of Maine, where they break the surface and fly away. This departure gives rise to a second major sighting on 11 October 1967 of two UFOs sighted in that area by multiple witnesses from Shag Harbour to Yarmouth.

As a wrap-up to this Shag Harbour report, a direct quote from Chris Styles himself would be fitting. Chris hopes "to avoid comparisons to other UFO crashes and their respective investigations and legends. It would be tragic to get into a 'my UFO crash is better than your UFO crash' argument. Crash scenarios, like every other aspect of the UFO phenomenon, offer the promise of a greater understanding of UFOs, wherever they occur. We should be ready for anything, though. Yeats may have been more correct than he knew when he was heard to say that 'Knowledge increases unreality.' We should be ready to have our belief systems challenged."

Closing Credits

Ufology in Canada has grown and matured a great deal in the last few years thanks to the dedication of many people all across the country. Unfortunately, there are far too many to thank individually, and for this I apologize. However, credit -- in mass quantities -- is due to the following:

First and foremost, many thanks to Graham Conway, friend, colleague and *Flying Saucer Review* Consultant, whose assistance, dedication and expertise is beyond measure and has made much of this possible. Very special thanks go to Chris Styles, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Bernard Guenette of Montreal, Quebec, not only for their excellent work, but for so graciously consenting to its inclusion here. Thanks as always to Danny Clairmont, a true seeker, for many things, not the least of which is his uncanny ability to trip over some of the most bizarre cases in the country. And of course, thanks to all the MUFON people across the country: the British Columbia Directors, Tony Cowling, David Pengilly and the rest of the crew, David Fisher and Lech Lesiak in Alberta, Ed Barker in Manitoba, Victor Lourenco and the MUFON Ontario team, Stanton Friedman in New Brunswick, Steven MacLean and Chris Styles in Nova Scotia, Lee Tizzard in Newfoundland, and Wayne Davidson, in the Northwest Territories. Last, but never least, thanks to A. Ralphael duChat, for his philosophical advice and wisdom.

End

ⁱ Good, Timothy, *Alien Update*, Arrow Random House, 1993

ⁱⁱ Recently acquired witness testimony states that the object was in fact under its own power, and was moving against the current.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gillmor, Daniel S., ed., *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, Bantam, 1969

^{iv} This is practically a direct quote from Wilbert Smith. Perhaps his legacy is still in effect.

-The Book of The Damned - Continued from page 3

flight of objects that allegedly traveled both into and out of our oceans. Unfortunately the conditions under which Fort collected much of this data would limit their evidential value in either scientific or legal forums. We have no means of verifying the data presented nor the luxury of interviewing key witnesses. Contrary to popular opinion however, scientific and legal principles *do* make allowances for a *limited* and *cautious* admission of such documentary evidence. Unless demonstrated otherwise, it is usually presumed that such documentary evidence was produced at such a time as to preclude that its intention was to mislead. Those wishing to use Fort's data must therefore limit the evidential weight that they assign this material, and ensure that their conclusions do not exceed the evidence.

Although his works were largely ignored by the scientific community, a group of intellectuals formed the Fortean Society in 1931 in order to preserve and to continue the collection of such data, (Fort passed away May 3 1932). In 1941 FORT's four works on enigmas were first published in one volume entitled, *The Books of Charles Fort* by Henry Holt and Company for the Fortean Society. This work has since been re-issued several times.

Fort wrote in a cumbersome, flowery 19th century style which may frustrate some readers. The repetitive listing of data may also prove weary to the uninitiated. Fortunately, his work is punctuated with crafty witticisms that break the tedium and make the work more accessible. I will therefore conclude by quoting the master himself, who was credited with saying, "I do not know how to find out anything new without being offensive".

-Lights above Yellowknife - Continued from page 2

Strainic said while he believes some genuine UFOs have been seen, the majority of the sightings can probably be attributed to astronomical objects, misperceptions or military exercises. Lights that stay in one place for extended periods of time, or are seen in the same place nightly, are probably stars or planets, he said. But his office has also had reports from about seven Northerners who have said that the strange lights hovered over them and stopped the engine of their snowmobile or automobile. These are the reports he gives most credence. Strainic said his organization is investigating all the reports it receives from the NWT, but some people are reluctant to talk.

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