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NORTHERN UFO NETWORK:- ANNUAL REPORT 1975

INTRODUCTION:

Following on the successful publication of a review of 1970-74 it has been decided to issue a regular yearly report on activities. The format has been altered somewhat to make it more amenable to research work. Consequently it is divided into three sections. Firstly there is a review of the general happenings within NUFON and the state of the UFO phenomenon in 1975. Secondly there is a listing of all sighting reports which were investigated during the year, with coded information on their parameters and possible explanations, where known. Thirdly, there follows a brief summary of those cases (13 in total) which would appear to be representative of the genuine UFO phenomenon. This report would, of course, not have been possible without the support of all those groups and individuals involved in the NUFON system. Thanks to them all are duly given.

Jenny Randles (Secretary) May 1976

1: A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1975 was not an exceptional year for reports of the UFO phenomenon, both in this region and in the rest of the world. There were isolated reports of very spectacular incidents, such as the alleged kidnapping of forestry worker Travis Walton in Ari ona, but even so the phenomenon continued to manifest itself just as it has done since 1947 (and quite possibly considerably longer).

NUFON has 128 reports on file for 1975 (of which the aforementioned 13 are the unexplained percentage). This total will no doubt increase as past cases are brought to light. What is of interest to note is that there were definite 'flap' periods throughout the year. These occurred in early January (originally centred on the Oldham area), in mid June (principally in the Midlands) and seemingly in late October - early November (in a much wider area). It cannot be said that these 'flaps' were generated by publicity. True enough there was local publicity, but when activity simultaneously occurs in locations 50 or 100 miles apart one has to believe that possibly some other factors are involved. One of the successes of the NUFON system is that these periods of high concentration of sightings are quickly recognised - even at times before they die down.

Of perhaps far greater significance than these periods (which lasted about a week on average) was the remarkable series of events which occurred on the weekend December 12/13. Certain instances are alluded to later, but not only was this time period amazingly active in the whole of the UK but indications from the USA are that the situation was similar there. Quite obviously work needs to be done on compiling a full analysis of this hectic 48 hour spell. It is hoped that the results can be published in due course.

Two interesting events on the investigation scene illustrated the pitfalls of UFO follow up. In February a particularly unusual conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Venus (when both were very brilliant) caused a sudden plague of sightings of UFOs. The fact that so many people saw these two stars move (which they did not) or described them as 'space-ships' with flashing lights and various protruberances (despite the fact that they were only visible as pin points of light) is especially indicative of how even an intelligent observer can be misled by common phenomenon under slightly unusual circumstances.

The second event concerned a series of hoaxes in March and April. For many nights people around the Rochdale area were seeing glowing balls of fire parading about the sky. To the careful ufologist it was quickly apparent that there was likely to be a rational explanation - since UFOs do not normally present themselves at the same time and place day after day. Eventually it was found that someone was releasing home made balloons propelled by burning gas. It took perseverance to isolate the culprit, but many less intrepid researchers would, I suspect, have given up the chase long before. In that case the reports would have remained unexplained. In this sense, therefore, one must always be cautious. The reports have been given a possible explanation in this report if it seems at all feasible that this is the case. Such explanations come about by investigation work/or mutual agreement subsequently. They are not meant to write off a sighting with the sweep of a pen - merely to practice discretion in the cause of scientific respect for the subject.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR Cont.....

NUFON began 1975 under a different name - the Union of Northern Observors. It had been called this since its formation, but it was felt that a total rethink in policy was necessary in order to better fulfill the aims that were initially set out. The new name was chosen at a meeting in January, and from that time the network continued to prosper. Indeed 1975 will long be looked back upon as a very key year for NUFON, and I suspect ufology in this country.

The annual convention was held in Manchester in June, on a blazing hot afternoon. This detracted slightly from the attendance but I do not think that the Manchester UFO Research Association, who hosted the event, were disappointed in that the lecture programme was presented of appeal to ufologists and not the public. The fact that 50 or more of the norths ufologists met informally was gratifying in itself.

By November, when the next general meeting was held, the time had become right to implement far reaching changes. The possibility had long been in the air that the NUEON organisation should be done by means of a governing committee. This would consist of representatives from all groups, meeting regularly to discuss and vote on issues. This was finally originated at this meeting, and plans were drawn up for an executive (of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) which is now functioning. These people have no authority, other than to recommend decisions for general vote.

More important than seeing the network grow in size from a half dozen groups to seventeen (plus the previously forgotten independant researchers) was the gratifying manner in which the work load was shared. Groups such as the Wirral UFO Society developed a cassette library which recorded all worthwhile lecture material on it and made it readily accessable to the groups. UFOSIS, the Birmingham based group, not only initiated an informations service but also took over some of the necessary administration work involved in recording details of the NUFON meeting proceedings and ensuring that everyone was kept informed. Several independant researchers, such as Mike Dean, Ian Cresswell and Bryan Hartley became involved in valuable work connected with liaison with foreign organisations and in transferring older cases into the files.

In other senses the network developed rapidly also. Various pices of research work were undertaken and published. Examples were the very worthy compilation of a listing of UFO publications, and an analysis of the sociology of UFO witnesses - both conducted by the Wirral UFO Society. At the present time more work of this nature is being conducted. The Scunthorpe UFO Research Society are producing a documentary film on the norths ufology. The Manchester UFO Research Association and the Rossendale Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomenon are linking up over a research project into one specific area where high concentrations of UFO sightings occur, and there are also plans for UFOSIS and SPRING (another midlands group) to combine on a public opinion analysis. There is much hope for the future, therefore, especially in these instances where more than one group can work together on a project.

Great strides forward have been made in relationships with the other national UFO organisations, eg BUFORA and CONTACT. Regular information and publicity for the groups is now obtained through the pages of their publications and there has been cooperation on projects such as report evaluation (BUFORA) and the cataloguing of historical northern cases (CONTACT). At the moment hopes are high that this will lead the way to a national link up, in a loose sense, of the countries ufology. Our own systems of filing reports have been greatly improved, thanks to the efforts of Peter Warrington. Not only do we now have a easy reference chronological card index but there are standardised data sheets which are readily available on loan to NUFON associates if they require specific data or if they want to pursue research work. This is a service not offerable as yet by any other UFQ organisation in the UK.

This review cannot be closed without mention of October 11th and 18th. These were the dates when NUFON presented a ten minute programme on BBC-2 national TV. Regardless of the response from the public (which still comes in) these programmes (the second being a repeat of the first) were important for another reason. By totally avoiding the normal manner of presentation of the phenomenon, and illustrating only its scientific aspects, it is felt that it helped to gain some amount of respectability for the subject. For nothing else this made 1975 worthwhile.

It would be impossible thank everyone for their help throughout 1975 but we are certainly endeavoured to the following groups and researchers:-

BUFORA, CONTACT UK, BUFORA (Yorkshire), BUFORA (Northern Ireland), DIGAP(Lancashire), EDINBURGH UFO SOCIETY, MUFORA(Manchester), MURO(Mansfield), NUFOIS(Nottingham), PULSE (Preston), FAPURG(Fylde), RICAP(Rossendale), SHEFFIELD UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, SPRING (Nottingham), SPUR(Kettering), SUFORS(Scunthorpe), UFORA Staffs, UFOSIS(Birmingham), WUFORO (Wigan), WUFOS (Merseyside). Ian Cresswell, Derick Shelton, Bryan Hartley et al.

2. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF 1975 REPORTS

This list is complete to May 22 1976. Column 1 lists the date. Column 2 the time and Column 3 the location of the sighting. The codings for Column 4 and 5 (shape and colour) are hopefully self evident. Columns 6 and 7 (special effects and identification) are coded as shown at the end of the list. The final column shows a reference code for the investigation group and the NUFON case number for further reference).

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SHAPE	COL	EFFECTS	I.D.	REF
Jan	Var.	Oldham, G.Mcr	LITS	W & R	Pos. Landing	Pos A/C	7501 M
Jan 1	?	Yearington, Cl.	Sphere	Red		Insuf	7507 C
Jan 2	?	Redcar, Cl.	Disc	Blue		Insuf	7508 C
Jan 5	16.30	Uppermill, G.M	Disc	W & B	Humming snd	UFO	7502 M
Jan 9	18.45	Leek, Staffs	Disc	W	Pos. Landing	UFO	7517 Sf
Jan 10	20.30	Lees, G.Mcr	LITS	W, R, B		Pos A/C	7503 M
Jan 14	20.25	Moorside, G.M	Dome	W, R, G	Rocking mtn	UFO	7504 M
Jan 15	21.00	Moorside, G.M	LITS	Var.		Stellar	7506 M
Jan 16	08.55	Greenside, G.M.	Dome	Silver		Prob Ball.	7505 M
Jan 19	00.15	Anglesey	Ball	Red	Trail	Pos. Metlg	7518 N
Jan 28	21.30	Hebden Edge, Y.	Sphere	Amber	Inst. Accltn	Pos. Metlg	7559 Y
Jan 28	21.50	Eccup, Yorks	LITS			Pos A/C	7560 Y
Jan 31	21.30	Maghull, Msyds	Ellipse	White		Insuf	7510 BY
Feb	19.30	Oldham, G.Mcr	LITS	White		Prob A/C	7511 M
Feb 13	21.42	Wavertree, Msy	LITS	White		Pos A/C	7512 BY
Feb 20	01.45	Tern Hill, Slp	Bowl	White	Followed car	Pos star	7519 B
Feb 20	20.30	Haslingden, L.	Cigar	Silver		Pos A/C	7520 R
Feb 22	?	Middlesbrgh, Cl	Egg	Red		Insuf	7509 C
Feb 22	20.00	Marple, Chesh	LITS	White		A/C	7513 M
Feb 27	23.05	Salford, G.Mcr	Disc		Movie Film	Prob Hoax	7521 B
Mar 7	19.10	Bromborough, My	Oval	Yellow		Pos Sat.	7514 W
Mar 16	21.00	Oulton, Chesh	LITS	White		Satellite	7515 M
Mar 18	01.10	Oldham, G.Mcr	SPhere	Orange		Insuf	7516 M
Mar 28	21.15	Prescot, Msy	Disc	Silver	Fuzzy shape	Insuf	7522 N
Apr 3	21.35	Levenshulme GM	LITS	White		Satellite	7523 M
Apr 5	18.00	Northenden GM	LITS	Red		Aircraft	7524 M
Apr 17	21.30	Littlebro', GM	Craft	Orange		Balloon	7525 M
Apr 21	23.10	Huddersfld, Y	Diamond	White	Long duration	Pos star	7561 Y
Apr 27	04.30	Greetland, Y	LITS	White		Pos A/C	7562 Y
Apr 28	21.30	Littlebro' GM	Ball	Orange	Trail	Balloon	7526 M
May 2	21.30	"	"	"		"	7527 M
May 2	"	"	"	"		"	7528 M
May 3	"	"	"	"		"	7529 M
May 13	22.50	Royton, G.Mcr	Crescent	Yellow	Shape chnge	Pos refltn	7530 M
May 17	23.30	Cheetham, G.Mcr	Sparks	White	Witness effcts	Pos dream	7542 M
May 18	22.00	Rainhill, Msy	3 Balls	White	Landing, Traces	UFO	7531 N
May 27	22.25	Haslingden, L	LITS	White		Satellite	7532 R
May 31	02.40	Rochdale, G.Mcr	Disc	White	Photo	insuf	7533 D
Jun 1	01.24	Morecambe, L	LITS	White	Erratic mtn	Pos sat	7598 IC
Jun 1	03.05	"	LITS	White		Pos Sat	7599 IC
Jun 2	21.30	Bootle, Msy	Disc	Black		Insuf	7534 BY
Jun 6	02.28	Morecambe	LITS	White	Pos E/M	Pos Sat	75/114 IC
Jun 14	22.00	Rochdale, G.M	Dome	Silver		Insuf	7535 D
Jun 15	23.40	Stretford, GM	Cone	White	Witness effcts	Ball Lightn	7536 M
Jun 16	13.00	Liverpool, Msy	LITS	White		Pos Metlgc	7537 W
Jun 16	23.10	Huyton, Msy	LITS	White		Satellite	7563 N
Jun 17	00.30	Scunthorpe, Lin	Triangle	Red		Pos optcl	7538 S
Jun 17	00.50	Halifax, Y	Triangle	Orange		Pos optcl	7564 Y
Jun 18	17.30	Keele, Staffs	Cone	Silver		Prob ball	7539 Sf
Jun 21	21.00	Batley, Yorks	LITS	White	Smoke trail	Firework	7565 Y
Jun 25	09.10	Stoke, Staffs	?	Silver		Pos A/C	7540 Sf
Jun 25	10.45	Mansfield, Ntts	Cigar	Silver		Pos A/C	75/115 MID
Jun 29	23.30	Rawtemstall, L	Spheres	Green		Insuf	7541 R
Jul 6	03.45	Warrington, Chs	Balls	Yellow		Insuf	7544 M
Jul 11	21.00	Rochdale, G.Mcr	Dome	Silver	Photo	Pos UFO	7543 M
Jul 14	?	Ellsmre Pt, Chs	Kite	R & W		Insuf	7545 W
Jul 20	23.30	Runcorn, Chshre	LITS	W & R		A/C & Sat	7566 N
Jul 27	23.57	Runcorn, Chshre	Oval	Orange		Pos A/C	7567 N
Jul 22	23.10	Chorley, Lncs	LITS	B,R,O	Pos landing	Pos A/C	7548 M
Jul 29	22.30	Huyton, Msy	LITS	White		Pos Sat	7568 N

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF REPORTS Cont....

Aug	?	Cheadle Hulme, G.M	Crescent	Silver	Trail	Poss. Ball	75/116 M	
Aug	20.30	Foston, Yorks	Ball	Gold	Erratic	Insuf	7570 Y	
Aug 3	?	Rainhill, Msy	LITS	White		Prob A/C	7569 N	
Aug 8	23.27	Burnage, G.Mcr	Birdlike	Gold		Pos bird	7546 M	
Aug 9	22.00	Lumb, Lancs	LITS	White		Satellite	7547 R	
Aug 10	20.20	Burnley, Lancs	Discs	Silver		Pos Ball	7551 R	
Aug 10	21.20	Garston, Msy	LITS	White		Pos Sat.	7553 W	
Aug 10	23.30	York, Yorks	Disc	Silver		Pos A/C	7552 Y	
Aug 14	00.30	Solihull, W.Mid	Pear	Grey		Insuf	75/118 U	
Aug 15	00.05	Blackburn, Lancs	Disc	R & B		<u>UFO</u>	7549 R	
Aug 16	03.25	Greater Manchester	LITS	W & R	Multiple wtrs	<u>UFO</u>	7550 M	
Aug 17	05.40	Crewe, Cheshire	Cigar	Var.		Pos Hoax	7571 W	
Aug 20	18.30	Huyton, Msy side	"	Grey		Insuf	7554 W	
Aug 21	22.17	Walton-Le-Dale	Saucer	White		Insuf	7555 R	
Aug 25	20.45	Middlesbro, Cleve	Disc	Silver	Trail	A/C	7572 Y	
Sep 2	14.15	Anfield, Msy side	?	?		Alleged photo	insuf	75/117 WUF
Sep 6	00.43	Urmston, G.Mcr	Cigar	?		Pos A/C	75/100 D	
Sep 13	03.15	Cloughfold, Lancs	Dustbin	Var		Prob star	75/101 D	
Sep 15	20 am	Midlands	LITS	?	Radar/vis	Insuf	75/103 M	
Sep 15	05.25	Cloughfold, Lancs	Ventn	Blnd var		Prob star	75/102 D	
Sep 18	22.45	Holmfirth, Yorks	Dome	Red		<u>UFO</u>	7556 Y	
Sep 19	20.45	Newcastle-U-Lyme, S	LITS	Red		Pos A/C	7584 Sf	
Sep 22	05.30	Kirkburton, Yorks	LITS	Blue/white		<u>UFO</u>	7557 Y	
Sep 26	18.00	Hexham, Northumb	Oval	Orange	Trail	Insuf	7573 Y	
Sep 26	21.42	Failsworth, G.Mcr	LITS	White		Pos a/c	7553 M	
Sep 27	21.00	Smethwick, W.Mid	LITS	Orange		Pos a/c	7574 U	
Sep 28	20.50	Ashton, G.Mcr	LITS	Yellow		Satellite	7575 M	
Oct 2	pm	Hull, Hmbrs side	Triangle	Golden		Pos Ball	75/126 DS	
Oct 7	04.00	Scunthorpe, Lincs	LITS	White		Pos a/c	7576 S	
Oct 7	20.00	Emley, Yorks	LITS	White		Pos a/c	7577 Y	
Oct 7	20.00	Scunthorpe, Lincs	LITS	White		Pos a/c	7578 S	
Oct 8	05.40	Morecambe, Lancs	LITS	White		Prob Sat	75/104 IC	
Oct 8	07.40	Runcorn, Chesh	LITS	Red		Prob A/c	7585 N	
Oct 8	19.00	Wolverhampton, Stfs	Oval	Red	Shp Change	<u>UFO</u>	75/119 U	
Oct 10	21.00	Shotton, Clwyd	LITS	Orange		Insuf	7579 W	
Oct 11	23.10	Burnley, Lancs	LITS	R & W		Stellar	7580 R	
Oct 12	19.30	Redcar, Cleveland	LITS	White		Insuf	7581 Y	
Oct 17	05.00	Towyn, Clwyd	LITS	White		Pos A/C	7586 M	
Oct 17	18.00	Preston, Lancs	Cigar	White	Photos, incomplete invst	7582 F		
Oct 24	22.30	Lognor, Derbys,	Cigar	R, G & W		Pos A/C	75/112 Sf	
Oct 28	10.45	Irlam, G.Mcr.	Cigar	Silver		Pos A/C	7583 M	
Oct 28	11.53	Birmingham, W.Mid	Sphere	Silver		Insuf	7588 U	
Oct 28	19.05	Moss Side, G.Mcr	LITS	White		Prob A/C	7589 M	
Oct 28	19.55	Leicester, Leics	LITS	R, W & B		A/C	7590 L	
Oct 30	21.00	Leicester, Leics	LITS	Red		Pos A/C	7591 L	
Oct 31	20.05	Runcorn, Chesh	LITS	Red		A/C	7592 N	
Oct	20.25	Crumpsall, G.Mcr	LITS	Yellow		Pos Meteor	7587 D	
Nov 1	03.30	Crumpsall, G.Mcr	Oval	Orange		Pos A/C	7593 M	
Nov 6	14.45	Runcorn, Chesh	Cigar	Silver		Prob A/C	7594 N	
Nov 6	17.00	Oldham, G.Mcr	Pull	Red	Trail	Firework	7595 M	
Nov 7	17.55	Penkridge, Staffs	Spheres	Purple		Insuf	75/120 U	
Nov 11	16.50	Runcorn, Chesh	LITS	White		Floodlgt	7596 N	
Nov 17	04.30	Saddleworth, Lancs	Triangle	Yellow		Stellar	75/105 M	
Nov 17	21.40	Fallowfield, G.Mcr	LITS	White		AIRCRAFT	7597 M	
Nov 19	20.15	Huddersfield, Yorks	LITS	Blue		FLOODLIGHT	75/106 Y	
Nov 29	01.10	Lees, G.Mcr	LITS	White		Pos Star	75/107 M	
Dec 8	14.00	Stockport, G.Mcr	SPHERE	Red	Trail	Flare	75/127 Mp	
Dec 12	17.00	Stoke, Staffs	Cigar	W & G		Pos A/C	75/113 Sf	
Dec 12	17.15	Adlington, Lancs	Dome	Silver		Prob A/C	75/108 M	
Dec 12	18.10	Swinton, G.Mcr	Oval	Blue	Trail	<u>UFO</u>	75/109 M	
Dec 13	17.00	Swinton, G.Mcr	Disc	Silver, red		<u>UFO</u>	75/110 M	
Dec 13	19.00	Nottinghamshire	Sphere	Orange		Insuf	75/124 MID	
Dec 14	23.15	" " "	"	"		Pos Meteor	75/128 SDR	
Dec 13	21.25	Leeds, Yorks	Ball	Green	Trail	Pos A/C	75/121 B	
Dec 17	15.21	Leicester, Leics	Spheres	Silver		<u>UFO</u>	75/122 U	
Dec 19	07.50	Redditch, Worcs	Discs	Silver	Photos	Prob A/C	75/123 M	
Dec 21	13.00	Saddleworth, G.Mcr	Disc	Grey		Insuf	& 5/111 W	
Dec 28	15.16	Winsford, Chesh	Disc	Silver				

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF REPORTS Cont....

NOTES: Counties after the location are mostly self explanatory (eg G.Mcr = Greater Manchester, Msy = Merseyside, Cl = Cleveland, Y = Yorkshire). Codings for ID' are for the types of explanation listed below. Group codings are: M = MUFORA, C= CUFORG (Cleveland), Sf = UFORA Staffs, N = NAPRA, Y = BUFORA Yorks, BY = BYUIG, R = RIGA\$, B = BUFORA, W = WUFOS, D = DIGAP, S = SUFORS, MID = MURD, U = UFOSIS, WUF = WUFORO, F = FAPURG, L = LAPRO, Mp = MAPIT, SDR = SDRUFORA, IC= Ian Cresswell, DS=Dereck Shelton.

TOTAL BY MONTH: JAN (13) Feb (7) MAR (4) APR (6) MAY (8) JUN (15) JUL(7)
AUG (15) SEP (12) OCT (20) NOV (5) DEC (11)

As an interesting adjunct to the above the following list totals all the unknown objects from 1972 - 75 (Total 28) Jan (3) Feb (1) Mar (0) Apr (0) May (2) Jun (3) Jul (2) Aug (3) Sep (4) Oct (4) Nov (2) Dec (5)

TOTAL BY DAY OF WEEK: MON (11) TUE (19) WED (9) THU (16) FRI (23) SAT (20) SUN(22)

IDENTIFICATIONS: AIRCRAFT (37) INSUFFICIENT DATA (21) SATELLITE (16)
ASSORTED LIGHTS (13) STELLAR (11) AIR PHENOMENA (7) BALLOON (5) HOAX (3)
HALUCINATION (1) BIRDS (1) UNKNOWN (13)= 10.2 %

It is hoped that researchers will consider using this data as a basis for research work, and that they will publish any interesting conclusions through NUFON.

3. SYNOPSIS OF THE 1975 UNKNOWN

Although it is true that many people involved with NUFON will be familiar with all the following cases. I think it is justified to bring together into one place the summation of evidence from 1975 for a genuine unknown phenomenon. One case is herein omitted. This is report 7543. Although on present evidence it is felt justified to class this as a UFO at the present time unfortunate delays in examining the negative make the investigation far from complete. Consequently it will be left out and commented on when the final analysis report is complete. A further case of this nature (report 7582) also involves photographs, at present being analysed. In this instance the balance is at present slightly AGAINST it being a UFO observation and hence this too is left out. It must also be added that there were other cases (especially under the insufficient data listing) which were intriguing - but in the interests of respectability could not be classed as a UFO when the possibility of a natural explanation was existant. Such a case is report 7533. A full account of this, and the photograph, are to be featured in Flying Saucer Review Vol.22 No.1

Report 7502 THE UPPERMILL CASE

January 5 (16.30) MUFORA Investigation

The first three reports all come from the early January flap, which was interesting for several reasons, one of which was the number of children who were witness to unusual phenomenon. Of course it is recognised that one has to be careful when examining the stories of particularly young children, but in this instance the truth of the statements, and the validity of the strange parameters has been accepted. A boy and girl (aged 9 & 10) were playing in open land surrounded by farms. The object swooped down low from the north and flew along the line of a railway viaduct, before climbing at the other end and shooting into the sky. It was oval in shape with a yellow rim, flickering and rotating. The inside was dark against the dusk sky and there was a red light in the centre. The object emitted a faint humming sound, which was described by one of the children's fathers (who had accepted their sincerity and recorded details immediately they told him) as similar to a generator working at 100 c.p.s. A group of older children attested to the sighting, but were reluctant to become involved in questioning. (REFS: N.U.N. Feb 75, Awareness Summer 75, FSR Vol 21, - 6)

Report 7504 THE MOORSIDE CASE

January 14 (20.25) MUFORA Investigation

Children were again involved in this report, though somewhat older (13 & 15 year old girls). They had stabbled their horses at a farm and were walking down a narrow, dark lane towards their home. Cottages surrounded them. The object was first seen hovering over the rooftops, some distance away, but it suddenly swooped down and came very close presenting a distinct face-like shape with a steady green and flashing red light.

SYNOPSIS OF 1975 UNKNOWS Cont....

It was now appearing to rotate, and also performing the 'typical' falling-leaf type motion of rocking gently to and fro. After about a minute it moved upwards again and faded from view. As with the previous case the police were called in, and they took separate drawings from the girls (within minutes). These were very similar. The police told MUFORA that they believed the girls had seen 'something'. The fear of the girls was still apparent when interviewed the next day. Checks were naturally made for aircraft, helicopters etc but none were found. A temperature inversion WAS present but the meteorological office felt it was NOT a likely cause. The reports came to MUFORA via the Oldham Evening Chronicle (who liaised closely throughout the flap). (REFS: N.U.N. Feb 75, Awareness Summer 75, FSR Vol 21-6)



Report 751 THE STAFFORDSHIRE LANDING CASE January 9 (18.45) UFORA Staffs report

There were two sets of witnesses, to what was undoubtedly the same object - quite possibly landing in a Staffordshire field (although unfortunately no real evidence for this was found). Two middle ages sisters driving towards Leek first saw the object hovering low over fields. It was a dome with a flat underside and a large central



window, brilliantly illuminated. There were two white lights and a central red one on the underside. Swerving to a stop in a lay-by and winding down the window the object flew silently close overhead and hovered over fields on the other side of the road.

It now appeared to drop down and land, at which point the women departed - straight

to the police! Two miles away at Cheddleton a plumber and his wife saw the same thing as it paced the car and dropped into fields. From the locations of the two witness groups it appears the landing spot was somewhere in between - in open country. In both descriptions the oblong window was the most prominent feature - although it did NOT light up the surrounding ground. (REFS: N.U.N. May 75, Bufora Journal May/Jun 75)

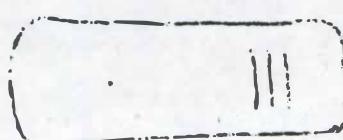
Report 751 THE RAINHILL LANDING CASE May 18 (22.00) NAPRA Investigation.

The investigation of what was potentially the most important case of 1975 was, and still is, being dogged by misfortune. Principally one of NAPRAs investigators Mr Scothern was at home with his wife and her father. Through the window an object like three white tennis balls in triangular formation appeared a moved across the sky on a descending flight. It passed over a barn in some open land and was lost to view. The witnesses now rushed outside and in a small copse of trees along the line of flight saw a white glow. A faint humming noise momentarily seemed to come from there. Returning to get a torch the glow disappeared, and a forray into the copse revealed nothing. However, the day after a thorough search was made and a series of large 'bootprints' were found by a duck pond. They were odd in shape and size, and although the area was full of drying mud they began and ended suddenly 'suggesting' that whoever made them was lowered vertically and then taken upwards vertically. The



THE RAINHILL OBJECT

area and the prints were photographed, and fortunately these still exist along with the evidence of the witnesses. However, soil samples and a small 'scuffed' stone (found imbedded in one of the prints) were lost by the GPO en route to analysis. The chance of testing for radioactivity or other effects was consequently lost. Further samples were



THE FOOTPRINTS

taken some months later and these were personally given to BUFORA who sent them recorded delivery to an analyst at Imperial College. They arrived, but have also been subsequently lost without trace!!! A coil of metal was also found on the site and this WAS analysed by a metallurgist. He concluded that the metal was a type of aluminium alloy (which is of course not unusual in any sense and consequently may be totally unrelated to the sighting). There was one back up witness. A man in nearby St. Helens reported a blue disc shape streaking over his car that night. Many questions will probably never be answered and it ought to be borne in mind as a very important future lesson. The fullest precautions should always be taken in a case of this sort and it was a great pity that the group concerned did not request IMMEDIATE assistance. In the future let us remember to place as a priority the FULL and careful investigation of cases of this type. (REFS: N.U.N. Aug 75, Oct 75, Apr 76 Bufora Journal Sep/Oct 75)

Report 7549

THE BLACKBURN CASE

August 15 (00.00) RIGAP Investigation

Only cursory treatment will be given to this and the next case as they have already been given a publication all to themselves. Mr & Mrs Talbot, aged about 30, reported the story to the Lancashire Evening Post, from whence it reached RIGAP. They tell of an oval shape surrounded by a row of lights flashing red, orange and yellow. It was rotating clockwise. The object moved low down on a NW - SW path and was in view for 2-3 minutes. There was heavy driving rain and no explanation has materialised. Unconfirmed reports from nearby Darwen were also received. (REFS: N.U.N. Sep 75, N.U.N. Detailed Case Report Number 1 Nov 75, Awareness Spring 76)

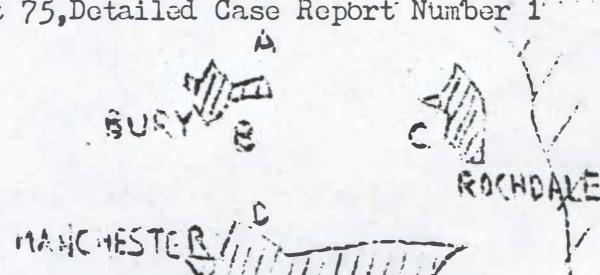
Report 7550

MANCHESTER MULTI-WITNESS CASE August 16 (03.30) MUFORA Investigation

This case is of note because it was reported to MUFORA directly within minutes, and witnesses were being interviewed before dawn had broken! There were four sets of witnesses: A (a long serving policeman north of Bury in a desolate spot), B (a younger policeman in Bury itself who followed the object in his car towards the east), C (a nurse, sister and auxiliary at a hospital in Rochdale) and D (two security officers south of Bury). They all described a white lightbulb, though one described a colour change to red and triangular shape. It was totally silent - despite still conditions. Careful analysis was done into the case, and all possibilities examined. There appears to be a good chance in this instance that a really unusual object was observed by at least some of the witnesses (REFS: N.U.N. Oct 75, Detailed Case Report Number 1 Nov 75 Awareness Spring 76)



THE BLACKBURN CASE



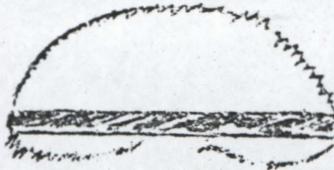
MAP OF WITNESSES Case 7550

Report 7556

THE HOLMFIRTH CASE

September 18 (22.45) BUFORA Yorks Report

A young woman and her boyfriend had parked their car on the moors and were sitting talking. Suddenly she noted an oval object, reddish in colour, with a red light underneath. The top of the object and its underside were fuzzy in appearance, but separating the two was a distinct black band. The car door was opened, but no sound was heard. An exactly similar object was now seen some distance away over the Oldham area. Both were absolutely stationary and remained so until the witnesses drove from the scene about 15 minutes later. The area was searched by the investigators, but no cause for the sightings was determined. There were no aircraft in the area at the time, and although optical conditions were present, which might have caused a reflective phenomenon, this is virtually impossible in two widely separated instances. (REFS: N.U.N. Oct 75, Dec 75)



Report 7557

THE EMLEY MOOR CASE

September 22 (05.25) BUFORA Yorks Report

A miner was travelling to work at this early hour, passing the Emley Moor IBA TV mast. Suddenly a blue/white light appeared in the sky at an estimated height of about 1000 to 1200 feet. It then seemed to swoop down towards the road and approach very close. The light was so dazzling that it illuminated the surroundings and made it very hard for the driver to see where he was going. Within a few seconds the light faded and the object appeared to recede higher into the sky. Driving a little further along the road he picked up a workmate who was looking back along the road asking if his friend had seen the 'bright light'. They both looked back towards the mast now and saw that the object had moved across to the other side. As they watched it moved higher up into the sky and disappeared. Checks were made with the IBA to see if any kind of experiments were being done in the vicinity of the mast, but the result was negative. There was also no recorded air traffic in the area at the time. (REFS: N.U.N. Oct 75, Dec 75)

Both the above reports come from a series of many at that time (most of which were identifiable). They seem to be representative of the mystery helicopter phenomenon. This strange visitor (which may or may not be an illegally trafficking conventional craft) has been seen over recent years by many people, including policemen. In report 7547, whatever the cause, it seems possible that the witness drove into a powerful searchlight emitted by the object and then drove out again.

SYNOPSIS OF 1975 UNKNOWS Cont....

Report 75/119 THE WOLVERHAMPTON CASE October 8 (19.00) UFOSIS Investigation

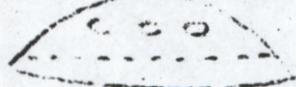
Two teenage girls were picking mushrooms on a sunny evening in a field adjacent to a housing estate. To the south they saw a reddish oval shape of somewhat irregular outline. It appeared to be about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away moving westwards quite low down. Suddenly it began to split into two along a jagged edge. Separating the light dimmed and colour changed to white. Still moving slowly they merged and changed back to red. The whole process was repeated one more time before the object disappeared behind trees. It was in view a total of fifteen minutes. No sound was heard. The report is certainly an unusual one and displays several interesting factors for speculation. (REFS: N.U.N. Jan 76, Feb 76)



Report 75/109, 110 THE SWINTON FLAP

December 12/13 MUFORA Investigation

Again a full account of these observations has already been published. The only possible explanation would appear to be the testing of some new, unusual craft - though this seems most unlikely in a built up area at such times. The event on December 12 involved three sets of witnesses, all articulate and including educated journalists. The story was printed in the Swinton & Pendlebury Journal, which assisted in investigation.



THE DECEMBER 12 OBJECT



THE DECEMBER 13 OBJECT

Unusual parameters of both observations were instantaneous accelerations. On the first occasion the object appeared as a bluish disc, with pinprick side lights. It appears to have sped upwards and vanished from sight, possibly leaving a trail of sparks. On the second occasion a family of five were all witness as the domed craft silently passed overhead, hovered, accelerated away and changed colour to red. These cases were the most interesting out of the many observations at this weekend. They seem to offer some answer to the adage that UFOs in populated areas are never seen by a large number of people. In these two cases there were at least 12 witnesses. (REFS: N.U.N. Jan 76, Detailed case report number 3 Feb 76, Awareness Summer 76)

Report 75/122 THE REDDITCH PHOTOS

December 19 (Various) UFOSIS Investigation

Two separate sightings of what might well be the same object occurred close to the same area, a man made green belt. At 07.50 two men were driving to work when they saw a disc like object in the southeast. It was tinted yellow and apparently stationary. Its size seemed large (estimated 2 x conventional airliner) and it was below the cloud ceiling of 5000 feet. Pulling to a halt and winding down the window they heard

no sound, but there was traffic on the road. The object now began to move south west, accelerating and banking to the side as it did so. It was lost from view within seconds. At 14.30 a photographer for the Redditch Indicator saw a very similar object and took 5 or 6 pictures with his Nikon F35ml



camera. They were somewhat fuzzy but show the object in its phases of motion westwards also appearing to bank. Since checks within the area failed to detect any conventional cause it has to be labelled unknown, but its true value is detracted from since it has not been possible to obtain the negatives of the photographs for analysis. Story Redditch Indicator December 29th (REFS: N.U.N. Feb 76, Mar 76 Awareness Summer 1976)

REFERENCES:

N.U.N. Stands for Northern UFO News, monthly newsletter of NUFON (see address below)
Subscription £2 per annum.

BUFORA Journal available to members only (bi-monthly) 6 Cairn Ave, LONDON W5 5HX
Awareness published by Contact UK (Quarterly) 19 Cumnor Rd, Wootton, Boars Hill, Oxford

FSR (Flying Saucer Review) Bi-monthly subscription £3.25 p.a.:
FSR Publications Ltd., West Malling, Maidstone, Kent.

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